



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 25, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Cyclone Nivar** - is likely to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm and make landfall between Karaikal and Mamallapuram on the evening of November 25 or early morning of November 26 with wind speed of 110-120kmph gusting to 145kmph
- ✓ The state government declared a public holiday on November 25 and temporarily halted train and bus services as part of its measures to tackle the cyclone, apart from putting in place measures to evacuate people from inundated areas
- ✓ Cyclone Nivar (named by Iran), which means light in Persian, is likely to be stronger than Vardah that made landfall closer to Chennai in December 2016.

<p>LANDFALL TODAY Cyclone Nivar expected to make landfall between Karaikal and Mamallapuram on Wednesday evening as a severe cyclonic storm. On Tuesday evening, it was 50km south-west of Chennai and moving north-westward</p> <p>RELIEF CENTRES 4,133 vulnerable locations prone to inundation were identified across the state and 3,344 relief centres kept ready</p> <p>NO BUS SERVICE Intradistrict and inter-district bus</p>	<p>services in Pudukottai, Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Cuddalore, Villupuram, Tiruvarur, and Chengalpet cancelled from Tuesday noon till further orders</p> <p>TRAINS CANCELLED Southern Railway has cancelled 24 special trains on November 25 including Egmore-Madurai Tejas express, Vaigai and Pearl City express</p> <p>SEC 144 IN PONDY Section 144 prohibiting assembly of more than four imposed in Puducherry from Tuesday night to Thursday. Number 7</p>	<p>storm warning cage erected at the UT's port</p> <p>50 NDRF TEAMS 50 NDRF teams pressed into service across TN, AP & Puducherry. Five Navy flood relief teams and a diving team ready for deployment</p> <p>KALPAKKAM ATOMIC STATION Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam has activated cyclone protection machinery as the storm is expected to pass very closely to the nuclear station with wind speed expected to be around 100km to 110km</p>
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- ✓ IMD has forecast heavy to very heavy rainfall in Chennai, Chengalpet, Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Ranipet, Vellore, Tirupathur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Namakkal, Trichy, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam and Karaikal.

- ✓ Extremely heavy rainfall is likely over districts closer to the landfall location like Thiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Ariyalur and Perumbalur.
- ✓ Warning signals have been hoisted across 11 ports in the state.
- ✓ All the major reservoirs in the state have been getting steady inflow, and 1,519 irrigation tanks maintained by the PWD have reached their full capacity.
- ✓ At least 4,713 relief centres were identified in Tamil Nadu and 5,505 policemen trained by the NDRF and the SDRF were placed across the state.

FORCE OF NATURE

BIRTH OF A CYCLONE

- > Depression forms when air at the surface moves to a low pressure area and rises leading to convection. Winds swirl faster in a circular motion and when they reach a sustained speed of 63kmph, they become a tropical depression
- > Depression draws energy from the warm sea and when wind speed exceeds 88kmph, it is a cyclone
- > The longer a system stays over warmer seas the more it intensifies

CATEGORIES AND WIND SPEED

Low pressure area | Less than 31kmph


Depression | 31kmph to 61kmph

Deep depression | 52kmph to 61kmph

Cyclone | 62kmph to 88kmph

Severe cyclone | 89kmph to 118kmph

Very severe cyclone | 119kmph to 221kmph



IMPACT

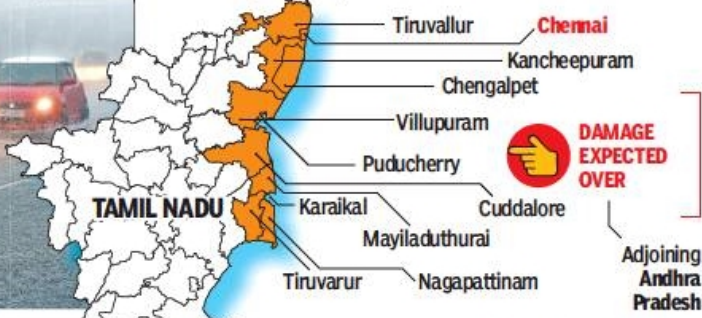
Depending on the sustained wind speed, a cyclone can wreak havoc across districts


CYCLONE 'VARDAH'


- > Reached peak wind speeds of 130kmph over Bay of Bengal on December 11
- > On December 12, it weakened made landfall near Chennai with a wind speeds of 110kmph to 125kmph

CYCLONE 'NIVAR' (forecast)

