

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 3, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **Actor Rajinikanth, hailed as the Superstar of Indian Cinema – to be conferred the 'Icon of Golden Jubilee of IFFI Award 2019' in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Indian cinema**

- ✓ The special award, instituted for the first time by the Union government, will be presented to him at the International Film Festival of India to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28
- ✓ Earlier, the actor received Padma Bhushan in 2000 and in 2016 he received Padma Vibhushan
- ✓ This year's IFFI will witness close to 250 films from various countries
- ✓ Out of the 200 foreign films to be screened this year, 24 movies are in the race for Oscar nominations.



- ✓ French actor Isabelle Huppert would be given the Lifetime Achievement Award for a foreign actor this year.
- ✓ Isabelle Hupert is one of the most famous and popular French actors of her generation
- ✓ She had won the Golden Globe in 2016 for her performance in 'Elle' apart from winning an Academy Award nomination in the 'Best Actress' category
- ✓ Isabelle Hupert has appeared in over 120 films since her debut in 1971.
- ✓ With 16 nominations, Isabelle was the most nominated actress for the César Award and she won the award twice for Best Actress in La Cérémonie and Elle.
- ✓ She was also the President of the Jury at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival, from May 13-24, 2009.
- ✓ Isabelle Hupert is one of the only four women who have won Best Actress at the Cannes Film Festival twice

- ✓ In its golden jubilee (50th edition) year, the festival will screen 50 films by 50 female filmmakers to acknowledge the contribution of women in cinema
- ✓ Russia will be the partner country of the festival this year.

◆ **School education minister K A Senguttaiyan – conferred the ‘Puthumai Kalvi Nayagan’ (innovative educationist) award to G Moorthy, a panchayat school headmaster on November 2**

- ✓ The school HM was awarded for his continuous efforts to constantly upgrade the infrastructure at his school by mobilising crowd funding.
- ✓ On the occasion, the minister also inaugurated a new building worth ₹15 lakh, that was built with the help of crowd funding, in Panchayat Union Primary School at Thottiyapatti near K Paramathi in Karur district
- ✓ The Headmaster arranged a vehicle for students who lived far away from the school and improved the strength of the school from a mere 9 in 2010 to 69 at present.
- ✓ He had introduced spoken English classes, general knowledge classes and started conducting annual day functions
- ✓ He also provided students with modern uniforms and shoes, by collecting funds through crowd sourcing.


◆ **Tamil Nadu – to convert all 482 lanes in 48 toll plazas in Chennai and Madurai regions into radio-frequency identification (RFID) based 'Fastag lanes' by December 1**

- ✓ Already 428 lanes have been converted into ‘Fastag lanes’ under the electronic toll collection (ETC) programme
- ✓ The Union ministry of Road, transport and highways (MoRTH) has set December 1 as deadline to make ETC mandatory at all the toll plazas across the country

AUTOMATED GATEWAYS

How the ETC programme will streamline traffic flow at toll plazas


<p>BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAMME</p> <p>Vehicles under ETC (electronic toll collection) programme have on-board units which contain information about the vehicle. The roadside units at toll collection points extract vehicle information from the on-board unit and process toll transaction automatically</p>	<p>HOW TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAMME</p> <p>One must submit photocopy of vehicle RC, driving license and photo of the vehicle at the ETC (Fastag) programme outlets at the toll plazas to enroll in the programme</p>
<p>HOW TO KEEP TRACK</p> <p>Once Fastag is availed of, the user can recharge it online. Statements of toll deducted will be available online</p>	<p>PROGRESS SO FAR</p> <p>Around 35% vehicles in TN have enrolled under the ETC programme. 21 banks and the Indian Highway Management Company Limited issue Fastag</p>



- ✓ The ‘fastags’ are designed to ensure non-stop movement of vehicles, cashless payment, reduction in traffic congestion and reduce the time taken for commuting.
- ✓ After December 1, one lane (extreme left on either side) at every toll plaza will continue to accept cash apart from having the Fastag facility.

