

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 21, 2018

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil University, Thanjavur – to start teaching Tamil to the students of Myanmar and South Africa Universities**
- ✓ The Tamil scholars from the university will visit these countries before March 2019 and teach Tamil to the university students there, as per the Vice-chancellor of Tamil University, Dr G. Balasubramanian

STATES

- **Punjab – to have the country's first 'National Institute of Inter-Faith studies'**
- ✓ The Union Government made the announcement during the inauguration of year long activities to commemorate the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak, the first Sikh Guru and founder of the Sikh religion
- ✓ The institute will be set up on the lines of teachings of Guru Nanak
- ✓ The Government will set up a committee to finalise the concept of the proposed institute
- ✓ The verses of Guru Nanak were collected in Adi Granth, which were written in Gurmukhi script

- **Gujarat – launches an intensive project – for the conservation of Gir Lions**
- ✓ The Rs 351 crore project will also include an emergency ambulance, closed-circuit television cameras (CCTV) and camera-mounted drones for tracking the Lions
- ✓ They are also planning to bring in a project on the lines of E-eye, which has been successful in the Corbett National Park
- ✓ E-Eye is round-the-clock, all-weather, large-scale intelligent technology, capable of providing live-feed of wildlife supervision in vulnerable areas

- **West Bengal Tourism Department – to launch an interactive mobile app next month**
 - ✓ It will list all the good restaurants in Kolkata and other places across the State
 - ✓ The app will have provision for rating the restaurants by the Customers
- **Kerala Government – signs MoU with Airbus Bizlab, a global aerospace accelerator which is part of Airbus**



- ✓ As per the MoU, an Innovation Centre will be set up in Thiruvanthapuram to help the startups
 - ✓ Airbus Bizlab will provide support and mentoring for Startups
 - ✓ It will also conduct regular workshops and discussions with experts from aerospace and defence sectors
- **Meghalaya – to have 36 Ekalavya Model Residential schools (EMRS) by 2022**
 - ✓ Jual Oram, Minister of Tribal affairs announced that the schools will be set up at a cost of Rs 20 crore each in 36 blocks of Meghalaya
 - ✓ The central government plans to build over 500 such schools across India
 - ✓ At present, there are 192 such schools all over the country
 - ✓ These schools will be on par with Navodaya Vidyalayas
 - ✓ They will have special facilities for preserving local art and culture besides providing training in sports and skill development

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone of India's first 'Sri Vishwakarma Skill Development University' in Palwal district of Haryana**
 - ✓ It would be the country's first Skill Development University

- **Sulabh International – introduces India’s first ever Sewage Cleaning machine – to end manual scavenging**



- ✓ It was unveiled in New Delhi by Bindeshwar Pathak, founder of Sulabh International - on the occasion of World toilet day (November 19)
 - ✓ The machine costs Rs 43 lakh and it completely eliminates the necessity of human entry into the sewers
 - ✓ It is electro-hydraulically operated with various sophisticated technologies
 - ✓ Sulabh International was founded in 1970
- **Union Government – signs \$310 million loan with World Bank for Jharkhand Power System improvement Project**
 - ✓ The project is designed to provide Continuous, reliable and affordable electricity to the citizens of Jharkhand
 - ✓ The Project is part of the Government’s ‘Power for All’ program launched in 2014
 - ✓ The plan seeks addition of over 4.5 GW generation capacities by 2022 (including a significant share of 1.5 GW from solar energy) through a mix of Private and Public-sector investments
 - ✓ As per data from the Jharkhand Distribution Company, more than 80% of the citizens in the State have access to electricity

INTERNATIONAL

- **Australia – has refused to sign the ‘UN Global Compact for Migration’ citing that the agreement will undermine its existing immigration policies**
 - ✓ The current Australian immigration policy is very strict on people with illegal entry and illegal asylum seekers
 - ✓ The UN pact was agreed globally in July 2018 to encourage legal migration
 - ✓ The United States and many European countries like Poland, Hungary have already refused to sign it
- **Maldives – to rejoin Commonwealth, two years after withdrawing from the 53-nation group**
 - ✓ The country had left the Commonwealth during former President Abdulla Yameen's administration in October 2016

