

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Five police officers from Tamil Nadu - were among the 39 officers awarded by the Centre for their investigative skills**
- ✓ The chosen officers have investigated the cases that led to arrest of religious fundamentalists in Tamil Nadu as well as other states.
- ✓ The selected 39 officers were from the states of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Delhi.
- ✓ The winners of award from the state includes - additional commissioner N Kannan, superintendent of police of the 'Q' branch J Mahesh, superintendent of police S Aravind, deputy superintendent of police of special intelligence unit in Coimbatore P Pandarinathan and inspector of the special division M Damodaran.



- ✓ On June 19, Tamil Nadu announced cash rewards for these five officers
- ✓ According to the ministry of home affairs, the names of the awardees will be published in the Gazette of India soon
- **Researchers from Anna University - have developed a biodegradable material for detecting glucose and alcohol level from sweat.**

- ✓ The new material is a cellulose derivative-based polymer and is aimed at reducing medical waste like glucose test strips
- ✓ Due to highly flexibility and transparent nature of the material, it could be used as a wearable non-invasive sensor and can be attached to a smart watch
- ✓ It can also be connected to an app, which can send alert if the alcohol consumption is higher than a set limit.
- ✓ The lowest detection limit found for glucose is 0.4 mM (millimolar) whereas for that of ethanol it was found to be 0.34 mM (millimolar), as per the researchers
- ✓ The cellulose material completely degrades within 15 days and is a very easily available material at low cost.
- ✓ At present, the available disposable test strips in the market are made of plastics and not degradable.
- ✓ The strips which contain blood can also transmit infectious diseases like HIV, Hepatitis B and it poses serious environmental risk.
- ✓ The material is also antibacterial and hence it can be safely used on sensitive skin without causing any infections

STATES

- **On October 31, J&K lieutenant governor Manoj Sinha- gave his assent to a law department order to reclaim large tracts of encroached government land under the Roshni scheme**
- ✓ Earlier, under the now defunct scheme, government lands had been officially transferred to individuals and businesses at much lesser cost than their market value.
- ✓ The reclamation order comes just over a fortnight after the J&K HC directed the administration to take back all such forest and other land acquired through misuse of the Roshni scheme
- ✓ The Jammu & Kashmir State Lands (Vesting of Ownership to the Occupants) Act, 2001 was commonly known as the Roshni Act
- ✓ It had been declared “unconstitutional and void ab initio” by division bench of Chief Justice Gita Mittal and Justice Rajesh Bindal on October 13.
- **The Rajasthan government - has decided to ban the sale of firecrackers during the festive season in the state in the wake of the crisis created by the coronavirus pandemic.**
- ✓ The CM Ashok Gehlot directed the officials to take strict action against the sale of firecrackers and fireworks in the state.
- ✓ The CM was reviewing the situation created by the coronavirus crisis and 'no mask-no entry' and 'war for the pure' campaign of the state government.
- **Delhi – topped the challans collected for the traffic rule violations by the virtual courts set up in the country during the lockdown**

