

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 15, 2021

### STATES

- **On Children's Day, the Rajasthan assembly - held a special session for schoolchildren to provide them an experience of functioning of the House.**
- ✓ A total of 200 schoolchildren from 15 states carried out mock proceedings in a special session of the state assembly on the day.



- ✓ The Rajasthan legislative assembly will be the first such assembly in the country to organise a session for children.
- ✓ The children, divided into ruling party and opposition, discussed and debated 18 issues that the state is facing.
- ✓ The children-run assembly was also broadcasted live on the official YouTube channel of the Rajasthan assembly.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Rajasthan Speaker CP Joshi, chief minister Ashok Gehlot and the Leader of Opposition in the House Gulab Chand Kataria were present on the occasion
- ✓ Following all protocols of the assembly, council of ministers and leader of opposition participated in the question hour

- ✓ Children who performed the role of the speaker, CM, ministers and MLAs were seated on the respective designated seats/ benches allotted to the members in the assembly.
- ✓ During the question hour, the members raised issues like shortage of fertilisers, school fees, impact of Covid on learning outcomes, power crises due to shortage of coal, environmental hazards in the state, rising crime against women, child labour, rise in dengue cases etc.
- ✓ The questions were to the point and loaded with real facts in a parliamentary language using relevant sections and acts.
- ✓ Over 5000 students submitted their video for the contest against the 200 shortlisted in the age group of 6-12 years by the organizers.
- ✓ The session was conducted under the aegis of the Rajasthan branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

➤ **Kerala Start-up Mission and CLAP (Cisco LaunchPad Accelerator Program) – have tied-up to host the Technopreneurship Series for innovators and start-ups in Kerala.**

- ✓ The virtual programme comprises a series of workshops on business and technology and aimed at giving corporate and institutional support to young innovators.
- ✓ The nation-wide initiative was powered by Cisco LaunchPad, which is the accelerator wing of the networking and software giant Cisco
- ✓ The initiative starting from November 15 to 19 will provide a platform for innovation and collaboration so as to enable start-up companies to tackle new-age challenges

## NATIONAL

➤ **On November 14, the Centre - promulgated two ordinances to extend the terms of the chiefs of the Enforcement Directorate and the Central Bureau of Investigation to up to five years**

- ✓ Earlier, the central agency chiefs were appointed for two-year terms.
- ✓ The twin ordinances, signed by President Ram Nath Kovind, amend the Central Vigilance Commission Act and the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, which govern the ED and the CBI, respectively.
- ✓ As per the notifications issued by the Union law ministry, the tenure can be extended by one year at a time after the first two-year-period has been completed.
- ✓ As per the ordinances, any extension for chiefs of the agencies beyond two years will have to be recommended by a committee with reasons for prolonging the tenure in “national interest”.
- ✓ The ordinances came three days ahead of current Enforcement Directorate chief SK Mishra’s retirement

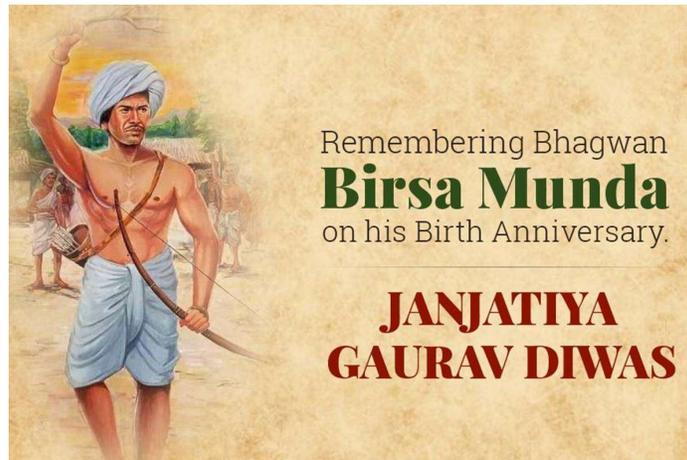
- ✓ Last year, the Centre had extended his tenure by one year after the completion of his two-year term.

### EXTENSIONS IN 'NATIONAL INTEREST'

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Directors of Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate currently enjoy a tenure of two years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ordinances stipulate that any extension will have to be recommended by a committee, recording in writing why it would be in "national interest"</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Law and justice ministry says ordinances allowing for extension to come into immediate effect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Recently, SC upheld 1-year extension given to ED chief, SK Mishra, and said no further extension would be given</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Both chiefs can be given an extension of up to 1 year at a time; tenure not to exceed 5 yrs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Mishra's term, after the extension, ends on November 18</li> </ul>

