



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 5, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - laid the foundation stone for the ₹1,295.76 crore Mullaperiyar drinking water project on December 4**
- ✓ The CM also inaugurated 12 completed projects, costing ₹69.11 crore in Madurai district
- ✓ During the event, the CM said that the state will not have any drinking water shortage, once the 76 integrated drinking water projects were completed
- ✓ According to the CM, 4,900 million litres per day (MLD) of drinking water was supplied to the residents of the State in 2011, while around 7,600 MLD was currently being supplied.
- ✓ The Union government had allocated ₹3,600 crore to provide drinking water connections to 40 lakh households in rural parts of Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Currently, around 7 lakh drinking water connections had been completed, the CM said.
- ✓ The Mullaperiyar drinking water project envisages laying of pipelines from Lower Camp near Gudalur to Madurai city
- ✓ It would provide round-the-clock safe drinking water to all the residents in 100 wards of Madurai
- ✓ The project will provide additional 1.1 lakh water connections to the residents of Madurai.

STATES

- **In a first of its kind initiative, Gujarat forest department – has implemented a leopard conservation project under PPP mode**
- ✓ It had transferred 12 leopards to a private rescue and Rehabilitation centre in Jamnagar
- ✓ The project is implemented under public private partnership between the Reliance Industries Limited and the state government.

- ✓ The Leopards have been transferred from the Sakkar Baug Zoological Park in Junagadh to the Greens Zoological Rescue and Rehabilitation kingdom located in Jamnagar.
 - ✓ These leopards were captured from the forests after they encountered conflicts with humans
 - ✓ India has a total leopard population in the range of 12000 to 14000, as per the last formal Leopard census conducted in 2014
 - ✓ The leopards are listed in schedule 1 of the Indian Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and are included in the appendix 1 of CITES.
 - ✓ Also, leopards are listed as vulnerable under the IUCN red list of threatened species.
 - ✓ The Government of India brought out the guidelines for Human Leopard conflict management in April 2011.
 - ✓ As per a study, around 747 leopards died between 2015 and 2019 due to human conflicts.
 - ✓ Their population has declined by 75% to 90% according to the study conducted by the Centre for Wildlife Studies and the Wildlife Institute of India.
 - ✓ So far nine sub species of Leopards have been identified, which have been distributed across Asia and Africa.
- **The blue tide phenomenon - was recently observed in several stretches of Maharashtra coast, including in the Juhu Beach.**



- ✓ The phenomenon is due to a phenomenon called 'bioluminescence', which is the emission of light by microscopic marine plants called phytoplanktons. Eg: dinoflagellates.
- ✓ The blue light results due to the chemical reactions of proteins inside the organism.
- ✓ Dinoflagellates are one of the largest groups of marine eukaryotes in species, which are photosynthetic planktons
- ✓ The sparkling light appearing in the sea from the microorganisms is called bioluminescence.

- ✓ Bioluminescence is controlled by a circadian clock and only occurs at night. Basically, it is an anti-predatory response, helping the micro organisms to gather together easily and form colonies.
- ✓ According to the marine experts, the blue light is the sign of climatic changes.
- ✓ It also reveals the low oxygen and high nitrogen content in the sea water.
- ✓ In general, larger blue tide indicate deteriorating ocean ecosystem, where the nitrogen presence is higher and dissolved oxygen content is lower.
- ✓ This blue tide environment is highly dangerous for fish as they mainly survive on oxygen.
- ✓ In India Bio-luminescence is found in Lakshadweep, Goa, Mumbai, Udupi in Karnataka
- ✓ Species in the sea glows because of the chemicals in their body or bacteria in the skin.
- ✓ The oxygen reacts to produce substrate called luciferin that creates blue light in the waves.
- ✓ Great Smoky Mountains, Cambodia. The Hawaiian islands, New Zealand, Bermuda, Japan and Florida are some of the places that exhibit the bio-luminescence