- ✓ The state authorities have already introduced automated toll collection facility in all the 10 lanes at Kaniur toll plaza on Chengapalli-Valayar stretch of NH 47 on a pilot basis
- ✓ By November 7, the agency will also introduce 'Fastag' in all the lanes in 4 other toll plazas along Tirupathi-Tiruthani-Chennai sections of NH 205, Chengapalli-Walayar section of NH 47, Karur-Dindigul section of NH 7 and Madurai-Ramanathapuram section of NH 49

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government – invite bids for procuring 2,000 more bus for town and long-distance operations at a budget of ₹ 616 crore.**

FOR A SMOOTH TRAVEL			
STU	Non-AC	AC	KEY FEATURES OF NEW MTC BUSES
MTC	330	0	Seating capacity 41 300 mm leg space
Villupuram	200	40	LED-fitted route boards & footboards
Salem	100	40	
Coimbatore	390	40	Automatic doors with sensors
Kumbakonam	240	40	
Madurai	140	30	Public address system to announce stops
Tirunelveli	190	20	
SETC	100	100	
TOTAL	1,690	310	

- ✓ Once these new buses are launched, the government can plan to replace one third of the old vehicles deemed unfit.
- ✓ Of the 2,000 buses, Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), Chennai, will get 330 buses, all of which are likely to be red in colour.
- ✓ The seating capacity is 41 and 30 more passengers can easily stand in the gangway.
- ✓ Also, the minimum leg space of a seated passenger has been fixed at 300 mm so that tall people don't feel uncomfortable.
- ✓ One disabled-friendly seat has been made available near the front entrance.
- ✓ Footboards will have LED moulded strip lights for better visibility and automatic doors (jack-knife type) with sensors have been provided
- ✓ The hand brake would be released only if the door sensor detects no obstacle, preventing the vehicle from moving if the door is open or passengers standing on the footboard
- ✓ To help women, children and senior citizens, height of the first step from the ground has been reduced from 600mm to 550mm and height between two steps has been fixed at 350mm with a maximum of four steps.
- ✓ A mike and two speakers will be made available for announcements on stops and duration.
- ✓ Unlike old buses, which had an average life of 6 lakh kilometers, the new buses can be run for a longer period – 9 lakh km or around 10 years

◆ **Tamil Nadu and Massachusetts - are expected to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the area of renewable and clean energy soon**

- ✓ Recently, an 11-member team of senior officials from the U.S. State visited Tamil Nadu in the third week of October where the draft of the MoU was exchanged.
- ✓ Apart from Tamil Nadu, there are other States in the country that have partnerships with States in the U.S.
- ✓ Among them are Telangana (with New Jersey), Rajasthan (with Utah) and Gujarat (with Colorado).
- ✓ The proposed MoU facilitates exchange of ideas and experiences in three core areas - policy dialogue, research and development and industrial investment.
- ✓ In the area of policy dialogue, discussions will focus on subjects such as energy transition policy, a concept that facilitates smooth transition from conventional sources to renewable sources of energy.
- ✓ In the area of R&D, institutions of higher learning other than Anna University and IIT can also be part of collaborative projects that may be planned with the University of Massachusetts taking part in the overall programme.
- ✓ In the field of industrial investment, Tamil Nadu is keen to involve the American concept of incubators, providing space and other forms of support to startups for carrying out projects in clean energy.

