

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 27, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- On November 26, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled an exclusive data centre policy for the state, that aims to make Tamil Nadu the 'data centre capital of India'.



- ✓ The Chief Minister launched the policy at the two-day annual flagship event 'Connect 2021' organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the state-owned Elcot.
- ✓ ELCOT shall be the State level nodal agency for the administration of the Data Centre Policy
- ✓ The investment promotion for Data Centre policy shall be done by Guidance and MOUs under the policy will be signed by Guidance
- ✓ The state would provide power, land, and connectivity infrastructure to promote the establishment of more data centres
- ✓ It would also provide fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to encourage global and Indian investors to invest in data centres and data parks in Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ The State government will be working with ICT Academy, an initiative of the Union government in collaboration with States and industries, to design and conduct courses specific to data centre operations.
- ✓ A training subsidy of up to ₹10,000 per person trained per month (for up to 6 months) per data centre unit shall be provided, capped at ₹1 crore per data centre for the duration of the policy period.
- ✓ As data centres are power intensive, the policy seeks to promote usage of renewable energy for day-to-day operations.
- ✓ Incentives are being offered to projects with an investment above Rs 500 crore and those who meet at least 30% of their energy consumption from renewable energy sources
- ✓ Data Centre facility/Data Centre park shall be eligible for 100% subsidy of Electricity Tax on power purchased from the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Ltd.
- ✓ The policy also focuses on encouraging industries to collaborate with colleges and create Centres of Excellence.
- ✓ The government is looking at customised building regulations through the creation of a separate category for data centres under the TN Combined Development and Building Rules, 2019.
- ✓ To facilitate the development of the data centre market in the State, concessions on Stamp duty/ Registration fee paid on sale/lease/transfer of land for data centres and parks will be offered.
- ✓ The policy will specifically cover firms engaged in the business of developing and operating data centres including greenfield data centres or data parks as well as brownfield expansion of existing data centres.
- ✓ The policy will cover all data centres incorporated from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2026, but it will be reviewed every year to update the policy to meet industry requirements.
- ✓ The data centre market in India is expected to increase to \$1.5 billion by 2022 at a growth rate of 11.4%.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu offers an inherent advantage for data centres with high submarine cable network connectivity, extensive IT and ITeS infrastructure, technically qualified workforce, state's expertise in data centres, robust transport infrastructure and pro-investor policies.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the second highest number of submarine cable landing stations in India housing over 30% of India's subsea cables which connect to 264 landing stations globally.
- ✓ During the financial year 2020-21, the state has signed MoUs for an investment of over Rs 18,000 crore in data centres.
- ✓ Already, national and international companies, including Yotta, Princeton Digital, ST Telemedia, Netmagic, Webweks, L&T and Adani, are in the process of setting up their data centres in Chennai and surrounding areas.

- ✓ In order to achieve inclusive growth, the policy encourages investors to establish data centres in IT SEZs developed by Elcot across the state.
 - ✓ Branded as EICOSEZs, these have come up in Chennai and six other tier 2 cities including Coimbatore, Madurai, Trichy, Tirunelveli, Salem and Hosur.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu is implementing a scheme (Bharat-Net) of the Union government through which all 12,525 villages in the State will get 1GBPS broadband connectivity.
 - ✓ This will take highspeed broadband internet to every village and government offices and educational institutions in rural areas.
 - ✓ Connect 2021 conclave is supported by the Tamil Nadu government, Software Technology Parks of India and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
 - ✓ The event features a two-day International Exhibition on ICT (information and communications technology) featuring exhibitors from over 55 countries
- **Tamil Nadu - will recruit 4,848 nurses and 2,448 health inspectors to make door-to-door visit to deliver medicines to people as a part of the Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam project.**
- ✓ The health workers will visit patients with diabetes and hypertension and offer other services such as dialysis, physiotherapy, and palliative care
 - ✓ Since August 5, health workers in the state have offered services to more than 36 lakh people and have revisited more than 8 lakh people
 - ✓ The National Family Health Survey – 5 released recently showed at least 20% of women and 22% of men had diabetes.
 - ✓ In addition, 24% of women and 31.5% of men had elevated blood pressure.
 - ✓ The recruitment will be done by district authorities through the district health societies.
 - ✓ The state wing of the National Health Mission has developed a standard protocol to make recruitment transparent.
 - ✓ Each applicant will be awarded up to 100 points based on different factors including educational qualification, where they live and work experience.
 - ✓ Nurses and health inspectors who worked for the government on contract during Covid-19 will be awarded up to 20 bonus points.
 - ✓ **Meanwhile, CM MK Stalin will launch the Nammai Kakkum 48 (saving lives in 48hrs) to offer free treatment to road accident victims in Tamil Nadu by December 15.**
 - ✓ Under the scheme, road accident victims– including those from other states and countries – will be offered a health cover for up to Rs 1 lakh for 81-life saving procedures required in the first 48 hours of admission in 609 empanelled hospitals.
 - ✓ These hospitals – 204 state run hospitals – are located close to 500 accident hotspots near highways.

