

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 4, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **On November 3, the Tamil Nadu government - announced the standard operating procedure (SoP) to be followed at cinemas and multiplexes inside shopping malls when they reopen on November 10.**
- ✓ The guidelines to be followed include - six-feet physical distance inside cinemas, masks for both patrons and employees, 50% occupancy of seats, the reduction of touch points at ticket counters and canteens and the screening of patrons for Covid-19 symptoms.
- ✓ Further, the cinema owners have to compulsorily collect the phone numbers of patrons to aid in contact tracing in the event of someone testing positive for Covid-19.
- ✓ Only packed food and drinks are permitted to be sold inside the cinemas.
- ✓ Sanitiser dispensers must be placed at the entrance and exit points, and the movement of people must be regulated to avoid crowding.
- ✓ Vacant seats should be marked with fluorescent tape.
- ✓ The timings of shows must be reorganised to ensure that there is no crowding in cinema halls with more than one screen, as per the new norms.
- ✓ The use of online payments, e-wallets and payments using QR code are recommended to reduce touch points
- ✓ Also, other touch points that are used frequently, such as doors, and cinema halls should be sanitised after every show.
- ✓ If a person with symptoms is found, he/she should be isolated in a separate room, and a rapid response team (RRT) should be contacted.
- ✓ The government has prohibited cinema halls situated inside Covid-19 containment zones from reopening, and employees residing in these zones from reporting to work.
- ✓ Cinema owners have been advised not to employ elderly people, pregnant women, those with co-morbidities and symptomatic workers in roles that require direct interaction with the public.

- On November 3, Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami- presented Tamil Chemmal Awards to 19 scholars recognising their contribution in the development of language, on the sidelines of Tamil Nadu day celebrations



- ✓ Former chief minister J Jayalalithaa instituted the award in 2014 to recognize the scholars and institutions that make exemplary contributions in the field of Tamil language.
 - ✓ The awardees are selected from each district.
 - ✓ The award carries Rs. 25,000 and citation.
 - ✓ A total of 37 scholars have been chosen for the awards this year
 - ✓ The rest of the awardees will be honoured by the ministers in the presence of district collectors.
 - ✓ K P Chellammal (Chennai), Maria Terasa (Tiruvallur), S Srikumar (Kancheepuram) were among the scholars honoured by the chief minister.
- **Tamil Nadu's Anand Selvakesari – has been chosen to head the international financial giant Citigroup's global consumer banking business**

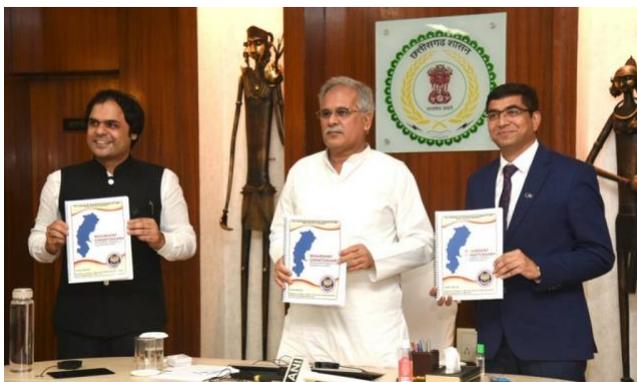


- ✓ Selva replaced Jane Fraser, who was elevated as Citi CEO, thereby becoming the first ever woman to head one of the Big Four US banks.
- ✓ Selva had started his career in the operation management division of the Citigroup in Chennai in 1991.
- ✓ The alumnus of Vikaasa School in Madurai, Selva went on to complete his graduation from Coimbatore Institute of Technology and MBA (Finance and Marketing) from Madurai Kamaraj University