◆ **Sriperumbudur – to become the first plug-and-play facility to be created in SIPCOT's industrial parks in the State**

- ✓ The plug-and-play facility exclusively for the manufacturers will be set up on 50 acres at Sriperumbudur within the next year.
- ✓ The State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamilnadu Ltd (SIPCOT) has planned the facility so that different manufacturers can start production simultaneously with the availability of ready-to-use infrastructure
- ✓ The plug-and-play facility with a built-up area of 10 lakh square feet will have industrial warehouses and storage, logistics, and light engineering departments.
- ✓ Sriperumbudur's plug-and-play facility would cater to all types of manufacturing units ranging from automobiles to mobile phones
- ✓ The Plug-and-play facilities started coming up at industrial parks in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka a few years ago
- ✓ The development in the state comes in the wake of a Taiwanese auto manufacturer looking for plug-and-play facility land in India to shift its plant from China following the US-China trade war by December 2020

◆ **Southern Railways - will start introducing Linke Hoffmann Busch (LHB) rakes for MGR Central-Ahmedabad Navjeevan Express**

- ✓ As a first step, one of the four rakes allotted to the train will be replaced with LHB.




- ✓ LHB coaches are lighter, have higher carrying capacity, higher speed potential, increased running life and better safety features in comparison with other coaches used by the railways.
- ✓ The service from Chennai will have LHB coaches on November 3 and a service from Ahmedabad will have LHB coaches on November 5
- ✓ As per the Railways, the rest of the three rakes would be replaced with LHB later.

STATES

◆ **Meghalaya - brought an ordinance that makes 'Registration' on entry mandatory for visitors spending more than 24 hours in the state**

- ✓ However, the central and state government employees are exempted from the new entry rule.
- ✓ The State Government approved an amendment to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act, 2016 to include this provision
- ✓ Currently, the state does not have an inner line permit (ILP) system to stop illegal immigration into the state
- ✓ The inner line permit (ILP), a travel document issued by the Centre to Indians visiting a protected area for a limited period, is currently in force in Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram
- ✓ Meghalaya was the first state in the country to oppose the Centre's move to amend the Citizenship Act to legalise immigrants "fleeing religious persecution"

◆ **Jharkhand – reports 21 deaths due to 'starvation' as per the new guidelines, which is a quarter of the 85 such deaths across the country over the last four years.**

NEW RULES TO LOOK AT STARVATION DEATHS	
Autopsy within 24 hrs 	Assess food security of family and at least 50% of villagers 
Check for diseases caused by weakened immunity 	Anganwadi workers will file reports on families on the verge of starvation

- ✓ Earlier, Jharkhand became the first state to define guidelines on hunger deaths in December 2018
- ✓ The guidelines also focus on active monitoring to identify starvation indicators and regular follow-up of schemes meant to help such families
- ✓ Now, when a case is reported, it has to be investigated within 24 hours and a report has to be filed in 3 days.
- ✓ And the autopsy has to focus on the state of the person at the time of death — weight of organs, visceral fat and diseases caused by weakened immunity and malnutrition.
- ✓ As per this year's rankings, India slipped on the Global Hunger Index from 97 to 102.
- ✓ The protocol mandates four stages of action.
 - ✓ The first stage involves the investigation of death followed by the medical checkup of the family within 24 hours.
 - ✓ Next, food security status and healthcare access of at least half the village to be assessed within the next 15 days.
 - ✓ Further, any gaps in government scheme implementation will be identified and plugged within the next three weeks.
 - ✓ Finally, the community will be kept on a three-year watch to lift it out of starvation

NATIONAL

◆ **The country's Insurance regulator, IRDAI - increased the limits for self-assessment of damage to facilitate the easy settlement of insurance claim of customers**