INTERNATIONAL

- **Bahrain - has become the second nation in the world to grant an emergency-use authorisation for the coronavirus vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner Bio-NTech.**
 - ✓ The state-run Bahrain News Agency made the announcement on December 4.
 - ✓ The decision of the island kingdom followed “thorough analysis and review of all available data.”
 - ✓ Bahrain had already granted an emergency-use approval for a Chinese vaccine by Sinophar
 - ✓ Earlier, UK became the first country in the world to grant emergency-use authorization for the Pfizer vaccine
- **China - has become the second country in the world to plant its national flag on the moon’s surface.**
 - ✓ China’s national flag was unfurled from the Chang’e-5 spacecraft on the Moon, as per a photo released by China National Space Administration (CNSA) on December 4
 - ✓ The pictures show the five-starred Red Flag holding still on the windless lunar surface.
 - ✓ The US planted the first flag on the Moon during the manned Apollo 11 mission in 1969.
 - ✓ Five further US flags were planted on the lunar surface during subsequent missions up until 1972.



- ✓ Two days after Chang'e-5 landed on the Moon, it is on its way back to Earth, carrying soil and rock samples for scientists to study
 - ✓ Chang'e-5 probe, comprising an orbiter, a lander, an ascender, and a returner, was launched on November 24
 - ✓ It represented the first-ever Chinese spacecraft to take off from an extra-terrestrial body.
 - ✓ This is the first effort to bring samples from the moon in over 40 years.
 - ✓ Its lander-ascender combination touched down on the north of the Mons Rumker in Oceanus Procellarum, also known as the Ocean of Storms, on the near side of the moon on December 1.
- **China - successfully powered up its “artificial sun” nuclear fusion reactor for the first time, providing a milestone in the country’s nuclear power research capabilities.**



- ✓ The HL-2M Tokamak reactor is China’s largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device
- ✓ According to the scientists, the device can potentially provide a powerful clean energy source.
- ✓ It uses a powerful magnetic field to fuse hot plasma and can reach temperatures of over 150 million degrees Celsius -- approximately ten times hotter than the core of the sun.
- ✓ The reactor is located in Sichuan province and completed late last year

- ✓ It is often called an “artificial sun” on account of the enormous heat and power it produces.
- ✓ Chinese scientists have been working on developing smaller versions of the nuclear fusion reactor since 2006
- **China - has proposed a new hydro power project on Brahmaputra river in Tibet, under the 14th five-year plan that is to be implemented from 2021**
- ✓ The project has been proposed by the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party of China.
- ✓ The Committee prepared the fourteenth five-year plan, 2021 to 2025 and the long-term goals through 2035 of China.
- ✓ Other neighboring countries sharing Brahmaputra river - Bangladesh and India - have raised concerns against the proposal
- ✓ The Brahmaputra is called Yarlung Zangpo in the region.
- ✓ According to China, the Tibet region of the river has higher potential to generate more hydroelectric power as compared to the other stretches of the river.
- ✓ In spite of repeated insistence from India, in 2015, China operationalised 1.5 billion USD hydro power station in Tibet.
- ✓ Tibet accounts for 30% of total hydroelectric power of China.
- ✓ According to China, the project will help China in achieving its carbon neutrality goal by 2060.
- ✓ The hydro power station has the capability to generate 3 billion USD of income annually for the Tibet autonomous region.
- **The Five Eyes countries – recently expressed their concern about increasing Chinese curbs on the autonomy of Hong Kong and its freedom and rights.**
- ✓ They have issued a joint statement following the postponement of Legislative Council elections that was due in September 2020 and imposition of national security law in Hong Kong.
- ✓ The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance consisting of Australia, Canada, the UK, New Zealand and the US.
- ✓ It was formed based on the ‘Atlantic charter’ issued by the allies after the World War II in 1941
- ✓ These countries are parties to the UKUSA Agreement – a multilateral agreement for cooperation in the signal intelligence.
- ✓ The alliance has so far mainly targeted against China, Russia and North Korea.
- ✓ Along with 5 Eyes members, the 9 Eyes include France, Denmark, Norway and Netherlands.
- ✓ Along with five Eyes members and 9 Eyes members the 14 eyes members include Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy and Sweden.
- ✓ PRISM, Tempora, XKeyscore, STATEROOM and MUSCULAR were the secret surveillance missions operated by the Five Eyes Alliance.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India - has voted in favour of a move by the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) to remove cannabis from Schedule IV of the 1961 convention where it was listed alongside drugs like heroin.**
- ✓ The decision to reclassify cannabis and drop it from the most strict drug control list of Schedule I followed a recommendation by WHO for a change in the scope of control of cannabis and cannabis-related substances.
- ✓ The decision was related to possible medical uses of cannabis and recommendations by WHO.
- ✓ It was also pointed out that some countries, held up for decriminalising cannabis, have not done away with penalties that include fines, rehab and community service.
- ✓ The 53-member Commission of Narcotic Drugs decided by 27 votes to 25, and with one abstention, to follow the WHO recommendation.
- ✓ With the move, CND has opened the door for recognising the medicinal and therapeutic potential of the commonly-used but still an illegal Cannabis drug.
- ✓ Around 50 countries in the world have legalized the medicinal usage of cannabis
- ✓ In United States, 15 states have approved cannabis for recreational use and 33 states have allowed for medicinal use of cannabis.
- ✓ The usage of Cannabis in India is governed by the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