- ✓ In September 2021, the Supreme Court had held that "no further extension shall be granted to" him beyond November 18, 2021, the date of superannuation
  - ✓ A 1984-batch IRS officer, Mishra was first appointed as the director of ED on November 18, 2018, as principal special director and was promoted as additional secretary — the rank assigned until then to the ED director.
  - ✓ Mishra was subsequently promoted to secretary and, accordingly, the post of ED director also got elevated to the same level.
  - ✓ The CBI is not going to be impacted by the ordinance immediately as its chief, Subodh Jaiswal, a 1985-batch officer, is in the first year of his two-year tenure.
  - ✓ The incumbent CBI Director, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, was appointed to the post on May 25 this year, and will complete his fixed two-year term in May 2023
  - ✓ Under the existing provision of the Fundamental Rules first introduced in 2005, Union home secretary and defence secretary, and chiefs of CBI, Intelligence Bureau (IB), Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), are entitled to a maximum tenure of two years beyond their retirement age.
  - ✓ For cabinet secretary, the upper age limit was set at 64 years
  - ✓ In December 2010, the special provision enabling grant of the extension beyond the retirement age was extended to the foreign secretary also
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will launch the 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' celebrations in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal on November 15**
- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of iconic tribal leader Birsa Munda, who led a rebellion against the British.
  - ✓ PM Modi will lead the celebrations as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
  - ✓ On the day, the PM will address the Tribal Pride Day Mahasammelan in Madhya Pradesh at Jamboori Maidan, Bhopal.
  - ✓ During the occasion, PM will virtually launch the Birsa Munda Freedom Fighter Museum at Ranchi

- ✓ Further, PM will dedicate India's first PPP-mode built Habibganj railway station to the Nation



- ✓ He will also launch Sickle Cell Eradication Mission and Ration Aapke Dwar Yojana in Madhya Pradesh while addressing from the Mahasammelan
- ✓ Earlier, the Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved declaration of November 15 as Janjatiya Gaurav Divas
- ✓ Birsa Munda is considered as 'God' by tribal communities across India.
- ✓ He belonged to the Munda tribe and spearheaded an Indian tribal religious movement in late 19th century across the tribal belt of present-day Bihar and Jharkhand.
- ✓ His portrait has found place in Indian Parliament Museum, making him the only tribal leader to get this honour

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Chief of Army Staff, MM Naravane - left for Israel on a five-day visit to further strengthen India's defence and security with the Jewish state**



- ✓ This is his first visit to Israel from November 15 to November 19.
- ✓ During the visit, he will interact with the service chiefs and visit the headquarters of the Ground Forces element of the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF).

- ✓ The visit comes soon after India and Israel agreed to form a joint task force to formulate a comprehensive 10-year roadmap to identify new areas in defence cooperation
- ✓ Indian foreign minister S Jaishankar was in Israel on a visit from October 17-20, his first as foreign minister and also the first since the new Israeli government under Prime Minister Naftali Bennett took office in June.
- ✓ Meanwhile, last month Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar had visited Israel for talks with the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence, Major General Amir Eshel.
- ✓ In August, then air chief marshal R K S Bhaduria had also travelled to Israel.
- ✓ The bilateral trade between the two countries is around \$5 billion annually, while defence trade is around \$1 billion per annum
- ✓ Israel has been supplying various weapon systems, missiles and unmanned aerial vehicles to India over the last few years
- ✓ Earlier on November 9, India and Israel signed an agreement to jointly develop next-generation technologies and products such as drones, robotics, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah - chaired the 29th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council in Tirupati on November 14**



- ✓ The council comprises of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, and Union Territories of Puducherry, Lakshadweep and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- ✓ Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy is the vice-chairman and host of the meeting
- ✓ Other chief ministers from the states in the zone along with two ministers each are the members of Council

- ✓ The meeting was attended by the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Puducherry; senior ministers deputed by CMs of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Telangana; and LGs of Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep
- ✓ Chief Secretaries and senior officers from the State Governments and the Central Government also attended the meeting
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Minister for Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments P K Sekarbabu represented the state in the meeting
- ✓ In his opening address at the meeting, Amit Shah reiterated the PM Modi government's commitment to promoting Hindi alongside all regional Indian languages.
- ✓ During the meeting, the Union Minister had focused on the vision of cooperative federalism to empower States and promote a better understanding between the Centre and States in the policy framework.
- ✓ The Minister also stated that in the last seven years the government has held 18 meetings of Zonal Councils.
- ✓ During the meeting, 26 items, including four proposed by the Centre, are being taken up for discussion among the southern states and Union Territories
- ✓ The Union Minister said that 40 out of 51 pending issues were resolved during the meeting
- ✓ The zonal councils take up issues involving the Centre and states and one or many states falling in the zone
- ✓ During the meeting, officials discussed a broad range of issues, including boundary disputes, security, and infrastructure-related matters like road, transport, industries, water and power
- ✓ Five zonal councils were set up in 1957 under Section 15-22 of the States Re-organization Act, 1956.
- ✓ The Union home minister is the chairman of each of these zonal councils and chief ministers of the host state (to be chosen by rotation every year) is the vice-chairman.
- ✓ Two more ministers from each state are nominated as members by the governor.