- ✓ The virtual court in Delhi, which has 110 lakh vehicles, received 27 lakh challans, amounting to a fine of Rs.120 crore.
- ✓ The concept of virtual court has just one judicial officer handling these traffic challan cases through clicks of buttons on computer, which was earlier handled by 20 judicial officers.
- ✓ The concept was popularised by the Supreme Court's E-Committee headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud
- ✓ Delhi was the first to get virtual courts after traffic violations captured on cameras were sent to the owner of the offending vehicle.
- ✓ It not only stopped traffic police from harassing drivers but also helped the fine money going to the state.
- ✓ One virtual court each was set up in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Haryana and Kerala during the lockdown.
- ✓ The virtual court in Kerala, which also has 110 lakh vehicles, recorded just 1,468 traffic violation cases and collected Rs.1.35 lakh in fines
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's virtual court received over 32,000 traffic challans and collected fines totalling around Rs.93 lakh.
- ✓ These statistics were given by Justice Chandrachud during the inauguration of a virtual court in Katol, near Nagpur, by CJI S A Bobde on October 31.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - commences once-a-decade Census totaling the head count of the world's largest population**
- ✓ The census this year, for the first time, will use mobile apps to enumerate the count of people.
- ✓ Around seven million community workers and volunteers will carry out the two-month data-collection effort
- ✓ China conducts the census every ten years to determine population growth, movement patterns and other trends, using the findings to apportion resources for education, health, transportation, labour, elderly care and other services.
- ✓ The previous tally in 2010 counted 1,339,724,852 persons, an increase of nearly 5.9%, or 73,899,804 people — equal to adding more than the population of France over 10 years.
- ✓ This year's census is expected to take two years to be fully completed
- ✓ It will also focus on the impact of China's relaxation of its former "one-child policy"
- ✓ The policy was introduced in the late 1970s to slow rapid population growth, but was relaxed in 2016 to allow two children due to fears over China's fast-aging society and shrinking workforce.
- ✓ The government estimates the 2020 census could update the population to over 1.4 billion, a nearly 6% increase.

- **Typhoon Goni- hit the eastern part of the Philippines on November 1, 2020 and made the hardest landfall on record**



- ✓ The typhoon is being considered as the world's strongest storm so far this year.
- ✓ The previous strong typhoon was Super Typhoons Meranti of 2016 and Haiyan 2013.
- ✓ Goni attained the maximum wind speed of 310 kilometers per hour and later weakened to 215 kilometers per hour.
- ✓ Typhoon Goni is estimated to damage more than 928,000 hectares of land which is planted with rice and 58,431 hectares of corn.
- ✓ It is also estimated to affect more than 50 million people, while about 347,000 people have been already evacuated.
- ✓ Goni was named as a weakening tropical cyclone that made landfall as an extremely powerful Category 5—equivalent super typhoon.
- ✓ It is the 19th named storm, 9th typhoon, and 2nd super typhoon of the 2020 in the Pacific region.
- ✓ Goni has originated on October 26, 2020 as a tropical depression in the southwest of Guam.

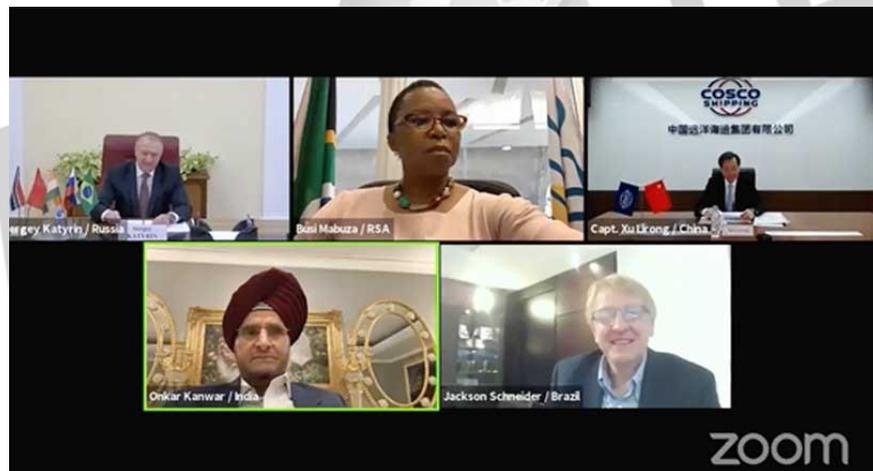
CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla - is leading the Indian parliamentary delegation in the four-day 206th session of the governing council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), which commenced virtually on November 1.**



- ✓ The agenda of the virtual session includes the election of the new president of the IPU through remote electronic secret ballot.

