

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–NOVEMBER 10, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On November 9, the Tamil Nadu government - issued two crucial orders regarding the admission process for post-graduate and super-specialty medical courses.**
- ✓ The first government order reserved at least 50% of PG medical seats for in-service government doctors
- ✓ The second government order reserved the entire 50% state quota super-specialty medical seats for in-service candidates.
- ✓ The new admission policy for MD/MS and MDS courses will come into force in next academic year, while for the PG super-specialty (DM/MCh) courses, it will come into effect from this academic year itself.
- ✓ The in-service candidates availing themselves of these two categories of seats have to sign a bond stating that they will remain in government service till superannuation.
- ✓ The government is supposed to surrender 50% of PG medical seats in government colleges and government share of seats in self-financing to All India Quota for admission by the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)
 - ✓ After this, the state will be left with 50% of seats.
 - ✓ Of this 50% of the seats – that is 25% of the overall seats – will be reserved for in-service candidates.
 - ✓ The remaining seats will be for the open category, where all students, including non-service candidates from the state, can apply.
- ✓ But in case of super-specialty seats, as per the order, the entire 50% of seats reserved for the state will be for in-service candidates, while the rest will be surrendered to the Director General of Health Services
- ✓ Since 2016, counselling for all super-specialty seats was done by the DGHS purely based on NEET ranking.
- ✓ In case of PG, the state selection committee conducts counselling for 50% of state quota seats.

- **The researchers from Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) - have developed a new sensor technology to increase the efficiency of industrial ovens in fertilizer, petrochemical, chemical and manufacturing sectors.**
- ✓ The sensor technology is called 'Multi Point Temperature Measurement Sensor'
- ✓ It can accurately measure temperatures in the range of -100°C to 1,400°C
- ✓ The technology also aims to replace existing heat process control systems that cause expensive forced shutdowns and early retirement of components.
- ✓ They help collate data real-time through Industrial Internet of Technology (IoT) devices, which can further help to fine-tune the manufacturing processes.
- ✓ High-temperature processes are critical to oil and gas, chemical, power generation and manufacturing industries.

STATES

- **Punjab - has become the eighth state in the country to revoke "general consent" for the CBI to start an investigation within its jurisdiction without prior permission.**
- ✓ However, any ongoing probe or case referred to the agency by a court of law is exempt from this order.
- ✓ Accordingly, prior consent of the government of Punjab shall be required, hereinafter, on a case-to-case basis for investigation of any offence or class of offences under Section 3 of the aforesaid Act, by the Delhi Special Police Establishment
- ✓ The other states that have already withdrawn general consent to the CBI are Jharkhand, Kerala, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Mizoram.
- ✓ All these non-BJP ruled states have raised questions on the credibility and the alleged misuse of the CBI by the Centre.
- ✓ The CBI derives its legal powers to investigate crime under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- ✓ As the CBI comes under the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, it requires general or special consent to probe any case in a particular state.
- ✓ The National Investigation Agency, however, has complete autonomy when it comes to probing terrorism-related cases in any state.

- **On November 6, the Haryana Government - passed a bill which provides the right to recall an elected member of Panchayati Raj Institution if they fail to perform their duties well.**
- ✓ The bill titled 'The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020' was tabled by Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala in the house.
- ✓ The bill allows recalling village sarpanches and members of district-level zilaparishads and block-level panchayat samitis if they fail to perform their duties, even before the end of their tenure

- ✓ In order to recall any member, 50% members of a gram sabha or a ward will have to provide in writing that they want to initiate recall proceedings for the member.
- ✓ This will be done followed by a secret ballot in which there should 2/3rd of the total member votes against the member to be recalled.
- ✓ If 2/3rd votes are casted against the member, then the elected member will be removed.
- ✓ The bill also proposed to provide a reservation of 8% to the “more disadvantaged” among the Backward Classes.
- ✓ It also aims to provide 50% reservation to women in gram panchayats, zila parishads and panchayat samitis.

NATIONAL

- **The 15th Finance Commission – has submitted its report to President Ram Nath Kovind on November 9, 2020**



- ✓ The commission has recommended devolution of funds between the Centre and the States for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26
- ✓ In doing so, it had taken the unique requirements of each State on board and announced State-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face
- ✓ In its report, the Commission had addressed all its unique terms of reference, such as considering a new non-lapsable fund for financing national security and defence spending and offering performance incentives to the States based on reforms.
- ✓ The 15th Finance Commission had titled the main report with a unique name ‘Finance Commission in Covid Times’
- ✓ It had also presented two volumes as part of its submissions.
 - ✓ The first volume one focuses on the state of the Centre’s finances, with an in-depth scrutiny of the key departments, the medium-term challenges facing the Centre and a road map for the future.

