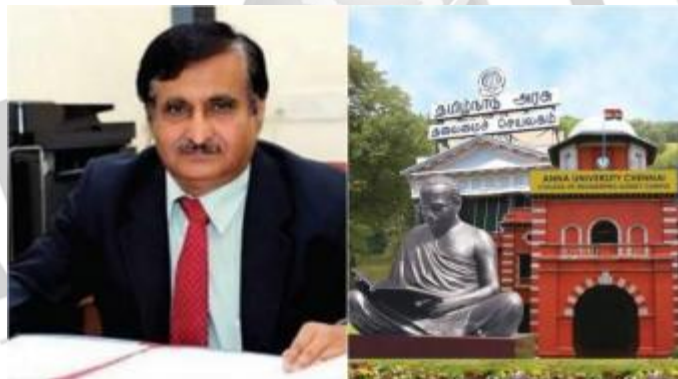


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS –NOVEMBER 14, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On November 13, the Tamil Nadu government - ordered an inquiry into allegations of financial irregularities and abuse of power by Anna University vice-chancellor M K Surappa



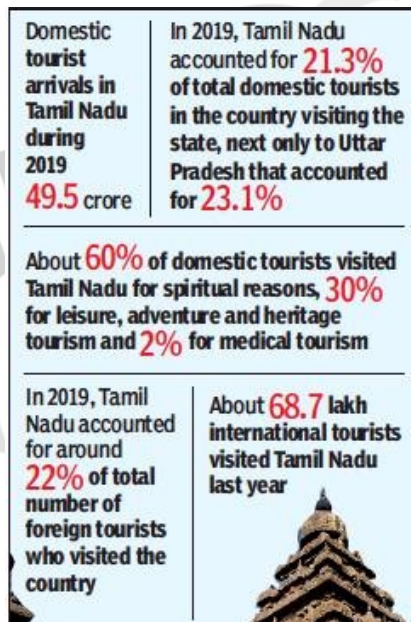
- ✓ The enquiry officer Justice P Kalaiyaran, appointed under provisions of the Anna University Act, 1978, has been asked to submit his report in three months.
- ✓ Justice P Kalaiyaran is a retired Judge of Madras High Court
- ✓ This was announced by the higher education minister K P Anbalagan
- ✓ This is the first time a former judge will probe charges against the Vice-Chancellor of the premier state university.
- ✓ Previously, a retired judge had probed some charges against P. Mannar Jawahar, after his tenure as Vice-Chancellor ended and had exonerated him.
- ✓ The government has ordered the inquiry following the receipt of several petitions received in the past few months against the Vice-Chancellor.
- ✓ The allegations include corruption of ₹200 crore in recruitment of temporary teaching staff, misuse of power in appointment of Surappa's daughter, scam in purchase of machineries and one involving examination office, lack of approval from syndicate on the appointment of additional registrar, promotions using forged certificates, besides financial irregularities and malpractices in semester examination and revaluation.

- ✓ It was also alleged that Surappa provided wrong information to AICTE that the final year students were passed without holding examinations.
 - ✓ The probe will cover the amount received by the university during Surappa's tenure in the form of fees, assistance, donation, grants and the amount paid out by the varsity, and the allegations of financial misfeasance, fraud, misappropriation and any other allegations in that regard.
 - ✓ The inquiry will also study if the university's activities conformed to the Anna University Act and the alleged scam in the Career Advancement Scheme.
 - ✓ Contracts and agreements entered into by the university during Surappa's tenure, lapse or abuse of official position on the part of anyone connected with the university will also be probed.
 - ✓ The inquiry officer, if he deems it fit, also will look into the allegations to any previous period.
 - ✓ If such allegations are proved to be true, the inquiry officer then suggests suitable ways and means to prevent such recurrences in future, as per the government order.
- **In a first, Kamarajar Port in Chennai - handled a trans-shipment vessel on November 11, the largest such vessel handled by any port on the east coast.**