- ✓ Outgoing president Gabriela Cuevas Barron (Mexico) completed her term on October 19.
 - ✓ The term of the new president will be from 2020-23.
 - ✓ The Indian delegation led by Birla consists of parliamentarians Poonamben Hematbhai Maadam and Swapan Dasgupta.
 - ✓ Lok Sabha secretary general Snehlata Shrivastava and Rajya Sabha secretary general Desh Deepak Verma will also attend the session.
 - ✓ There are four candidates in the fray for the election of IPU president including Duarte Pacheco from Portugal, Muhammad Sanjrani from Pakistan, Akmal Saidov from Uzbekistan and Salma Atallahjan from Canada.
 - ✓ The governing council is the main policy-making body of the IPU which is mandated to elect the new president of IPU.
 - ✓ Prior to the virtual session, a virtual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Geopolitical Group (APG) of IPU was organised on October 30 by the president of the Senate of Philippines, the current chair of APG.
- **The BRICS Business forum - was held through video conference on October 28, 2020.**



- ✓ The forum jointly reviewed its joint work for the previous years, discussed the current business issues and discussed the path for the future
- ✓ This meeting was chaired by the head of the Russian chapter of the BRICS Business Council and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation Sergey Katyrin from Moscow.
- ✓ The forum was held jointly by the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation and Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.
- ✓ The sessions of the BRICS council were held under two different themes -
 - ✓ “COVID-19 and the economic development of the BRICS countries: problems and actions”
 - ✓ “Challenges and opportunities for sustainable development: pathways to a green economy”

- ✓ The BRICS Business Council was launched in 2013 BRICS Summit at Durban.
- ✓ The primary task of the council is to expand trade and investment among the member countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

DEFENCE

- **On October 30, the Indian Air Force - has successfully test fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile.**



- ✓ The cruise missile was test-fired successfully from the Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal.
 - ✓ The Sukhoi fighter jet that belongs to Tigersharks squadron was used for air-launching the missile
 - ✓ The missile will provide IAF the capability to strike from large ranges at any target in the sea or on the land with pinpoint accuracy.
 - ✓ The missile is capable of working at any time of the day in all weather conditions and can be launched from different platforms such as land, aircraft, submarines and ships
 - ✓ Earlier, the air-launched version of the BrahMos missile was successfully test-fired in May 2019 from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
 - ✓ The missiles are being produced by BrahMos Aerospace under an India-Russian joint venture.
- **Three Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force - are scheduled to arrive on November 4 flying non-stop from Istres in France to Jamnagar**



- ✓ With this, the IAF will have eight of the 36 Rafale jets in service.

- ✓ The first batch of five Rafale jets was formally inducted into the No.17 'Golden Arrows' squadron of the IAF on September 10 at the Ambala Air Force station.
- ✓ They arrived in India in July with a stopover at the Al Dhafra airbase in the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- ✓ The five jets, three single seat and two twin-seater trainers, were flown from France by IAF pilots led by Commanding Officer of No. 17 squadron Group Captain Harkirat Singh.
- ✓ The delivery of all 36 aircraft would be completed as per schedule by 2021-end.
- ✓ The second squadron would be based at Hasimara in West Bengal.

SPORTS

- **On November 1, Pakistani umpire Aleem Dar - broke the record for most ODIs as an on-field umpire**



- ✓ He achieved the feat when he stood for his 210th match in the series' second match between Pakistan and Zimbabwe in Rawalpindi.
- ✓ The 52-year-old Dar surpassed South African Rudi Koertzen's record of officiating in most ODIs.
- ✓ Dar is followed by Koertzen (209), Billy Bowden (200), Steve Bucknor (181) and Simon Taufel and Daryl Harper (174).
- ✓ Dar also holds the record of umpiring in most Test matches.
- ✓ He achieved the feat when he officiated in his 132nd match last year — Australia vs New Zealand in Perth in December — to surpass Jamaican Steve Bucknor's mark.
- ✓ He has officiated in 387 international matches so far, the most by any umpire.
- ✓ He has also umpired in 45 T20 internationals, one behind his country man Ahsan Raza
- ✓ Dar played first-class cricket in Pakistan for over a decade as an all-rounder before taking up umpiring
- ✓ He made his international debut as an umpire in February 2000, in an ODI between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Gujranwala, his hometown.
- ✓ He has been a part of the ICC's elite panel of umpires for 16 years.