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **Reverend Malayil Lukose Varghese Muthalaly, who will be consecrated a bishop in January 2022 - will be the youngest bishop of the Church of England.**



- ✓ Rev Muthalaly, 42, is currently the vicar of St Mark's, Gillingham in the diocese of Rochester in England
- ✓ Queen Elizabeth II has approved his appointment as the next bishop of Loughborough in the UK.
- ✓ Ordained in the Church of England in 2008, he has served at St Mark's for six years after curacies in the dioceses of Blackburn and Carlisle.
- ✓ The bishop-designee was brought up in a Syrian Orthodox Church in Kerala that has its origin to St Thomas the Apostle who is believed to have brought the gospel to the region in the first century.
- ✓ He studied at the Southern Asia Bible college in Bengaluru and trained for the ministry at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford.

## DEFENCE

- **Russia - has started delivering the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile system to India**
- ✓ India has started receiving the air defence weapons from Russia despite threat of sanctions by the US.
- ✓ The S-400 is known as Russia's most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defence system

### LETHAL MISSILE SHIELD

**Deal**

- Squadrons of S-400 Triumf missile systems for \$5.4 billion (Rs 40,000 crore). Contract inked with Russia in Oct 2018
- Delivery of 1st Squadron has begun. All 5 squadrons by 2023



**US Sanctions**

- US enacted CAATSA in 2017 to prevent countries from buying Russian weapons or Iranian oil
- Imposed financial sanctions on China and Turkey for inducting S-400 systems
- But India confident of getting a waiver

**Capabilities**

S-400 can detect & destroy hostile aircraft, strategic bombers, ballistic missiles & drones at ranges up to 380-km

Radars (primary acquisition one has 600-km range) can track hundreds of targets simultaneously

4 kinds of missiles to intercept targets at ranges of 120, 200, 250 and 380-km

Can intercept even ballistic missiles with velocity of 4,800 meters per second

- ✓ India's first squadron of the S-400 Triumf surface-to-air missile systems will become operational by January-February, 2022.
- ✓ The S-400 system can detect, track and destroy incoming strategic bombers, jets, spy planes, ballistic missiles and drones at a range of 380km.

- ✓ It has radars that can pick up an incoming object up to a distance of 1,000 kilometres, track several dozen incoming objects simultaneously, distribute the targets to missile systems and ensure a high success rate

### **LETHAL SHIELD**

- S-400 radars are capable of tracking hundreds of enemy objects at once after which 4 kinds of missiles can intercept targets at 120-380km range
- Under a 2017 Act, US has imposed financial sanctions on China and Turkey for inducting S-400 systems, but India is confident of getting a waiver

- ✓ The S-400 air defence system was contracted for by India in a deal worth around ₹35,000 crore and five squadrons would be provided to India for tackling air threats.
- ✓ The first squadron will be “suitably deployed in the western sector” to tackle aerial threats from both Pakistan and China before they can enter Indian airspace
- ✓ China has already deployed two S-400 squadrons at Ngari Gar Gunsa and Nyingchi airbase in Tibet, across Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh respectively
- ✓ The S-400 missile defence system is equipped with four different missiles, which can engage enemy aircraft, ballistic missiles, and Airborne Warning And Control System (AWACS) planes at 400km, 250km, the medium-range 120km and the short-range 40km
- ✓ India signed a \$5.43 billion deal with Russia for five S-400 regiments in October 2018 and all deliveries are to be completed within five years by 2023.
- ✓ India had made the first tranche of payment of around \$800 million to Russia for the missile systems in 2019.
- ✓ CAATSA is a tough US law enacted in 2017, which authorises the US administration to impose sanctions on countries that purchase major defence hardware from Russia or Iranian oil
- ✓ It was enacted in response to Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its alleged meddling in the 2016 US presidential elections
- ✓ US had imposed sanctions on China and Turkey under the ‘Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act’ (CAATSA) for purchasing S-400 from Russia
- ✓ So, if the US chooses, it can impose sanctions on India under CAATSA for the multi-billion dollar deal with Russia

### **SPORTS**

- **Australia - have beaten New Zealand by 8 wickets to win their first ever ICC Men’s T20 World Cup title at the Dubai International Stadium on November 14**



