



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 21, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- On November 20, Tamil Nadu government - promulgated an ordinance banning 'online' games involving wagering and betting
- ✓ The move follows a series of suicides and complaints about people losing their hard-earned money in such online games
- ✓ The ordinance was promulgated by Governor Banwarilal Purohit amending the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act, 1930, Chennai City Police Act, 1888, and the Tamil Nadu District Police Act, 1859
- ✓ It seeks to ban 'online' betting in cyber space using computers and any other communication device.

CO OWNERS TOO TO BE PUNISHED



➤ ₹5,000 fine and six months jail for those found playing such games. Those running common gaming house will get ₹10,000 fine and two-year jail

➤ Electronic transfer of funds banned

- ✓ The ordinance imposes a fine of ₹5,000 and six months imprisonment for those people who play such 'online' games
- ✓ People who open or run a common gaming house will be punished with a fine amount of ₹10,000 and two year imprisonment.
- ✓ The ordinance also bans "electronic transfer of funds" for betting and distributing prize money
- ✓ It also has provisions to punish people who are running such gaming companies.

- ✓ On November 5, chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced that the state will ban online rummy and bring in legal changes to arrest its organisers and players.
- **The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) – to launch the first residential housing project under the land pooling scheme in the state**
- ✓ The project is come up on 800 acres around Agaramthen village, 17 km from Tambaram.
- ✓ It will resemble the set up of Anna Nagar in Chennai with broad roads, layouts, and including an iconic structure of its own like the tower



- ✓ As per the project terms, 60% of the developed land parcel will be returned to landlords.
- ✓ The rest of the land would be used for roads, including a 100-foot avenue, parks, playgrounds and plots for schools.
- ✓ The area would be developed under the town planning scheme of the planning authority on the lines of Anna Nagar, CIT Nagar, R A Puram and T Nagar
- ✓ The Centre has granted Rs 1 crore under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for capacity building under the project.
- ✓ Anna Nagar was created when Tamil Nadu Housing Board laid out plots in the late 1960s.
- ✓ Early this year, the state government released the draft rules for the Land Pooling Scheme, two years after its launch.
- **Tamil Nadu – has been sanctioned Rs. 1357.93 crore for installing micro-irrigation systems**
- ✓ It is one among the seven states - Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Uttarakhand - which have been sanctioned over ₹3,900 crore for installing micro-irrigation systems.
- ✓ The money will be disbursed to these states from the Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) which was operationalised in last financial year.

- ✓ The objective of the Fund with NABARD, with a corpus of ₹5000 crore, is to help states avail interest subvention loan for expanding coverage of micro irrigation such as sprinklers and drip irrigation.
 - ✓ The financial assistance under the Fund will be meant for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under the 'PMKSY Per Drop More Crop' scheme to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.
 - ✓ The sanction of loan of ₹3971.31 crore has been approved by the Steering committee of MIF
 - ✓ The total sanctioned amount comprises of ₹764.13 crore for Gujarat, ₹616.13 crore for Andhra Pradesh, ₹276.55 crore for West Bengal, ₹790.94 crore for Haryana, ₹150 crore for Punjab and ₹15.63 crore for Uttarakhand
 - ✓ Farmers Producers' organization (FPO) and cooperatives can also access the fund with state government guarantee or equivalent collateral.
 - ✓ Farmers co-operatives may access this fund for innovative cluster-based community irrigation projects.
- **Guidance Tamil Nadu Bureau – is planning to roll out 188 Government to Business (G2B) services across 37 departments.**
- ✓ Forty-seven of these services will go live by the end of November, 2020 and the rest by the end of May, 2021.
 - ✓ The bureau will also launch a Central Inspection System, which will integrate four departments — the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board, directorate of Industrial Safety and Health, Labour Department and directorate of Boilers.
 - ✓ These measures will aid transparency in the business clearance process and give confidence to investors and businesses
 - ✓ The state government had signed 54 MoUs with an investment potential of ₹40,719 crore, since the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic.
 - ✓ This investment has the potential to create about 70,000 jobs in the state

NATIONAL

- **The Centre – has developed a 'Covin App' which is expected to play a key part of India's vaccine rollout**
- ✓ Covin stands for 'Covid vaccine intelligence network'
 - ✓ The new App will streamline data on Covid-19 vaccine procurement, distribution, circulation, cold storage and dose schedules
 - ✓ It will also notify the first set of vaccine recipients when their shots have been scheduled.
 - ✓ The app will enable health authorities right down to the grassroot level to upload as well as access data on a real-time basis
 - ✓ It will also provide updates to those on the priority list like health workers on when their shots are scheduled and who will administer them.