- ✓ In his nearly 30 years of service, Selva, had headed retail banking business development for Asia-Pacific region and was the director of retail in Taipei, Taiwan.
 - ✓ Before taking over as head of the Asia-Pacific consumer banking business in 2015, he was the country business manager in India for a year.
 - ✓ In October 2018, Selva was elevated to the position of CEO of consumer banking for US operations.
- **K Radhakrishnan, former director general of police and the state's pioneering traffic expert – passed away on November 3**
- ✓ The 92-year old K Radhakrishnan is remembered for conceiving the Anna Flyover in Chennai
 - ✓ A writer and also a social activist, Radhakrishnan, joined the police force in 1951
 - ✓ He studied the city's traffic issues in detail when he served as deputy commissioner, Chennai city traffic.
 - ✓ He then came up with a solution to build a flyover across Nungambakkam High Road and Dr Radhakrishnan Salai (then Cathedral Road).
 - ✓ Based on his suggestion, a team of engineers from the state travelled to Japan
 - ✓ Radhakrishnan retired as the DGP of Tamil Nadu in 1987.
 - ✓ He also worked as the Chennai city police commissioner from 1974 to 1977 and served as the inspector general of police of law and order of the state.
 - ✓ In the 1970s, there were a series of agricultural protests held in Coimbatore and Radhakrishnan successfully resolved the issue peacefully, by talking to the agitators

STATES

- **The State Government of Chhattisgrah - launched the Fortified Rice Distribution Scheme on the occasion of Statehood Day celebrations on November 1, 2020.**



- ✓ The scheme was launched with an aim of reducing malnutrition and chronic anaemia in the state.
- ✓ The fortified rice will be distributed through fair price shops under the scheme.

- ✓ The fortified rice comprises Vitamin-B12, iron and folic acid, which helps to control under-nutrition and anaemia.
 - ✓ The Centre is planning to distribute fortified rice through the Integrated Child Development Services and Mid-Day Meal schemes across the country from next year, with a special focus on 112 aspirational districts
 - ✓ The Centrally sponsored pilot scheme was approved in February 2019 and allocated a total budget outlay of ₹174.6 crore for a three-year period from 2019-20 in 15 States.
 - ✓ However, only five States — Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh — have started distribution of fortified rice in their identified pilot districts.
- **On November 2, India's first solar energy powered miniature train - was inaugurated by the Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.**



- ✓ It has been inaugurated at the Veli Tourist Village in Kerala.
- ✓ The miniature train was set up at a budget of Rs. 10 crore
- ✓ The tourist village is located on the outskirts where the Veli Lake meets the Arabian Sea.
- ✓ The miniature rail consists of all the features of a fully- equipped rail system with a tunnel, station, and a ticket office.
- ✓ The solar-powered eco-friendly 2.5 km miniature train has three bogies which can accommodate around 45 people at a time.
- ✓ The surplus energy generated by the system will be transferred to the Kerala State Electricity Board's grid.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that Indian Railways had launched its first solar-powered DEMU (diesel electrical multiple unit) train from the Safdarjung railway station in Delhi on July 14, 2017.
- ✓ The train ran from Sarai Rohilla in Delhi to Farukh Nagar in Haryana.
- ✓ This was the first time in the world that solar panels were used as grid in railways.

NATIONAL

- **The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - has recently included the Panna National Park of Madhya Pradesh under its “World network of Biosphere reserves”.**



- ✓ Apart from the Panna National Park, Fuvahmulah Addu Atoll of Maldives has also been included under the list this year.
 - ✓ Union Ministry of Environment and Forest has included Panna National park under the list as a biosphere reserve.
 - ✓ UNESCO has described the National Park as a critical tiger habitat and has highlighted that the park is home to the World Heritage site of Khajuraho temples.
 - ✓ Panna National Park, located in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh, is spread over an area of 542.67 square km.
 - ✓ The park was declared as the 22nd Tiger reserve of India and 5th in Madhya Pradesh in the year 1993.
 - ✓ It was designated as a Biosphere Reserve on 25 August 2011.
 - ✓ The World Network of Biosphere Reserves consists of a dynamic and interactive network of sites of excellence.
- **The Union Minister of Development of the North Eastern Region, Jitendra Singh - inaugurated the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir on November 1, 2020.**



