

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 22, 2021

NATIONAL

- **On November 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - called for setting up of a high-powered Police Technology Mission led by the Union Home Minister**
- ✓ The mission aims to adopt future technologies for fulfilling grassroot policing requirements.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the valedictory session of the 56th All India Conference of Director Generals of Police (DGP) and Inspector Generals of Police (IGP), in Lucknow on November 21.



- ✓ Union home minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval were also present
- ✓ During the occasion, the PM suggested development of inter-operable technologies for the benefit of police forces across the country.
- ✓ The PM participated in wide-ranging discussions with the police chiefs on issues like terrorism, left-wing extremism, cyber-crimes, narcotics trafficking, prison reforms, NGO funding and drone threat etc,

- ✓ Stressing on review of SMART policing concept introduced in 2014, the PM suggested development of a roadmap for its continuous transformation and institutionalisation of the same in the police forces.
 - ✓ To tackle some of the routine challenges faced by police, he sought the involvement of highly qualified youths to look for technological solutions, through hackathons.
 - ✓ The 56th police chiefs conference in Lucknow was attended by 62 DGP/IGP-level officers, including heads of the state and UT police as well as central police organisations and central armed police forces.
 - ✓ More than 400 police officers of various ranks attended the conference virtually from IB offices across the country.
 - ✓ The PM also awarded the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service to IB personnel.
 - ✓ For the first time, as per the directives of the PM, IPS officers from various states had submitted articles on contemporary security issues, which added more value to the conference.
 - ✓ The three-day conference was inaugurated by home minister Amit Shah on November 19.
 - ✓ During the occasion, Shah awarded trophies for the three-best police stations of the country to the station house officers (SHOs) of Sadar Bazar PS in New Delhi, Gangapur PS in Ganjam district of Odisha and Bhattu Kalan PS in Fatehabad, Haryana.
- **The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) - has started National Resources Accounting (NRA) process to ensure tighter scrutiny and accounting of mineral and energy resources of states.**
- ✓ The chief auditor will undertake cross-verification of physical and monetary values of these assets.
 - ✓ All states and Union Territories have been asked to submit their 'assets account' of their mineral and energy resources for 2020-21 by March next year.
 - ✓ The exercise will involve verification of revenue earned by the exchequer through royalty from extraction of mineral and energy resources by private or public sector companies
 - ✓ This will be done for all resources, except oil and gas which are under the Centre, as oil and natural gas have a separate accounting process.
 - ✓ The 'assets account' will give information about total mineral resources of a state, its yearly extraction, the estimated market value and the actual revenue earned.
 - ✓ A comparative study by the auditor will also analyse 'windfall gain' accrued to private entities, if any, on account of lower royalty or pilferages.
 - ✓ The implementation of NRA has been taken up on priority as "a nationally important project"
 - ✓ A government accounting standards and advisory board set up in the CAG with this agenda released its first concept paper on NRA in July 2020

DEFENCE

- **Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh - formally commissioned INS Visakhapatnam into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on November 21**



- ✓ The event marked the formal induction of the first of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam, a Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyer, was indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- ✓ INS Visakhapatnam measures 163m in length, 17m in breadth with a displacement of 7,400 tonnes and is regarded as one of the most powerful warships to have been constructed in India.
- ✓ The ship is propelled by four powerful Gas Turbines, in a Combined Gas and Gas (COGAG) configuration, capable of achieving speeds in excess of 30 knots
- ✓ The ship is loaded with sophisticated state-of-the-art weapons and sensors such as Surface-to-Surface missiles and Surface-to-Air missiles
- ✓ The ship is also equipped to fight under Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.
- ✓ The ship will be under the command of Captain Birendra Singh Bains, a Navigation & Direction specialist.

SPORTS

- **Spin-bowling allrounder Sam Whitehead - achieved the rare feat of picking up all 10 wickets in an innings of a First-Class match**
- ✓ With the feat, Whitehead registered the best figures in 115 years in South African domestic cricket.
- ✓ Whitehead finished with a superb spell of 10-36 to help South Western Districts beat Eastern Storm in Division two of the 4-Day Franchise Series.



- ✓ The 24-year-old enjoyed a brilliant match overall, taking 5-64 in the Easterns' first innings and contributing 66 and 45 with the bat at the Recreation Ground in Oudtshoorn.

REPORT

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - published the 4th edition of 'Global report on trends in prevalence of tobacco use 2000-2025'**
- ✓ As per the report, the number of worldwide tobacco users declined by 20 million between 2015 and 2021, a drop from 1.32 billion to 1.3 billion.
- ✓ Over 8 million people died from a tobacco-related disease in 2019, as per the report
- ✓ The report defines tobacco use as "any tobacco use" of any type, whether smoked or smokeless but excludes e-cigarettes
- ✓ The WHO Global Action Plan set a target for reducing the global prevalence of tobacco use (smoked and smokeless tobacco) by 30% by the year 2025 relative to 2010.
- ✓ As per the report, South-East Asia Region has achieved the fastest rate of decline in the use of tobacco
- ✓ In this region, the average prevalence of smoking among men declined from 50% in 2000 to 25% in 2020 and tobacco smoking among women declined steeply from 8.9% in 2000 to 1.6% in 2020.
- ✓ Tobacco use is one of the key risk factors for noncommunicable diseases and effective tobacco control is important for prevention and control of NCDs – a flagship priority of the South-East Asia Region since 2014
- ✓ In this region, India and Nepal are among the countries likely to achieve 30% relative reduction in tobacco use to meet the target of Global NCD action plan by 2025
- ✓ If tobacco control efforts continue at the current level, smoking rates in the Region can reach as low as 11% in 2025.
- ✓ This would be the second lowest Regional average rate after Africa – 7.5% in 2025

- ✓ The South-East Asia Region currently has the highest rates of tobacco use, with around 432 million users, or 29% of its population
- ✓ Thailand was the first country in Asia to implement Plain Packaging of the tobacco products.
- ✓ Timor-Leste, Nepal, Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka have implemented large-sized graphic health warnings on tobacco packs