- ✓ The app relies on technology to synthesize data from states and the Centre, including agencies like ICMR, health ministry and Ayushman Bharat.
 - ✓ The mobile app can be used by beneficiaries to check immunisation schedule, location and even details of their vaccinator.
 - ✓ Once, both doses of the vaccine are administered, the app will generate an immunisation certificate and provide the option of storing it in Digilocker.
 - ✓ Covin is an enhancement of the already existing Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN)
 - ✓ eVIN aims to strengthen the vaccine supply chain by digitising information on vaccine stocks and storage temperatures.
 - ✓ Covin performs all the functions which are already under eVIN
 - ✓ Further, Covin is capable of pre-populating the software with priority population group data to track immunisation and provide beneficiaries with dose schedules.
 - ✓ Importantly, the app will enable digitising vaccine stocks at 28,000 storage centres across all districts
 - ✓ It also facilitates monitoring storage temperatures by installation of temperature loggers, deploying vaccine and cold chain managers in every district.
 - ✓ The system will enable the government to track temperature variations at storage points such as load-sheddings, and voltage fluctuations.
 - ✓ It will also track the movement from a storage facility and to a health centre, district hospital or any other hospital for vaccination.
 - ✓ The app will have data for all the four priority population groups – healthcare workers, front-line workers, people aged above 50 years and those with co-morbidities
 - ✓ However, the district authorities will initially start by feeding data of healthcare workers from hospitals — who will be the first to receive the shots.
- **On November 19, the labour ministry - notified draft rules under the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSHWC) Code, 2020**
- ✓ The government has invited objections and suggestions from stakeholders on the draft rules within 45 days.
 - ✓ Significantly, the ministry has proposed maximum 12 working hours in a day inclusive of intervals under the draft rules.
 - ✓ This is in sharp contrast to the OSH Code passed by Parliament, which provides for a maximum eight working hours in a day
 - ✓ According to Labour minister Santosh Gangwar, the draft rules provide for operationalisation of provisions in the OSHWC Code relating to safety, health and working conditions of dock workers, building and other construction workers, mine workers, interstate migrant workers, contract labourers, working journalists, audio-visual workers and sales promotion employees.
 - ✓ As per draft rules on OSH Code, in calculating overtime on any day, a fraction of an hour between 15-30 minutes shall be counted as 30 minutes.

- ✓ Key provisions of the OSHWC Code include mandatory appointment letters for every category of a company's employee.
- ✓ The draft rules mandate an annual health checkup of every worker of a factory, dock, mine and building or other construction work who has completed 45 years of age, which has to be facilitated by the employer.
- ✓ The OSHWC Code rules provide for one to-and-fro journey allowance every year, and toll-free helpline numbers for inter-state migrant workers, to address their concerns and grievances quickly.
- ✓ The draft rules also seeks to simplify the process of registrations and filing of returns
- ✓ Accordingly, there will be a single electronic registration, licence and annual integrated return for every establishment.
- ✓ Also, contractors supplying or engaging contract labour in more than one state for five years have been allowed to obtain a single, all-India licence instead of the existing system of workorder based licensing.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On November 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that India will launch a satellite for Bhutan next year and train its space engineers for the purpose.**



- ✓ The announcement aims to build space infrastructure among India's friendly neighbours under the 'Act East' Policy
- ✓ As per the proposal, four space engineers of Bhutan will arrive at Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) in December for getting training
- ✓ Last year, the PM had inaugurated a satellite ground station in Bhutan, which has been set up with Isro's technical assistance
- ✓ With the help of this station, Bhutan is able to effectively access the South Asia Satellite (launched on May 5, 2017 by India for Saarc nations) for TV broadcast and disaster management
- ✓ The PM also disclosed that the two countries signed a framework agreement to encourage cooperation in the peaceful usage of outer space on November 19
- ✓ The pact will also boost cooperation between different agencies of both the countries.

