

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOV 6, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched a crowd sourcing platform for developing infrastructure and other facilities in 17,849 schools across Tamil Nadu on November 5**
 - ✓ The online platform, 'contribute.tnschools.gov.in', has the details of requirements of various schools 'individually' in terms of infrastructure and other miscellaneous activities such as whitewashing walls or furnitures or computer labs.
 - ✓ The web platform is designed and developed to connect both donors and schools
 - ✓ The government also invited the individuals and companies to be the 'Champion of Change' for government schools.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu Parent Teacher Association will act as a nodal agency to distribute the fund under the platform.
 - ✓ An individual or alumnus or organisation can donate material or cash for the developmental project.
 - ✓ The private companies donating funds under corporate social responsibility (CSR) will get IT exemption.
 - ✓ Individuals can contribute from ₹500 onwards in the platform.
- ◆ **The Chief Minister - handed over the keys to 'Amma Ambulances' — which cater to cattle — to the designated staff on November 5.**
 - ✓ The ambulances were designed at a total cost of ₹2.39 crore
 - ✓ The air-conditioned ambulances could reach remote areas which doesn't have proper road facility.
 - ✓ The services can be availed at the 1962 toll free number.
 - ✓ While the mobile veterinary service had initially been introduced in 2016 for Kancheepuram, Madurai, Namakkal, Tiruchi and Tiruvarur districts, the extended services are now expected to cover more districts across the state.



- ✓ These 'mobile' ambulances can do spot check-ups and provide emergency treatment for livestock which are ill or injured.
- ✓ The vehicles are equipped with necessary medical equipment as well as medicines to cater to any eventuality.
- ✓ A television has also been installed in the ambulance to update the farmers about the various agriculture related schemes offered by the government.
- ✓ For small animals, an adjustable table has been installed within the ambulance and a hydraulic device in the vehicle can be used to lift animals which weigh up to a ton, if they are severely injured and cannot move.

◆ **The Manila-based Asian Development Bank (ADB) - to provide \$451 million (about ₹ 3,200 crore) loan to strengthen power connectivity along the Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC).**

- ✓ The total cost of the project is \$653.5 million, of which the state government will provide \$202.5 million
- ✓ The project is estimated to be completed by the end of 2024.
- ✓ ADB has been assisting in developing CKIC, which covers 23 of the state's 32 districts and 70% of the state population.
- ✓ The state is aiming to develop the Chennai–Tiruchirappalli stretch of CKIC as a manufacturing centre and the relatively backward Madurai–Tuticorin stretch for renewable energy-based power generation due to the availability of wind and solar resources in that region.
- ✓ The project will install an extra-high-voltage 765-kilovolt (kV) transmission link to transfer 9,000MW of extra capacity from Virudhunagar in the southern CKIC to Coimbatore, a major industrial centre, and Chennai.
- ✓ The project also envisages the construction of a 400-kV network to pool power generated at renewable and thermal power plants in Tuticorin to Virudhunagar.

◆ **Salem district panchayat - has won the prestigious Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar award in the state category**

- ✓ The district panchayat was conferred the award at an event held in New Delhi on October 23.
- ✓ Perundurair panchayat Union in Erode, Pallipalayam in Namakkal, and village panchayats Gonur (Salem), Madvarayapuram (Coimbatore), Arasapalayam (Namakkal), Vellalalayam (Erode), Kovilpappakudi (Madurai), S U Vanam

(Tiruvannamalai) also received the awards in recognition of the exemplary work done to improve delivery of services.

◆ **The Tamil Nadu government - has fixed an eight-hour workday for medical and sale representatives in the state.**

- ✓ Over and above the eight hours, sales promotion employees are entitled for overtime at double the normal wages
- ✓ The order covers workers from 11 industries including pharmaceuticals and fast-moving consumer goods who come under the Sales Promotion Employees (Conditions of Service) Act, 1976.
- ✓ The state government had fixed their work hours from 9am to 5pm with one hour at the start of the day set aside for clerical and preparatory work.
- ✓ Lunch break would be from 1pm to 2pm.
- ✓ As per the new norms, the number of working hours for sales promotion employees should not exceed 54 hours in a week including overtime

STATES

◆ **Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy – cancels the order renaming a state award named after former President A P J Abdul Kalam**

- ✓ The education department had issued an order this week renaming the “Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Pratibha Puraskar Awards’ to “Y S R Vidya Puraskars” after late Andhra Pradesh chief minister Y S Rajasekhara Reddy.