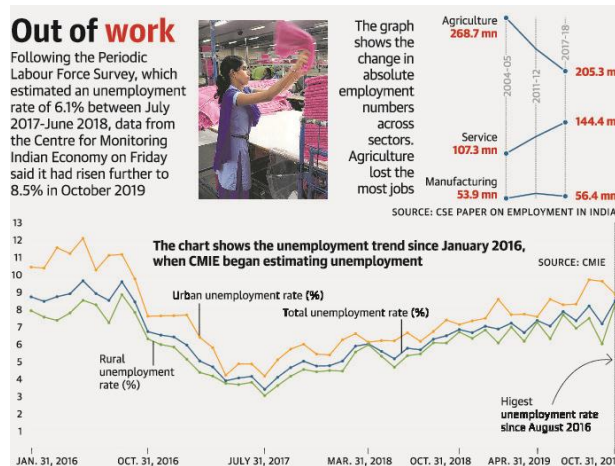
- ✓ Earlier, the limit for self-declaration by customers for motor accident claims was ₹50,000 and ₹1 lakh for non-motor claims such as fire, home, marine, engineering and other insurance claims.
- ✓ With the new proposal, customers can self-declare in case of motor accidents up to ₹75,000 and for non-motor claims up to ₹1.5 lakh
- ✓ Anything above that limit needs to be assessed by an insurance surveyor.
- ✓ Among other changes, the proposal looks to facilitate online licensing and renewals for surveyors with digitization
- ✓ IRDAI is also looking at revising the fee structure and duties and responsibilities of surveyors.
- ✓ Another change is to add more flexibility in the appointment of surveyors, which has been revised to need-based from a fixed once-in-three years review.
- ✓ The new limits were notified by IRDAI in its latest draft amending the Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors Regulations.
- ✓ Many of the companies are now settling claims based on self-shot videos by the policyholder on their mobile phones and uploaded through the insurance companies App-based AI platform

- ✓ Currently, a few private insurers like ICICI Lombard, Bajaj Allianz allow for instantaneous disbursement of claim amount, based on a self-assessment by policyholders by uploading proofs such as garage receipts or mobile videos of damage to vehicles.

◆ **The Central government - has authorized itself to declare any area in the newly created Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh as “disturbed” under the controversial Act, AFSPA.**

- ✓ Till October 31 before the bifurcation, the state government is empowered through its district magistrates to declare a particular district or police station area “disturbed” under the AFSPA
- ✓ Now, according to a government notification, administration of the Armed Forces (Jammu and Kashmir) Special Powers Act, 1990 (21 of 1990) (AFSPA) in both the Union Territories is now vested with the Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh affairs under the Ministry of home affairs (MHA).
- ✓ The AFSPA is imposed in areas where armed forces are required to assist the civil authorities.
- ✓ For the AFSPA to become valid, an area, however, needs to be declared “disturbed” either by the central or the state government under the Act.
- ✓ With the bifurcation of the state, the police and law and order of both the UTs would be managed by the MHA through the respective Lieutenant governors of the two UTs.
- ✓ The nomenclature of the MHA wing, Department of Jammu and Kashmir Affairs (Jammu tatha Kashmir Vibhag), has also been changed to Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh affairs (Jammu, Kashmir aur Ladakh Vibhag) with the bifurcation of the state and creation of the UTs.
- ✓ The AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations anywhere and arrest anyone without a warrant, has been in force in Jammu & Kashmir since July 5, 1990

◆ **India's unemployment rate - in October rose to 8.5%, the highest level since August 2016**



- ✓ This was revealed by the data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)
- ✓ According to CMIE, the urban unemployment rate for October 2019 stood at 8.9%, slightly higher than the rural unemployment rate of 8.3%
- ✓ Among States, Tripura and Haryana had unemployment rates of more than 20% (the highest), while the unemployment rate was the lowest in Tamil Nadu at 1.1%.
- ✓ Rajasthan had its unemployment rate double in the period between September and October 2019.
- ✓ The CMIE's figures are in line with the findings of the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey, which had estimated an unemployment rate of 6.1% between July 2017 and June 2018, the worst in 45 years.