- ✓ The port has handled MV MSC Faith, having 14,336 TEU (twenty foot equivalent unit of cargo capacity), which was travelling to Tembe port in Ghana in western Africa.
- ✓ This is significant because cargo vessels moving from east to west across the world or viceversa usually go to Colombo or Singapore as a trans-shipment port.
- ✓ A trans-shipment is when cargo or a container is moved from one vessel to another while in transit to its final destination
- ✓ The mainline container vessel is 366m long and would discharge 4,155 TEUs of containers at KPL.
- ✓ Out of this, nearly 70 are meant for Chennai while the remaining will depart to other ports in feeder vessels.

- ✓ With a beam width of 48m, the vessel needs high outer reach gantry cranes for cargo operations.
 - ✓ The container terminal at KPL has gantry cranes of 62m outer reach ensuring a hassle-free cargo operation.
 - ✓ KPL is a new generation port and could achieve this feat on account of deep draft, state-of-the-art terminal with latest gantry cranes and sufficient backup yard that can hold upto 17,000 TEUs of containers
- **Tamil Nadu – slipped to the second position behind Uttar Pradesh in terms of number of domestic tourist arrivals in 2019**
- ✓ For five years between 2014 and 2018, Tamil Nadu was ranked at the topmost position among other states in hosting domestic tourists.
 - ✓ The recent rankings were announced as per a report on tourist inflow released by the Union tourism ministry.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded 49.5 crore domestic tourists last year, while Uttar Pradesh received 53.6 crore domestic travellers.



- ✓ The drop in domestic tourist inflow comes despite Tamil Nadu adding 11 crore tourists who visited the state in 2019 when compared with 2018.
- ✓ The Athi Varadar event at Kancheepuram and India-China summit at Mahabalipuram were responsible for more number of domestic tourists in the state.
- ✓ The saving grace for Tamil Nadu, however, is that it has retained the first position in attracting the highest number of foreign tourists as per the report titled 'India Tourism Statistics'.
- ✓ An estimated 68.7 lakh foreign tourists visited the state in 2019, a majority of them for spiritual purpose and some for leisure and wellness.
- ✓ About 60% of domestic tourists come to the state for religious reasons.

- ✓ The Madurai-Rameswaram-Kanyakumari circuit is gaining the maximum traction among tourists from north India, as per the state tourism authorities based on footfall at tourism hubs.

STATES

- **On November 13, devotees - lighted earthen lamps on the banks of Saryu River during Deepotsav celebrations in Ayodhya**