◆ **President Ram Nath Kovind – approves the Gujarat Control of Organized Crime Act (Gujcoca), the controversial anti-terror legislation, 16 years after it was passed by the Gujarat Assembly**

- ✓ GUJCOCA was returned thrice earlier by various Presidents since 2004 and was last amended in March 2015.
- ✓ Now known as Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GUJCTOC) Act, the law gives sweeping powers to the state police to counter terror and organised crime
- ✓ As per the new Act, confession made before a police official of the rank of SP and above will now be admissible in court as evidence.
- ✓ Till now, only confessions made before a magistrate were admissible as evidence.
- ✓ Another provision of the new law is that electronic intercepts, including oral communication and telephone conversations, will be admissible as evidence in courts
- ✓ Significantly, GUJCTOC Act provides immunity to the state government and its officers from legal action in the form of a suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings for an action that is “done or intended to be done in good faith in pursuance of the Act”

NATIONAL

◆ **The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) – notifies the draft regulation titled — ‘Food Safety and Standards (Safe Food and healthy diets for School Children) Regulations, 2019’ and invites the public comments by December for final notification**

- ✓ The draft regulation propose a ban on sale, advertisement and promotion of unhealthy food — high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) — in school premises and within 50 metres of the school campus.
- ✓ The school campus should be converted into ‘Eat Right School’ focussing on local and seasonal food and no food waste as per the specified benchmarks.
- ✓ The draft regulation has also listed several measures for monitoring and surveillance of the quality of food sold and supplied to school children.
- ✓ It also advises discouraging the availability and consumption of HFSS foods such as deep fried foods like french fries, fried chips, samosa, chola bhatura, gulab jamun etc., sugar sweetened carbonated or non-carbonated beverages, ready to eat food, noodles, pizzas, burgers, confectionery items, sugar and sugarbased products etc.
- ✓ It suggests 75-80% of the foods should be cereals, pulses, milk products, eggs, fish, meat, fruits, vegetables, nuts etc.
- ✓ The FSSAI proposes creation of a sub-committee by the state level advisory committee, which will monitor the implementation of regulations and to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food to schoolchildren.
- ✓ As per the draft, the FSSAI has proposed that school authorities will have to adopt a comprehensive programme for promoting safe food and healthy diets among schoolchildren.
- ✓ The operators of the mid-day meal scheme will have to “obtain a registration or license” as applicable and comply with the requirements of sanitary and hygienic practices specified under the food safety law
- ✓ The draft also prescribes regular inspection of premises to ensure that safe, healthy and hygienic food is served to students as per the guidelines issued by the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN)

◆ **The government - has reconstituted the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) Society**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the president of the society and defence minister Rajnath Singh is its vice-president.
- ✓ Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Jairam Ramesh and Karan Singh are removed as its members



- ✓ TV channel owner Rajat Sharma, advertising professional Praseon Joshi and Rajya Sabha member Swapan Dasgupta among others were inducted as new members
- ✓ Union ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Ramesh Pokhriyal, Prakash Javadekar, V Muraleedharan and Prahlad Singh Patel, ICCR chairman Vinay Sahsrabudhhe, Prasar Bharti chairman A Surya Prakash, secretaries of expenditure, culture and housing and urban affairs, are its members.
- ✓ Besides, chairman of the UGC, representative of Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial fund, Raghvendra Singh, director of NMML and Sharma are also named as new members.
- ✓ According to the order, the other members include Anirban Ganguly, policy researcher and author, Sachchinanda Joshi, member secretary, IGNC, academic Kapil Kapoor, Lokesh Chandra, Vedic and Buddhist scholar, Makarand Pranjpe, academic, writer, Kishore Makwana, academic Kamlesh Joshipura, researcher Rizwan Kadri along with Sahasrabuddhe and Rai
- ✓ The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library was built in memory of the country's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ✓ It was established to maintain, acquire and preserve the personal papers and other historical materials related to Jawaharlal Nehru apart from his life and work.

