

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 12, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- Anna University - has doubled the internal assessment weightage for awarding marks from 20% to 40%, as per the new regulation announced in the year 2021
- ✓ The cumulative grade point average (CGPA) for getting first class has also been reduced from 7 CGPA to 6.5 CGPA.

#### ANNA UNIV'S NEW REGULATION 2021

➤ Engg students will get first-class with 6.5 CGPA against current 7 CGPA rule

➤ Internal assessment weightage in affiliated colleges up from 20% to 40%

➤ For theory papers, 60% weightage will be for end-semester exams; 40% for assignment, case study, project, test

➤ For theory papers with practicals, 50% weightage for

semester exams, 50% for internals

➤ For lab courses, weightage will be 40% externals, 60% internals  
Colleges will conduct two internal assessments instead of three; students can take study-break of up to one year for jobs or launching start-ups

➤ Regulation that mandated students to clear arrears in four attempts failing which they had to redo course dropped



- ✓ As per the new regulation, students are allowed to take a study break for up to a year for job or entrepreneurship
- ✓ Earlier, study break was allowed only on medical grounds
- ✓ Further, the university has scrapped a rule that mandated students to compulsorily complete arrears in four attempts.
- ✓ As per the earlier regulation of 2017, students must complete arrears in four attempts or redo the course in fifth semester.
- ✓ The university has also allowed students now to appear for arrears in subsequent semesters.

- ✓ Students can also do up to two online courses in a semester against one course under current rule.
  - ✓ As per the new regulation, theory courses with laboratory components will have 50%:50% weightage for end-semester exams and internal assessment.
  - ✓ For laboratory courses, it will be 60% for internal assessment in end-semester exams.
  - ✓ The number of internal assessments has been cut from 3 to 2 per semester.
  - ✓ The university also introduced a new grade “C” for students who clear the exam with 50 marks
  - ✓ It has included science club, literary club and fine arts club apart from NCC and NSS to inculcate scientific temper among students.
- **The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) - has reclassified coir pith units to orange category from the white category on November 10, putting them in the category of polluting industries**

## WHY IT IS A PROBLEM



- Storing fibrous coconut husk on ground leads to leachate production, **which is harmful for groundwater**
- Processing coir pith on barren land **causes degradation of soil fertility**
- Releasing untreated water used for processing coir pith can **cause pollution in water bodies**
- Dust emission takes place as **disintegration and decortications take place in open space**

- ✓ In general, Industries are colour-coded – red, orange, green and white – based on their pollution emission levels
  - ✓ Out of the three categories, red indicates high pollution levels, orange and green represents moderate levels, while white is the least polluting category.
  - ✓ Following the reclassification, coir industries have to get approval from the pollution control board and their operation will be monitored periodically.
  - ✓ The industry was classified under orange in 2010 and was changed to white in 2016
- **The Porunai museum – to come up on 13 acres close to the picturesque Sivanthipatti hillock on the outskirts of Tirunelveli city**
- ✓ The museum will exhibit artefacts excavated from archaeological sites at Adichanallur, Korkai and Sivakalai

- ✓ The setting up of the museum was announced by Chief Minister M K Stalin in the assembly recently
- ✓ This location will make it easily accessible to tourists heading to Kanyakumari and air travellers to Tuticorin.
- ✓ The museum, to be established at an outlay of ₹15 crore, will exhibit 2,617 artefacts
- ✓ This include utensils, terracotta, copper and iron tools, coins, burial urns, bangles, beads, polished black ware and porcelain pieces
- ✓ These artefacts were collected at Sivakalai, Korkai and Adichanallur and artefacts that would be collected in the upcoming excavations will also be included.
- ✓ The museum will have attractive landscaping and structures such as caves, cavemen and ancient architecture.
- ✓ It will also exhibit medicinal plants, handicrafts showroom and an open-air theatre to attract tourists.

