

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 23, 2018

STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh Government – launches month-long ‘Women Empowerment Resolution Campaign’ (Nari Sashaktikaran Sankalp Abhiyan) in Lucknow**



- ✓ The campaign aims to empower Women to develop leadership skills
- ✓ Issues like education, self-employment, health, sanitation and nutrition will be included under the campaign
- ✓ For the Campaign, a 11-member team will be formed at each district and block level of states
- ✓ To create an awareness about the campaign, door-to-door visit will be undertaken by the women officers and female staff of the state government

- **Manipur – hosts the annual Sangai Festival in the state**



- ✓ The festival is named after the endangered species of deer Sangai, the State animal
- ✓ It was inaugurated by Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Defence Minister
- ✓ Sangai Tourism festival was started in 2010 to showcase the art and culture of state
- ✓ It also showcases ‘Ras Leela’, State’s classical dance form
- ✓ Sangai Deer (Rucervus eldii) is also known as the Dancing Deer
- ✓ It is currently found in Keibul Lamjao National Park (KLNP), only floating national park in the world
- ✓ It is listed as ‘critically endangered species’ by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ✓ KLNP is the floating biomass in Manipur’s Loktak Lake

- **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandrababu Naidu – had claimed that the proposed Assembly building at Amaravati will be taller than the Statue of Unity by 68 metres**



- ✓ Once completed, it will be the tallest structure in the country, as per the CM
- ✓ The Statue of Unity stands at 182 metres
- ✓ The assembly is designed by UK-based architects, Norma Fosters

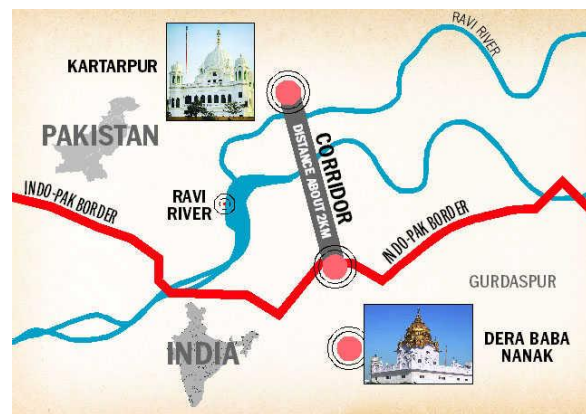
NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – laid the foundation stone for ‘City Gas Distribution’ projects covering 25% of the country’s population across 18 states and 129 districts**



- ✓ The proposed project will provide Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) supply to automobiles and piped cooking gas to kitchens
- ✓ Currently, the country has 32 lakh piped Gas customers

- **Union Government – approves the construction of ‘Kartarpur Corridor’ from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district of Punjab to the International border with Pakistan**



- ✓ The approval commemorates the 550th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak in 2019
 - ✓ The project costs \$2.2 million to the Government
 - ✓ Kartarpur is located in Shakargarh in Narowal district of Punjab province of Pakistan
 - ✓ It is the final resting place of Guru Nanak, the first Guru and founder of Sikhism, after spending over 18 years there
 - ✓ Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara is located on the banks of the river Ravi, about 4km from Indo-Pak border in Pakistan in Punjab
 - ✓ The proposed ‘Kartarpur Corridor’ will be beneficial to the Sikh tourists who visit the Gurdwara every year
 - ✓ It was first proposed by then PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999
 - ✓ Pakistan – has already proposed to build a 2.5 km corridor leading to Kartarpur Sahib in its territory – at a cost of \$14.8 million to its Government
- **Cabinet Committee On Economic Affairs (CCEA) – approves the extension of norms for the Mandatory packaging in Jute Materials under Jute Packaging Material (JPM) Act, 1987**
 - ✓ It was approved earlier that 100% of the food grains and 20% of sugar should be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags
 - ✓ The move was expected to benefit the Jute industry and its farmers
 - ✓ Jute is one of the important natural fibers after cotton in terms of usage
 - ✓ India is largest producer of jute in the world (around 60%) followed by Bangladesh and China
 - ✓ Almost 85% of world’s jute cultivation is concentrated in the Ganges Delta
 - ✓ West Bengal, Bihar, Assam and Odisha are the topmost Jute producing states in the country

- **Union Cabinet – approves the setting up of a medical college at Silvassa in the Union territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli**
 - ✓ A budget of Rs 189 crore has been allocated for the purpose
 - ✓ The project will be completed in 2019-20
 - ✓ It will have a yearly intake of 150 students
 - ✓ The approval will increase the availability of doctors in the two UTs