- ✓ The other volume is dedicated to the States, with the finances of each analysed in great depth.
 - ✓ Commission chairman N.K. Singh was accompanied by members Ajay Narayan Jha, Anoop Singh, Ashok Lahiri and Ramesh Chand for the report's submission to the President.
 - ✓ The report is expected to be presented to Prime Minister Narendra Modi soon
 - ✓ It will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in Parliament along with an action taken report on its recommendations.
 - ✓ The Commission has submitted an interim report for 2020-21 last year
 - ✓ The interim report had reduced the States' share in the divisible pool of taxes from 42% to 41% for the current year, after the dissolution of Jammu and Kashmir as a State.
- **On November 9, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) - imposed a total ban on the sale or use of all kinds of firecrackers in the National Capital Region (NCR) from November 9 midnight to November 30 midnight**
- ✓ The tribunal had also clarified that the direction will apply to all cities and towns in the country where the average of ambient air quality during November 2019 was in 'poor', 'very poor' and 'severe' categories.
 - ✓ A bench headed by NGT chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel pronounced the verdict
 - ✓ The tribunal allowed the sale of only green crackers in the cities/towns where air quality level is 'moderate' or below
 - ✓ In these places, the timings for use and bursting of green crackers should be restricted to two hours during festivals as may be specified by the state concerned.
 - ✓ At other places, ban/restrictions are optional for the respective authorities
 - ✓ The NGT also directed all states and Union Territories to initiate special drives to contain air pollution from all sources in view of the potential of aggravation of Covid-19.
 - ✓ The Tribunal, in its order, noted that several States, such as Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Delhi and Chandigarh, and many others had prohibited the sale and use of firecrackers to protect vulnerable groups
 - ✓ The Tribunal also directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State pollution control boards and committees to regularly monitor the air quality during this period and upload the data on their respective websites.
- **The DRDO - has developed a 'Fire detection and suppression system' (FDSS) for passenger buses.**
- ✓ The new technology can detect fire in buses in less than 30 seconds and can extinguish it within a minute.
 - ✓ The technology was developed by the Delhi based Centre for fire explosive and environment safety of DRDO.



- ✓ A live demonstration of the FDSS technology was given at an event attended by defence minister Rajnath Singh and road transport minister Nitin Gadkari on November 9
 - ✓ According to road transport ministry, demonstrations were given on water mist-based FDSS for passenger compartment and aerosol-based FDSS for engine fire
 - ✓ The fire detection and suppression system consist of a water tank of 80 litres of capacity, a network of tubing with 16 atomizers and 6.8 kilograms of Nitrogen cylinder pressurized to 200 bar.
 - ✓ The system has an aerosol generator with which the fire can be suppressed within 5 seconds.
 - ✓ The system has been specially developed for sleeper coaches and school buses.
 - ✓ The fire detection and suppression system developed by the DRDO works on aerosol fire suppression concept.
- **On November 9, the Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi - announced that the 19 mines were auctioned during first tranche of coal mine auction generating a revenue of Rs 7,000 crores.**
- ✓ The auctioned mines have peak rated capacity of 51 million tonnes.
 - ✓ Of the 19 auctioned mines, 11 were open cast, five were of underground and three were of mix category.
 - ✓ The mines are located in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
 - ✓ The PM, Narendra Modi launched the auction process of 41 blocks of commercial mining in June 2020.
 - ✓ India is the second largest importer of coal.
 - ✓ To reduce the dependence of India on coal imports and to increase domestic coal mining, the government announced privatization of coal mining on the basis of revenue sharing
 - ✓ The coal liquefaction and gasification is to be incentivised.

- ✓ Also, Coal bed methane extraction rights are to be auctioned under coal mines auctions.
- ✓ The Coal Bed Methane is found in 12 states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, Assam, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched the country's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Arunachal Pradesh on November 6**



- ✓ Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister, Pema Khandu was also present at the event.
- ✓ During the event, Pema Khandu also launched the “Arunachal Jal Sankalp” programme.
- ✓ This is a state-government programme to supplement Jal Jeevan Mission, a central government initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ✓ The IMVWSP caters to 39 villages of Lower Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ It has been commissioned at a cost of Rs 28.50 crore to provide drinking water to 17,480 people
- ✓ This is the first-of-its-kind water project in the state that uses green energy-solar grid
- ✓ The Ministry of Jal Shakti was formed in the May 2019 by merging two ministries- Ministry of drinking water and sanitation and the Ministry of water resources, river development & ganga rejuvenation.
- ✓ A special project named “Namami Gange” has been launched by the Ministry to achieve the aim of cleaning river Ganges.
- ✓ Jal Jeevan mission aims to ensure access of piped water for every household in India.
- ✓ Recently, the Jal Shakti Ministry has launched a 100-day campaign on October 2, 2020, to ensure potable water supply in all schools and anganwadi centres
- **The National Saffron mission – is planned to be implemented in the North East soon**

