

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 4, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **On November 3, the state government - has issued an order allowing police personnel up to the rank of Head Constable to take one day off every week**
- ✓ The move was recommended by the State DGP, C Sylendra Babu, soon after he assumed the charge, so that the police personnel can take care of their health and spend time with their family members.
- ✓ The plan to provide leave was recommended as the continuous work without break drastically affected health and quality of life of the personnel, which had an adverse impact on their efficiency.
- ✓ As per the order, a weekly-off roster with the names of the personnel would be put on the notice board at each police station.
- ✓ If the policeman/ woman is asked to work on the his/her off day, he/she can take the off the following day of his/her the next weekly off.
- ✓ Earlier, during the demand for grants for the police department for the year 2021-2022, chief minister MK Stalin made an announcement in this regard on the floor of the assembly on September 13.
- ✓ On July 31, 2021, State DGP Sylendra Babu announced weekly off and offs for birthdays and wedding anniversaries for police personnel with immediate effect.
- ✓ In a first, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy announced weekly-off to police constables, head constables, assistant sub-inspectors and inspectors as per the new system brought in 2019
- ✓ The decision was taken based on the recommendation of a committee formed under the leadership of Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Ravi Shankar Ayyanar
  
- **On November 2, the Union Government - had sanctioned ₹27.5 crore as central assistance to Tamil Nadu for paying the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

- ✓ The amount is the first instalment of the second tranche of funds towards the wage component (ST Category) for the financial year 2021-22
- ✓ The amount will be released on daily basis and should be utilized to clear the pending liabilities first.
- ✓ The development comes after Chief Minister M K Stalin drew the attention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through a letter on November 1 seeking his intervention to release ₹1,178 crore under MGNREGA.
- ✓ The central government sanctioned ₹1,361 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme to Tamil Nadu on November 2, 2021

**OF LIVELIHOOD**

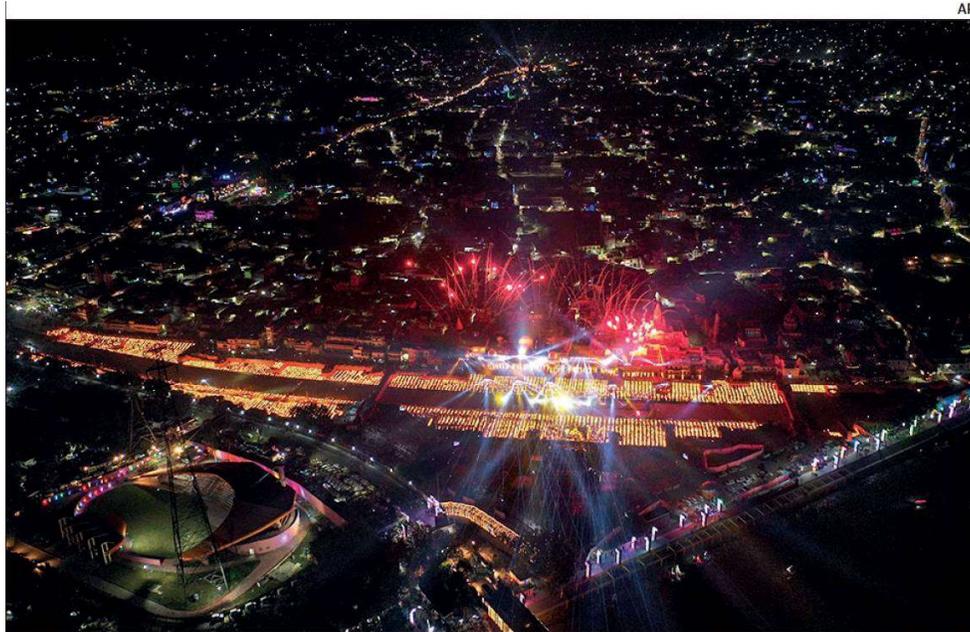
FUNDS RELEASED BY THE CENTRAL GOVT (towards wages and 75% of the material cost) In ₹cr		Individuals worked (In lakhs)
2020-21	8,941.25	78.53
2019-20	5,447.80	64.89
2018-19	4,951.66	65.25
2017-18	5,831.66	68.29

Notified wage rate for 2021-22 is ₹273/ day for both men and women  
The Centre bears 100% wage cost for unskilled labourers  
Material cost, including wages of skilled and semi-skilled workers,  
borne by Centre and state govts in the ratio of 75:25  
Source: Union ministry of Rural Development

- ✓ The CM, in the letter, said the entire amount of ₹3,524.3 crore released by the Union government to the State in 2021-22 was fully credited in the workers' accounts up to September 15.
- ✓ The Centre had allocated ₹6,255 crore to the state under MGNREGA this fiscal.