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **27th BASIC Ministerial meeting on Climate Change – held in New Delhi**
 - ✓ It was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India
 - ✓ BASIC - Brazil, South Africa, India and China
 - ✓ The meeting focused on finalizing rules and guidelines for Paris agreement adopted under the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) at COP24 from December 2 to 14, 2018
- **All India Heads of Police Communication Conference – inaugurated in New Delhi**
 - ✓ The two-day conference was inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Union Minister of State for communication
 - ✓ Theme - “Modernization of Police Communication and challenges thereof”
- **24th edition of International Film Festival – concludes in Kolkata, West Bengal**



- ✓ Australia was the Focus country of the festival
- ✓ The highlight of the festival was 100 years of Bengali cinema (1917-2017)
- ✓ ‘Antony Phiringi’ was the inaugural movie
- ✓ Nearly 171 movies and 150 short films from 70 countries were screened in 16 screens.

PERSONALITIES

- **Shantanu Narayen, Indian-American Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Adobe - has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list**



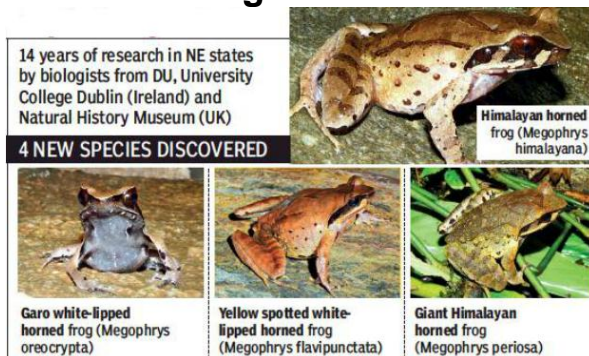
- ✓ The list ranks 20 business executives who have delivered the bottom line
 - ✓ Fifty six year old, Shantanu Narayen ranks 12th on the list
 - ✓ The list is topped by Tricia Griffith, CEO of insurance company 'Progressive'
 - ✓ Second and third ranks are occupied by software company VMware CEO Pat Gelsinger, and graphics chipmaker Nvidia CEO, Jensen Huang, respectively
- **Erik Solheim, UN Environment Chief – resigns following audit report questioning his huge travel expenses**



- ✓ Solheim was found to have travelled for 529 out of the 668 days audited, spending \$488,518 against the UN rules
- ✓ This has raised accusations that the Environment chief has shown little respect to Environment and efforts to reduce Carbon emissions due to air travel
- ✓ Erik Solheim is a Norwegian diplomat, who served as the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme from 2016 to 2018

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ Four new species of Horned Frogs – discovered in North east Himalayas



- ✓ The team was led by S D Biju, hailed as the 'Frogman of India'
- ✓ They were discovered in the forests of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh

DEFENCE

➤ Vajra Prahar – Joint Military exercise between India and United States – commences in Bikaner in Rajasthan



- ✓ The 12-day long exercise involves the Joint special forces of both the countries to exchange techniques for counter-terrorism operations
- **India and Russia – signs \$500 million agreement – to build 2 guided-missile stealth frigates at the Goa shipyard**
- ✓ The pact will facilitate the construction of two 4000-tonne Grigorivich or Talwar class frigates
- ✓ This agreement is part of the earlier umbrella agreement to get 4 such warships for the Indian Navy
- ✓ The construction of the frigates will begin in 2020 with the first one being delivered in 2026 and the second one a year later
- ✓ All the 4 frigates will be armed with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles apart from other weapon systems and sensors
- ✓ Already, Indian Navy has 6 such frigates, 3 Talwar-class and 3 Teg-class warships, inducted from 2003-2004 onwards
- ✓ It has to be recalled that India had inked \$5.43 billion deal last month with Russia for S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems

- **Indian Army – has selected Russia’s ‘Igla-S’ missile system as its choice for Man-portable Air defence systems (MANPADS)**
- ✓ Russia’s Igla-S bid is for \$1.47 billion to the Indian Army’s Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) deal
- ✓ The other bidders were MBDA of France (bid of \$3.68 billion) and SAAB of Sweden (bid of \$2.6 billion)
- ✓ The Igla-S (SA-24) offers superior performance over earlier supplied SA-18 missiles to India
- ✓ It has a maximum range of 6km, altitude of 3 km along with other sophisticated features
- ✓ Igla-S missile system will replace the existing Igla systems

APPOINTMENTS

- **Jalaj Srivastava – appointed as the Chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**



