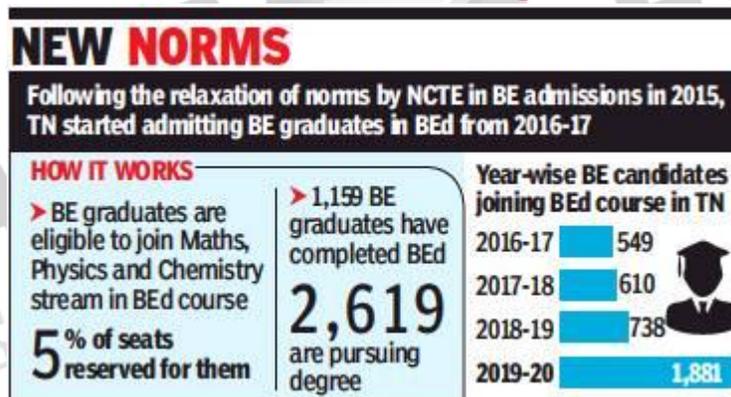


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 11, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **The Engineering graduates with B.Ed degree - are eligible to teach maths for Classes VI to VIII in government and private schools, as per the new government order issued by the State government**



- ✓ The state higher education department has conferred equivalence to BE (any discipline) with BEd to the post of BT assistants (Mathematics) (graduate teachers) for employment in public services.
- ✓ National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had earlier relaxed the norms allowing BE graduates to pursue two year BEd degree course in 2015, to reduce unemployment among engineering graduates.
- ✓ Initially, the government had reserved 20% of seats for BE graduates in B.Ed course and it was brought down to 5% following fewer applications.
- ◆ **A bronze statue of the former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee - to come up at Kanyakumari**
 - ✓ A 15-foot bronze statue of the late prime minister standing on a 10-foot-high lotus carved from marble will be installed at a distance of 500 metres from the seashore

WHAT'S IN STORE: NHAI'S PROPOSED PLANS

- > Bronze statue of the late PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee mounted on a lotus
- > Bharatmata temple
- > Transport museum with 4D theatres, virtual reality kiosks
- > Watchtower to view sunrise and sunset
- > Open-air auditorium
- > Mini simulation park for children



- ✓ A Bharatmata temple will also be built at the proposed site of the statue
- ✓ Incidentally, A B Vajpayee as prime minister pushed the golden quadrilateral, a network of highways connecting the metros of the country.
- ✓ Kanyakumari marks the southernmost point of the country's golden quadrilateral network of highways.
- ✓ The proposed project is located at the end point of National Highway 7.
- ✓ The project was announced by PM Narendra Modi in March 2019.
- ✓ A 400-seater open air auditorium will also be built as part of the 'road safety advocacy' project at the proposed site.

◆ **B S Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology - was awarded the All India 5th rank amongst the 'cleanest higher education institutions' in India in the 3rd Swacchatha rankings.**

- ✓ The institute came 5th under the 'residential university' category
- ✓ Overall around 6,900 institutions had participated in the ranking released by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

NATIONAL

◆ **The Government - proposes to table the Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 in the Lok Sabha later this week**

- ✓ The bill aims to create the first comprehensive law in the country to manage and legally protect the loads of digital information that Indians are creating in every minute.
- ✓ With the proposed bill, the government intends to provide the investigating agencies with powers to snoop and carry out surveillance on personal data, if it is necessary, to ensure sovereignty and integrity of the country, security of the state, maintenance of public order, and having friendly relations with countries.
- ✓ The Personal Data Protection Bill classifies data into three broad categories – personal, sensitive personal and critical personal
- ✓ As per the proposed bill, the government is authorized to order or direct any internet or social-media provider (such as Google, Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp,

Amazon, Flipkart, Apple) – apart from a private citizen – to share the data demanded by any of the central investigating agencies

- ✓ The ‘snooping’ provision mentioned in the Personal Data Protection Bill is not recommended in the draft bill prepared by the Justice B N Srikrishna committee that was entrusted to create the country’s first personal data protection legislation.
- ✓ Last year, the Srikrishna committee had submitted its recommendations to the government in the form of a draft law

◆ **Lok Sabha - passed the 126th Constitution Amendment Bill on December 10**

- ✓ It seeks to extend reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for another 10 years until January 25, 2030
- ✓ All the 352 MPs present voted in favour of the amendment bill.
- ✓ The reservation for SCs, STs and Anglo-Indians given for the past 70 years in the Lok Sabha and the Assemblies was supposed to end on January 25, 2020.
- ✓ Regarding the provision of reservation for Anglo-Indians in the bill, Law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad announced that the government is still “deliberating” on the issue.

