

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 11, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu government - passed an order to provide 25% reservation for widow and destitute women in jobs in anganwadi centres.**
- ✓ The order dated on November 9 was passed by the Principal secretary of social welfare department Shambu Kallollikar
- ✓ The order is announced based on the recommendation from Director of Integrated Child Development Scheme.
- ✓ The posts to be covered include Anganwadi Worker, Micro Anganwadi Worker and Anganwadi Assistants under the Integrated Child Development Program and nutrition organizer and cook under the MGR Noon Meal Program.
- ✓ The rules for appointing workers for anganwadis were framed in 2012 and accordingly, widows and deserted women who fulfill the criteria will be given first priority.
- ✓ Already the practice of giving priority for widows and deserted women is in place in the state for workers of noon-meals scheme

### STATES

- **The Uttarakhand state disaster management authority (USDMA) - has signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Remote Sensing (IIRS) to carry out satellite-based mountain hazard assessment.**
- ✓ As per the agreement, IIRS will monitor glacial lakes, glaciers, landslide zones and avalanche-prone areas in Uttarakhand through satellites for next two years.
- ✓ The move is expected to help the disaster-prone state get timely alerts about detectable natural calamities in advance so as to respond to catastrophes.
- ✓ According to an estimate, there are over 1,000 glaciers and over 1,200 small and big glacial lakes in the higher mountainous region of Uttarakhand.
- ✓ The USDMA is going to extend ₹3 crore to the IIRS, which functions under the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

- ✓ The IIRS will also provide training to USDMA's personnel on geographic information system-based products, which are prepared earlier by the state disaster management authority.
- **On November 10, the Kerala cabinet - decided to cancel the order permitting Tamil Nadu to fell trees near the baby dam in Mullaperiyar.**
- ✓ It has been decided to instruct principal secretary (forests and wildlife) to cancel the order.
- ✓ The government has also decided to suspend principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife) and chief wildlife warden Bennichan Thomas who issued the order.
- ✓ According to the cancelled order, Tamil Nadu was allowed to cut 15 trees, under woods and saplings within 40 cents of the baby dam so as to strengthen it.
- ✓ The cabinet observed that the application submitted by Tamil Nadu did not comply with the clearances stipulated by the Centre.
- ✓ According to an affidavit submitted by Kerala in the Supreme Court on January 22, the felling of trees on the site required permission from the ministry of environment and forests and the standing committee of national wildlife board.
- ✓ Also, the rules of business of the state government want all inter-state matters to be considered by the cabinet.
- ✓ The cabinet also decided to constitute a three-tier committee to take decisions on inter-state river water disputes.
- ✓ It will comprise an inter-state river water strategic council, monitoring committee and legal and technical cell.
- ✓ This will be in addition to the interstate river water advisory committee.
- ✓ The chief minister and water resources minister will be the chairman and vice-chairman respectively of the strategic council.

## **NATIONAL**

- **On November 10, the government - decided to restore the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)**
- ✓ The scheme was suspended in April 2020 so that funds could be used in the fight against Covid-19 during the FY 2020-21 and 2021-22.
- ✓ According to the government, funding for rest of the financial year ending March 31, 2022, will be restored.
- ✓ An MP will get ₹2 crore for development activities for 2021-22.
- ✓ From the next financial year, the stipulated annual grant of ₹5 crore will be given to each MP.
- ✓ Under the MPLAD scheme, all the MPs can recommend development programmes involving expenditure of ₹5 crore every year in their constituencies.
- ✓ From 2022-23 to 2025-26, the funds under the scheme will be released at the rate of ₹5 crore per annum to them in two instalments of ₹2.5 crore each.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **On November 10, the United States - became the 101st member country of the inter-governmental treaty based 'International Solar Alliance' (ISA), launched and promoted by India and France**
- ✓ US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry signed the ISA framework agreement during a meeting with India's environment minister Bhupender Yadav at India's delegation office in Glasgow at COP26 climate summit venue