- ✓ In addition, the state will also increase the fleet of special trauma care ambulances from 124 to 300 soon
- **The Karur district administration - launched the initiative ‘Nimirndhu Nil, Thunindhu Sol’ to dispel fear among school girls to report sexual assault**
- ✓ Under the initiative, students were explained how to seek assistance from the district administration on WhatsApp by just sending a ‘Hi’ message to 8903331098.
- ✓ As part of the scheme, a questionnaire seeking personal details including name, class, school, address, parents’ mobile number and information on sexual abuse on them or their friends in school or near their houses was given to the students.
- ✓ The questionnaire also has a question if they faced any abuse through social media and mobile phones besides asking them if they need any counselling to clear their confusions.

STATES

- **The Delhi government – decided to include Kartarpur Sahib in Punjab province of Pakistan and Velankanni Church in Tamil Nadu to its pilgrimage scheme called “Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojana”**



- ✓ Under the scheme, Delhi government will provide travel packages for free pilgrimage to senior citizens of the state, who are above 60 years
- ✓ Employees of local, state and central government or autonomous bodies are not eligible for this scheme
- ✓ This scheme can be availed by 1100 senior citizens from every constituency in Delhi
- ✓ On January 5, 2022, the first batch of passengers will leave for Kartarpur Sahib in a deluxe bus from the national capital and the first train for Velankanni is set to leave on January 7, 2022
- ✓ On July 12, 2019, Mukhyamantri Tirth Yatra Yojna was officially launched by CM Arvind Kejriwal
- ✓ Since its launch, 35,080 beneficiaries have so far travelled under this scheme
- ✓ The scheme could not be held in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic.

NATIONAL

- **The Food Corporation of India (FCI) - developed its first State-of-art Quality Control Laboratory to conduct in house testing of food grain samples**
- ✓ It was inaugurated at Institute of Food Security (IFS), FCI, Gurugram (Haryana) by Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ashwini Kumar Choubey



- ✓ The laboratory was set up under the guidance of “Central Food Technological Research Institute in Mysuru, Karnataka
- ✓ The food grains to be issued from FCI depots under various welfare schemes of the Government of India will be checked in-house for pesticide residues, Mycotoxin, Uric acid and fortification level of vitamins to ensure the food grain safety and nutritional security of the consumer
- ✓ The Department of Food & Public Distribution (DFPD), which manages the FCI, recently celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav week till November 21, 2021

INTERNATIONAL

- **The European Union - has recommended a 9-month time limit for the validity of Covid-19 vaccinations for travel into and within the bloc.**
- ✓ It has also proposed to prioritise vaccinated travellers.
- ✓ A new internal EU travel framework is currently based more on individuals’ vaccination or recovery status than on caseloads in the countries they’re coming from.
- ✓ The proposed updates introduce the new time limit for the validity of Covid inoculations
- ✓ This makes it clear that boosters will be needed beyond the 9-month period.
- ✓ The commission is also proposing to extend rules on the EU digital certificate beyond next summer.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **Russian President Vladimir Putin - will visit India on December 6 for the 21st India-Russia annual Summit with Prime Minister Narendra Modi**
- ✓ This will be the first face-to-face meeting between the two leaders after their meeting on the side-lines of the BRICS Summit in Brasilia in November, 2019.
- ✓ The last India-Russia Annual Summit was held in September 2019 during the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Vladivostok, Russia
- ✓ The leaders will review the state and prospects of bilateral relations and discuss ways to further strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.
- ✓ The Summit will also provide an opportunity to exchange views on regional, multilateral and international issues of mutual interest.
- ✓ The most watched aspect of the visit will be the delivery of the S-400 Triumph missile systems, whose components have started arriving in India.
 - ✓ The US, under the CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act), could impose sanctions against India for them.
 - ✓ Delivery of the first squadron is scheduled to be completed by December.
- ✓ The summit will coincide with the first meeting of the 2+2 dialogue between foreign and defence ministers of the two countries.
- ✓ Rajnath Singh and S Jaishankar will hold their first such meeting with Sergey Shoigu and Sergey Lavrov.
- ✓ The India-Russia "2+2" meeting was agreed to during a phone call between PM Modi and Putin in April 2021
- ✓ Russia is the fourth country to hold joint foreign and defence ministerial talks with India – the others being the US, Japan and Australia.
- ✓ One of the pacts expected to be signed during the meeting is a logistics support pact – similar to the agreements India has with Japan and the US.
- ✓ The two countries are also expected to sign agreements in the areas of technology and trade during Putin's visit.
- ✓ The defence ministry is also expected to decide on the finalisation of a deal worth over ₹5,000 crore with Russia for the manufacture of 7.5 lakh AK 203 assault rifles.