◆ **The Army - plans to shut down its Officers’ Training Academy (OTA) in Gaya in Bihar.**



- ✓ The academy currently trains only 250 cadets, including foreign ones, instead of its full capacity of 750 every year.
- ✓ The Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun, the main cradle for officers, and the OTA in Chennai will be provided with more cadets every year as their capacities too are under-utilised.
- ✓ The Sikh Light Infantry regimental centre will be shifting to the OTA premises in Gaya from its existing location in Fatehgarh in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The Gaya OTA was opened in 2011 in the hope that many youngsters will join the armed forces after the 1999 Kargil conflict
- ✓ While the IMA trains the permanent commission (PC) officers, the Chennai OTA is involved in the training of short-service commission (SSC) men and women officers.
- ✓ The Gaya OTA has trained over 70 foreign cadets from countries like Bhutan, Vietnam, Sri Lanka and Myanmar, since 2011
- ✓ The reasons for the failure of Army to attract youngsters range from the high degree of risk in military careers, whether it is fighting militants or being posted in far-away areas, and frequent disruptions in family life or education of children, to poor promotional opportunities in the armed forces.

◆ **The Supreme Court's five-judge Constitution bench - commenced hearing from December 10 on the petitions challenging the Centre's decision to abrogate special status given to Jammu & Kashmir and its bifurcation into two UTs**

- ✓ A bench of Justices N V Ramana, S K Kaul, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant were hearing the arguments that constitutionally prescribed procedures were not followed during the process by the Centre.
- ✓ It was contended that amendment in Article 370 could be done only on the recommendation of the state.

◆ **Home Minister Amit Shah – instructed the paramilitary personnel to wear Khadi uniforms and use Make-in-India products**



- ✓ Going forward, Khadi village industry products like pickle, papad, honey, mustard oil, tea, soap, shampoo and phenyl will be sold in the army canteens
- ✓ Henceforth, more than 10 lakh soldiers of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Border Security Force (BSF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG) and Assam Rifles will be seen wearing Khadi uniforms.
- ✓ Khadi Village Industry has also developed samples of woolen and cotton fabrics, blankets and special environment-friendly dresses for paramilitary forces.
- ✓ The move is expected to double the existing business of the Khadi village industry, leading to more artisans getting extra hours of work.
- ✓ KVIC, currently doing business of about 75 thousand crores, is now expected to get orders of around 150 to 200 crores from each paramilitary force
- ✓ Khadi Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- ✓ It is coming under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- ✓ It has its headquarters in Mumbai and divisional offices in Delhi, Bhopal, Bangalore, Kolkata, Mumbai, and Guwahati.

◆ **The Culture Ministry - launched an online portal to showcase India's culture on December 10**

- ✓ The new portal, indianculture.gov.in, was developed by a team from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- ✓ The online portal was launched by Union Minister, Prahlad Singh Patel
- ✓ The project was a part of the Digital India initiative.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- ◆ **The Supreme Court - has fixed a time period of six months for the government to clear the names sent by the CJI-led collegium for appointment as High court judges**

REQUIRED PROCEDURE	WHAT FIGURES SHOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Appointments should be initiated at least 6 months in advance➤ 6 weeks for governor or CM to send recommendation to Union law minister➤ Brief to be sent to SC collegium in 4 weeks➤ Law ministry has to send names to PM in 3 weeks, who is to then advise President	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sanctioned strength in high courts: 1,079➤ Working strength: 669➤ 410 vacancies and 213 recommendations in process with government or SC collegium➤ Names yet to be received from HC collegiums for 197 vacancies
WHAT SC SAYS <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Appointments could be delayed if the govt sent back names or when SC and HC collegiums may not be in agreement. But once approved by the collegium, the government must decide without delay	