- ✓ The US entry will also strengthen ISA's recent move to go global through transnational global green grid initiative (GGI) — One Sun One World One Grid (OSOWOG)
- ✓ The OSOWOG initiative was launched by PM Narendra Modi and his UK counterpart Boris Johnson during the World Leaders Summit at COP26 in Glasgow on November 2.
- ✓ Earlier at COP26, the United States also joined the Steering Committee of the GGI-OSOWOG comprising five members – US, Australia, France, UK, and India — and endorsed the One Sun Declaration along with 80 countries
- ✓ The launch of ISA was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former French President Francois Hollande in November 2015 at the 21st session of United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP-21) in Paris, France.
- ✓ The ISA framework was first circulated among countries in 2016

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On November 10, National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval - chaired Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan.**
- ✓ It was attended by NSA's and Security Council secretaries of Russia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan.

- ✓ Doval was accompanied by Pankaj Saran, Deputy NSA; Harsh Vardhan Shringla, Foreign Secretary; and J.P. Singh, Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), Ministry of External Affairs



- ✓ A joint statement - the Delhi Declaration on Afghanistan - emphasized that the Afghan territory should not be used for sheltering, training, planning, or financing any terrorist acts.
- ✓ The participants discussed the evolving situation in Afghanistan, especially the security situation and its regional and global implications
- ✓ The eight nations also underlined the need to offer Afghanistan all possible humanitarian assistance.
- ✓ Further, the joint declaration also underscored the need to help Afghanistan contain Covid-19.
- ✓ The participants thanked India for holding the Third Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan in New Delhi and agreed to hold the next round in 2022.
- ✓ Pakistan and China were invited to the meeting but opted not to participate
- ✓ This is for the first time all central Asian countries - Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkmenistan - and not just Afghanistan's immediate neighbours, are participating in this dialogue
- ✓ The previous editions (2018 and 2019) of this dialogue were hosted by Iran in Tehran
- ✓ India was to host the meeting in 2020 but it got postponed due to the Covid pandemic.

## PERSONALITIES

- **An 18<sup>th</sup> Century Roman Catholic convert, Devasahayam Pillai – is set to become the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by the Catholic church.**



- ✓ A Hindu man from Kanyakumari district, Pillai was beatified as a martyr by the Catholic church for the torture he had to endure after he converted to Christianity in the 18th century, ultimately resulting in his killing in 1752
- ✓ Blessed Devasahayam Pillai, along with six other Blesseds, will be canonised by Pope Francis on May 15, 2022, during a Canonization Mass in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican.
- ✓ The Vatican had announced the decision to posthumously confer sainthood on Pillai, who took the name 'Lazarus' in 1745, on February 21, 2020
- ✓ Pillai, whose original name was Neelakanda, was born in an affluent Hindu Nair family at Nattalam near Marthandam, formerly a part of the Thiruvithamkoor kingdom, on April 23, 1712.
- ✓ He had converted to Christianity on May 17, 1745.
- ✓ After having converted to Christianity, King Marthanda Varma's administration had charged Pillai with treason and other serious offences and had eventually imprisoned him.
- ✓ His body is now at Saint Francis Xavier Cathedral in the Diocese of Kottar.
- ✓ In 2004, the diocese of Kottar in Kanyakumari, along with the Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council (TNBC) and the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India (CCBI) recommended Devasahayam for beatification to the Vatican
- ✓ He was declared blessed by the Kottar diocese in 2012, 300 years after his birth
- ✓ A miracle attributed to Devasahayam Pillai was recognised by Pope Francis in 2014, clearing the path to his canonisation

## SPORTS

- **Indian duo of Varun Thakkar and K.C. Ganapathy - clinched the gold medal in the Asian 49er Sailing Championships in Al Mussannah Sports City, Oman on November 9**
- ✓ The Tokyo Olympians finished 10th overall, but the only Asian team to finish in the top 10.



- ✓ The Indian duo was the top Asian team in a fleet of 30, which also had teams from outside Asia.
- ✓ This was the Indian pair's third medal at the continental showpiece, having won gold in 2018 and silver in 2019
- ✓ The Asian champions will now represent India at the 49er World Championships, starting from November 16 at the same venue.

