

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 14, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- The government of Tamil Nadu – issued a directive to create a new department, Muthalvarin Mugavari



- ✓ The new department is set up by integrating various wings, such as CM's Special Cell, CM's help desk, Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System (IIPGCMS), and CM in your Constituency.
 - ✓ Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu issued an order to this effect.
 - ✓ Special officer of CM in your Constituency, Shilpa Prabhakar Satish will head the new department.
 - ✓ According to the government, a single website will be used to resolve petitions in the Muthalvarin Mugavari Department.
- **Pondicherry University - signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Army (Training Command) to enable the officers to pursue postgraduate courses and research programmes in various departments of university**
 - ✓ The MoU was signed by Registrar in-charge of the university Amaresh Samanthuraya and Major General Vivek Kashyap.



- ✓ Vice-Chancellor of the varsity Gurmeet Singh was present on the occasion.
- ✓ The courses would be in the areas of nano-science and technology, Artificial Intelligence, strategic studies among others
- **Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) - commenced the state's plan for a mass rapid transit system (MRTS) in Madurai.**
- ✓ The agency floated a tender to assign a consultant for preparing a feasibility study.
- ✓ During the Budget session earlier this year, the government said a feasibility study would be conducted and a report submitted for establishing a metro rail network in Madurai.
- ✓ The firm assigned to conduct the study may have to submit the report in 120 days.
- ✓ The study would involve identifying routes along which the modern transit network would be built
- ✓ It will also analyse the feasibility of establishing a metro rail network or any other alternative option based on passenger traffic movement and travel demand.
- ✓ The consultant assigned will have to examine available reports of previous studies, plans and other related transportation scenarios of Madurai metropolitan region, collect primary transport network inventory data along with utilities within the project influence area.
- ✓ The consultant may also have to collect all secondary information like development plans, public transport routes and conduct a review of the current situation to establish the existing condition and capacity of the public transport system.

STATES

- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation - declared "Srinagar International airport" and "Shirdi airport" as "Major Airports"**
- ✓ The development has come into effect under subsection (1) of Section 2 of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India Act, 2008.
- ✓ The status of "major airport" has been given to both airports after they witnessed annual passenger footfall of more than 35 lakh

- ✓ With this move, the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) will determine tariff for aeronautical services at both the airports
 - ✓ For the non-major airports, these tariffs are determined by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), which is a body under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
 - ✓ Earlier, on October 23, Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated international flight operations from Sheikh Ul Alam International Airport, also known as Srinagar airport
 - ✓ Shah inaugurated the first direct international flight between Srinagar and Sharjah and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
 - ✓ Shirdi Airport was inaugurated on October 2, 2017 by President Ram Nath Kovind.
 - ✓ The airport became very popular in a short period of time as it was a great option to get to Sai Nagar.
- **Punjabi - has been made a compulsory subject for all students from Class I to X in the state of Punjab**
- ✓ In this regard, the Punjab state assembly had passed a bill, which was one among 15 other bills passed on November 11
 - ✓ Punjabi and Other Languages Education (Amendment) Bill, 2021, makes Punjabi a compulsory subject for all students from Classes 1-10 in schools across the state.
 - ✓ It also provides for levying of fine on educational institutions not complying with this mandate, of up to ₹2 lakh.
 - ✓ Another Bill, the Punjab State Language (Amendment) Bill, 2021, makes it mandatory for officers/employees to conduct all official business in Punjabi language
 - ✓ In case of non-compliance, a fine of ₹500 would be imposed following recommendations of the language department, Punjab
 - ✓ During the session, chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi reiterated the commitment of the Punjab government to promote Punjabi.
 - ✓ A state-level board or committee will also be formed to implement the State Language Act.
 - ✓ It has to be recalled that CBSE had recently classified all the regional languages as 'minor subjects' for first-term exams of 10th and 12th classes.