## STATES

- **The grand annual Deepotsav celebrations in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya district – started on November 3 by lighting 12 lakh earthen lamps this year**
- ✓ Out of this, 9 lakh lamps have been lit on the banks of the Saryu, while the remaining three lakh lamps were lit in temples of the town, setting up a new Guinness World Record.
- ✓ The event which marks the start of Diwali celebrations was inaugurated formally by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the presence of UP governor Anandiben Patel and Union Tourism Minister Kishan Reddy
- ✓ The celebration witnessed a special show of 500 drones showcasing Ramayan scenes in the sky.
- ✓ A fireworks show was also organised in Ayodhya as part of the Deepotsav celebration on the occasion of Diwali



- ✓ Cultural groups from Sri Lanka and Nepal's Janakpur have been invited to stage the Ram Lila while a series of literary and cultural activities will be held from November 1 to 5
- ✓ The mega festival will also mark the last event of the Yogi Adityanath government before the state goes into Assembly elections next year
- ✓ This is the fifth consecutive year of Deepotsav celebrations, which sets up a unique Guinness World record for lighting 9 lakh lamps in Ram Ki Paidi and Saryu Ghat
- ✓ The nine lakh lamps will represent the 9 lakh houses provided to people under the PM and CM Awas Yojana housing schemes in the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Last year, a Guinness record was set up when 5,84,572 lamps were lit up on the banks of river Saryu

## NATIONAL

- **On November 3, the World Health Organisation (WHO) - approved emergency use listing (EUL) of Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.**
- ✓ The technical advisory team's nod applies to all those aged 18 and above, but does not cover pregnant women.
- ✓ The technical advisory group is an independent advisory body that provides recommendations to WHO for approval of vaccines
- ✓ Covaxin vaccine was also reviewed by WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE), and recommended use of this vaccine in two doses with a dose interval of four weeks
- ✓ The World Health Organisation's panel had last week sought additional clarifications from the Hyderabad-based pharma firm

- ✓ The decision has come at a time when close to 20 countries like Guyana, Iran, Mauritius, Mexico, Nepal, Paraguay, the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Australia, Oman, Sri Lanka, Estonia, Greece have recognised Covaxin.

## **NOD COMES AFTER OVER 6 MTHS**

**Apr 19** | Bharat Biotech submits expression of interest to WHO for emergency use listing for Covaxin

**July 6** | Rolling data submission to WHO begins

**Oct 5** | WHO's strategic advisory group of experts meets in Geneva, recommends EUL. Final decision to be taken following week, WHO tweets

**Oct 26** | After technical advisory group's meeting, WHO seeks additional clarifications from Bharat Biotech, says final call on Nov 3

**Nov 3** | WHO approves EUL



- ✓ In June, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech said it concluded the final analysis of Covaxin efficacy from Phase 3 trials.
- ✓ WHO has so far approved Covid-19 vaccines of Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca-SK Bio/Serum Institute of India, Johnson 7 Johnson - Janssen, Moderna, and Sinopharm for emergency use.
- ✓ The approval enables several countries around the globe to use Covaxin in their immunisation programmes
- ✓ Furthermore, UNICEF, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the GAVI COVAX facility will now be able to procure the vaccine for distribution to countries worldwide
- ✓ EUL is also a prerequisite for a vaccine to be supplied through COVAX, the global Covid vaccine equity scheme
- ✓ Meanwhile, US has decided to allow travellers vaccinated with Covaxin to enter country from November 8, when it opens up its borders to vaccinated foreign travellers.
- ✓ India has so far administered 12.14 crore doses of Covaxin across the country.
- ✓ Covaxin is a whole virion-inactivated vaccine against SARS-CoV2, manufactured indigenously by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research.
- ✓ Covaxin is one of the six vaccines that have received emergency use authorisation from India's drug regulator, Drug Controller General of India
- ✓ It is being used in the nationwide inoculation programme, along with Covishield and Sputnik V.
- ✓ Covaxin has demonstrated 77.8% effectiveness against symptomatic COVID-19 and 65.2% protection against the new Delta variant, based on the results of Phase III clinical trials released in July 2021

- ✓ Bharat Biotech had submitted its expression of interest to WHO on April 19 this year and the rolling data submission began on July 6.
  - ✓ On October 12, the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) recommended the grant of EUA to Covaxin for use in the age group of 2-18 years.
  - ✓ On November 3, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had approved extension of the shelf life of Covaxin up to 12 months from the date of manufacture, as against the existing shelf life of 9 months
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi – to unveil the 12-feet tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on November 5, 2021 after inaugurating Adi Shankaracharya Samadhi**