- **Centre – approves the ‘Allied and Healthcare Professions Bill, 2018’**
 - ✓ The bill seeks to regulate and standardize the services and education of allied and healthcare professionals
 - ✓ It also facilitates the setting up of an Allied and Healthcare Council of India and the corresponding state’s Allied and Healthcare councils
 - ✓ The central council will comprise 47 members, comprising 14 ex-officio and 33 non ex-officio members
 - ✓ The state council will have 7 ex-officio and 21 non ex-officio members with a chairperson elected from non ex-officio members
 - ✓ The initiative is expected to cost Rs 95 crores to the exchequer in the first four years

- **Government – decides to set up a domestic ‘Gold council’ in India**
 - ✓ The council will accelerate the growth of Gold sector and promote the exports of Jewellery
 - ✓ This was announced by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and industry during the inauguration of the 2nd edition of India Gold and Jewellery Summit in New Delhi



- ✓ The proposed Gold council will have representation of all stakeholders including Traders, artisans, miners and purifiers
- ✓ India is world’s largest consumer of gold and also one of the main importers
- ✓ The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council was established in 1966 with its headquarters in Mumbai
- ✓ It has its Regional Offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai, Surat and Jaipur
- ✓ It has been granted autonomous status since 1998

- **Ministry of Women and Child Development – has linked ‘She-Box’ with all the Central & State ministries and Departments across all the 653 districts in 33 states/UTs of the country**
- ✓ ‘She-Box’ is the sexual harassment complaints portal - created by the WCD Ministry to report complaints of sexual harassment at the workplace.
- ✓ The progress of the cases on the portal can be monitored by the complainants as well as the WCD Ministry
- ✓ The portal provides a speedy remedy to women facing sexual harassment at workplace
- ✓ ‘She-Box’ portal was launched by WCD Minister, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi on November 7, 2017
- ✓ It is the first ever online portal launched by any country to receive sexual harassment complaints
- ✓ It was launched to ensure the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act (SH Act), 2013
- ✓ The portal can be accessed at the following link - <http://shebox.nic.in/>

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India & Vietnam – signs four key agreements – for cooperation in the areas of communications, foreign affairs, academics, and commerce**



- ✓ They were signed during the visit of President, Ram Nath Kovind to Vietnam

- **India & Australia – signs five agreements – for collaboration in the areas of bilateral investment, scientific collaboration, service to the disabled, agricultural research and education**



- ✓ They were signed during the meeting between Indian President, Ram Nath Kovind and Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison in Sydney, Australia
- ✓ The Indian President has become the first-ever Indian head of state to visit Australia.

COMMITTEES

- **Union Cabinet – extends the tenure of Committee under Justice (Retd) G Rohini – to examine the issue of sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Central list**
- ✓ The commission was formed under Article 340 of the constitution in October 2017 under the former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice (Retd) G Rohini
- ✓ This is the fourth extension granted to the commission, from November 30, 2018 to May 31, 2019
- ✓ Currently, 27% reservation is provided to OBCs as per the Mandal Commission recommendation (set up in 1979)
- ✓ Presently, 11 states have already sub-categorised OBC's in their State list
- ✓ In 2015, National Commission for Backward Classes held that OBCs be sub-categorized into extremely backward classes, more backward classes and backward classes

PERSONALITIES

- **Manpreet Singh, Captain of Indian Hockey team – signed up with Adidas – ahead of the 2018 World Cup in Odisha**



- ✓ He was the winner of Arjuna award in 2018

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Google's Next Billion Users (NBU) team – announces the national launch of its 'Neighbourly App' in Delhi and Bangalore**



- ✓ It helps people to source local information easily from their neighbours about their neighbourhood
- ✓ The app covers a distance of 1 to 5 km and will offer its services in 8 local languages
- ✓ The initial phase was tested in Mumbai, followed by Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Mysuru, Vizag, Kochi and Coimbatore
- ✓ More Indian cities like Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune, and Kolkata will be covered subsequently

DEFENCE

- **United States and South Korea – agreed to reduce the scope of their annual Joint military exercise 'Foil Eagle' so that it does not harm the diplomatic efforts with North Korea**
- ✓ The Foil Eagle field exercise involving combined ground, air, naval and special operation troops, takes place every spring
- ✓ United States had earlier suspended the summer's Joint military drill with South Korea, known as 'Ulchi Freedom Guardian'

APPOINTMENTS

- **Joyce Msuya (Tanzanian biologist) – appointed as the Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**



- ✓ She replaces Erik Solheim, who resigned recently following an internal audit report of huge travel expenses
 - ✓ Msuya had previously worked with World Bank
 - ✓ United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – was founded in June 1972 with its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya
- **Abhijit Bose – appointed as the First India Head of WhatsApp**



