



## **FVF** **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - October**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On October 23, Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian - said 50 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and urban PHCs will be set up across the state at a cost of Rs.120 crore in the next one year.**
  - ✓ The state will bear 40% of the expenses incurred towards building these centres and paying the medical staff, while the rest will be funded by the Union Health Ministry.
  - ✓ The state already has 2,127 such health centres, which are the first formal contact for medical facilities that provide basic preventive and curative care to patients.
  - ✓ Each of these centres has a medical officer and nurses and other staff to support doctors.
  - ✓ The minister also provided a status check on two key government health schemes — Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam (doorstep healthcare scheme) and Innuyir Kaapom ThittamNammai Kaakum 48 (accident care).
  - ✓ Under the first scheme, the state has identified around 93.6 lakh unique beneficiaries with diabetes or hypertension and has distributed close to Rs.2.3 crore medical kits to them.
  - ✓ Under the second scheme, the state has saved lives of 1.2 lakh road accident victims in the last one year by utilising the funds sanctioned to the tune of Rs.108 crore.
  
- **IIT-Madras - has been selected to be knowledge partner for the Kashi Tamil Sangamam**
  - ✓ The event is to be held in Varasani from November 16 to December 20.
  - ✓ The Kashi Tamil Sangamam is an initiative of the Union government with an objective to highlight the deep academic, economic, social and cultural relationships between Kashi, also known as Varanasi, and Tamil Nadu
  - ✓ The meet will host people from the fields of art, literature, spirituality and education from Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ Along with IIT-Madras, Banaras Hindu University will also be a knowledge partner.

## STATES

- **The Kerala government - has banned publicising in mainstream or social media names or photos of children under 18 who receive any kind of aid from political, social or volunteer organisations.**
  - ✓ In this regard, the state women and child development department has issued a circular
  - ✓ As per the circular, the ban has cited Article 39 (f) of the Constitution and stressed the need to uphold the right to a dignified life and privacy for such children.
  - ✓ Several organisations and individuals provide assistance to children in need but many of them publicise the gestures using the names or photos of the kids.
  - ✓ Article 39 (f) requires the government to ensure that children are protected against exploitation.
  - ✓ The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, also says that every child shall have a right to protection of his/her privacy and confidentiality, include those “in need of care and protection”.
  - ✓ The state child rights commission has also recommended to avoid publicity that reveals a child’s identity.
- **The Madhya Pradesh Wildlife Board – has recently approved the establishment of a new tiger reserve called Durgavati Tiger Reserve.**



- ✓ The tigers of Panna Tiger Reserve will be housed in the newly created Durgavati Tiger Reserve
- ✓ This has been necessitated as about a quarter of Panna Tiger Reserve is set to be submerged because of the linking of the Ken and Betwa rivers.
- ✓ The new reserve will span cross 2,339 square kilometres, covering Narisinghpur, Damoh and Sagar districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The proposal is in line with the National Tiger Conservation Authority’s order urging Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh governments to notify new tiger reserves to manage wildlife in Panna Tiger Reserve, which will be impacted by the Ken-Betwa river linking project.

- ✓ Earlier, in September 27, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved the notification of fourth tiger reserve in the state in the Ranipur Wildlife Sanctuary (RWS), which also hosts tigers from the Panna Tiger Reserve.
- ✓ The Ken-Betwa link project is one of the first river interlinking projects implemented in India.
- ✓ The Rs. 44,605 crore project will be especially beneficial for the drought prone Bundelkhand region and is expected to be completed in over 8 years
- ✓ It is expected to irrigate around 9 lakh hectares of farmland and provide drinking water for over 62 lakh people, besides generating 103 Mega Watt of hydropower and 27 Mega Watt of solar power.
- ✓ It may adversely affect various species in the Panna Tiger Reserve, which is also home to the largest population of vultures in Central India.

## NATIONAL

- **The Union home ministry - has cancelled the foreign funding licence of two trusts linked to the Gandhi family citing violations of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.**
- ✓ The two trusts are Rajiv Gandhi Foundation (RGF) and Rajiv Gandhi Charitable Trust (RGCT)



- ✓ Sonia Gandhi is the chairperson of both the trusts.
- ✓ Other trustees of RGF, set up on June 21, 1991, include former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, P Chidambaram, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, Suman Dubey and Ashok Ganguly.
- ✓ The RGCT board of trustees comprises, apart from chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Ashok Ganguly, Bansi Mehta and Deep Joshi.
- ✓ Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is among the major donors to RGCT.
- ✓ The cancellation of registration of the trusts comes in the wake of investigations carried out by an inter-ministerial committee constituted by the home ministry in 2020