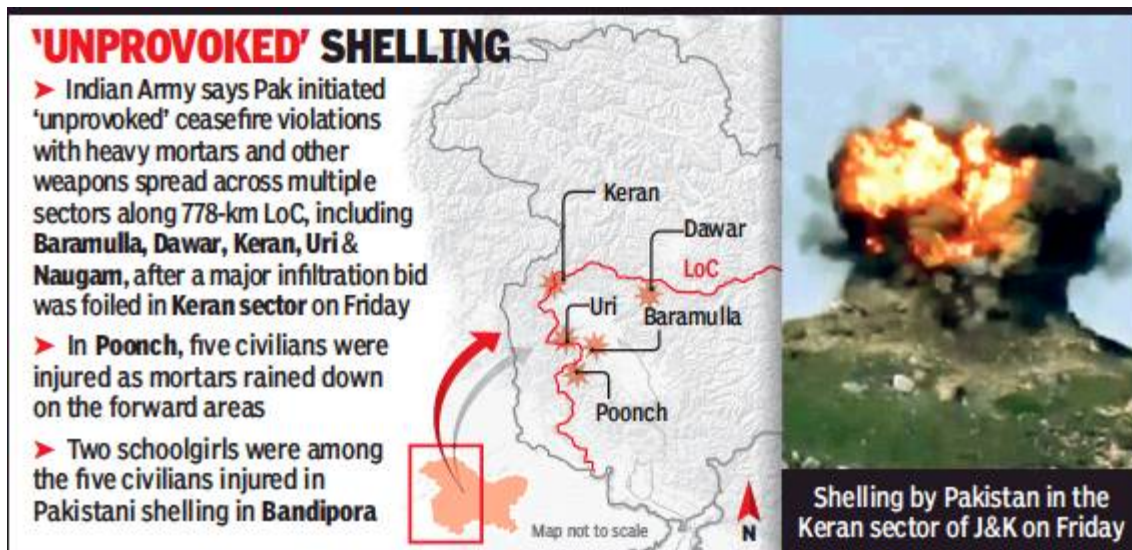


- ✓ This year, a new Guinness World Record was created by lighting 6.07 lakh 'diyas'.
 - ✓ There were about 8,000 volunteers to do the job.
 - ✓ A total of 6,06,569 diyas were lit this year, overtaking last year's record of 4,04,126 diyas on Saryu banks.
 - ✓ UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath said the target next year should be 7.51 lakh
- **The World Health Organization – has praised Uttar Pradesh government's contact tracing strategy to control Covid-19 during the peak in a special feature published on November 12.**
 - ✓ According to WHO, early and systematic tracking of high-risk contacts helped Uttar Pradesh step up the fight against Covid-19
 - ✓ A huge workforce of more than 70,000 front-line health workers listed the contacts of Covid-19 positive cases.
 - ✓ The state has put in a mechanism to evaluate the status and quality of contact tracing as part of its surveillance response activities with support from WHO as an independent evaluation agency, after the lifting of restrictions
 - ✓ The WHO has acknowledged that contact tracing was an essential public health tool for controlling disease outbreaks
 - ✓ "The UP government's strategic response to Covid-19 by stepping up contact tracing efforts is exemplary and can serve as a good example for other states", as per WHO India representative Dr Roderico Ofri

- **Gujarat's Surat - became the first city to finalise a project under the affordable rental housing scheme for migrant workers announced by the Centre in May**
- ✓ The Affordable Rental Housing Complex (ARHC) scheme under the Ministry's Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on May 14
- ✓ The scheme was announced as a part of the government's economic package in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Under the scheme, private firms will be given unoccupied government housing projects to refurbish and operate as rental housing.
- ✓ The Surat Municipal Corporation had become the first city in the country to finalise an ARHC for migrant labourers with 393 one-bedroom flats in the city's Sachin Area.
- ✓ These flats were completed in 2014 and lying vacant.
- ✓ They will provide dignified living to migrant workers, who are coming back to cities

NATIONAL

- **On November 13, India - conducted retaliatory 'punitive' fire assaults against several posts, bunkers and fuel dumps across the Line of Control in Kashmir**
- ✓ During the assaults, "six or seven" Pakistani soldiers were reportedly killed and several others injured, causing substantial damage to Pakistan Army's infrastructure across the LoC
- ✓ Five Indian army personnel and six civilians lost their lives in the heavy exchange of cross-border firing in ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in four districts of J&K
- ✓ The major escalation in hostilities was provoked by Pakistan's ceasefire violation with shelling along the border from Keran to Uri, targeting civilian areas
- ✓ India has recorded as many as 4,052 ceasefire violations (CFVs) by Pakistan this year, smashing all annual records over the past 17 years.
- ✓ India has lost around 20 soldiers and an equal number of civilians, with many more being grievously injured, in the CFVs this year.
- ✓ Both armies have used 105mm and 155mm artillery guns, anti-tank guided missiles and heavy mortars targeting each other
- ✓ Pakistan initiated "unprovoked" CFVs with heavy mortars and other weapons spread across multiple sectors along the 778-km long LoC, including Baramulla, Dawar, Keran, Uri and Naugam
- ✓ The CFV followed after a major infiltration bid was foiled in Kupwara district on November 13
- ✓ The fresh infiltration bid at Keran sector on the day came barely five days after an Army captain, two soldiers and a BSF constable lost their lives thwarting a similar intrusion in the area.



