

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–NOVEMBER 5, 2021

STATES

- **The Centre – has signed a \$40 million project to improve the quality of health services in Meghalaya in association with the World Bank**
 - ✓ The project will strengthen the state’s capacity to handle future health emergencies, including the Covid-19 pandemic
 - ✓ Named as ‘Meghalaya Health Systems Strengthening Project’, it aims to enhance the management and governance capabilities of the state and its health facilities
 - ✓ The project will help strengthen the effectiveness of Meghalaya’s health insurance program known as the Megha Health Insurance Scheme (MHIS) – which currently covers 56% of the households
 - ✓ The project will also help in improving the overall ecosystem for bio-medical waste management, including both solid and liquid waste.
 - ✓ For the \$50 million project, World Bank will provide with \$40 million while the state’s share will be \$10 million.
 - ✓ The programme has already come into force and it will continue for the next five years, till 2026

- **The Odisha government - announced 100% exemption of motor vehicles taxes and registration fees on electric vehicles (EVs) in the state.**
 - ✓ The decision was taken to encourage faster adoption of EVs in the state
 - ✓ The exemption, granted under the Odisha Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, is applicable till 2025.
 - ✓ The state government has also announced incentives for the buyers, manufacturers, batteries and charging stations of electric vehicles under the Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy
 - ✓ The state government earlier this year announced Odisha Electric Vehicle Policy 2021 on 2 September.

- ✓ The Government proposed to extend 15% subsidy on two-wheelers, three-wheelers and four-wheelers with maximum amount not exceeding Rs 5,000; Rs 12,000 and Rs 100,000 respectively.
 - ✓ It has also proposed to provide interest-free loan for the electric vehicles to state government employees and incentives to government departments and PSUs for hiring such vehicles.
 - ✓ These incentives will be applicable over and above the benefits available to the consumers under the central government's FAME-II scheme
 - ✓ States like Delhi, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra have already implemented the 'e-vehicle' policy.
- **The Punjab Government - is set to start the Census of Indus River dolphin, the most threatened species, as part of a five-year project by the Centre**

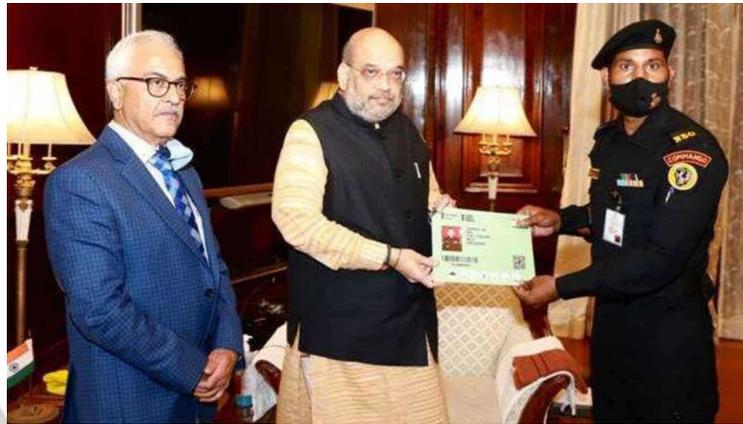


- ✓ The Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab in 2019
 - ✓ It is a freshwater dolphin that is found in river Beas
 - ✓ The Indus river dolphin is classified as endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - ✓ The direct count surveys of Indus river dolphins in Punjab have been conducted since 2008 and they indicate that their population is critically small, numbering less than 10.
 - ✓ The field surveys were conducted jointly by the Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation and WWF-India
- **The Delhi government – to provide free coaching to 15,000 students belonging to marginal communities and economically weaker sections this year under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana**
- ✓ The scheme will cover school children who want to become doctors, engineers, civil servants or serve any other government jobs
 - ✓ Students belonging to scheduled castes (SC), scheduled tribes (ST), other backward classes (OBC) and those whose parents have an annual income of up to ₹8 lakh are eligible to avail the scheme.
 - ✓ Delhi government has tied up with 46 private coaching centres for running the scheme.

- ✓ The scheme covers a wide range of competitive exams including UPSC, CDS, banking exams, medical and engineering entrances.
- ✓ Besides free coaching, students will also be provided travel stipend amount of Rs 2,500 by Delhi government.
- ✓ This scheme was launched in 2018 only for SC & ST students.
- ✓ In the year 2019, 15,000 students were enrolled in the scheme as it was opened for students belonging to OBC and EWS category.