◆ **The Survey of India – redraws and releases the political maps of newly formed UTs of J&K and Ladakh after the reorganization**



- ✓ It depicts UT of J&K as comprising 22 districts including Muzaffarabad and Mirpur in PoK
- ✓ The UT of Ladakh, as per the latest map, has two districts of Kargil and Leh
- ✓ As per the map prepared by the country's principal mapping agency, the district of Leh includes the Pakistan occupied districts of Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilhas, Tribal Territory of 1947, and Leh and Ladakh.
- ✓ The districts in UT of J&K include Kathua, Jammu, Samba, Udhampur, Doda, Kishtwar, Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Poonch, Kulgam, Shopian, Srinagar, Anantnag, Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Bandipora, Baramulla, Kupwara, Mirpur and Muzaffarabad.
- ✓ In 1947, the former State of J&K had 14 districts, namely, Kathua, Jammu, Udhampur, Reasi, Anantnag, Baramulla, Poonch, Mirpur, Muzaffarabad, Leh and Ladakh, Gilgit, Gilgit Wazarat, Chilhas and Tribal Territory.
- ✓ By 2019, the State government of erstwhile J&K had reorganised the areas of these 14 districts into 28 districts.
- ✓ The President of India issued a notification on November 2 to define the districts in the two UTs that came into being on October 31 as per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019

- ✓ Earlier, the central government introduced a resolution for the bifurcation of the state in Parliament on August 5, 2019.
- ✓ The central government recently appointed GC Murmu and RK Mathur first Lieutenant Governors of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh respectively.
- ✓ The country currently has 28 states and 9 UTs after the reorganization of erstwhile J&K

◆ **Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs - has inaugurated a new Guru Nanak Chair at the University of Birmingham**

- ✓ This chair will focus on research around the teachings of Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikh religion.
- ✓ The Minister had also delivered a lecture on the Contemporary Relevance of Guru Nanak's Teachings and launched the chair to mark the 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

◆ **India and Germany - signed 17 MoUs in several areas for bilateral cooperation, which includes migration, Ayurveda and yoga, occupational diseases, maritime technology, agriculture, development and social security, football, museum cooperation and start-ups**



- ✓ The two nations also exchanged 5 joint declarations of intent which included mutual cooperation on strategic projects, partnership for green urban mobility, development of AI and cooperation to prevent marine litter.
- ✓ The German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India to co-chair the 5th Biennial Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC) along with PM Narendra Modi in New Delhi
- ✓ German Chancellor Angela Merkel's two-day visit to India was from October 31- November 2, 2019
- ✓ This is the German Chancellor's fourth visit to India

◆ **Germany- to invest €1 billion over the next five years on environment-friendly urban mobility in India**

- ✓ This was announced by German Chancellor Angela Merkel who is on a trip to India
- ✓ Germany also announced to invest €200 million to reform the bus sector in Tamil Nadu

- ✓ During the visit, Merkel visited the Dwarka Sector 21 metro station, which is fitted with solar panels funded by the KfW, a state-owned development bank of Germany
- ✓ The Dwarka Sector 21 metro station is the first-solar fitted metro in the mammoth Delhi Metro network
- ✓ The Frankfurt-based KfW bank has also offered soft loans for other projects in India, including the Clean Ganga Mission.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ **Russia – to provide life support system to the crew along with the heating mechanism for the spacecraft of the Gaganyaan mission**

- ✓ Apart from this, Russia is also providing the training to Indian astronauts for the mission
- ✓ Russian space corporation, Roscosmos subsidiary Glavkosmos signed a contract with Isro's human space flight centre (HSFC) last week for using Russian equipment for life support and thermal systems for the mission
- ✓ The ₹10,000-crore Gaganyaan mission is scheduled to be launched by December 2021.
- ✓ A life support system is a group of devices that allow a human to survive in space environment.
- ✓ The system supplies air, water and food, maintains optimum body temperature and deals with human waste products in space.
- ✓ The thermal control system maintains all the spacecraft's component systems within acceptable temperature ranges during all phases of the mission.

◆ **Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter payload Chandra's Atmospheric Composition Explorer-2 (CHACE-2) - has detected Argon-40 in the lunar atmosphere**

- ✓ Argon-40 is an isotope of the noble gas Argon and an important constituent of the lunar exosphere.
- ✓ According to ISRO, Argon-40 originates from the radioactive disintegration of Potassium-40 which has a half-life of 1.2×10^9 years.