- ✓ Though India has launched 328 foreign satellites till now, this will be the first time the country will be launching a full-fledged satellite for its long-time friend and neighbour Bhutan
- ✓ Under the South Asia Satellite or Gsat-9 project, India continues to provide Bhutan and other friendly Saarc countries, except Pakistan, free satellite services for DTH and VSATs, tele-education, tele-medicine and disaster management purposes.

DEFENCE

➤ **The 24th edition of Exercise Malabar - concluded on November 20**



- ✓ The naval exercise, consisting of India, Australia, Japan and the U.S., was held in two phases this time.
 - ✓ Australia joined the war games for the first time since 2007.
 - ✓ In the backdrop of Covid-19, the exercise was conducted in a 'non-contact at sea only' format.
 - ✓ The Malabar 2020 exercise witnessed 'Dual Carrier' operations, advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, seamanship evolutions and weapon firings during both phases
 - ✓ For Phase-II, Indian and the U.S. deployed aircraft carrier groups INS Vikramaditya and USS Nimitz respectively and P-8 long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft for Anti-Submarine Warfare drills.
 - ✓ The two aircraft carriers, along with other ships, submarine and aircraft of the participating navies, engaged in high intensity naval operations
 - ✓ The exercise involved cross-deck flying operations and advanced air defence exercises by MiG-29K fighters of INS Vikramaditya and F/A-18 fighters and E2C Hawkeye aircraft from USS Nimitz.
 - ✓ Simultaneously, the Indian Navy also carried out Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) with Thailand in the Andaman Sea and delivered food aid to South Sudan in western Indian Ocean under Mission Sagar-II.
- **The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) -concluded in the Andaman Sea close to the strategic Strait of Malacca.**



- ✓ The CORPAT was held from November 18 to November 20, 2020
- ✓ It saw the participation of indigenously-built missile corvette INS Karmuk and Thailand Frigate HTMS Kraburi, along with Dornier maritime patrol aircraft.
- ✓ Both the countries have been holding CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005.
- ✓ The CORPAT facilitates the reduction of Illegal unreported unregulated fishing, maritime terrorism, drug trafficking, piracy and armed robbery.
- ✓ Under Mission SAGAR, the Indian Navy has been assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region with its EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) surveillance and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- ✓ Thailand is one of the beneficiaries of these initiatives.
- ✓ India and Thailand hold annual bilateral exercise MAITREE since 2006 along with SITMEX, which is India-Thailand Maritime Exercise

APPOINTMENTS

- **Comptroller and auditor general G C Murmu - has been elected external auditor of the Inter Parliamentary Union, Geneva, for a three-year term.**

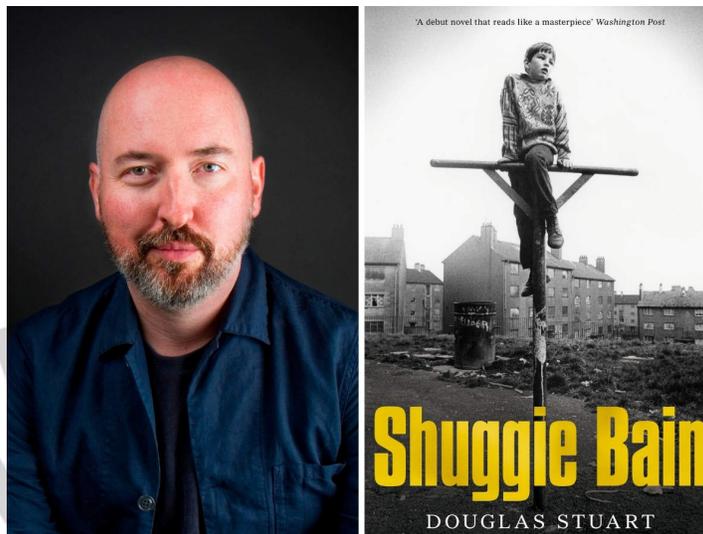


- ✓ The IPU is a 179-country parliamentarians' body and has a history older than the UN.
- ✓ The CAG will “assist the IPU in bringing about greater transparency, efficiency, economy and effectiveness in its operations by focussing their audit thrust on key risk areas within the IPU”.