- ✓ The event will be live-streamed to the 11 Jyotir Lingas, four maths (monastic institutions) and major Shiva temples
- ✓ The Samadhi has been reconstructed after it was washed away in the 2013 floods
- ✓ The entire reconstruction work has been undertaken under the guidance of the Prime Minister, who has constantly reviewed and monitored the progress of the project.
- ✓ A total allocation of over ₹ 500 crore was approved and was allocated to be spent in phases for this reconstruction assignment
- ✓ The 35-tonne statue has been crafted by sculptors, Yogiraj Shilpi and his son Arun Yogiraj of Mysuru, from chlorite schist, a rock which is known to withstand rain, sunshine and harsh climate
- ✓ Yogiraj started work on making the statue in September 2020 after getting the contractual approval of the PMO with around 120 tonnes of stone procured for its carving
- ✓ The stone for the sculpture, called the Krishna Shile in Kannada, comes from HD Kote and is similar to the one used in making the Hoysala temple deities.
- ✓ Adi Shankaracharya is said to have attained moksha at Kedarnath.

- ✓ Born in Kerala in the eighth century, Adi Shankaracharya was an Indian spiritual Guru who consolidated the doctrines of Advaita Vedanta and made significant contributions towards unifying Hinduism by setting up four mathas across India.
- ✓ It was also in Uttarakhand that he established one of the four mathas at Jyotir Math in Chamoli district and also installed an idol at Badrinath.
- **On November 3, the Centre - slashed excise duty on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹10 per litre respectively**
- ✓ The duty cut would bring down petrol price by about ₹6.80 a litre and diesel by ₹11.80 in Delhi
- ✓ The reduction will vary in other states in accordance with the level of VAT levied.
- ✓ The move will cut about ₹60,000 to ₹65,000 crore in the government's tax collection in the remaining months this fiscal.
- ✓ The increased excise duty raised the Centre's fuel tax collection by 88% in 2020-21 to more than ₹3 lakh crore
- ✓ Duty collection from diesel alone had jumped 108% due to higher tax.
- ✓ The Union government also appealed to the states to match the Centre's step by reducing VAT to give bigger relief to consumers.
- ✓ The Centre had raised the excise duty by ₹13 on petrol and ₹16 on diesel between March and May last year when oil prices collapsed due to the pandemic.
- ✓ The two hikes had raised excise duty by 65% on petrol from ₹19.98 to ₹32.98 a litre and 79% on diesel from ₹15.83 to ₹28.35.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Earthshot Prize finalist, Vinisha Umashankar – addressed the World Leaders' Summit on the session "Accelerating Clean Technology Innovation and Deployment", at the COP26 Summit, in Glasgow, Scotland on November 2**



- ✓ Vinisha was the youngest finalist for the inaugural Earthshot Prize launched by Britain's Prince William in October last year

- ✓ A 15-year-old girl from Tiruvannamalai, Vinisha told world leaders to own up at COP26, the United Nations Climate Change Conference, at Glasgow
- ✓ Vinisha designed 'Iron-Max', a mobile ironing cart that uses solar energy instead of charcoal.
- ✓ There are an estimated 10 million ironing carts in India using charcoal, according to the government.

## SPORTS

- **Former India captain Rahul Dravid - has been officially appointed as the next head coach for the senior Indian men's team.**



- ✓ The Indian cricket board (BCCI) made the announcement on November 3
- ✓ Dravid will take over from Ravi Shastri from the home series against New Zealand, which starts on November 17.
- ✓ Shastri, who entered the Indian coaching set-up back in 2014 first as its manager, became the head coach in 2017
- ✓ Two years later, in 2019, Shastri was re-appointed as coach for a two-year-term
- ✓ The board has not yet released the terms of appointment but it's understood that Dravid has agreed on a two-year contract with an annual salary of ₹10 crore.
- ✓ The Cricket Advisory Committee comprising Sulakshana Naik and RP Singh unanimously appointed Rahul Dravid as the head coach of Team India (Senior Men).
- ✓ BCCI didn't even appoint a third member in the Cricket Advisory Committee after former India pacer Madan Lal had to step back as has crossed 70 years of age.
- ✓ Earlier this year in July, Dravid was appointed India's interim coach for India's limited-overs series in Sri Lanka, when another Indian team were in England for the test series
- ✓ Dravid kicked off his coaching journey with the Indian Premier League franchise Rajasthan Royals, a team he represented before retiring
- ✓ Dravid took charge of the unit in 2014 and went on to guide the Royals to a fifth-place finish
- ✓ After ending his association with the Royals, Dravid took charge as the head coach of the India U-19 and India A teams

- ✓ Dravid reached the peak of his coaching career in 2018, when under him, India, led by Prithvi Shaw lifted the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand.
- ✓ In 2019, Dravid was appointed as the NCA chief, where he served successfully, and helped Indian cricket groom young and promising talents.