DEFENCE

◆ **Home Minister Amit Shah - to inaugurate the four-day Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) joint exercise on urban earthquake search and rescue in New Delhi**

- ✓ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is hosting the exercise
- ✓ The aim of the exercise is to rehearse disaster response mechanisms and share knowledge, experience and technology with each other

- ✓ This exercise also provides an opportunity to enhance coordination and cooperation as it involves multi-agency operations
- ✓ Meanwhile, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented the country at the SCO Council of Heads of Government meet in Uzbekistan.
- ✓ The Minister also invited the SCO member-states to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for which India has taken the initiative.

ECONOMY

- ◆ **The Reserve Bank of India - has refused to modify its guidelines requiring Chief executives of private banks to mandatorily retire at the age of 70**

TIME TO PASS ON BATON

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a view that a very long tenure at a bank may not be in best interests of an entity ➤ Aditya Puri, the longest serving bank chief in the country, has been heading HDFC Bank since he founded it 25 years ago and has almost a year to retire 	 <p>Aditya Puri</p>	 <p>Romesh Sobti</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ IndusInd Bank chief Romesh Sobti is set to retire in March 2020 		

- ✓ This assumes significance, as Aditya Puri is to step down as HDFC Bank managing director and CEO next October, while Romesh Sobti will retire as IndusInd Bank chief at the end of the financial year.
- ✓ Some bankers had insisting on bringing RBI's rules on par with the new Companies Act, that allows CEOs to continue till the age of 75
- ✓ But RBI is of the view that 70 years is a reasonable age for a private bank chief to quit as banking is a high-pressure job

APPOINTMENTS

- ◆ **Air Marshal Balakrishnan Suresh – takes over as the Chief of the IAF's premier Western Air Command (WAC) on November 1**



- ✓ Western Air Command (WAC) has an area of control stretching from Jammu & Kashmir to Rajasthan, covering an area of around 400,000 sq km.
- ✓ Air Marshal Suresh was Commissioned as a fighter pilot in December 1980
- ✓ He is a 'Jam Sataji Sword of Honour' awardee from the IAF's "Top-Gun" institution called the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment' (TACDE)
- ✓ Air Marshal Suresh took over as the Chief of TACDE when the BVR (beyond visual range) air-to-air missile tactics were developed, apart from guiding IAF's participation in several international combat exercises.
- ✓ He was appointed the air officer commanding-in-chief of the Southern Air Command in August, 2018.
- ✓ Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment' (TACDE) is responsible in developing comprehensive offensive and defensive strategies to be adopted by all components of air power during war.

SPORTS

◆ Indian Men's and Women's hockey team - gets qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after reigning supreme in the two-leg FIH qualifier in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

- ✓ The Indian men's team, ranked fifth in the world, thrashed Russia 7-1 in the second leg and booked their spot with an emphatic 11-3 aggregate win



- ✓ Eight time winners, India had earlier defeated world number 22 Russia 4-2 in the first-leg on November 1
- ✓ The Indian women's hockey team defeated USA 6-5 on aggregate despite losing 1-4 in the second leg qualifier game



- ✓ Earlier, in the first leg of the qualifier, Indian women crushed USA 5-1 on November 1
- ✓ Indian women have now qualified for back-to-back Olympics following the Rio de Janeiro games, after a gap of 36 years.
- ✓ The women's team first participated in the Quadrennial event in 1980 where the men's team last won their gold medal.
- ✓ The hockey event at the Olympic Games will take place from July 25 to August 7 in Tokyo.

◆ **Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju - unveiled the emblem of the FIFA under-17 Women's World Cup, scheduled to kick off on November 2, 2020**



- ✓ The emblem of the 16-team competition was unveiled by Rijiju, FIFA Chief Women's Football officer Sarai Bareman and AIFF president and chairman of the Under -17 Women's World Cup, Praful Patel

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STUDY CENTRE

