



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 29 & 30, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – commissioned chennai’s second plant to treat grey water with reverse osmosis at Koyambedu on November 29**
- ✓ The ₹486.21-crore plant will have the capacity to treat up to 45 million litres of grey water every day
- ✓ It will then supply the treated grey water to nearly 800 industrial units at Irungattukottai, Sriperumbudur and Oragadam.
- ✓ Out of the 45 million litres of treated grey water, Irungattukottai units will get 10 million litres, units in Sriperumbudur will get 13 million litres and those at Oragadam will get the maximum of 22 million litres.
- ✓ Earlier, Metrowater had signed a memorandum of understanding with these industries for buying the treated water.
- ✓ Also, two more tertiary treatment plants will come up in the next 6 months, at Perungudi and Nesappakkam

- **The state government – to undertake a massive extension, renovation and modernisation of irrigation systems in the Cauvery basin in Trichy, Karur and Namakkal districts soon**
- ✓ The public works department (PWD) has sanctioned the projects estimated to cost ₹750 crore.
- ✓ It will be funded either by NABARD or by the state itself.
- ✓ Kattalai high level canal, Noyyal river system and Raja Channel and its branches will undergo major improvements like canal lining, repair of regulators and construction of new civil structures
- ✓ The Centre is yet to respond to the state’s request for approval of ₹11,420 crore Cauvery basin modernisation project, apart from the already approved Grand Anicut canal sub-basin

- ✓ Kattalai high level canal is 62km long and the designed discharge at the head regulator is 411 cusecs, which will irrigate 23,774 acres in Karur and Trichy districts.
- ✓ Noyyal river flows for 158.35km from the Western Ghats to the Cauvery.
- ✓ The renovation and modernisation of Raja Vaikkal and its branches — Kumarapalayam and Poiyeri channels – will irrigate 10,203 acres in Namakkal district.
- **India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) - signed a \$451 million loan to strengthen power connectivity between southern and northern parts of Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC).**
- ✓ CKIC is a part of East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) in Tamil Nadu and ADB is the lead partner of government for developing ECEC
- ✓ The state intends to develop the northern Chennai-Tiruchirappalli area of CKIC as a manufacturing centre
- ✓ Hence, the project will assist the government to meet the increasing demand for power supply from industry and commercial enterprises in the state through transfer of power from new generation facilities.

STATES

- **Bengaluru traffic police – have decided to deploy 200 life-size mannequins that resemble a city traffic constable at important intersections in the city**



- ✓ So far, 68 such mannequins have been deployed at junctions, while the rest will be installed soon
- ✓ Dressed in traffic police uniform, along with reflector jackets, boots and sunglasses, the life-size mannequin looks like a city traffic cop
- ✓ The reason for installing these mannequins is that commuters tend to be cautious when it comes to breaking rules in front of a man in uniform.

NATIONAL

- **The government - introduced a bill to amend the Arms Act on November 29**
 - ✓ It was introduced by minister of state for home affairs, G Kishan Reddy in Lok Sabha
 - ✓ It seeks to enhance punishment for illegally possessing and making prohibited arms, and prohibiting individuals from possessing more than one firearm as against the present norm of 3.
 - ✓ It also seeks to enhance the period of arms licence from 3 years to 5 years and provides for issuing arms licence in electronic form.
 - ✓ The Arms (Amendment) Bill, 2019 also proposes punishment for those who use firearms in a rash or negligent manner.
 - ✓ Under the proposed legislation, such offence will be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to 2 years, or with fine upto ₹1lakh or with both.