NATIONAL

- **The Cabinet Committee on Security - has approved the post of a national maritime security coordinator (NMSC) to ensure maritime and coastal security**
- ✓ The NMSC will ensure effective coordination and cohesive policy-making among various central and state authorities dealing with maritime affairs from the coastline to the high seas

- ✓ The NMSC will also act as the interface between military and civilian agencies to strengthen the country's maritime security, energy and 'blue economy' needs
 - ✓ A retired or serving Vice Admiral of the Navy (equivalent to a Lt-General in the Army) is likely to be appointed to the post.
 - ✓ The NMSC will work in the National Security Council Secretariat and report to national security advisor Ajit Doval.
 - ✓ The government is also planning to create an apex federal body, the National Maritime Commission (NMC) to ensure coordination among multiple authorities
- **India – registers the first case of a rare norovirus infection in 13 students of a veterinary college in Pookode near Vythiri in Wayanad district, Kerala**
- ✓ norovirus is an extremely contagious virus that causes vomiting and diarrhoea and can spread across people of all ages.
 - ✓ It is an animal-borne disease transmitted through contaminated water and food, causing gastrointestinal illness.
 - ✓ Also known as 'winter vomiting bug', the virus has a short incubation period of just 24-48 hours, after which patients begin to experience stomach pain, vomiting and diarrhoea.
 - ✓ Most patients recover from the infection without any medical treatment within 1-3 days, while some need urgent medical care to treat the resulting dehydration
 - ✓ Even though there is no specific medicine to treat norovirus infection, the infected people should increase their fluid intake
 - ✓ norovirus spreads through tiny particles that are present in the faeces and vomit of infected individuals
 - ✓ More particularly, norovirus spreads easily because only a tiny amount of particles is needed to infect an individual.
 - ✓ norovirus does not significantly affect healthy people, but it can be serious in young children, the elderly, and those with other comorbidities.
- **The Department of Justice – is conducting the week- long “Tele-Law on Wheels” campaign from 8th to 14th November, 2021**
- ✓ As a part of the campaign, a special login week is being organised throughout the country
 - ✓ Under this, legal advice and consultation can be sought through tele-and video conferencing facilities by the needy after visiting to a nearest Common Service Centers or CSCs offering tele-law services.
 - ✓ These CSCs have been named as 'Kanooni Salah Sahahyak Kendra' to make them easily identifiable by the people.
 - ✓ The week will be dedicated to ensure 'Justice for All' by digital legal empowerment of the needy and disadvantaged
 - ✓ To promote this campaign, special mobile vans displaying the message of the campaign have been rolled out



- ✓ The key highlight of this campaign was the launch of the Citizens' Tele-Law mobile app by the Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijju and Minister of State for Law and Justice SP Singh Baghel on November 13 for Android users via Google Play Store.
- ✓ This App will connect the beneficiaries directly with panel lawyers offering legal advice and consultation.
- **The Central government think tank NITI Aayog - has announced the top five most aspirational districts in education sector for the month of September**
- ✓ Bhoopalpalli in Telangana tops the ranking, followed by Chatra and Sahibganj in Jharkhand, Nuapada in Odisha and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan
- ✓ The Aspirational Districts programme was launched in the year 2018
- ✓ The initiative aims to transform 112 most under-developed districts across the country
- ✓ NITI Aayog has patterned with Edtech major Byju's to provide free access to its tech-driven learning programmes for children from these 112 districts
- ✓ The 'delta ranking' for the aspirational districts measures the incremental progress made by them across six developmental areas of health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure
- **India – launched 'E-Amrit' (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation), a web portal on electric vehicles, at the recently concluded COP26 Summit in Glasgow, UK.**
- ✓ E-Amrit is a one-stop destination for all information on electric vehicles ranging from their purchase, investment opportunities, policies and subsidies.
- ✓ The portal has been developed and hosted by NITI Aayog under a knowledge exchange programme with the UK government and as part of the UK-India Joint Roadmap 2030, signed by the Prime Ministers of the two countries



- ✓ The launch was attended by UK High-Level Climate Action Champion Nigel Topping and NITI Aayog Adviser Sudhendu Jyoti Sinha
- ✓ According to the portal, over 7.96 lakh EVs were registered and around 1,800 EV charging stations have been installed in the country.
- ✓ E-Amrit has features like a charging map showing the location of nearby EV charging stations and a journey cost calculator
- **The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) - has announced to launch the Ramayana Yatra special express train to meet the requirements of tourists from south India**



- ✓ The IRCTC, a subsidiary of the Indian Railways, offers various religious tourism packages as part of the 'Dekho Apna Desh' initiative.
- ✓ Shri Ramayana Yatra-Madurai is a 13 nights and 14 days religious tourism package that will allow tourists to visit some of the major places related to the life of Lord Rama.