- ✓ Australia chased down the target of 173 in 18.5 overs with Mitchell Marsh scoring an unbeaten 77 while David Warner making 53.
- ✓ This is the sixth World title for Australia after bagging five ODI World Cup titles – the most in the history.
- ✓ Both teams finished second in their groups behind table toppers, England and Pakistan
- ✓ New Zealand beat England in the first semi-final at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi while Australia defeated an in-form Pakistan team in the second semi-final in Dubai.
- ✓ Australia's David Warner was named as the player of the tournament while his teammate Mitchell March was announced as the Man of the Match in the finals
- ✓ Mitchell Marsh hit a 31-ball fifty, the fastest in a men's T20 World Cup final
- ✓ Pakistan's Babar Azam scored the maximum number of 303 runs in the tournament, while Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga bagged the maximum of 16 wickets

## **GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT – A REPORT**

- **The 26th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP26) – concluded on November 13 with the adoption of an agreement called the Glasgow Climate Pact by all 197 countries.**
- ✓ The annual climate change summit called upon the countries to further strengthen their 2030 emission reduction targets or NDCs (nationally-determined contributions) by next year, rather than every five years, as previously required.
- ✓ Glasgow Climate Pact has set up a two year work programme to define a global goal on adaptation
- ✓ Earlier, these meetings have delivered two treaty-like international agreements, the Kyoto Protocol in 1997 and the Paris Agreement in 2015, which forms the basis for actions to be taken to tackle climate change.

## COP26 END NOTES

- For 1st time, deal targets fossil fuels as key driver of warming, India's change on coal 'phase-down' included
- Pact keeps alive goal of capping warming at 1.5°C, but current pledges may lead to 2.4°C rise. All countries asked to scale up targets by next year (COP27)
- Developed countries will double adaptation finance by 2025 from 2019 levels
- UN's Guterres calls deal 'a compromise' with 'welcome steps' but 'not enough'

- ✓ While the Kyoto Protocol expired last year, the Paris Agreement is now active to fight climate change.
- ✓ The main task for COP26 was to finalise the rules and procedures for implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ The Glasgow agreement has emphasised that stronger action in the current decade was most critical to achieve the 1.5-degree Celsius target

## KEY POINTS OF COP26 DECISION

- Developed countries will double collective adaptation finance by 2025 from 2019 levels
- All countries to scale up their GHG emission cut targets at COP27 in 2022
- Urges countries who have, so far, not updated new plans to do so next year
- Requests all countries to raise climate targets in line with 1.5-2°C warming limit by end of 2022
- Commissions annual assessment of climate plans from 2022
- Signal to countries to accelerate shift off fossil fuels, coal to renewable energy
- Notes "deep regret" of developed countries for missing \$100 billion per year target
- Urges countries to fully deliver on the \$100 billion goal "urgently" through 2025  
(Negotiators say "urges" is stronger word than "requests" in the text)



## ON PARIS AGREEMENT RULEBOOK

### TRANSPARENCY

- New rules represent a new era in scrutiny on government climate pledges
- It'll ensure that by 2024 everyone can assess what other countries are doing
- It'll have more regular and more robust information on the state of GHG emissions and progress made towards implementing NDCs

### CARBON MARKETS - ARTICLE 6:

- Rules framed but it's not tight enough to stop companies and countries from using carbon credits as an easy way to continue polluting
- The levy on some of these transactions going to help fund the poorest countries adapt to climate change was removed

### TIMELINES:

All countries should deliver climate plans to the UN on 5-year cycles, starting 2025

### WHAT'S MISSED OUT?

- 'Loss and damage' lacks a clear plan for funding facility
- No definite plan to compensate disaster-hit countries

- ✓ The pact, for the first time, asks countries to reduce their reliance on coal and roll back fossil fuel subsidies, i.e., phase-down of coal, and phase-out of fossil fuels.
- ✓ The Glasgow Climate Pact is the first ever climate deal to explicitly plan to reduce coal, the worst fossil fuel for greenhouse gases.
- ✓ Coal is responsible for about 40% of annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, making it central in efforts to keep within the 1.5 degree Celsius target.
- ✓ To meet this goal, as agreed in Paris in 2015, global emissions need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 and to nearly zero by mid-century.
- ✓ Under the Glasgow deal, some progress was made on the demands of poor and vulnerable countries that wealthy countries responsible for most emissions pay up.
- ✓ The pact had asked the developed countries to at least double the money being provided for adaptation by 2025 from the 2019 levels.
- ✓ The agreement spelt out rules for carbon markets, ensuring investments of trillions of dollars for protecting forests, building renewable energy facilities and other projects to combat climate change.
- ✓ The pact requested the UN Secretary General to convene a meeting of world leaders in 2023 to scale-up ambition of climate action
- ✓ As per the agreement, an annual meeting of ministers is to be convened to raise ambition of 2030 climate actions
- ✓ Earlier, the United States and the European Union announced a global methane cutting initiative in which around 100 countries have promised to reduce methane emissions by 30% from 2020 levels by 2030.
- ✓ Further, India announced a Panchamitra (a mixture of five elements) of climate actions and also promised to turn net-zero by the year 2070.