- **The Highways ministry - extended the December 1 deadline for rollout of 100% electronic toll collection through FASTag across the entire NH network to December 15**
 - ✓ This has been done to provide more time to the people to buy and display FASTag on their vehicles

- **Zurich Airport International AG - will develop the Jewar airport on the outskirts of Delhi, the second for the Capital city.**
 - ✓ The airport in Uttar Pradesh's Gautam Buddha Nagar district will be the third in the National Capital Region after Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and in Ghaziabad's Hindon
 - ✓ The Jewar Airport or the Noida International Greenfield Airport will be spread over 5,000 hectares when fully constructed at an estimated budget of ₹29,560 crore
 - ✓ The Switzerland-based company that runs Zurich airport made the highest per passenger bid, outscoring Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), Adani Enterprises and Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited
 - ✓ The airport will have six to eight runways, the most in India, when fully built

- **No jeweler in the country - will be allowed to sell gold jewellery or artefacts without hallmarking from January 15, 2021.**
 - ✓ The government is expected to issue a notification by mid January next year providing the jewellers one year to register with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for obtaining the Hallmarking (certification of purity)
 - ✓ The move is expected to protect the consumers' interest, particularly in small cities and rural areas, whereas jewellers and retailers also get one year to exhaust their existing stocks.
 - ✓ The BIS has formulated standards for gold jewellery of 3 grades — 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat
 - ✓ The Government may also make it mandatory for retailers to display prices of these three quality grades at their shops.

- ✓ Gold hallmarking is a purity certification of the precious metal and currently it's voluntary for jewelers
- ✓ The BIS is already running a hallmarking scheme since April 2000 and at present around 40% of gold jewellery is being hallmarked.
- ✓ If any jeweller is caught selling non-hallmark gold jewellery, a fine of at least ₹ 1 lakh will be imposed and the accused can be sent to jail for a year.
- ✓ Similarly, if any jeweller is caught using Hallmark and not complying with the standards, then the fine will be a minimum of ₹ 1 lakh, which will be over and above up to 5 times of the value of article.
- ✓ Currently, there are 877 hallmarking centres in 234 district locations and 26,019 jewellers have got BIS registration in the entire country

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Madras high court - has instructed officers investigating crimes against women and children that are punishable by imprisonment of 10 years or more to ensure audio-visual recording of statements of complainants and witnesses.**
- ✓ A division bench of Justice S Vaidyanathan and Justice N Anand Venkatesh directed the state government to ensure that audio-video recording facilities are provided to all magistrate courts, mahila courts and sessions courts in Tamil Nadu within 3 months.
- ✓ The judges also directed the government to facilitate safe storage of the electronic data in these respective courts
- ✓ The bench directed the state government to implement the witness protection scheme as directed by the Supreme Court

INTERNATIONAL

- **US President Trump - signed into law congressional legislation backing anti-government protesters in Hong Kong**
- ✓ The US laws, which passed both chambers of Congress almost unanimously, mandate sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials who carry out human rights abuses in Hong Kong

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India - announced two separate lines of credit worth \$450 million for Sri Lanka, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi met newly-installed Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at New Delhi**



- ✓ Rajapaksa's visit to New Delhi is his first international engagement after his election.
- ✓ Out of the total credit, \$400 million would be provided for development assistance and another \$50 million would be set aside for counter-terror cooperation
- ✓ Rajapaksa, brother of former president and current PM Mahinda Rajapaksa, was elected president earlier this month

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The golden jubilee edition of the International Festival of India (IFFI) – concluded on November 28 at Panaji, Goa**
- ✓ During the event which opened on November 20, close to 250 films from various countries were screened.
- ✓ In the valedictorian ceremony, Blaise Harrison directorial debut French/Swiss film 'Particles' won the biggest award, the Golden Peacock.



- ✓ Filmmaker Lijo Jose Pellissery scored his second consecutive Best Director award for the Malayalam film Jallikattu.