- ✓ The casualties on the Indian side included BSF sub-inspector Rakesh Doval and four Army soldiers along with civilians
- ✓ The total number of CFVs along the LoC stood at 971 in 2017 and 1,629 in 2018.
- ✓ The number jumped to 3,168 in 2019, with major attacks being registered first after the Balakot air strikes and then after the nullification of Article 370 and bifurcation of J&K.
- **On November 14, Prime Minister - will travel to Jaisalmer to celebrate Diwali day with the armed forces**
 - ✓ A day earlier, the PM tweeted a video message in honour of army personnel
 - ✓ During the message, the PM also made an appeal to citizens to light a lamp in solidarity with those guarding the borders.
 - ✓ He will also go to Longewala, where he will celebrate Diwali with security personnel
- **On November 13, the World Health Organization (WHO) - announced that it will set up a Global Centre for Traditional Medicine in India**



- ✓ The move is part of the WHO's efforts to strengthen the evidence, research, training and awareness of traditional and complementary systems of medicines.
 - ✓ This was announced by WHO director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a video statement during the dedication of two future-ready Ayurveda institutions in Jaipur and Jamnagar to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of the 5th Ayurveda Day.
 - ✓ The institutions will support WHO's efforts to implement its traditional medicine strategy 2014-2023
 - ✓ During the event, Tedros praised PM Modi for his commitment to the universal coverage under Ayushman Bharat and evidence-based promotion of traditional medicines to achieve health-related objectives.
 - ✓ In reply, the PM said that Ayurveda played a key role in helping the country tackle the coronavirus pandemic and this ancient knowledge has gained immense acceptance worldwide now
 - ✓ The PM further said exports of ayurvedic products and spices like turmeric, ginger considered as immunity boosters, increased by about 45% in September this year compared to the previous year.
 - ✓ The Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (ITRA), Jamnagar (Gujarat), and the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Jaipur (Rajasthan), are both premier institutions of Ayurveda.
 - ✓ The Jamnagar institute has been conferred the status of an Institution of National Importance (INI) by an act of Parliament
 - ✓ The Jaipur institute has been designated an Institution Deemed to be University (De novo Category) by the University Grants Commission (UGC)
- **The consumer affairs department - is now initiating a proposal for transfer of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) to commerce ministry**
- ✓ The move comes barely eight months after it had opposed a similar move from the commerce ministry.
 - ✓ The process started after Union minister Piyush Goyal directed the department officials to take quick action to transfer BIS to the commerce ministry.
 - ✓ Goyal took charge of the food and consumer affairs ministry in addition to railways and commerce after Ram Vilas Paswan passed away.
 - ✓ Earlier, Paswan had opposed the proposal from Goyal's ministry.
 - ✓ The earlier version of BIS, Indian Standards Institute (ISI), was set up in September 1946 as per a resolution of the Department of Industrial and Supplies.
 - ✓ The BIS came into existence under an Act of Parliament in 1986 and it was put under the consumer affairs department.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On November 13, the Supreme Court - endorsed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order allowing bursting of green crackers for two hours for Diwali, Chhath Puja, Gurupurab, Christmas and New Year celebrations**

- ✓ Through the verdict, the apex court had modified a November 12 Telangana high court order imposing complete ban on bursting of all kinds of crackers.
- ✓ On November 9, the NGT specified that green crackers could be burst during the days of festivities for two hours from 8pm to 10 pm in the cities/ towns where air quality is `moderate' or below (better)
- ✓ A vacation bench of Justices A M Khanwilkar and Sanjiv Khanna said the NGT's direction to be applied in full force across the country and that the HC is not inclined to impose ban on bursting even green crackers.
- ✓ The NGT had banned bursting of all kinds of crackers in Delhi and NCR and those cities where the November ambient air quality was either 'poor' or fell in even worse category.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The ruling party of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi – is all set to form the next government after winning the requisite number of parliamentary seats**