- > The name 'Nivar' was given by Iran. In Persian, it means light
- > Nivar is very likely to cross Tamil Nadu and Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mamallapuram near Puducherry on November 25 late evening as a very severe cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 120-130kmph gusting to 145kmph
- > Tidal waves about 1-1.5m high are very likely to inundate low-lying areas of north coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry near the place of landfall







- > Thatched houses will be totally destroyed, kutcha houses will suffer extensive damage
- > Trees, power and communication poles will be bent/uprooted
- > Overhead power lines and signaling systems will be disrupted
- > Standing crops, plantations, orchards will be damaged
- > Small boats, country crafts may get detached from moorings
- > Major damage to coastal crops, embankments and salt pans

- ✓ There are 691 home guards and 4,699 fire and rescue services personnel trained for disaster management.
- ✓ Southern Railway has cancelled 14 pairs of trains starting from and bound to Chennai and partially cancelled 11 mail or express trains.
- ✓ Suburban train services are cancelled in the city from 10am on November 25 until further notice.
- ✓ Earlier, Cyclonic storm Nivar formed over Bay of Bengal on the morning of November 24

- **Tamil Nadu – has been ranked at third place among the states that have conducted the most number of Covid-19 tests**
- ✓ Overall, five states have carried out over 1 crore tests to detect Covid-19.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are the top with over 1.8 crore and 1.4 crore tests respectively
- ✓ They are followed by Tamil Nadu (1.1 crore), Karnataka (1 crore) and Maharashtra (1 crore).
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh comes next with 96.6 lakh tests.
- ✓ Across India, 13.3 crore tests were conducted with 91.8 lakh confirmed cases, as on November 24
- **MSME financier Sidbi - signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Tamil Nadu to set up a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will design training and capacity building programs.**
- ✓ The programs will be designed in areas such as technology transfer, promotion of innovation, intellectual property rights, research & development, leveraging of technology and technology solutions
- ✓ They will aim at enhancing business capabilities and collaborations between MSMEs & technology driven businesses, startups, etc

STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath and his cabinet - passed the UP Prohibition of Unlawful Religious Conversion ordinance on November 24.**

UP BRINGS A LAW, ALLAHABAD HC BATS FOR RIGHTS

LAW AGAINST CONVERSION FOR MARRIAGE

Punishment: Jail term of 1-5 years, and a fine of ₹15,000

➤ For conversions of minors and SC/ST women, jail term of 3-10 years with ₹25,000 fine

➤ Forced mass religious conversions: Jail term of 3-10 years with ₹50,000 penalty

➤ If anyone wants to convert for marriage, s/he has to inform DM 2 months in advance. Failure to do so would invite jail of 6 months to 3 years, ₹10,000 fine

Just ahead of the UP cabinet's approval of the draft ordinance, Allahabad HC in a strongly worded judgment (made public on Monday) said, "The right to choose a partner irrespective of caste, creed or religion is inherited under right to life and personal liberty, an integral part of the Fundamental Right under Article 21 of the Constitution of India". It was ruling on a petition by a Muslim man and his wife, who'd converted from Hinduism to Islam, against a police complaint lodged by the woman's father. The two-judge bench also said:

“We do not see Priyanka Kharwar and Salamat (Ansari) as Hindu and Muslim, rather as two grown-up individuals who out of their own free will and choice are living together peacefully and happily after a year

Interference in a personal relationship would constitute a serious encroachment into the right to freedom of choice of the two individuals



DETAILED REPORT AND GRAPHIC P 8

- ✓ The law makes forced religious conversion punishable in the state with a jail term between 1 and 10 years and a fine ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹50,000.
- ✓ Further, a marriage for the sake of conversion will be declared null and void.

- ✓ The ordinance will be promulgated after the Governor's nod
- ✓ As a punishment for engaging in forced conversion, the ordinance lays down a jail term of 1-5 years and a fine of ₹15,000 for accused.
- ✓ If minors or SC/ST women have been forced to convert, the prison term increases to 3-10 years and the fine levied would be ₹25,000.
- ✓ In case of community or mass conversion, the jail term is 3-10 years and the organization responsible would be slapped with a fine of ₹50,000 apart from the cancellation of its license
- ✓ If someone willingly wanted to convert for the sake of marriage, he or she would have to give a notice two months in advance to the district magistrate concerned
- ✓ The failure to do so will invite a fine of at least ₹10,000 and a jail term of six months to 3 years.