- ✓ It is currently headed by Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways
- ✓ Prior to this appointment he was Additional Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture
- ✓ Earlier he had also served as chairman of New Delhi Municipal Corporation and Principal Secretary, Department of VAT, Delhi government
- ✓ He is also known for launching “Shakti Cab” project and “URJA” project for women when he was with Delhi government
- ✓ He also started “Rahagiri” event that takes place every Sunday in Delhi to promote culture and sports
- ✓ He is also the writer of a crime thriller novel titled ‘The Perfect Suicide’
- ✓ IWAI – Established in October 1986 with its headquarters in Noida, Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ It regulates the inland waterways by creating necessary infrastructure for shipping and navigation

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- **Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister – releases a book titled “Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War’**



- ✓ It was written by Dr Rajesh Bhat, who serves in the Policy Division of Directorate General, All India Radio, New Delhi
- ✓ He has written over 250 academic research papers and articles
- ✓ The book narrates the role played by ‘Radio Kashmir’ in serving the people of Kashmir and strengthening democratic institutions in Kashmir
- ✓ ‘Radio Kashmir’ was inaugurated in 1947
- ✓ The book has been published by Stellar Publishers.

SPORTS

- **62nd National Shooting Championships (Rifle/Pistol) in Thiruvananthapuram**
- ✓ **Mehuli Ghosh (18 years, West Bengal) & Abhinav Shaw (10 years, Asansol) – won the Gold in the 10m air rifle mixed event in both Junior and Youth categories**



- ✓ Abhinav Shaw, thus became the country’s youngest National champion
- ✓ Mehuli, a Commonwealth and world junior medallist, was partnering Abhinav for the first time
- ✓ This is Mehuli’s third Gold apart from the 3 team Gold medals she had won in the 10m air rifle team events for Bengal
- ✓ C Ravi Rakshna and Rithik Ramesh (both Tamil Nadu) – won Silver medal in the Junior Category
- ✓ **Anjum Moudgil and Arjun Babuta (both Punjab) – won the 10m air rifle mixed gold**

- **India – won 2 bronze medals in Men’s and Women’s group events - in FIG Acrobatic Gymnastics World cup in Baku**
- ✓ Men’s team winners – Prins aris, Siddhesh Bhosle, Rushikesh More and Rejilesh Suribabu
- ✓ Women’s team winners – Ayushi Ghodeswar, Prachi Parkhi and Mrunmayi Walde
- **Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP), Bangladesh – wins 59th edition of Subroto cup International Football tournament in New Delhi**
- ✓ It had defeated Amini School, Afghanistan in the final with a solitary goal
- **Chennai’s Moghul Mohammed Muneer, a renowned International Umpire – has been appointed as a Technical Officer for the Hockey World Cup starting in Bhubaneswar from November 28, 2018**



- ✓ He is the only Indian in the panel of officials for the tournament
- ✓ Muneer is also the vice-president of the Chennai Hockey Association
- ✓ He had already served as a technical officer in World Cup (2010), Commonwealth Games (2010), Asian Games (2010 and 2014), World league qualifiers (2016), World league finals (2017)
- ✓ He was earlier appointed as tournament director for the Asian games qualifiers in Dhaka (2010, 2014) and Muscat (2018)
- **Indian Football’s ‘I-League’ – wins the Silver medal in the SPIA Awards in Bangkok**
- ✓ I-League was nominated by the Asian Football Confederation



- ✓ It won the award in the ‘Best Developing Football League of the year’ category
- ✓ The Hero I-League is the premier league in the country and the ongoing edition is being played among 11 Clubs
- ✓ It narrowly missed out the Gold medal to the eventual winner ‘V-League’ (Vietnam National League)
- ✓ Indonesia’s Go-Jet Liga 1 was rated at the third position

RANKINGS

- **Global Annual Talent Ranking – released by IMD Business School, Switzerland**
- ✓ **India has slipped two places to be ranked at 53rd Position**
- ✓ Switzerland retained the top Position for the fifth consecutive year



- ✓ Singapore topped the Asia region with 13th Rank while China is ranked 39th
- ✓ India was ranked at 51st Position in 2017

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **Universal Children’s Day – November 20**



- ✓ The day marks the adoption of Declaration of the Rights of the Child in 1959 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989 by the UN General assembly
- ✓ The observance of the day seeks to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children’s welfare
- ✓ Theme 2018 – ‘Children are taking over and turning the world blue’