◆ **An Italian film tackling the economic refugee issue, 'Despite the Fog'- is set to inaugurate the 50th edition of the International Film Festival of India (Iffi) at Goa**

- ✓ The co-production by three European nations will make its Asian premiere at Iffi.
- ✓ The 100-minute film is directed by renowned film maker, Goran Paskaljevic, who has earlier bagged awards at several European film festivals
- ✓ The Centre is expecting between 10,000 and 12,000 delegates at the golden jubilee edition of Iffi, this year.
- ✓ This year, 179 films from 76 countries will be screened, as against 68 countries at Iffi 2018.
- ✓ Of the films, 90 will be India premieres, 6 will be world premieres and 11 will be shown for the very first time in Asia.
- ✓ A 5-7-minute film tracing the journey of Iffi to Goa will be screened, whose focus will be former Goa chief minister Manohar Parrikar
- ✓ Manohar Parrikar, the country's former defence minister, was instrumental in getting Iffi to Goa and pushing for the state to be declared the festival's permanent venue.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

◆ **The national anthem of Bangladesh - has been given a Sanskrit makeover on the eighth death anniversary of the Bengal's cultural icon — Bhupen Hazarika.**

- ✓ The national anthem of Bangladesh, Aamaar Shonar Bangla, was composed by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore
- ✓ Amaar Shonaar Bangla features in Anandini, a new Sanskrit album that was now conceptualized by Ranjan Bezbaruah.

DEFENCE

◆ **India - asks Russia to speed up the delivery schedule of the advanced S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems**

- ✓ The request has been made after the payment of the first instalment of around ₹6,000 crore (15% of the total cost) to Russia for the missiles



- ✓ The faster delivery of the five squadrons of S-400, under the \$5.43 billion (₹40,000 crore) deal signed in October 2018, will be discussed in the 19th India-Russia intergovernmental commission on military and military technical cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) to be held in Moscow on November 6
- ✓ The delivery schedule for the S-400 squadrons was originally slated from October 2020 to April 2023
- ✓ The IAF has described the acquisition of the five S-400 squadrons as well as the 36 Rafale fighters from France, under the ₹59,000 crore deal inked in September 2016, as “gamechanging” for enhancing capabilities and combat warfare in the region.
- ✓ The S-400 squadrons will come equipped with missiles with an interception range of 120km, 200km, 250km and 380km as well as battle-management systems of command posts and launchers.
- ✓ The advanced S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems are able to detect, track and destroy hostile strategic bombers, jets, spy planes, missiles and drones at a maximum range of 380km

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ◆ **Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu - released a monograph, 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam', a rare fusion of art and science of Mridangam at the CSIR-Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI) campus in Chennai**



- ✓ The book was authored by mridangam maestro and Padma Vibhushan awardee Umayalpuram K. Sivaraman and former scientists T. Ramasami (former Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology) and M.D. Naresh.
- ✓ It was an outcome of research and development on standardisation of fabrication, tonal characterisation and new innovations in design of the percussion instrument, Mridangam
- ✓ The monograph traces the various methods and materials used in the making of the ancient South Indian instrument, Mridangam, and analyses them.

SPORTS

- ◆ **Asian Games Silver medallist, Deepak Kumar – wins bronze medal in men's 10m air rifle at the Asian Championships in Doha**



- ✓ In the process, he also secured an Olympic berth to represent the country at the 2020 Tokyo games
- ✓ The meet is the last chance to clinch 2020 quota places for Asian shooters.
- ✓ With Deepak's quota, India, for the first time, has clinched all 8 possible Olympic berths in air-shooting events.
- ✓ Now India has 4 air rifle quotas (Deepak, Divyansh Panwar, Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil) and 4 air pistol events (Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma, Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini Deswal).

- ✓ Along with the individual events, all these 8 shooters will also be eligible to form pairs to compete in the mixed-gender event at Tokyo.
- ✓ Overall, this was India's 10th quota place.
- ✓ During the event, teen shooter Manu Bhaker made her Asian Championships debut by clinching gold in the women's 10m air pistol event in Doha.
- ✓ As the Youth Olympics champion and World Cup gold winner, Manu has already won a quota for India in this event, she wasn't eligible for a berth here.

◆ **The players' auction for the next Indian Premier League (IPL) - will be held on December 19 in Kolkata**

- ✓ This was announced by the event's Governing council in a meeting on November 5
- ✓ The highly competitive league is usually held in April-May every year
- ✓ The players' auction is being conducted in Kolkata for the first time.
- ✓ The city is the home ground of the Shah Rukh Khan co-owned Kolkata Knight Riders franchise.
- ✓ While the franchises were allotted Rs 82 crore each for IPL 2019, Rs 85 crore per team has been earmarked for the 2020 season.