- ✓ The IPU, established in 1889 by France and the UK, has permanent observer status at the UN General Assembly.
- ✓ The CAG has been on the UN's Board of Auditors since 2014 and is the external auditor of the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation.
- ✓ It has audited the World Food Programme, World Intellectual Property Organisation, International Atomic Energy Agency and Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, among others

AWARDS

- **On November 19, Scottish writer Douglas Stuart - won the Booker Prize for his acclaimed debut fiction "Shuggie Bain"**



- ✓ It was a novel, about a working-class family boy's turbulent upbringing set in his hometown UK's Glasgow during 1980s, which was rejected by 32 publishers before being picked up.
- ✓ Stuart, 44, won the prestigious £50,000 pound award for his first published novel, the product of a decade of work.
- ✓ Stuart was a former fashion designer who is based in New York
- ✓ He was one of four debut novelists among the six finalists.
- ✓ The contenders included PIO, Avni Doshi's India-set mother-daughter tale "Burnt Sugar"
- ✓ The Burnt Sugar was published in India as "Girl in White Cotton".
- ✓ The other shortlisted novels are - "The New Wilderness" by Diane Cook, "The Shadow King" by Maaza Mengiste, "This Mournable Body" by Tsitsi Dangarembga and "Real Life" by Brandon Taylor
- ✓ The Booker Prize is a literary prize awarded annually for the best novel written in English and published in Ireland or UK.
- ✓ It was formerly known as "Booker-McConnell Prize" (1969-2001) and Man Booker Prize (2002-2019).

- ✓ In 1997, Arundati Roy of India won the Booker Prize for her Novel “The God of Small Things”.
- ✓ In another development, books written by three Indians – Megha Majumdar’s ‘A Burning’, Deepa Anappara’s ‘Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line’ and Samanth Subramanian’s ‘A Dominant Character: The Radical Science and Restless Politics of JBS Haldane’ — figure in New York Times’ list of 100 Notable Books of 2020.
- ✓ A mix of fiction, poetry and nonfiction, the list was selected by the editors of NYT’s Book Review section.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Fisheries Day - November 21.



- ✓ The day is celebrated every year to raise awareness about sustainable fishing and manage global fish stocks without depletion
- ✓ Theme 2020 - Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain
- ✓ The total fish consumption in the world is 100 million tonnes, providing more than 25% of world dietary protein
- ✓ For the first time, the Department of Fisheries operating under the Ministry of Fisheries is celebrating World Fisheries Day.
- ✓ The Department is to confer best performing states in Fisheries award on World Fisheries Day.
- ✓ The best performing state award among inland states is to be provided to Uttar Pradesh and Odisha.
- ✓ Assam has won the award among Hilly and North East States.
- ✓ The Centre had launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Rs 20,050 crores to promote the fisheries sector
- ✓ The programme aims to achieve 22 million tonnes of fish production by 2024-25, thereby creating employment opportunity to 55 lakh people.
- ✓ Around 28 million people are employed in fisheries sector in India.
- ✓ India ranks fourth in global export of fish, accounting for 7.7% global fish production.

➤ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare - is celebrating National Newborn Week between November 15, 2020 and November 21, 2020.



- ✓ The main objective of observing National Newborn Week is to create awareness about the importance of newborn child survival and development.
- ✓ The celebration of the week assumes significance as around 2.6 million babies die every year within their first month after birth
- ✓ In India, around 0.75 million new borns died, as per 2013 estimates.
- ✓ The Neonatal Mortality Rate in India has declined from 44 per 1000 live births in 2000 to 28 per 1000 livebirths in 2013.
- ✓ India has set a goal of reducing the under-five mortality to 20 per 1000 live births by 2035.
- ✓ The major causes of newborn deaths in India are pre-maturity (35%), intra-partum related complications (20%), neonatal infections (33%) and congenital malformations (9%).
- ✓ To reduce preventable newborn deaths, the India Newborn Action Plan was launched, in response to WHO's Every Newborn Action Plan in 2014.
- ✓ The programme is built on six pillars namely -
 - ✓ pre-conception and antenatal care,
 - ✓ immediate newborn care,
 - ✓ care during labour and child birth,
 - ✓ care of healthy newborn,
 - ✓ care beyond newborn survival and
 - ✓ care of small and sick newborn.