- ✓ Last year, Pellissery received the award for another critically-acclaimed movie Ee Maa Yau
- ✓ Legendary music composer Ilaiyaraaja, director Manju Borah, veteran actor Prem Chopra, actor Arvind Swami, Kathak doyen Pandit Birju Maharaj, dancer Tanusree Shankar, among others were felicitated.
- ✓ Goa governor Satyapal Malik was the chief guest for the valedictory ceremony
- ✓ At the valediction, it was announced that the 2020 and 2021 edition of IFFI will focus on legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray to mark his centenary celebrations.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Astronomers - have discovered a 'huge' black hole, LB-1, in the Milky Way, that challenges existing models of the evolution of stars**



- ✓ LB-1 is 15,000 light years from Earth and has a mass 70 times greater than the Sun
- ✓ The Milky Way contains around 100 million stellar black holes, but LB-1 is twice as massive as anything scientists thought possible
- ✓ There are two types of black holes
- ✓ The more common Stellar black holes — up to 20 times more massive than the Sun — are formed when the centre of a very big star collapses in on itself.
- ✓ Supermassive black holes are at least a million times bigger than the Sun and their origins are uncertain.
- ✓ Stellar black holes are usually formed following supernova explosions, a phenomenon that occurs when extremely large stars burn out at the end of their lives

- ✓ LB-1 was discovered by an international team of scientists using China's sophisticated LAMOST telescope.
- ✓ Additional images from two of the world's largest optical telescopes — Spain's Gran Telescopio Canarias and the Keck I telescope in the US — have also confirmed the size of LB-1.

DEFENCE

- **The government – has given preliminary approval to defence procurement projects worth ₹22,800 crore on November 28**
- ✓ In the process, the Rajnath Singh-led defence acquisitions council (DAC) had curtailed the Navy's long-standing proposal to acquire 10 more Poseidon-8I "submarine-hunting" aircraft to just 6 planes due to severe fund crunch being faced by the armed forces.
- ✓ Now, the Navy will get only 6 more P-8Is for around \$1.8 billion to add to the 12 such long-range maritime patrol aircraft already ordered from the US at a cost of over \$3.1 billion.
- ✓ Of the 12 P-8Is already ordered, 8 have been inducted at the naval air station INS Rajali at Arakkonam, while the next 4 are slated for delivery by 2021-2022.
- ✓ Apart from the six P-8I aircraft, the DAC also gave the approval for the indigenous design, development and manufacture of "thermal imaging night sights" for assault rifles of the Army and 14 twin-engine heavy-duty helicopters for the Coast Guard.
- ✓ The DAC also decided to revalidate the "Acceptance of necessity (AoN)" for the purchase of two indigenously-developed Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft, which were first approved at a cost of ₹5,113 crore way back in March 2015.
- ✓ India currently has just three "Phalcon" AWACS and one "Netra" AEW&C aircraft, which act as "eyes in the sky" to the Armed forces
- ✓ They are helpful in detecting and tracking hostile fighters, cruise missiles and drones, much earlier than ground-based radars.

ECONOMY

- **The gross domestic product (GDP) of the country – remains at 4.5% in the September quarter, slower than 5% in the previous quarter and the lowest since the 4.3% expansion in the January-March quarter of 2012-13.**

DECLINE FOR 6 CONSECUTIVE QUARTERS



- ✓ This is the slowest growth of economy over the last six-and-a-half years in the July–September period of the current fiscal year
- ✓ The government has already unveiled several reform measures to revive growth while the Reserve Bank of India has cut interest rates 5 consecutive times to overcome the slowdown.
- **Petrochemicals major Reliance Industries (RIL) - became the first Indian company to touch the ₹10-lakh-crore market capitalisation level on November 28**
- ✓ This marks the doubling of its value in less than two and half years (2017-19) from Rs 5 lakh crore to Rs 10 lakh crore, even though it took RIL 12 years (2005-17) to go from a m-cap of Rs 5 crore from Rs 1 crore
- ✓ Started as a polyester manufacturer in the early 1960s by its founder Dhirubhai Ambani, RIL grew during the first 40 years through several integrations, like setting up refineries and petrochemicals production facilities.
- ✓ It then went into oil explorations.
- ✓ In the early 2000s, it had entered the telecom services space and then, in early 2010s, the consumer retail space
- ✓ With nearly 23 lakh shareholders, RIL is the most widely held company in India
- ✓ Boosted by his majority stake in RIL, its Managing Director Ambani is now the richest man in Asia with a net worth of nearly \$61 billion.
- ✓ Among the other Indian companies, software exports giant TCS, with a market cap of ₹7.8 lakh crore is behind RIL in m-cap level
- ✓ HDFC Bank (₹6.9 lakh crore), HUL (₹4.5 lakh crore) and HDFC (₹4 lakh crore) makes up the top five positions in terms of most valuable companies.