NATIONAL

- **On November 24, the Centre - blocked another 43 new Chinese apps, taking the total banned apps to 267 till date**



- ✓ Those ordered blocked include some top ones such as AliExpress, Taobao Live and CamCard.
- ✓ TikTok, PUBG, UC Browser, WeChat, CamScanner, Baidu Search and Weibo are some of the other popular Apps that were already banned by the government.
- ✓ The action was taken under Section 69A of the IT Act by the government
- ✓ The Chinese Apps banned were found to have engaged in activities prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of state and public order, as per the government.
- ✓ The Ministry of electronics and IT has issued the order for blocking the access of these apps, based on the comprehensive reports received from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Center, Ministry of Home Affairs
- ✓ Those ordered blocked in the previous rounds had been served notice by the IT Ministry
- ✓ They were asked to provide details with regards to their operations in India, their subscribers, their data collection and information processing practices, among other things.

- **The landline users across India - will need to prefix all calls to any mobile phone with a `0', from January 1, 2021**
 - ✓ The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has cleared the proposal to open up fresh number series for mobile services
 - ✓ In this regard, the department has accepted the recommendation of Trai made in May this year
 - ✓ The telecom department had mandated telecom companies to ensure all landline subscribers are “given a `0 dialing’ or STD facility” to be able to connect with mobile phones under the new calling system
 - ✓ Trai had also clarified that it wasn’t suggesting an 11-digit numbering plan for mobiles and the prefixing move would generate a massive 2,544 million additional numbering resources for mobile services
 - ✓ According to DoT, time till January 1 is allowed to all the telecom service providers to implement this new system.

- **India Post - has tied up with the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) for delivery of Sabarimala ‘Swamy Prasadam’ to devotees across the country through Speed Post.**
 - ✓ The ‘Swamy Prasadam’ kit, costing ₹450, contains one packet of Aravana, ghee, turmeric, kumkum, vibhoothi and archana prasadam.
 - ✓ These items will be packed in a carton box and dispatched to devotees through Speed Post.
 - ✓ Devotees can visit post office and remit the fee at the counter via e-payment.
 - ✓ A maximum of 10 packets can be booked under one receipt
 - ✓ Further, there is no upper limit for the number of bookings that can be made by a devotee.
 - ✓ The entry of devotees to the Sabarimala temple has been restricted and only limited number of devotees can visit the shrine due to Covid-19 restrictions.

- **Russia’s Sputnik V Covid-19 vaccine - will be priced under \$20 per person for the two doses in global markets, including India, and may be available in India by February, 2021**
 - ✓ The vaccine, which reported an efficacy of over 95%, will be twice as cheap as those by Pfizer and Moderna with similar positive results.
 - ✓ Sputnik V was developed by Gamaleya Institute and RDIF (Russian Direct Investment Fund)
 - ✓ The vaccine is still to undergo trials in India and will be manufactured by domestic companies.
 - ✓ Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy’s and RDIF have entered into a partnership to conduct clinical trials and distribute it in India.
 - ✓ Though the vaccine is cheaper when compared to the above two companies, there could be a challenge in its distribution as it requires a specialised cooling chain.

- ✓ The efficacy of the Sputnik V vaccine is 91.4%, based on the second analysis of interim data obtained 28 days after administering the first dose (7 days after the second dose).
 - ✓ Preliminary data obtained 42 days after the first dose indicates an efficacy above 95%.
 - ✓ Sputnik V is a two-dose vaccine on the human adenoviral vector platform
 - ✓ The Phase II clinical trials on 100 subjects in India will be soon initiated, while Phase III trials will involve 1,500 participants.
 - ✓ In October, Dr Reddy's and RDIF received approval from the Drugs Controller General of India to conduct adaptive phase II/III human clinical trials for the vaccine in India.
 - ✓ As part of the partnership, RDIF will supply 100 million doses of the vaccine to Dr Reddy's.
 - ✓ The first international deliveries of the Russian Sputnik V vaccine will be made in January 2021 based on the existing partnerships with foreign manufacturers
- **Indian web series 'Delhi Crime' - has won the Best Drama Series award at the 48th International Emmys.**



- ✓ The news was announced on the international awards' official handle on Twitter.
- ✓ Based on the horrific 2012 Delhi gang-rape, the cast of the show comprised Shefali Shah playing the lead as Deputy Commissioner Vartika Chaturvedi.
- ✓ For the first time, due to the pandemic, the 48th International Emmy Awards was hosted virtually this year.
- ✓ The virtual event was hosted by Richard Kind in New York.
- ✓ India had also bagged nominations in the Best Actor category (Arjun Mathur, Made in Heaven) and Best Comedy Series (Four More Shots Please).

INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 23, Tesla Inc co-founder Elon Musk - passed Bill Gates to become the world's second-richest person**
- ✓ The 49-year-old's net worth soared \$7.2 billion to \$127.9 billion, driven by yet another surge in Tesla's share price.