- ✓ While delivering the verdict, a bench of Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul and K M Joseph noted that no time limit has been prescribed for action by the President and Prime Minister under the Memorandum of procedure (MoP) for appointment of judges in SC and HCs though timelines have been fixed for other authorities involved in the process.
- ✓ As per the MoP, appointments should be commenced at least six months in advance for the post of judges.
- ✓ Thereafter, six weeks' time is provided for the Governor or Chief Minister of the state concerned to put up the recommendation to the Union law minister.
- ✓ After the SC collegium clears the names, the law ministry, within three weeks, has to forward the recommendations to the PM, who will be advising the President thereafter.
- ✓ The working strength of judges in high court is only 669 as against a sanctioned strength of 1,079 judges, as per the All-India figures.

INTERNATIONAL

- ◆ **Merriam-Webster - have declared the personal pronoun 'they' as their word of the year**

- ✓ The announcement is based on a 313% increase in look-ups on the company's search site, Merriam-Webster.com, this year when compared with 2018
- ✓ Merriam-Webster recently included a new definition to its online dictionary indicating the use of pronoun "they" as relating to a person whose gender identity is non-binary

- ✓ In October, the American Psychological Association affirmed “they” as a singular third-person pronoun in its latest style guide for scholarly writing.
- ✓ The Top 10 words also included “egregious,” “clemency”, “the”, “quid pro quo,” “impeach” and “crowdad”
- ✓ Earlier, Dictionary.com named "existential" as its 2019 Word of the Year, while the Oxford Dictionaries chose "climate emergency" and Macquarie Dictionary, an Australian English dictionary, selected “cancel culture” for their respective words of the year.

DEFENCE

◆ **Indian Air Force - has announced that it will give ‘BS’ tail numbers to 30 Rafael ‘fighter’ jets in honour of former Air Chief Marshal (Retd) BS Dhanoa**

- ✓ ACM BS Dhanoa stoutly backed the purchase of aircraft, despite the political controversy relating to purchase of 36 Rafale jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation for the IAF at a cost of Rs 59,000 crore
- ✓ Former Air Chief Marshal Dhanoa retired in September after a tenure of 41 years in the IAF
- ✓ Out of 36 Rafale jets, 30 will be fighter jets and 6 will be trainers
- ✓ 6 Rafale ‘trainer’ aircraft will carry RB series tail numbers which stand for Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria, the current Chief of Air Staff who played a key role as lead negotiator for the mega deal
- ✓ The trainer jets will be twin-seater and they will have almost all the features of the fighter jets
- ✓ The Rafale jets will have the most advanced weapons package comprising Meteor Beyond visual range air-to-air missile and Scalp cruise missile which will provide the IAF deep strike capability and air dominance in the region
- ✓ Three Rafale jets have already been handed over to India and they are being used to train IAF pilots and technicians in France
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh received the first Rafale jet at an air base in France on October 8
- ✓ The first batch of 4 Rafael aircraft expected to arrive in India by May 2020.

OBITUARY

◆ **George J Laurer, co-inventor of Barcode – dies at 94 years in the USA**



- ✓ He invented this transforming invention, a Universal Product Code (UPC) or bar code, while working at IBM as an electronic engineer in the early 1970s
- ✓ It is a method of writing statistics or information about a product, providing complete information about the product.
- ✓ The marking - made up of black bars of varying thickness and a 12-digit number - can be scanned, quickly identifying the product and its price
- ✓ After he invented the UPC barcode, Laurer was inducted into the University of Maryland Engineering Innovation Hall of Fame in 1991.
- ✓ Fellow IBM employee Norman Woodland, who died in 2012, is considered the pioneer of the barcode idea, which was initially based on Morse code and patented in 1949
- ✓ IBM launched the product in 1973, and the first barcode transaction took place on June 26, 1974, in a supermarket in the city of Troy, Ohio.

SPORTS

◆ **India - ended its South Asian Games campaign with a best-ever medal haul of 312 and finished on top for the 13th time-in-a-row at Kathmandu on December 10**

- ✓ India collected 174 gold, 93 silver and 45 bronze surpassing the 309 medals it had won in the previous edition at home in 2016.
- ✓ But the number of gold India won this time was 15 less than the previous edition.
- ✓ Sri Lanka was a distant second with 251 medals while Nepal finished with 206.