AWARDS

- **Noted Malayalam poet Akkitham - has been chosen for the 55th Jnanpith award**
- ✓ Born in 1926, Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri, popularly known as Akkitham is one of the most famous names in Malayalam poetry



- ✓ Apart from poetry, his literary excellence has transcended in other genres like drama, reminiscence, critical essays, children literature, short stories and translation.
 - ✓ Akkitham has authored 55 books out of which 45 are collections of poems including “Khanda Kavyas”, “Katha Kavyas”, “Charitha Kavyas” and songs
 - ✓ A Padma Shri awardee, he has won several literary accolades including the Sahitya Akademi Award (1973), Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award (1972 and 1988), Mathrubhumi Award, Vayalar Award, and Kabir Samman.
 - ✓ Some of his celebrated creations include “Veeravadam”, “Balidarsanam”, “Nimisha Kshethram”, “Amrita Khatika”, “Akkitham Kavithaka”, “Epic of Twentieth Century” and “Antimahakalam”.
- **Indu Jain, Chairman of Times Group, India’s largest media house that publishes The Times of India - was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for translating excellence in corporate governance into reality.**



- ✓ Earlier, Indu Jain was the recipient of Padma Bhushan in 2016
- ✓ The jury for the 19th ICSI National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance held in the capital was headed by the former Chief Justice of India, Justice Dipak Misra.

- ✓ Last year, Jain received the annual award for lifetime contribution to media from the All India Management Association (AIMA) for managing the Times Group, as well as establishing the Times Foundation, an organisation that works towards social causes.
- ✓ A philanthropist, she launched the Times Foundation in 2000 that runs several community services, operates a research foundation and manages relief funds.

SPORTS

- **Archer Deepika Kumari - secured an individual women's recurve quota place for the Tokyo Olympics after bagging gold in the Asian Continental Qualification Tournament at the Rajamangala National Stadium in Bangkok**



- ✓ The top ranked Jharkhand archer defeated Nur Afisa Abdul Halil of Malaysia to secure the Olympics quota
- ✓ The Indian archers competed without a flag due to the national federation's suspension by the world body
- **Karnataka pacer Abhimanyu Mithun – created history after taking 5 wickets in one over in the semi final of Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 series against Haryana at Surat**

CREATING HISTORY IN INDIAN CRICKET

By claiming five wickets in the final over, including four off the first four balls against Haryana at Surat, Abhimanyu Mithun has not only created cricket history but also became the first bowler to accomplish a hat-trick in all three formats

Format	For	Opponent	Inns	Venue	Season
FC (Ranji Trophy)	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Second	Meerut	2009-10
	(6/86 + 5/95) Wickets: Piyush Chawla, Amir Khan & RP Singh				
List A (Vijay Hazare)	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu		Bangalore	Oct.25, 2019
	(5/34) Wickets: Shahrukh Khan, M Mohammed & M Ashwin				
T20 (Syed Mushtaq Ali)	Karnataka	Haryana		Surat	Nov.29, 2019
	Wickets: HJ Rana, R Tewatia, Sumit Kumar & A Mishra – four wickets off successive balls				