- ✓ Through the project, the government is planning to attract more than 20 lakh tourists every year.
 - ✓ Further, the project is expected to generate Rs 800 crores of revenue.
 - ✓ The government plans to rejuvenate and renovate the Mansar lake on the lines of Ganga river cleaning project.
 - ✓ Apart from the Lake Mansar, the government is also planning to renovate and rejuvenate River Devika of Jammu and Kashmir.
 - ✓ Both of these projects will be implemented at a cost of Rs 200 crores.
 - ✓ The Mansar lake is a designated Ramsar Convention site located in Jammu region.
 - ✓ It was designated as a Ramsar site in 2005.
 - ✓ It is a natural freshwater lake where fishing is the major activity.
- **On November 2, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Airavat- reached the Port of Sudan under Phase II of the Mission Sagar.**



- ✓ The ship was carrying a consignment of 100 tonnes of food aid to Sudan.
 - ✓ Under the Mission Sagar, India has been providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries during the Covid-19 pandemic and also during other natural calamities.
 - ✓ Further, INS Ship Airavat will also be delivering food aid to Djibouti, South Sudan and Eritrea apart from Sudan.
 - ✓ This mission is being implemented in joint coordination with the Ministries of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence.
 - ✓ Under the first phase of Mission Sagar India deployed INS Kesari in May-June 2020.
 - ✓ The Ship carried food aid and medicines to countries including Comoros, Madagascar, Seychelles, Mauritius and Maldives.
 - ✓ The Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) mission was launched in 2015 under the strategic vision of Indian Ocean Region.
- **The Centre - has released Rs 2,200 crores to 15 states on November 2 to improve the air quality measures.**

- ✓ The fund has been released on the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission.
 - ✓ The amount has been released to states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ Out of total Rs 2,200 crores, Rs 202.5 crores has been allocated to Gujarat, Rs 396.5 crores has been released to Maharashtra, Rs 357 crores to UP, and Rs 209.5 crores to West Bengal.
 - ✓ The Fifteenth Finance Commission was constituted in 2017
 - ✓ The commission has created a report for the fiscal years 2020-21 to 2025-26 and will submit the report to The President Ram Nath Kovind on November 9, 2020.
 - ✓ The Fifteenth Finance Commission in its report for the fiscal year 2020-21 had recommended a grant of Rs 4,400 crores in order to improve the air quality in 50 million plus cities.
 - ✓ In order to combat the air pollution, the government had launched a National Air Pollution Control Programme in association with several think tanks and premier educational institutions including IITs, IIITs and NITs.
 - ✓ Under this program, a network of 984 air quality monitoring stations has been set up across 500 cities in order to monitor the air quality on regular basis.
- **On November 2, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) - signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in order to set key targets for the year 2020-21.**
- ✓ Under the MoU, the Government of India (GOI) has set a revenue target of Rs 2,406 crore from the renewable energy industry.
 - ✓ The IREDA has offered funding to more than 2,700 renewable energy projects in India till November 2, 2020.
 - ✓ The total loan disbursement for these projects, which add 17,259 MW of green power to the country, amounting to Rs 57,000 crores.
 - ✓ India is one of leading producer of the energy from renewable sources.
 - ✓ Out of the country's total energy generation capacity of 373 GW, 135 GW (36.17%) is obtained from renewable sources.
 - ✓ This is in line with the Paris Agreement under which the country has committed to achieve 40% of its total electricity generation from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.
 - ✓ Also, India has set an ambitious target of generating 57% of the total electricity capacity from renewable sources by 2027.
 - ✓ Accordingly, India aims to generate 275 GW from renewable energy, 72 GW from hydroelectricity, 15 GW from nuclear energy and 100 GW from other zero emission sources.
 - ✓ The government has also targeted for installing Rooftop Solar Projects(RTP) of 40 GW by 2022.