NATIONAL

- **Union home minister Amit Shah - rolled out the Ayushman Bharat CAPF healthcare scheme at a national level for the personnel of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) in all states on November 2**



- ✓ It is a joint initiative by Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Health Authority (NHA)
- ✓ The scheme aims to provide cashless and paperless medical treatment at empanelled hospitals and access to health services across the country to CAPF personnel
- ✓ By the end of December, the scheme is likely to be covering all 3.5 million CAPF personnel.
- ✓ The 'Ayushman CAPF' scheme was first launched by Amit Shah only for the state of Assam on January 23 this year.
- ✓ The scheme will cover officials and serving personnel and their dependents from seven forces--Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi had launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), the biggest government-sponsored healthcare scheme, in September 2018
- ✓ The scheme provides a cover of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation to over 10.74 crore poor and vulnerable families covering about 53 crore beneficiaries.

➤ **The Ministry of Rural Development – signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Walmart-owned Flipkart to bring more women businesses into the e-commerce fold**

- ✓ Flipkart, India's homegrown e-commerce marketplace, has signed the agreement under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) on November 2
- ✓ Minister of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh and Minister of State for Rural Development Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti were present during the occasion



- ✓ The agreement aims to empower local businesses and self-help groups (SHGs) – especially those that are led by women – by bringing them into the e-commerce fold.
 - ✓ It seeks to provide national market access to craftsmen, weavers and artisans through the Flipkart marketplace, as well as dedicated support for knowledge and training
 - ✓ The MoU will enable rural women to sell their products to more than 10 crore Flipkart's customers.
 - ✓ The Ministry of Rural Development's DAY-NRLM programme has an outreach in 6768 blocks of 706 districts across all 28 States and 6 UTs
 - ✓ It has 7.84 crore women mobilized into more than 71 lakh SHGs and is proving as the most successful initiative to empower poor rural women.
 - ✓ The agreement is signed as part of the Flipkart Samarth program, which was launched in 2019 to empower local communities and businesses with better opportunities and livelihoods.
 - ✓ Flipkart's Samarth initiative is currently supporting the livelihoods of over 9,50,000 artisans, weavers and craftsmen across the country
- **Elon Musk's SpaceX - has registered a 100% owned subsidiary in India, Starlink Satellite Communications Private Limited (SSCPL) on November 1, 2021**

- ✓ Under the new company Starlink, broadband services, content storage and streaming, multi-media communication and other satellite-based communication services will be provided in India
 - ✓ Once it is allowed to provide services, Starlink will provide 100 devices for free to schools in Delhi and nearby rural districts during the first phase
 - ✓ The company aims to have 200,000 Starlink devices in India by December 2022, 80% of which will be in rural districts
 - ✓ The company is charging a deposit of \$99 or Rs 7,350 per customer and claims to deliver data speeds in the range of 50 to 150 megabit per second in beta stage
 - ✓ The initiative will be a direct competitor to Bharti Group-backed OneWeb
 - ✓ Starlink is a satellite internet constellation operated by SpaceX
 - ✓ It consists of more than 1600 satellites in low-Earth orbiting network that provide low-latency broadband internet services around the world
 - ✓ The project aims to focus especially on remote areas where terrestrial internet infrastructure is not able to reach
- **The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) - got registered in the Guinness Book of World Records on the first day of the Ganga Utsav -- the River Festival 2021**



- ✓ The record was established for the highest number of photos of handwritten notes uploaded on the social media platform in an hour.
- ✓ The Guinness activity was opened for the public after Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat posted his message on the Ganga on the social media platform.
- ✓ The event was organised to raise awareness on Ganga rejuvenation and to give importance to the reach of the Ganga Utsav
- ✓ Union Minister Shekhawat also launched the CLAP (Continuous Learning and Activity Portal) which is an interactive portal that is working towards initiating conversations and action around the rivers in India
- ✓ The 5th edition of Ganga Utsav celebrates the glory of river Ganga as well as other rivers of India.
- ✓ It is a three-day festival, which was celebrated through storytelling, folklores, dialogues with eminent personalities, quizzes, music & dance performances and displaying traditional art forms, exhibitions & photo galleries.