- ✓ The committee looked into suspected violations of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), FCRA, and the Income Tax Act by three trusts set up by the Gandhi family – RGF, RGCT and India Gandhi Memorial Trust.
  - ✓ The committee comprised senior officials of MHA, CBI, ED and income-tax department.
  - ✓ The inter-ministerial panel was set up after the ruling BJP, on June 25, 2020, questioned a donation to RGF
  - ✓ According to BJP party president J P Nadda, the foundation had received \$300,000 from the People’s Republic of China and the Chinese embassy in 2005-06 to “conduct studies that are not in the interest of the country”.
  - ✓ RGF was also cornered by the BJP for allegedly having received funds from fugitive Mehul Choksi; former Yes Bank CEO Rana Kapoor accused of money laundering; and foreign embassies.
- **Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri - inaugurated Asia's largest Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant based on Paddy straw in Lehragaga, in Sangrur district, Punjab**



- ✓ The plant has been commissioned with a foreign direct investment of approximately Rs. 220 crore by Verbio AG, one of Germany's leading bio-energy companies.
- ✓ Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and senior management from Verbio India Private Limited were also present at the inaugural ceremony held recently on October 18
- ✓ Spread across an area of 20 acres, the plant's present production is about six tonnes per day
- ✓ It plans to process 300 tonnes of paddy straw per day soon to produce 33 tonnes per day of compressed biogas.
- ✓ The plant will consume 100,000 tonnes of paddy straw, which will be procured from six to eight satellite locations within a 10km radius of the plant.
- ✓ There shall be daily production of about 600-650 tonnes of FOM (fermented organic manure), which can be used for organic farming.

- ✓ The plant will help cut down the need for stubble burning in 40,000 – 45,000 acres of fields, translating into an annual reduction of 150,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
  - ✓ The Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) plant in Sangrur is a step in achieving objectives of the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) scheme
  - ✓ The SATAT scheme was launched by Government of India in October 2018 to establish an ecosystem for production of Compressed Bio Gas (CBG) from various waste/biomass sources in the country.
  - ✓ The scheme aims to empower the rural economy by supporting farmers, increase India's domestic energy production and self-sufficiency and also reduce the air pollution, and help the country lead the world toward a clean energy transition
  - ✓ Apart from the Sangrur plant, 38 CBG/Biogas Plants have been commissioned under the SATAT initiative.
- **Telangana's Hyderabad Haleem - has won the 'Most Popular GI' award after prevailing over 17 food items with Geographical Indication (GI) status from across the country**
- ✓ Hyderabad Haleem, a popular dish mostly consumed during Ramzan, bagged the award under the food category, while Odisha's Kandhamal Haldi bagged the award under the agriculture category

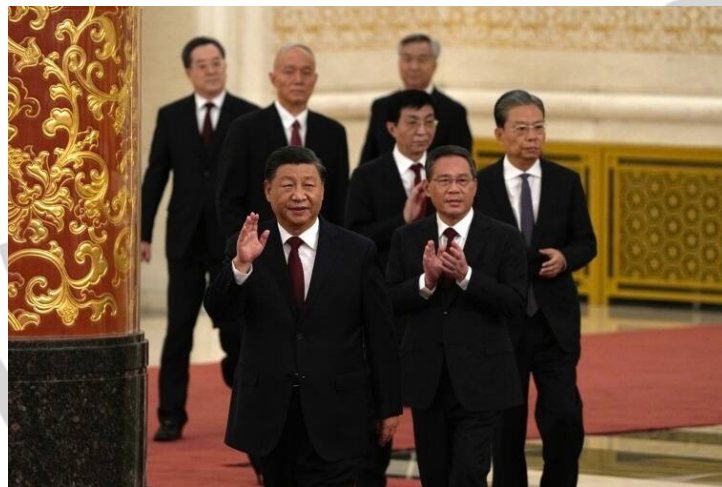


- ✓ Hyderabad Haleem was first accorded GI status in 2010 and this was the first non-vegetarian dish in India to receive the tag
- ✓ Kandhamal Haldi is a variety of turmeric which is indigenous to southern Odisha.
  - ✓ The agricultural product is also famous for its healing properties and arresting aroma.
  - ✓ It earned the Geographical indication (GI) tag in April 2019.
- ✓ Similarly, Thanjavur Art Plate from Tamil Nadu received the award in the handicraft category, Mysore Sandal Soap from Karnataka in the manufactured category, and Chuna Balua Patthar from Uttar Pradesh in the Natural category, respectively.
- ✓ The prizes were given away by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

- ✓ The winners were selected through an online voting system carried out in India and abroad and conducted by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce
- ✓ The voting was done between August 2 and October 9 to select the best dish
- ✓ In India, GI products are governed by the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999
- ✓ The first product to receive the GI tag is Darjeeling Tea.
- ✓ The GI tag is granted by Chennai-based Intellectual Property India, an organisation functioning under the auspices of the Union ministry of commerce and industry