- ✓ The first train under the Shri Ramayana Yatra-Madurai Package will start from November 16 and return on November 29.
- ✓ Some of the important destinations covered in the package include Hampi, Nasik, Chitrakut Dham, Varanasi, and Gaya, among others
- ✓ Passengers will also be taken to Janakpur (Nepal), Ayodhya, Nandigram, Prayagraj and Shringaverpur.
- ✓ Tourists can book the package from IRCTC's official website at a starting price of Rs 14,490 per person
- ✓ On November 7, the IRCTC launched the 'Shri Ramayana Yatra' train on the Ramayana circuit from Delhi's Safdarjung railway station.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and 96 countries - have agreed to mutually recognise Covid-19 vaccination certificates, as announced by Union health minister Mansukh Mandaviya**
- ✓ The list includes the US, the UK, Australia, Bangladesh, Egypt, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Russia
- ✓ The agreement recognises Indian vaccination certificates of travellers fully vaccinated with Covishield/WHO approved/nationally approved Covid vaccines
- ✓ The list is set to grow following the global health body's approval for Covaxin on November 3
- ✓ Covaxin and Covishield, the Indian variant of the AstraZeneca vaccine, are the two main vaccines used in the country's immunisation programme.
- ✓ The United Kingdom government already announced that India's Covaxin will be added to its list of approved Covid-19 vaccines for entry of international passengers into the country without having to self-isolate on arrival.
- ✓ Vaccinated travellers have been permitted in the United States since November 8
- ✓ Around 28 nations have entered air-bubble agreements with India, including the United States, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Kenya, Bhutan, and France.
- ✓ For those who wish to travel abroad, the international travel vaccination certificate can also be downloaded from the government's CoWIN web portal.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **President Ram Nath Kovind - presided over the 51st conference of governors and lieutenant governors at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on November 10**
- ✓ Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah attended the conference
- ✓ The conference witnessed the participation of the governors and the lieutenant governors of all states and union territories



- ✓ The 51st edition of the conference was the fourth one presided by the President Ram Nath Kovind
- ✓ During the speech, the President touched upon several topics concerning the national interest and spoke on India's development in these fields.
- ✓ He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for guiding efficient COVID-19 management and strategy across the country
- ✓ President Kovind paid his respects to late former governors Kalyan Singh, Lalji Tandon, and Mridula Sinha during the event
- ✓ The first conference of governors was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in 1949 and was presided over by C Rajagopalachari, the last Governor-General of India.
- **Egypt - was selected to officially host the 27th session of the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference in the Red Sea resort of Sharm El-Sheikh (COP27) in November 2022**
- ✓ This was decided at the COP26 conference held in Glasgow, United Kingdom
- ✓ In September, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi declared his country's interest in hosting the COP27 on behalf of the African continent
- ✓ In another development, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was selected to host the COP28 international climate conference in 2023
- ✓ In 2019, Egypt co-chaired a coalition with the UK on climate adaptation and resilience at the UN Climate Action Summit.
- ✓ Egypt also hosted the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018.
- ✓ The Paris Climate Agreement — adopted at COP21 and signed by over 190 states — came into effect in 2016 with the aim of reducing the rate of global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The annual Leonids Meteor Shower – will remain active between November 6 and 30 this year, with peak activity expected on November 17**



- ✓ The Leonids appear to be originating from the constellation Leo and are best seen from a dark location in the night sky
- ✓ Usually, under perfectly dark and clear conditions, 10-15 meteors can be seen within the period of an hour during peak Leonid shower.
- ✓ Since the visibility of the Leonid meteor shower meteor will be more in the northern hemisphere, it will be visible even to the naked eye in India.
- ✓ These meteors are the result of a trail of rocks and ice left behind by massive chunks of matter known as comets
- ✓ The peak time of a meteor shower comes when the Earth passes through the densest part of the debris
- ✓ The Leonids are believed to originate from a small comet called 55P/Tempel-Tuttle in the constellation Leo, which takes 33 years to complete one revolution around the sun.
- ✓ The Leonids are considered to be a major shower that features the fastest meteors, which typically travel at speeds of 71 km per second, although the rates are often as low as 15 meteors per hour
- ✓ Every 33 years since 1833, a Leonid shower turns into a meteor storm, which is when hundreds to thousands of meteors can be seen every hour
- ✓ The last such storm took place in 2002.