- ✓ The mission that was so far confined to the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is planned to be commenced in Sikkim soon
- ✓ NECTAR is an autonomous body under which the pilot project to explore feasibility of growing saffron in the North East region was determined.
- ✓ NECTAR refers to North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR).
- ✓ Saffron was mainly grown in the Pampore region of Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district, which is known as “Saffron Bowl of Kashmir”
- ✓ It is the only place in the world after Spain that cultivates saffron, one of the most expensive spices globally
- ✓ Saffron production was confined to very few and specific regions of Kashmir, due to favourable conditions
- ✓ The National Saffron Mission was launched in 2010 with an aim of increasing saffron production in Kashmir valley.
- ✓ It was a four year mission that was implemented till 2014 and extended later due to the drastic drop in the production of saffron
- ✓ The Centre had allocated Rs 373 crore for the mission, out of which only Rs 150 crores have been spent.
- ✓ Around 16,000 families spread in 226 villages are dependent on saffron cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ The Kashmir Saffron received GI Tag in May 2020.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 9, Sudan - was removed from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.**
- ✓ The move was welcomed by India, which has also welcomed the normalisation of Sudan’s relations with Israel
- ✓ After UAE, Bahrain, Sudan became the third country to normalise its relations with Israel in the last two months.
- ✓ On October 23, 2020, Sudan normalised its ties with Israel through a deal brokered by US President Donald Trump.
- ✓ The State Sponsors of Terrorism List is a list generated by the United States.
- ✓ It consists of the name of countries that are repeatedly supporting the international terrorism.
- ✓ The list was first generated in 1979 with Iraq, South Yemen, Libya and Syria.
 - ✓ Later Cuba was added in 1982, Iran in 1984, North Korea in 1988 and Sudan in 1993.
 - ✓ Further, South Yemen, Libya and Cuba have been removed from the list.
 - ✓ North Korea was removed and re-added again in 2017.
- ✓ At present, there are only three countries -North Korea, Iran and Syria -in the list.

- ✓ Sudan was removed from the list because the government of Sudan has signed the Juba Peace Agreement with various rebel groups almost after a year of peace talks, ending the civil war in the country

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On November 9, India and Maldives - signed four agreements, including a \$100 million Indian grant for an ambitious connectivity project**



- ✓ The agreements were signed during Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla's visit to the Maldives.
- ✓ Out of the four agreements, two MoUs were signed for "high impact" community development projects (setting up of a plant and soil testing laboratory alongwith a drug detox facility) and another MoU on cooperation in sports and youth affairs
- ✓ The last agreement is for the \$100 million grant, which is part of India's "\$500 million package" for the Greater Male Connectivity Project (GMCP).
- ✓ This project will link Maldives capital Male with three islands.
- ✓ The agreement was signed with the Foreign Minister of Maldives, Abdulla Shahid.
- ✓ Last month, the two governments signed a deal for a \$400 million line of credit from the Exim Bank of India.
- ✓ Shringla's visit comes two months after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Maldives Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid held a virtual discussion
- ✓ Recently, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also visited the island nation a fortnight before.
- ✓ Further, India reiterated its support for Maldivian Foreign Minister Shahid's candidature for the Presidency of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly in 2021.

DEFENCE

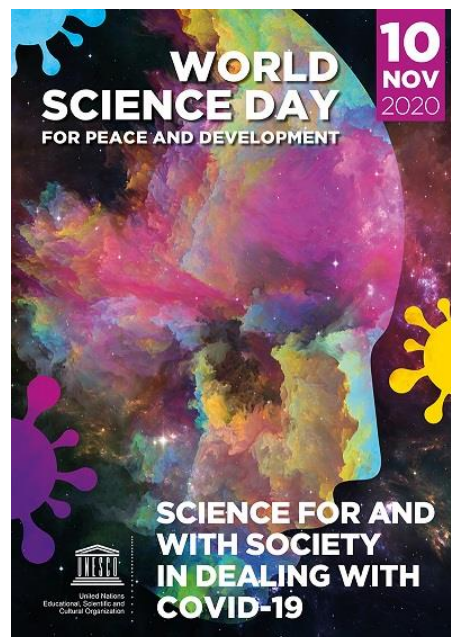
- **On November 9, the Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh - inaugurated the anti-Satellite Missile System at Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) headquarters, New Delhi.**



- ✓ The DRDO successfully conducted anti-satellite missile test at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha.
- ✓ The Anti-Satellite Weaponis designed to destroy satellites for military purposes.
- ✓ The countries which have demonstrated the ASAT technologies include India, China, US, Russia.
- ✓ Indi tested its Anti-Satellite weapon in 2019 under its operation code named “Operation Shakti”.
- ✓ The ASAT test used the interceptor, Prithvi Defence Vehicle Mark II, to conduct the test.
- ✓ The interceptor was developed under Indian Ballistic Missile Programme.
- ✓ Prithvi was a modified anti-ballistic missile, which was developed under Project XSV-1.
- ✓ The missile struck a test satellite, Microsat-R, at 283 kilometres in the low earth orbit and made ASAT test successful.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Science Day for Peace and Development – November 10**



- ✓ The day is celebrated to create awareness about the developments of science towards sustainable and peaceful activities.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Science for and with Society
- ✓ The day was first announced in 2001 and is being celebrated by the United Nations since 2002.
- ✓ The Goal 17 of Sustainable Development Goals aims to enhance north-south, south-south and triangular regional cooperation through development of science and technology.
- ✓ Prior to the announcement of SDG goals, the Rio+20 outcome was the only common forum that was focusing on strengthening science and technology.
- ✓ The Rio+20 Earth Summit was also called United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

