



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 25, 2019

SCHEMES

- The Centre - has launched Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh project with the aim of reducing malnutrition in India.



- ✓ It was launched by WCD Minister Smriti Irani along with Bill Gates recently in New Delhi.
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has partnered with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the project.
- ✓ The Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones to assist better nutritional outcomes.
- ✓ It aims to promote healthy dietary practices both at the individual and community level and tackle malnutrition in a sustainable manner.
- ✓ Speaking on the occasion, father of Green Revolution and eminent agricultural scientist, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan highlighted a five-point action programme to tackle malnutrition in the country.

✓ **The five-point action programme**

- ✓ Ensure calorie rich diet for women, especially pregnant women and children.
- ✓ Ensure protein intake in form of pulses to eradicate protein hunger among women and children.
- ✓ Eradicate hidden hunger due to micro-nutrient deficiency such as vitamin A, vitamin B, Iron and Zinc.
- ✓ Ensure supply of clean drinking water.
- ✓ Spreading nutrition literacy in every village, especially among women with children less than 100 days' old.

STATES

- **The Chhattisgarh Cabinet - has approved the nomination of at least one disabled member to each panchayat**
- ✓ With this, Chhattisgarh becomes the only State in the country to have disabled members in all panchayats.

- **President Ram Nath Kovind - has given assent to a legislation passed by the Maharashtra Assembly in 2017 that categorises violent attacks on mediapersons' as a non-bailable offence.**
- ✓ The Maharashtra Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Act, 2017, has also included a provision of imprisonment and a fine of ₹50,000.
- ✓ Maharashtra is the first State to pass such a legislation.
- ✓ The Bill also has a provision that any offence against a mediaperson will be investigated by a police officer above the rank of a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

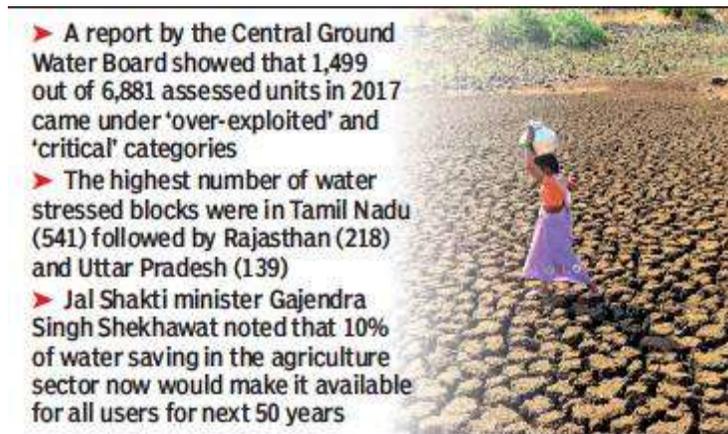
- **The Uttar Pradesh government - has decided to launch a three-week intensive campaign in 47 districts to eradicate Filariasis from Uttar Pradesh**
- ✓ It had launched this campaign because the central government has announced to eradicate Filariasis from the country by the year 2021.
- ✓ Filariasis disease is caused by the bite of infected female Culex mosquito
- ✓ Filariasis is the world's second-largest disease, making people handicapped on a large scale
- ✓ About 4.5 Lakh people are suffering from Filariasis in India.
- ✓ Most of the Filariasis outbreaks are seen in eastern India, Malabar and eastern areas of Maharashtra
- ✓ About 85.6 million people in 52 countries of the world are at risk of Filariasis

- **Madhya Pradesh - has recently announced 5% reservation for sportspersons in government jobs.**

- ✓ Apart from this, it also provides government jobs to Vikram Award winners every year
- ✓ Vikram Award is the highest sports award of Madhya Pradesh.
- ✓ The objective of this announcement is to identify talented sportspersons and provide them with better facilities for training along with secure employment.

NATIONAL

- **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) - has asked private banks to issue FASTags from November 22 to December 1 to encourage vehicle owners to switch over to the electronic toll collection system.**
- ✓ The NHAI authorities have instructed several private banks — including ICICI, Axis, HDFC, IDFC First, IndusInd and Kotak Mahindra Bank — to issue FASTag free of cost.
- ✓ IMCL (Indian Highways Management Company Limited), an initiative of the NHAI, is implementing the project
- ✓ The programme was launched to ensure faster movement of vehicles at toll plazas, cashless payment and reduction of traffic congestion from December 1.
- ✓ The vehicles not fitted with FASTag would be charged double the toll fee if they use 'FASTag lanes' at toll plazas
- ✓ Vehicle owners can get the FASTag at point of sale (POS) put up by the NHAI at toll plazas
- ✓ At present, there are 90 POS in 48 toll plazas in Tamil Nadu — 26 in Chennai region and 22 in Madurai region — and majority of them have been put up by the NHAI.
- **Almost 22% of groundwater in the country - has either dried up or is in the 'critical' and 'over-exploited' categories**



- ✓ This was stated in the recently released 'Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India' report of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

- ✓ As per the report, 1,499 out of 6,881 assessed units (blocks/ mandals/taluks) in 2017 came under 'over-exploited' (1,186 units) and 'critical' (313 units) categories.
 - ✓ The highest number of water-stressed blocks, identified by the CGWB was in Tamil Nadu (541) followed by Rajasthan (218), Uttar Pradesh (139), Telangana (137), Punjab (111) and Haryana (81).
 - ✓ According to the report, 'over-exploited' areas were mostly concentrated in parts of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and western Uttar Pradesh and the southern part of peninsular India including parts of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Tamil Nadu
- **The Indian Railways - has decided to introduce an automatic train protection system in its entire network of 68,000 km route after a pilot project**
 - ✓ In the pilot project, the system would be introduced in a 650 km stretch of the golden quadrilateral corridor connecting Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.
 - ✓ The introduction of the automatic train protection system ensures the safety and security of Indian railways and its passengers.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Israel - to become the first democracy to expel a human rights organization 'Human Rights Watch' (HRW) official from the country**
- ✓ Omar, who hails from the US, will be expelled from the country after he recently spoke about the boycott of Israel.
- ✓ As per Israel, Omar is accused of being a supporter of the campaign to boycott and ban against Israel.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Home Minister Amit Shah - recently launched the first Winter Grade Diesel Sales Center for Ladakh region**