➤ **India – launched an online dashboard - the 'Climate Equity Monitor' ahead of commencement of COP26 summit in Glasgow in Scotland**

- ✓ The Climate Equity Monitor will assess equity in climate action, inequalities in emissions, energy and resource consumption across the world, and ongoing climate policies of several countries
- ✓ The website has been conceptualized and developed by independent researchers from India -- the Climate Change Group at the M.S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering department at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bengaluru, with other independent researchers.
- ✓ The Climate Equity Monitor is aimed at monitoring the performance of Annex-I Parties (developed countries) under the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) based on the foundational principles of the Climate Convention
- ✓ The performance and policies of the Non Annex-I Parties (developing countries) will be also provided for comparison.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Yahoo Inc., - has pulled out of China on November 2, 2021 citing increasingly challenging business and legal environment.**



- ✓ The company's withdrawal coincided with the implementation of China's Personal Information Protection Law
- ✓ The new law restricts the information gathered by the companies and sets standards for their storage.
- ✓ Yahoo had previously downsized its operations in China, and in 2015, it closed its Beijing office.
- ✓ China has also blocked most international social media sites and search engines, such as Facebook and Google
- ✓ Yahoo also previously operated a music and email service in China, but both services were also stopped in the early 2010s
- ✓ Yahoo is the second large US technology company to reduce its operations in China in recent weeks.
- ✓ Last month, Microsoft's professional networking platform LinkedIn said it would close down its Chinese site, replacing it with a jobs board instead.

- ✓ US-based Verizon Communications Inc. acquired Yahoo in 2017 and merged it with AOL, but later sold off the entity to private equity firm Apollo Global Management in a \$5 billion deal

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

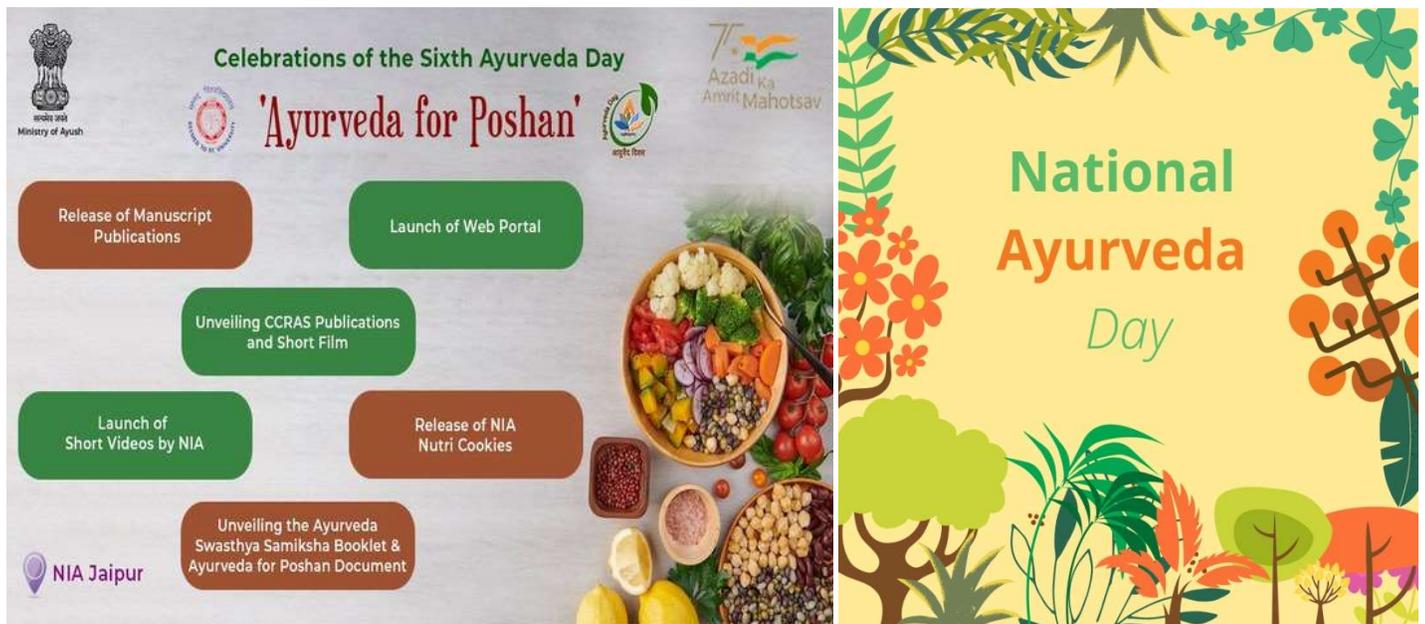
- **India and Israel - decided to set up a new Task Force and a sub-working group to boost bilateral defence cooperation**
- ✓ This was agreed upon in the 15th India-Israel Working Group Meeting held recently in Tel Aviv, Israel



- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary of India, Dr Ajay Kumar and Director General of Ministry of Defence of Israel, Maj Gen (Retd) Amir Eshel.
- ✓ During the meeting, both the countries reviewed the progress made in military-to-military engagements including industry cooperation and exercises.
- ✓ The proposed task force will be formulating a comprehensive ten-year roadmap in order to identify new areas of cooperation.
- ✓ The creation of sub-working group will ensure efficient utilisation of bilateral resources, sharing of industrial capabilities and effective flow of technologies.
- ✓ In 2017, India was the largest arms customer of Israel, with the sale of about \$715 million.