- ✓ He will establish WhatsApp India, the first fully-fledged country team of WhatsApp outside United States, in Gurugram, Haryana
- ✓ Bose is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Business School
- ✓ He has 17 years of experience in various online payments firms like Intuit, ngpay and Oracle
- ✓ In 2011, he co-founded Ezetap, a digital payments solutions firm
- ✓ WhatsApp had recently appointed Komal Lahiri, who is based in the US, as the Grievance Officer for India in August 2018

AWARDS

- **National Academy of Sciences India (NASI) SCOPUS Young Scientist Awards 2018**
- ✓ Winners – 2018 (5 categories)
 - ✓ Agriculture, Plant Sciences and Rural Development - Jitender Giri, National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi
 - ✓ Biomedical Research and Healthcare - Maddika Subba Reddy, Group Leader and Staff Scientist- V, CDFD, Hyderabad
 - ✓ Environmentally Sound Sustainable Development - Vimal Chandra Srivastava, Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee, Roorkee
 - ✓ Innovation in Engineering and Physical Sciences - Ajay S. Karakoti, Associate Professor, Ahmedabad University, Ahmedabad
 - ✓ Women in Science - Zhumur Ghosh, Bose Institute, Kolkata
- ✓ The awards were launched by Elsevier, Amsterdam-based global publisher in 2006
- ✓ In 2009, India collaborated with Elsevier through its National Academy of Sciences
- ✓ The Indian version of this award honours outstanding young researchers in the country
- **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and its enforcement officer, RS Sharath – chosen for 2018 Asia Environmental Enforcement Awards – by United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)**



- ✓ They were selected for their outstanding contribution in combating trans-border environmental crimes
- ✓ The awards were named under 'Organisation -Innovation' and 'Individual' categories respectively
- ✓ This is second time in row that WCCB is awarded by UN Environment
- ✓ Last year, it was awarded for 'Operation Save Kurma', a species-specific wildlife enforcement operation
- ✓ WCCB – established in June 2007 to protect the wildlife in the country
- ✓ It has its headquarters in New Delhi and five regional offices in Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and Jabalpur

- **Nandita Das, Actress and filmmaker – to be honoured with the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award**



- ✓ The award will be given to Nandita at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane on November 29, 2018
 - ✓ The award recognizes her achievement in film production in the Asia Pacific region
 - ✓ She made her directorial debut with the Bollywood movie 'Firaq'
- **3rd Sayaji Ratna Award – conferred to Amitabh Bachchan, Bollywood Superstar**



- ✓ The award recognizes his social contribution to pay off the loans of several farmers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra
- ✓ He paid the loans of 1,398 farmers from Uttar Pradesh and 350 from Maharashtra
- ✓ The first 2 recipients of the award were - Infosys co-founder N R Narayana Murthy and industrialist Ratan Tata

- **Nicolas Orellana of Chile and Yaseen Noorani from Kenya – won the prestigious ‘International James Dyson award 2018’**



- ✓ The award is for the innovative design of their ‘Urban wind turbine’ called ‘O-Wind Turbine’
 - ✓ The turbine was designed to harness energy to produce electricity
 - ✓ It was inspired from NASA’s ‘Mars Tumbleweed Rover’
 - ✓ It is a sphere shaped object with vents - that spins and converts the wind power into electricity
- **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) - won silver medal - in the International Green Apple Award for environmental best practice 2018 in London**



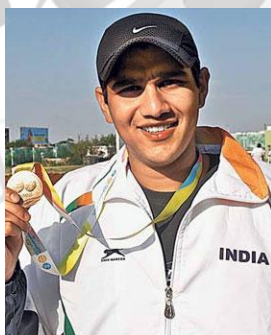
- ✓ Green Manipal, the award winning project of MAHE - was selected among 800 global nominations
- ✓ MAHE’s winning paper will be published in ‘The Green Book’, the leading international reference work on environmental best practice
- ✓ MAHE now will have 100 trees planted in their name as part of the United Nations Billion Trees Initiative
- ✓ With this award, MAHE now becomes eligible to participate in the Green World Awards 2019

SPORTS

- **Indian Women's Cricket team – loses to England in the Semi finals of ICC Women's World T20 in Antigua, West Indies**



- ✓ India's best finishes in the past have been the semi finals in 2009 and 2010
 - ✓ In another Semi final, Australia defeated hosts West Indies to play the final against England on November 25, 2018
 - ✓ England is the current Women's One Day Internationals World cup winner and seeks to add their second world cup within a span of 18 months
- **Kynan Chenai (Telangana) – becomes the new National Trap Champion**



- ✓ He defeated Lakshay Sheoran (Haryana), Asian Games silver medal winner – at the 62nd National Shooting championships in Thiruvananthapuram
- ✓ However, Lakshay won Gold in Junior Men's Trap event defeating Rajasthan's Manavaditya Singh Rathore