## NATIONAL

- **Children below five years - are exempted from both pre-and post-arrival testing for Covid-19 in India**
- ✓ This is based on the revised guidelines for international arrivals released by the Health ministry on November 11.
- ✓ However, if found symptomatic for coronavirus infections on arrival or during home quarantine period, they shall undergo testing and be treated according to laid down protocol.
- ✓ This standard operating procedure (SOP) shall be valid from November 12 (00.00 hours IST) till further orders

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Four astronauts - returned from a record six-month Nasa science mission aboard the International Space Station with their SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule**



- ✓ The Dragon vehicle, named Endeavour, parachuted into the sea off the Florida coast in the Gulf of Mexico as planned on November 8.
- ✓ The return capped 199 full days in orbit, the longest ever for an entire US-launched crew.
- ✓ It surpassed the previous 168-day record set by the predecessor SpaceX-Nasa mission earlier this year.
- ✓ The returning team includes - two NASA astronauts pilot Megan McArthur, mission commander Shane Kimbrough alongwith Japanese crew mate Akihiko Hoshide and fellow mission specialist Thomas Pesquet, a French engineer from the European Space Agency.
- ✓ The four astronauts were launched to orbit atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket that lifted off from Florida on April 23.

## **INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **India - has rejected the latest draft for an agreement to lower fisheries subsidy at the World Trade Organization (WTO)**
- ✓ According to India, the draft on the proposed fishery subsidies agreement was weak, unbalanced and biased in favour of countries such as Norway, China and Japan, which were exploiting international waters
- ✓ The agreement on fisheries subsidies, meant to make it sustainable, is a key thrust area for the WTO ministerial talks later this month.
- ✓ India was committed to putting in place a regime that helped meet the sustainable development goals, but it did not support the proposals in their current form.
- ✓ India is suggesting that those countries which are engaged in distant water fishing and beyond their natural geographic area should stop giving subsidies for 25 years in fishing areas in international waters beyond their exclusive economic zones (200 nautical miles)
- ✓ This assumes significance with respect to various countries in Europe, as well as other global giants such as China, Japan and Korea
- ✓ Besides, India has argued that the subsidies offered by it are meant to sustain poor fishermen in India.
- ✓ And unlike rich nations, which provide billions of dollars of subsidies to their fishermen, India's subsidy amounts to only around Rs 1,000 crore.
- ✓ China, EU, the United States, Korea and Japan provide USD 7.2 billion per annum, USD 3.8 billion, USD 3.4 billion, USD 3.18 billion and USD 2.8 billion subsidies per annum respectively.
- ✓ India mainly provides subsidies on fuel, boats and others.

## **MALNOURISHED CHILDREN IN INDIA - REPORT**

- **India – has more than 33 lakh malnourished children with over half of them being in the severe category, as per the data provided by Ministry of Women and Child Development**



- ✓ This figure was reported from Poshan tracker, on which numbers are directly entered by anganwadis and are accessed by the Central government
- ✓ The Poshan tracker app developed in 2020 by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development is used as a governance tool for real-time monitoring of nutritional outcomes.
- ✓ As on October 2021, there are 17.76 lakh severely acute malnourished children (SAM) and 15.46 lakh moderately acute malnourished (MAM) children across 34 states and union territories in the country
- ✓ There has been a 91% rise in the number of severely acute malnourished children between November 2020 and October 2021
- ✓ Maharashtra registered the highest number of malnourished children at 6.16 lakh with 1.57 lakh MAM children and 4.58 lakh SAM children
- ✓ It is followed by Bihar with 4.75 lakh malnourished children (3.23 lakh MAM children and 1.52 lakh SAM children).
- ✓ Gujarat registered the third highest number of such children at 3.20 lakh with 1.55 lakh MAM children and 1.65 lakh SAM children.
- ✓ Other states with a high number of malnourished children are Andhra Pradesh (2.67 lakh), Karnataka (2.49 lakh), and Uttar Pradesh (1.87 lakh).
- ✓ Tamil Nadu recorded 1.78 lakh malnourished children totally (1.2 lakh MAM children and 57,984 SAM children)
- ✓ To tackle high persistence of malnutrition in the country, the Centre launched the Poshan Abhiyan programme in 2018 to reduce low birth weight, stunting and undernutrition and anaemia among children, adolescent girls and women
- ✓ According to Census 2011, there are over 46 crore children in the country.