NATIONAL DAY

- **National Ayurveda Day - November 2**
- ✓ The Ministry of AYUSH observed the sixth Ayurveda day on November 2 across the country, on the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras or Dhanwantari Jayanthi
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness on the importance of Ayurveda in our daily lives.
- ✓ Since Lord Dhanwantari is the God of Ayurvedic medicine, Dhanteras is observed for the wellbeing of one's family members or kin
- ✓ Bhagwan Dhanwantari is depicted as reincarnation of Lord Vishnu with four hands, holding Shankha, Chakra, Jalouka (leech) and a pot containing Nectar



- ✓ In Odisha, a Dhanwantari temple is situated at the campus of the Gopabandhu Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya at Puri and a statue of Lord Dhanwantari is installed at the building of the Government Ayurvedic College & Hospital, Balangir
- ✓ Ayurveda is considered to be one of the oldest medical systems in the world
- ✓ The first National Ayurveda Day was celebrated on October 28, 2016 with the theme “Ayurveda for Prevention and Control of Diabetes”
- ✓ Theme 2021 - ‘Ayurveda for Poshan’.
- ✓ Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal along with Minister of State for Ayush Munjpara Mahendrabhai Kalubhai participated at the 6th Ayurveda Day celebration function held at National Institute of Ayurveda in Jaipur



- ✓ Union minister Sarbananda Sonowal announced a corpus fund of ₹260 crore for expanding the infrastructure of National Institute of Ayurveda's satellite centre at Panchkula in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✓ During the occasion, Ayurveda Swasthya Samiksha, a handbook containing daily routines and Ayurveda for Poshan, a booklet were released

- ✓ Students of Ayurveda from as many as 15 countries attended the event, in which a MoU was signed between Mahavir Jaipuriya Hospital and National Institute of Ayurveda for research in patient care.

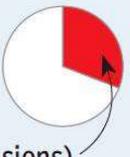
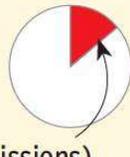
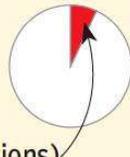
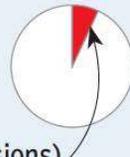
REPORT

- The findings of the **Global Carbon Project**, a widely recognised international research project - was released on the sidelines of the **UN Climate Conference (COP26)** on **November 3**

THE ROAD AHEAD?

PROJECTED EMISSION GROWTH SCENARIO FOR TOP FOUR BIG EMITTERS IN 2021

(Growth is primarily linked to post-Covid recovery plan)

China	USA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions are projected to rise 4% compared to 2020 ➤ It'll reach 5.5% above 2019 <p>Total emission: 11.1 billion tonnes CO2 (31% of global emissions)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions are projected to rise 7.6% compared to 2020 ➤ It'll reach 3.7% below 2019 <p>Total emission: 5.1 billion tonnes CO2 (14% of global emissions)</p> 
EU (27 nations)	India
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions are projected to rise 7.6% compared to 2020 ➤ It'll reach 4.2% below 2019 <p>Total emission: 2.8 billion tonnes CO2 (7% of global emissions)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Emissions are projected to rise 12.6% compared to 2020 ➤ It'll reach 4.4% above 2019 <p>Total emission: 2.7 billion tonnes CO2 (7% of global emissions)</p> 

- ✓ Among the top four major emitters, China is projected as the worst emitter followed by the US, the EU (27 nations) and India.
- ✓ The percentage growth is projected to be the highest in India this year, even though the country will still be in fourth position in absolute terms.
- ✓ As per the report, the carbon emissions globally dropped by 5.4% in 2020 amid Covid lockdowns and they are now projected to increase by 4.9% this year (4.1% to 5.7%) to 36.4 billion tonnes in total.
- ✓ Emissions from coal use in 2021 are projected to be above their 2019 levels but still below their peak in 2014.
- ✓ Emissions in the US and EU appear to be returning to pre-Covid trends of decreasing CO2 emissions.
- ✓ However, their emissions are higher than India in absolute terms.

- ✓ For the rest of the world taken as a whole, fossil CO₂ emissions remain below 2019 levels.
- ✓ Reaching 'net zero' CO₂ emissions by 2050 involves cutting global CO₂ emissions by about 1.4 billion tonnes each year on average, as per the study
- ✓ The study shows that total global emissions have remained relatively constant in the last decade, averaging 39.7 billion tonnes CO₂.