DEFENCE

- **India - kicked off a two-day naval 'Passage' exercise with Russia in the eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) on December 4**



- ✓ The country had undertaken the high-voltage Malabar war games with the other three "Quad" countries, the US, Japan and Australia, last month.
- ✓ India has deployed its guided missile stealth frigate INS Shivalik and anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt, along with their integral helicopters, for the "passage exercise" with Russia.
- ✓ The Russian warships, in turn, include guided missile cruiser Varyag, large anti-submarine warship Admiral Panteleyev and medium ocean tanker Pechenga.

- ✓ The exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between the two friendly navies.
- ✓ It will involve advanced surface and anti-submarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.
- ✓ India and Russia conduct their major 'Indra' naval exercise biennially, with the last edition being held in the northern IOR in September this year.

SPORTS

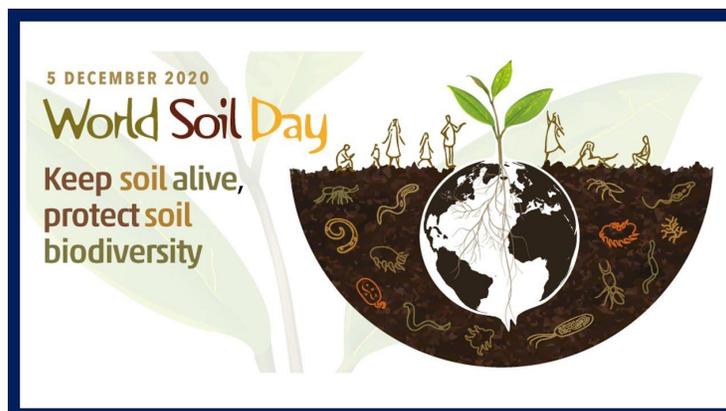
- **Napoli's stadium - has been renamed after Diego Maradona in memory of the late Argentinean soccer great, who led the club to two Italian league titles**



- ✓ The city authorities and the club's president had proposed renaming the San Paolo Stadium within hours of Maradona's death on November 25.
- ✓ The city council hailed Maradona as "the greatest footballer of all time who, with his immense talent and magic, honoured the Naples jersey for seven years, offering it two Italian league titles and other prestigious trophies, and receiving, in exchange, the eternal love.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Soil Day – December 5**



- ✓ The day is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) operating under the United Nations every year

- ✓ Theme 2020 - Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity
- ✓ Soil occupies one-fourth of the biodiversity of the earth.
- ✓ Soil pollution affects the under-ground micro organisms, which are preserving the eco system.
- ✓ They help in fixing nitrogen that is essential for plant growth and also add nutrients to the soil by the process of decomposition.
- ✓ The International Union of Soil Sciences recommended celebrating World Soil Day on December 5 under the Global Soil Partnership.
- ✓ Under the leadership of Thailand, the FAO supported the formal establishment of World Soil Day.
- ✓ The first World Soil Day was celebrated in 2014.
- ✓ The day corresponds to the birthday of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, who was the brain behind the initiative.