AWARDS

- **Indian brothers Vihaan and Nav Agarwal - won a prestigious children's prize for their project that aims to reduce waste and pollution and plant trees in their home city of New Delhi.**
- ✓ The teenage boys were handed the 2021 KidsRights International Children's Peace Prize by Indian Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi at a ceremony in The Hague, Netherlands
- ✓ The brothers got the idea to begin their garbage separation and recycling project, One Step Greener, in 2017 after the collapse of the Ghazipur landfill site in 2017
- ✓ The collapse killed two people and a cloud of pollution descended over New Delhi the next day.



- ✓ One third of Delhi's air pollution is caused by burning waste in landfill sites.
- ✓ The One Step Greener project now visits more than 1,500 homes, schools and offices throughout Delhi
- ✓ The initiative operates in Delhi and a neighbouring city with plans to expand to Kolkata
- ✓ The award includes a study and care grant for the winners and a fund of 100,000 euros, half of which goes to their project.
- ✓ The other half is invested by prize organizer KidsRights in other projects to support children's rights.
- ✓ Previous winners of the prize include Pakistani education advocate Malala Yousafzai and Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.

RANKINGS

- **Gujarat - has once again topped the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2021 index, released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
- ✓ Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra occupying the second, third, fourth and fifth positions, respectively in the third edition of the Index
- ✓ Within the North Eastern States and Himalayan Region, Jammu and Kashmir is the top ranker followed by Sikkim and Meghalaya, while Delhi stands at the top rank among Other UTs.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand have witnessed a significant improvement in their ranks compared to 2019 LEADS ranking and have emerged as the top improvers
- ✓ The LEADS index, launched in 2018, ranks States and UTs on the efficiency of their logistics ecosystem
- ✓ The first version of the report, LEADS 2018, covered export-import trade and assessed the efficiency of the logistics ecosystem
- ✓ The second edition of the study, LEADS 2019, focussed on both international and domestic trade

- ✓ The third edition of the study released now analyses domestic and EXIM logistics ecosystem of the state
 - ✓ The LEADS survey 2021 was conducted over the period from May to August 2021 during the Covid-19 pandemic
 - ✓ The whole perception-based exercise garnered 3771 responses from 1,405 respondents across the country.
 - ✓ LEADS is a continuous exercise and the Ministry hopes that the vision of logistics cost will be reduced by 5% in the next five years
- **Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, the UK and Australia – topped the inaugural Global Drug Policy Index, released by the Harm Reduction Consortium recently**
- ✓ India is ranked at 18 out of 30 countries with an overall score of 46/100
 - ✓ The five lowest-ranking countries are Brazil, Uganda, Indonesia, Kenya, and Mexico
 - ✓ The index is a data-driven global analysis of drug policies and their implementation that documents, measures and compares national-level drug policies.

RANKINGS OF SELECTED COUNTRIES

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
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TOP 5

1	Norway	74/100
2	New Zealand	71/100
3	Portugal	70/100
4	UK	69/100
5	Australia	65/100

18	India	46/100
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BOTTOM 5

26	Mexico	35/100
27	Kenya	34/100
28	Indonesia	29/100
29	Uganda	28/100
30	Brazil	26/100

- ✓ It provides each country with a score from 0 to 100
- ✓ The score of 100 represents full alignment of a selected drug policies and their implementation with the United Nations recommendations on human rights, health and development, as laid down in the UN System Common Position on drugs.
- ✓ It is composed of 75 indicators running across 5 broad dimensions of drug policy - criminal justice, extreme responses, health and harm reduction, access to internationally controlled medicines, and development.