- ✓ Towards that initiative, India recently launched a green window programme in January 2020, which is being implemented by IREDA.
- ✓ Under this, green banks and other public entities will be set up that will strive to bring clean energy financing into the mainstream.
- **The Ganga Utsav– was inaugurated virtually on November 2, 2020.**



- ✓ The festival, organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, will conclude on November 4, 2020.
- ✓ The Ganga Utsav is being celebrated this year on the occasion of the 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river.
- ✓ This year, as a part of the celebration, the Ganga Task Force conducted afforestation drives with NCC cadets.
- ✓ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was implemented by the National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga on August 12, 2011 under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 as a registered society.
- ✓ This programme under the National Ganga Council is supported by the State level Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) in the state such as Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- ✓ This initiative was started by the Centre to address the pollution of river Ganga by providing financial and technical assistance.

DEFENCE

- **Warships from the Quad nations, India, the US, Japan and Australia - kicked off the four-day Phase-I of the 24th Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Visakhapatnam on November 3**
- ✓ The focus of this edition of the exercise will be on complex anti-submarine warfare and other combat manoeuvres
- ✓ The Navies of four countries would conduct a range of high-end training, including air-defence and anti-submarine exercises, aviation, communications and at-sea replenishment between ships



- ✓ Indian Navy ships Ranvijay, Shivalik, Shakti and Sukanya and submarine Sindhuraj are participating in the Phase-I of the exercise
- ✓ U.S. naval ship USS John S McCain, Royal Australian Navy ship HMAS Ballarat, and Japanese Maritime Self Defence ship JS Onami are also taking part in the Phase-I of the exercise.
- ✓ The exercise has been planned on the format of a 'non-contact-at sea'.
- ✓ The Phase-II of the war games will be conducted in the Arabian Sea from November 17 to 20
- ✓ During the second phase, the US is likely to deploy a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.
- ✓ India is also expected to field its solitary carrier, INS Vikramaditya with its MiG-29K fighters, apart from P-8I long-range patrol aircraft, which is already taking part in Phase-I.
- ✓ The new entrant, Australia, last participated in the Malabar exercise in 2007
- ✓ The Malabar exercise is an annual exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S.
- ✓ It is held alternately in the Indian Ocean and Pacific Oceans.
- ✓ The exercise was started in the year 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.
- ✓ Later, the exercise got expanded into a trilateral format with the inclusion of Japan in 2015.

APPOINTMENTS

- **On November 2, Duarte Pacheco - has been elected as the new President of Inter Parliamentary Union for the period of 2020 and 2023.**
- ✓ The former president of the Inter Parliamentary Union was Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron.
- ✓ The 206th session of the Inter Parliamentary Union began on November 1, 2020.
- ✓ In the session, India was represented by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- ✓ The session was attended by the Officers from 144 parliaments.



- ✓ The Inter Parliamentary Union was established in 1889 to promote democratic governance, cooperation and accountability among the countries
- ✓ It has played a major role in establishing United Nations, Permanent Court of Arbitration and League of Nations.
- ✓ The Slogan of the union is “For Democracy, For Everyone”.
- ✓ There are six geo political groups of IPU namely Africa, Eurasia, Asia-Pacific, Latin America, Arab Group and Twelve Plus.
- ✓ India belongs to the Asia-Pacific group.

AWARDS

- **Two women authors of Indian origin — Tasha Suri and Roshani Chokshi – were named on Time magazine’s list of 100 best fantasy books of all time.**



- ✓ Suri’s book is based on the Mughal Empire, while Chokshi had written about Hindu mythology.
- ✓ Suri’s ‘Empire of Sand’, the first in the ‘Books of Ambha’ series, is a debut novel set in a world inspired by Mughal India, the Ambhan Empire.
- ✓ Chokshi is the author of the book ‘Aru Shah and the End of Time’, the first of the ‘Pandava Quartet’, which was published by bestselling author of the Percy Jackson series, Rick Riordan