◆ **Two prominent Indian sportspersons, Shooter Ravi Kumar and Boxer Sumit Sangwan - have been tested positive for banned substances**



- ✓ Shooter Ravi Kumar has represented the country at all major international meets and won individual bronze medals at Guadalajara World Cup and Commonwealth Games last year.
- ✓ He had also won bronze at Asian Championships in 2017.
- ✓ As per the National Anti-Doping Agency of India (Nada), Ravi was tested during the Kumar Surendra Singh Memorial meet in Delhi in June this year.
- ✓ His sample was found to contain traces of propranolol, a medication of the beta blocker class.
- ✓ If found guilty, Ravi may face suspension for up to two years
- ✓ Propranolol is a medicine taken to treat blood pressure, especially after a heart attack.

- ✓ It is also used to prevent migraine headaches.
- ✓ In general, beta blockers are provided to stabilize irregularity of heart rate and shaking of hands and body



- ✓ Olympian Sumit Sangwan, the reigning national champion in 91kg, was tested positive for acetazolamide, a diuretic and a masking agent banned by Wada.
- ✓ Sangwan won the silver medal in 2017 Asian championship and made the World championship quarterfinals in 2016.
- ✓ Sangwan represented India at the 2012 London Olympics and was adjudged the best boxer (81kg) at the 2015-16 elite Men's nationals
- ✓ He was tested in-competition on October 10 during the senior national championships in Baddi, Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ Last week, leading woman boxer, Neeraj (57kg), was tested positive for anabolic agent ligandrol.

RANKINGS

◆ For the very first time, India – is ranked among the top ten countries in the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)

- ✓ It had improved its ranking from 11th last year to 9th this year.
- ✓ The first 3 spots in the CCPI were left vacant symbolically as none of the countries assessed were progressing according to the principles of Paris Agreement, signed in 2015.
- ✓ The top three performers are Sweden (fourth), Denmark (fifth) and Morocco (sixth).
- ✓ The CCPI is a ranking of 57 countries and the European Union (EU), which are collectively responsible for about 90% of the global GHG emissions.
- ✓ The CCPI 2020 was released by three international NGOs — Germanwatch, New Climate Institute and Climate Action Network — on the sidelines of the ongoing UN climate change conference (COP25) in Madrid on December 10
- ✓ The world's second largest emitter, the USA, figure at the bottom of the ranking.
- ✓ While only two G20 countries — United Kingdom (7th) and India (9th) — are ranked in the high categories, 8 figure in the worst category of the Index.
- ✓ EU was ranked collectively at 22nd, while China was ranked at 30th rank

- ✓ Apart from the USA, some other countries in the 'very low' rating category in the CCPI are Turkey, Poland, Japan, Russia, Canada and Australia
- ✓ The index is being released annually based on the performance of a country with respect to 4 parameters — greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, renewable energy, climate policy and energy use.

Climate protection ranking (selection)

		Previous year	CO ₂ reduction	Renewables	Consumption	Policy
Sweden	4.	4.	●	●	●	●
Denmark	5.	15.	●	●	●	●
Morocco	6.	5.	●	●	●	●
United Kingdom	7.	8.	●	●	●	●
India	9.	11.	●	●	●	●
Brazil	21.	22.	●	●	●	●
EU 28	22.	16.	●	●	●	●
Germany	23.	27.	●	●	●	●
Italy	26.	23.	●	●	●	●
China	30.	33.	●	●	●	●
Mexico	32.	25.	●	●	●	●
Indonesia	39.	38.	●	●	●	●
Argentina	42.	56.	●	●	●	●
Poland	50.	41.	●	●	●	●
Russia	52.	52.	●	●	●	●
Malaysia	53.	51.	●	●	●	●
Australia	56.	36.	●	●	●	●
Saudi Arabia	60.	60.	●	●	●	●
United States	61.	59.	●	●	●	●

● high ● medium ● low ● very low



Source: Germanwatch, CAN, NewClimate Institute