- ✓ 5% biodiesel has been blended in special winter grade diesel, which ensures that diesel retains its fluidity even at -33 degree Celcius temperature.
- ✓ Earlier, vehicles used to stop in the Ladakh due to the freezing of diesel, as diesel fuel reaches on the freezing point every year during the extreme winters.
- ✓ Whenever the temperature reduces, diesel reaches its freezing point in the high altitude areas like Ladakh, Kargil, Dras, Siachen among others.
- ✓ Winter-Grade Diesel fuel is a special category fuel that doesn't freeze in cold weather
- ✓ Indian Oil Corporation Limited started production of special winter grade diesel
- ✓ The first delivery of winter-grade diesel was given by Panipat oil refinery while second delivery is scheduled by Jalandhar oil refinery

AWARDS

- **Greta Thunberg, a 16-year old environmental activist - was recently awarded the International Children's Peace Prize**



- ✓ Greta has launched a campaign against climate change, School Strike for Climate Movement, with school children around the world.
- ✓ She has been awarded along with Cameroon's peace activist 15-year-old Divina Maloum
- ✓ Divina was awarded for her "peaceful struggle" against the jihadi group Boko Haram.
- ✓ Dutch children's rights organization 'Kids Right' has been giving this award since 2005.
- ✓ Indian child rights activist and 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi presented the award.
- ✓ Greta was also been nominated for the 2019 Nobel Peace Prize

- **India's Ravi Prakash - was awarded the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize in Brazil - for inventing affordable and indigenously-designed milk chilling unit**



Raveesh Kumar
@MEAIndia

India won 1st prize of #BRICS -Young scientist forum's conclave during 6-8 Nov 2019 in Brazil. Mr. Ravi Prakash, a PhD scholar of ICAR-NDRI, Bangalore, received prize for inventing an affordable indigenously designed milk chilling unit for small to marginal rural dairy farmers.



- ✓ Ravi Prakash is an Indian Ph.D. scholar of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bangalore.
- ✓ The milk chilling unit can be used by the small and marginal rural dairy farmers to cool milk from the point of production
- ✓ The unit reduces the temperature of raw milk from 37°C to 7°C within just 30 minutes using nano-fluid based phase change materials.
- ✓ Ravi Prakash was previously awarded the Gandhian Young Technological Innovation Award by Indian President Ram Nath Kovind in 2018.
- ✓ Ravi Prakash was a part of a 21-member Indian Youth delegation sent by the Department of Science and Technology to attend the 4th BRICS-Young Scientist Forum (YSF), 2019 in Brazil.
- ✓ The BRICS Young Scientist Forum is organized in association with India's Department of Science and Technology and the International multilateral and Regional Cooperation Division.

SPORTS

- **India's first Formula 1 driver Narain Karthikeyan - secured an emphatic victory in the SUPER GT x DTM Dream Race at Tokyo**



- ✓ The 42-year-old Narain was driving the Nakajima Racing Honda NSX-GT against an established field of 21 drivers
- ✓ His victory follows a maiden SUPER GT podium at Sugo in September.
- **India's Sarita Devi - was elected unopposed as a member of the AIBA Athletes Commission, representing the Asian bloc**



- ✓ She was among the six boxers who were selected as members of the commission from 5 continents.
- ✓ The election of the AIBA Athletes Commission members was conducted during the recent AIBA men's and women's Boxing Championships 2019 in Russia.
- ✓ The AIBA's athletes commission features one male and a female boxer from each of the five regional confederations - Asia, Oceania, Africa, Americas and Europe
- ✓ The AIBA athletes' commission members will act as a bridge between AIBA and boxers to ensure greater transparency and coordination in the formulation of rules and projects for the sport.
- ✓ L Sarita Devi is an eight-time Asian Championship medalist, which includes five gold medals.
- **Bangladesh Cricket Board - banned fast bowler Shahadat Hussain for five years recently**



- ✓ He was banned due to a fight with his teammate Arafat Sunny during a domestic match
- ✓ Shahadat has played 38 Tests and 51 ODIs for Bangladesh
- ✓ He played his last international match in 2015.
- ✓ Bangladesh's star all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been banned for two years (with one year suspended) recently by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for not reporting match-fixing related communications

REPORT

- **The number of road accidents in the country - has increased by 0.46% in the year 2018 as compared to 2017, as per the report released recently by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways**
- ✓ The death rate during the road accident has also increased by 2.37% during this period.
- ✓ The number of injuries in road accidents has decreased by 0.33% in 2018 as compared to 2017.
- ✓ National Highway constitutes only 1.94% of the total road network of the country, while its share in total road accidents is 30.2%
- ✓ Other roads that account for 95.1% of the total roads were responsible for 45% accidents and 38% deaths respectively.
- ✓ In 2018, Tamil Nadu recorded the most number of road accidents while Uttar Pradesh had the highest number of persons died in road accidents
- ✓ The union cabinet has recently approved Motor Vehicle Amendment Bill 2019
- ✓ As per the bill, minimum compensation will be given to road accident victims.
- ✓ In case of Hit and Run cases, the government will provide a compensation of Rs. 2 Lakh and Rs. 50,000 will be given in case of serious injury.