- ✓ The official results of general election, held on November 8, were released on November 13.
- ✓ Accordingly, Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) had won 346 seats of the 412 seats that have been declared, with results from 64 more yet to be announced
- ✓ The party needed 322 seats in the bicameral legislature to form a government.
- ✓ Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace laureate, had a turbulent first term and struggled to meet high public expectations.
- ✓ The country too faced nearly 50 years of isolation and decay under strict military rule, years of which Suu Kyi was held under house arrest.
- ✓ Even now, her government is required to govern with military involvement, in particular in the areas of security and defence, under a Constitution drafted during the generals' rule.

- ✓ The reputation of Suu Kyi's government abroad has collapsed due to accusations of genocide against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority, which it denies.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India – has commenced the construction of Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Nepalgunj along the Indo-Nepal border**



- ✓ A ground-breaking ceremony to mark beginning of the construction was held virtually by the two governments this week
- ✓ These ICPs facilitates the boosting of cross-border trade and connectivity with Nepal in line with 'Neighbourhood First' policy of India
- ✓ Earlier, ICPs at Birgunj and Biratnagar were jointly inaugurated and operationalised earlier in April 2018 and January 2020 respectively by the Prime Ministers of the two countries.
- ✓ The ICPs are designed to promote systematic approach to cargo handling between the two countries by bringing customs and immigration facilities under one roof
- ✓ Thus, they will result in saving of time and inconvenience to visitors and reduce overall transaction costs for cross-border trade and commerce
- ✓ During the construction period, the ICP Nepalgunj project is also expected to create local employment and boost local economy.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Foreign minister S Jaishankar - will represent India at the East Asia Summit (EAS) to be held on November 14 in a virtual format.**
- ✓ India expects to push its Act East and Indo-Pacific vision at the summit which will see participation by all 18 EAS members.
- ✓ The summit will be chaired by Vietnamese PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- ✓ The summit will discuss ways and means to strengthen the EAS platform and to make it more responsive to emerging challenges on its 15th anniversary.

- ✓ The leaders will also exchange views on issues of international and regional interest including the Covid-19 pandemic and the cooperation among EAS participating countries to achieve an expeditious and sustainable economic recovery
- ✓ The discussions are also expected to cover emerging strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific region, where China has been the primary aggressive power in the past year.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT


- **An Indian scientist in the US, Professor Nitin Nitin - has developed a new type of cotton face mask that can inactivate up to 99.9% of viruses, including Sars-Cov-2, within 30 minutes of daylight exposure.**



- ✓ This means the wearer of the new mask can simply take a walk in the sun to disinfect it.
- ✓ The innovation kills viruses and bacteria that stick to the mask and further prevents their transmission if the person wearing it removes or touches it.
- ✓ Professor Nitin Nitin is working at the biological and agricultural engineering department in the University of California
- ✓ The new fabric developed for the mask by Prof Nitin's team can also be used to make protective suits
- ✓ The 45-year-old Professor Nitin Nitin, who hails from Amritsar, said the concept is feasible for large scale manufacturing and are now approaching industry partners to develop the new cotton fabric into different products.
- ✓ The team wanted to develop a new fabric that would release reactive oxygen species (ROS) — oxygen-containing radicals - which when exposed to light can remove microbes attached to the fabric's surface.
- ✓ At the same time, the fabric had to be washable, reusable and safe for the skin.
- ✓ For that, they developed the right photosensitizer — a compound that releases ROS upon exposure to light.