Stats: Rajesh Kumar

- ✓ The exploits make him become the first Indian to have taken a hat-trick in all domestic competitions -- Ranji, Vijay Hazare and Syed Mushtaq Ali T20.
 - ✓ He had bagged his first-class hat-trick against Uttar Pradesh back in the 2009 season.
 - ✓ The Vijay Hazare final against Tamil Nadu in Bengaluru last month saw Mithun get to a hat-trick in the List A format before repeating this feat in the domestic T20 competition.
 - ✓ The 30-year-old former India pacer took five wickets in an over — which included four dismissals in as many deliveries. (W, W, W, W, Wide, 1, W.)
 - ✓ Mithun was summoned a day earlier by Central Crime Branch (CCB) for questioning in the spot-fixing scandal in Karnataka Premier League
- **City Football Group (CFG), which owns Premier League champions Manchester City - have announced that they have acquired a majority 65% stake in Indian Super League side, Mumbai City FC**

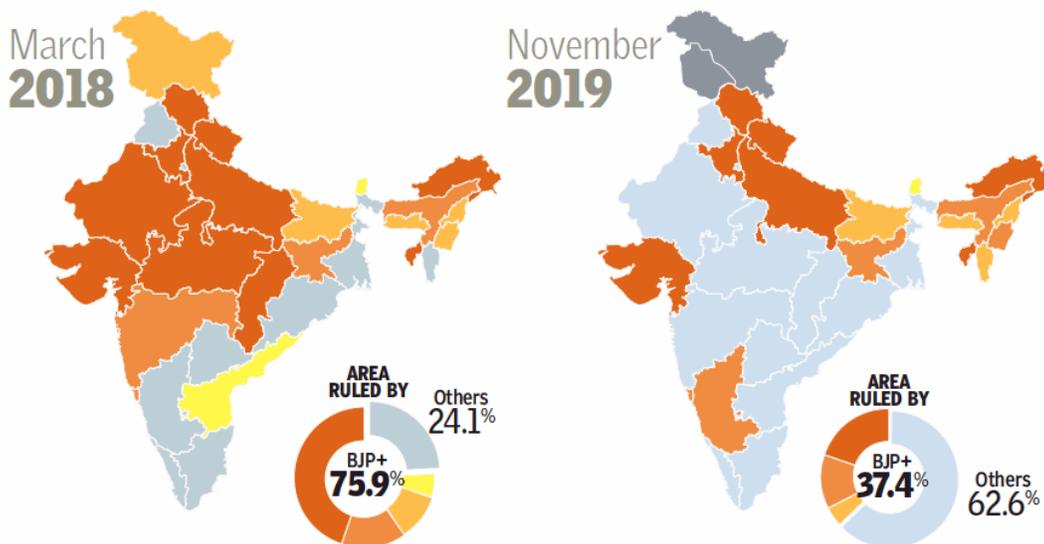


- ✓ Existing shareholders, actor Ranbir Kapoor and Bimal Parekh, will keep the remaining 35%.
- ✓ Mumbai City FC is the eighth team that CFG have acquired around the world after New York City FC, Melbourne City FC, Yokohama F Marinos in Japan, Club Atletico Torque in Uruguay, Girona FC in Spain and Sichuan Jiuniu FC in China.
- ✓ This is the first time ever that a European club will be acquiring a majority stake in an Indian club
- ✓ The deal was announced by Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) and Reliance Foundation chairperson Nita Ambani in Mumbai

BJP'S STATE COUNT IN LAST ONE YEAR - REPORT

With Maharashtra too gone to the opposition alliance, the area under the control of the saffron party has witnessed a steep fall. In March 2018, when the party was at its peak, BJP and its allies controlled 76% of the country's area and over 69% of its population. Since then, BJP has lost elections in big states like Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. After the party's failure to retain Maharashtra, it now controls 37.4% of India's area and 45.6% of its population

■ BJP
 ■ BJP As Major Partner
 ■ BJP As Minor Partner
 ■ BJP's Ally
 ■ Others



Note: Elections yet to be held for legislature of UT of J&K

POPULATION RULED BY