- ✓ The first edition of the Index evaluates the performance of 30 countries covering all regions of the world, for the year 2020
- ✓ Norway, despite topping the Index, only managed a score of 74/100, indicating the presence of most humane and health-driven drug policy.
- **India - has been placed at 10th spot in the global Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2022 released by Germanwatch on the side-lines of COP26**
- ✓ India has retained its position as the top 10 best-performing countries after being ranked at the same 10th spot in 2020
- ✓ The top three places in the overall ranking is not taken by any country, as no country performed well enough to achieve an overall very high rating in CCPI
- ✓ Denmark occupied a fourth place as the highest-ranked country in CCPI 2022 with 76.92% score, followed by Sweden (5th), and Norway (6th) respectively.
- ✓ United Kingdom (7th), Morocco (8th) and Chile (9th) complete the Top-10 rankings of the index this year
- ✓ The United States has been ranked at 55th position with very low rating
- ✓ China has moved down four places as compared to 2020 ranking and ranked at 37th
- ✓ European Union is ranked at 22nd position, six places down as compared to 2020 ranking with a 'medium' rating.
- ✓ CCPI is an independent monitoring tool providing information on implementation phase of Paris Agreement.
- ✓ It has analysed climate protection performance of countries since 2005.
- ✓ The index evaluates 60 countries and European Union, which generate about 90% of global greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ It analyses countries in four categories comprising of 14 indicators - Greenhouse gas emissions (40% of total score), Renewable energy (20%), Energy use (20%) and Climate policy (20%).

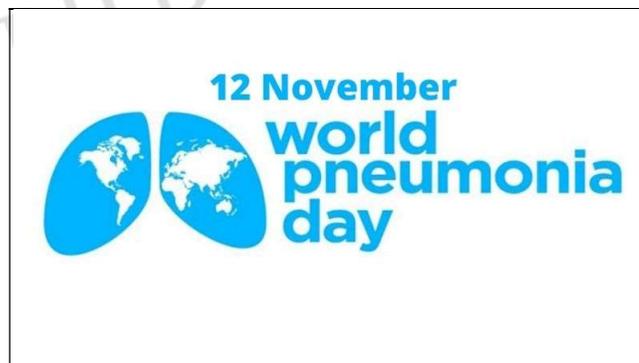
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Diabetes Day – November 14**



- ✓ World Diabetes Day is celebrated every year to raise awareness on diabetes mellitus, which is a chronic illness that is a result of malfunctioning of insulin production in the body
- ✓ The Day commemorates the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who discovered the insulin hormone along with Charles Herbert Best in 1922
- ✓ Leonard Thompson was the first person to receive the insulin injection.
- ✓ Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas which facilitates the absorption of glucose energy by the cells
- ✓ Theme 2021-2023 - "Access to Diabetes Care – If Not Now, When?"
- ✓ The World Diabetes campaign is represented by a blue circle logo that was adopted in 2007 after the passage of the UN Resolution on diabetes
- ✓ The blue circle is the global symbol for diabetes awareness and signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes
- ✓ World Diabetes Day was established by the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 1991
- ✓ IDF is an umbrella organization with over 230 national diabetes associations spread in 170 countries and territories.
- ✓ The Day was officially recognised by the United Nations in 2006 with the passage of a resolution to this effect.
- ✓ As per estimates, an estimated 463 million people worldwide suffer from diabetes, with Type-2 diabetes requiring insulin making up about 90% of the cases.
- ✓ As per a study released in July 2021, 12.3% of children (10-19 years) were found to be pre-diabetic/ diabetic in India

➤ **World Pneumonia day – November 12**



- ✓ World Pneumonia Day is observed every year to raise awareness about the disease, its harmful effects, causes, prevention and treatment methods
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Stop Pneumonia/ Every Breath Counts'
- ✓ World Pneumonia Day was established and first observed in 2009 by the 'Stop Pneumonia' Initiative
- ✓ 'Stop Pneumonia Initiative' is initiated by the 'Every Breath Counts' Coalition, a public-private partnership to help governments across the world reduce deaths caused by pneumonia.

- ✓ The partnership includes more than 140 community-based organisations, government agencies, academic institutions and foundations.
- ✓ Pneumonia an acute respiratory infection causing an inflammation in the lung, commonly caused by virus or bacteria
- ✓ It is the single biggest infectious killer of adults and children claiming the lives of 2.5 million every year
- ✓ Pneumonia is the deadliest disease for children below five years, killing about 8,00,000 children every year.
- ✓ Overall, India accounts for 23% of the pneumonia burden globally and case fatality rates range from 14% to 30% in the country
- ✓ In 2013, WHO launched a campaign called 'The integrated Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea' to end deaths by pneumonia and diarrhoea, another leading killer disease for children, by the year 2025
- ✓ The aim of this initiative is to reduce the number of pneumonia death in children by 2025