ECONOMY

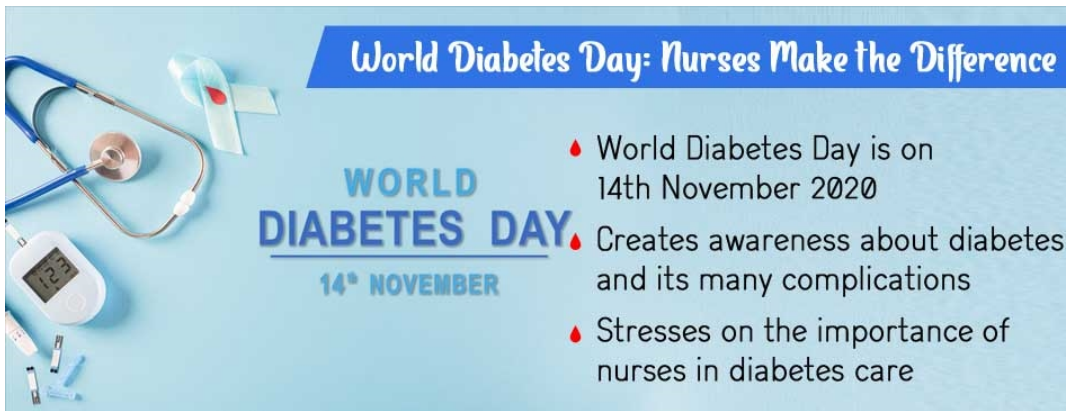
- **Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) - has announced the setting up an IT centre in Hyderabad with the capacity of 2,000 employees.**

OTHER AUTO TECH CENTRES IN INDIA	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Mercedes-Benz's Bengaluru centre is the largest R&D/development centre outside of Germany for parent Daimler	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Hyundai has an R&D facility in Hyderabad
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Groupe PSA, the automotive giant that owns the Peugeot and Citroen brands, has a technical centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Honda has an R&D facility in Manesar for motorcycles and scooters
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Automotive component and systems makers like Bosch, Continental, ZF and Visteon have tech centres

- ✓ FCA has engineering teams in Chennai and Pune, employing over 1,500 employees.
- ✓ The FCA Group operates over 100 manufacturing facilities and over 40 R&D centres.
- ✓ Its automotive brands include Chrysler, Fiat Professional, Jeep and Maserati.
- ✓ Karim Lalani, a Mumbai University electronics engineering graduate who joined Chrysler in 1999 and then became part of the Fiat-Chrysler merged entity, heads the India IT global in-house centres.
- ✓ The FCA facility will be coming up at the Salarpuria Knowledge City at Raidurg in Hyderabad's IT hub.
- ✓ India is emerging as an epicenter for auto engineering research and development (ER&D).
- ✓ The automotive world is moving towards connected vehicles, autonomous driving and electrification, and centres in India are involved deeply in this work.
- ✓ Automotive is one of the fastest growing areas in the \$31-billion Indian ER&D space.
- ✓ Mercedes-Benz, Hyundai, Honda motorcycles and a slew of automotive component makers have tech centres in India.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Diabetes Day - November 14**
- ✓ The day is observed every year to create awareness about the deadly disease and efforts to be taken to overcome it.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Nurses make the difference for Diabetes
- ✓ It was first launched in 1991 by the World Health Organization and the International Diabetes Federation.
- ✓ There are two types of diabetes – Type I and Type II diabetes



- ✓ Type I diabetes is not preventable but can be managed with insulin injections.
- ✓ Type II diabetes is preventable and treatable.
- ✓ India has the world's second largest diabetes patients with 77 million as against 116 million diabetic patients in China
- ✓ India contributes to 15% of global diabetes burden and only 1% to global diabetic research, according to National Health Mission.
- ✓ Around 6% of world population is suffering from diabetes, as on date
- ✓ Of late, diabetic retinopathy has increased in India
 - ✓ It is the damage of blood vessels in eye due to high blood sugar levels.
- ✓ The World Diabetes Day is celebrated on November 14 as the day marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who discovered Insulin.
- ✓ In 2010, India launched National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancers, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke.
- ✓ The WHO Global Diabetes Compact was launched in April 2021 to launch programmes that help prevent and manage diabetes.