- ✓ Musk has added \$100.3 billion to his net worth this year, the most by anyone, as per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of the world's 500 richest people.
- ✓ His advance to the top of wealth ranks has been driven largely by Tesla, whose market value is approaching \$500 billion.
- ✓ This is only the second time in the index's eight-year history that Microsoft Corp co-founder Gates has ranked lower than number two.
- ✓ He held the top spot for years before being edged by Amazon Inc founder Jeff Bezos in 2017.
- ✓ Gates's net worth of \$127.7 billion would be much higher had he not donated so extensively to charity over the years.
- ✓ He has given more than \$27 billion to his Bill Gates foundation since 2006.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On November 24, the government - announced that it would build the Shahtoot Dam on Kabul river in Afghanistan, bringing relief to the residents of Kabul**
- ✓ In this regard, India had signed an agreement with Afghanistan for construction of Shahtoot Dam
- ✓ The proposed Dam would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city
- ✓ Foreign minister S Jaishankar announced this at the Geneva donors conference
- ✓ The move is expected to be protested vehemently by Pakistan, which has accused India of choking its water supplies from Kashmir and Afghanistan.
- ✓ The plan for the dam has been discussed and feasibility assessed since 2016.
- ✓ But this is the first time India pledged it in an international conference, which makes it significant.
- ✓ The dam on the Maidan river, a big tributary of the Kabul river, will ease the serious water shortage problems of Afghanistan.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The last phase of the training of four Indian astronaut-elects chosen for the Gaganyaan mission - has commenced in Moscow**
- ✓ The training for these astronaut-elects was started on February 10 this year
- ✓ Russia's Glavkosmos, which has a contract with Isro's Human Spaceflight Centre (HSFC), confirmed the four Gaganyaan men may return in March 2021.
- ✓ They are undergoing general training at the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center (GCTC) and also studying the systems of the Soyuz MS crewed spacecraft.
- ✓ The astronaut-elects, all test pilots of the Indian Air Force, left for Russia this year.
- ✓ So far, Indian astronauts have accomplished training on crew actions in case of an abnormal descent module landing in the forest and marshy areas in winter, on water and in the steppe.
- ✓ They have successfully completed training in short-term weightlessness on board the Il-76MDK laboratory aircraft.
- ✓ They were also trained to lift aboard a helicopter while evacuating from the descent module landing point.

DEFENCE

- **The government – has formally approved three military joint logistic nodes (JLNs) in the run-up to the eventual creation of unified theatre commands**
- ✓ The JLNs will serve as joint structures to handle 'integrated' logistics in the 15-lakh strong armed forces among the three Services
- ✓ The first three joint logistics nodes (JLNs) will be set up at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair
- ✓ They will handle small arms ammunition, rations, FOL (fuels, oils and lubricants), general stores, civilhired transport, aviation clothing, spares and engineering support for the Army, Navy and IAF to ensure cost-effectiveness in operations.
- ✓ With each node to have a "lead Service" to handle all provisioning and procurements, it will be Navy in Mumbai, Army in Guwahati and the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) in Port Blair.
- ✓ Similar nodes will come up in other parts of the country as the integrated "functional" and "geographical or theatre" commands begin to take shape over the next two to three years.
- ✓ Towards this end, the tri-Service "functional" Air Defence Command (ADC) will be the first to be created
- ✓ It will eventually be responsible for guarding the country's airspace against hostile aircraft, missiles, helicopters and drones in an integrated manner
- ✓ The next will be the geographical theatre commands, with all assets and manpower of the three Services under a single operational commander.
- ✓ These will include a maritime command in peninsular India, one or two commands (a northern one west of Nepal and an eastern one east of Nepal) to handle China, one or two commands on the western front with Pakistan (one in J&K and the other to include Punjab, Gujarat and Rajasthan)

SPORTS

- **Former Tamil Nadu skipper S Vasudevan - was elected as the chairman of the senior state selection panel by TNCA's Cricket Advisory Committee here on November 24.**



- ✓ Others in the panel include - TR Arasu, K Bharath Kumar, R Venkatesh and Tanveer Jabbar.
- ✓ Senthilnathan, the previous chairman, couldn't continue in his role due to conflict of interest as he is also the head coach of MRF Pace Foundation.
- ✓ Vasudevan, the last TN skipper to win the coveted Ranji title back in 1987-88, served as a state selector back in the 90s.
- ✓ The 64-year old former leftarm spinner allrounder represented TN in 61 first class games