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On October 23, Chinese President Xi Jinping - re-elected as general secretary of Communist Party of China for a record third five-year term**



- ✓ With this, Xi created history by becoming the first leader of the ruling Communist Party to get re-elected, a privilege only accorded to party founder Mao Zedong
- ✓ He was elected to the powerful Central Committee a day earlier by a once-in-a-five-year Congress despite crossing the official retirement age of 68 and completing 10-year tenure.
- ✓ The Congress also established a new anti-corruption department of the party called the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI), which reports directly to Xi.
- ✓ The Central Committee members also elected a 25-member political bureau which picks the Standing Committee members to govern the country
- ✓ Xi, 69, was elected by the new seven-member Standing Committee of the Communist Party
- ✓ The other six are Shanghai Party chairman Li Qiang, Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang and Guangdong Party chief Li Xi.
- ✓ Li Xi becomes China's second-highest official after Xi himself and Li's ranking puts him in line to become China's new premier next March

- ✓ Notably, no women have been inducted into the lineup for the first time in the last 25 years
- ✓ Covid czar Sun Chunlan, 72, was previously the lone female politburo member but left having exceeded the retirement age of 68.
- ✓ Xi was also re-appointed as chairman of the Central Military Commission, which allows him direct control of the People's Liberation Army
- ✓ Xi was first elected in 2012 and will be completing his 10-year tenure this year.
- ✓ In 2018, he scrapped the presidential two-term limit, allowing himself to rule indefinitely

➤ **World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Organisation for Animal Health – have unveiled a new ‘One Health Joint Plan of Action’**

- ✓ This first ever joint plan of action aims to create a framework to integrate systems and capacity for preventing, detecting and responding to the health threats at the human-animal-plant-environment interface.
- ✓ Ultimately, the new initiative seeks to improve the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment, while contributing to sustainable development.
- ✓ It covers a set of actions which endeavour to advance One Health at global, regional and national levels.
- ✓ The five-year plan (2022-2026) focuses on supporting and expanding capacities in six areas - One Health capacities for health systems, emerging and re-emerging zoonotic epidemics, endemic zoonotic, neglected tropical and vector-borne diseases, food safety risks, antimicrobial resistance and the environment.

## AWARDS

- **The European Parliament - awarded its top human rights prize ‘2022 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought’ to the people of Ukraine on October 19**



- ✓ The Ukrainian people were honoured with the award for their continuous struggle against Russia's invasion of their nation, which started in February

- ✓ The award comes with €50,000 prize money which will reportedly be distributed to the representatives of Ukrainian civil society.
- ✓ The award will be conferred on December 14 in Strasbourg
- ✓ The WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, who is currently detained, and Colombia's 'Truth Commission,' an organisation established in 2018 to look into atrocities perpetrated during the nation's five-decade conflict that concluded in 2016, were both nominated for this year's award.
- ✓ The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is named after the Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov.
- ✓ It has been awarded annually since 1988 by the European Parliament to individuals and organisations for defending human rights and freedom
- ✓ Andrei Sakharov was a Soviet nuclear physicist and Nobel laureate who advocated for nuclear disarmament, peace, and human rights
- ✓ Notably, this prize was awarded to Russian critic and imprisoned Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny in 2021.
- ✓ Past laureates also include South African President Nelson Mandela, Pakistani education activist Malala Yousafzai and Belarus' democratic opposition

## REPORT

- **India suffered an income loss of \$159 billion or 5.4% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest among the G20 nations in 2021, due to heat wave, as per the new report of Climate Transparency**
- ✓ The eighth edition of 'Climate Transparency Report 2022' was released recently based on contributions of experts from 16 partner organisations from the majority of the G20 (Group of 20) countries
- ✓ As per the report, the losses were the highest in four sectors — services, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction.
- ✓ Countries most affected by income losses in these sectors were India (5.4% of GDP), Indonesia (1.6% of GDP), and Saudi Arabia (1% of GDP).
- ✓ The highest percentage change in heat-related deaths in people over 65 years of age in the 2017–2021 period compared to 2000–2004 period was Indonesia (227%); Brazil (191%) and Saudi Arabia (141%).
- ✓ In 2021, average global temperature was about 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels, says the report
- ✓ India's rice production could decrease by 10–30%, and maize production could drop by 25–70% with temperature increases in a range of 1°C–4°C, according to the report.
- ✓ Regarding global emissions, the USA contributes 25% of it, followed by the European Union with 22%, while India is only responsible for 3% of global emissions.



- ✓ The share of renewables in the power generation mix increased in all G20 countries between 2016 and 2021 with the strongest increase in the UK (+67%), Japan (+48%) and Mexico (+40%)
- ✓ The lowest increase was seen in Russia (+16%) and Italy (+14%).
- ✓ G20 members account for around 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population, and are responsible for around three-quarters of global emissions

