



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 7, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - has grouped the entire districts into 12 clusters, with each cluster having a common regional plan for infrastructure development.
 - ✓ Each cluster, comprising two to three districts, will have a separate plan instead of the district-specific plans so far.
 - ✓ This will eliminate the concept of non-planning areas, especially remote rural villages that were kept outside the purview of major infrastructure projects till now.
 - ✓ The move is aimed at promoting uniform growth across the entire state
 - ✓ The government accepted a proposal by the director of town and country planning (DTCP) for modification of regional planning areas for renomination under the Tamil Nadu Town and Country Planning Act, 1971.
 - ✓ The redrawing of the planning areas was last done in the state 38 years ago.
 - ✓ Accordingly, Dharmapuri has been merged with the Salem regional planning area, Erode with Coimbatore, Pudukottai with Trichy and Kanyakumari with Tirunelveli.
 - ✓ This strategy will help check over-concentration of people and facilities in cities.
 - ✓ The objective of regional planning is to integrate urban and rural areas and minimise economic, social, spatial and infrastructure disparities.
 - ✓ Henceforth, when infrastructure projects and other amenities are designed for an area, the benefits for the neighbouring districts will be considered as well.
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- On November 6, the Tamil Nadu government - appointed N Muruganandam as principal secretary, finance department, replacing additional chief secretary S Krishnan.
 - ✓ Krishnan will now take charge of the industries department.
 - ✓ An order to this effect was issued by chief secretary V Irai Anbu.
 - ✓ Former additional secretary to the PMO, P Amudha is now principal secretary, rural development while panchayat raj department's K Gopal is appointed as principal secretary, transport department.



- ✓ Additional chief secretary Sandeep Saxena will now head the water resources department.
- ✓ Dayanand Kataria has been posted as additional chief secretary, PWD.
- ✓ Ramesh Chand Meena becomes principal secretary, energy department, while Dharmendra Pratap Yadav is principal secretary, handlooms, handicrafts, textiles and khadi department.
- ✓ Principal secretary Selvi Apoorva takes charge of the youth welfare and sports development department.
- ✓ Commissioner of handlooms and textiles Beela Rajesh is appointed principal secretary/commissioner of land reforms.

STATES

- **Goa – has become the first state in the country to achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and has connected every household with electricity.**
- ✓ This was announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister, Anurag Thakur, recently
- ✓ The minister also praised Goa for providing tap water to every household under Har Ghar Jal Mission and it has become the first state to achieve the feat
- ✓ Goa achieved 100% target in providing free ration to the poor and needy, said the Minister
- ✓ Goa also has completed 100% first dose Covid-19 vaccination to all the eligible population in the state
- ✓ The original ODF protocol was issued in the year 2016.
- ✓ According to it, a city or ward is notified as ODF if not a single person is found defecating in the open, at any point.

NATIONAL

- **The Railways - operated the Gati Shakti superfast special train between Delhi's Anand Vihar Terminal and Patna Junction for the first time recently**
- ✓ The train was operated to cater the rush of passengers during the festivals like Diwali and Chhath Puja.



- ✓ This train with the newly introduced AC-3 tier economy coaches will make a total of five trips till November 7.
- ✓ It will have stoppages at Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Junction, Varanasi, Pt Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Junction, and Danapur stations enroute in both directions.
- ✓ These coaches consist of 83 berths each which are 11 more than those in the existing three tier AC coaches.
- ✓ The coach was conceptualized, designed and developed during the Covid-19 period.
- ✓ The cost of each coach is ₹2.76 crore and is designed to run at 160 kmph speed.

➤ **The Chennai-Mysore-Chennai Shatabdi Express - has become the first Integrated Management Systems (IMS) certified train of Southern Railway**



- ✓ It has also become the first Shatabdi train as well as second mail or express train of Indian Railways to receive this certification.
- ✓ Shatabdi Express service is the first ever train service of Southern Railway to bag IMS Certification with ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015 & ISO 45001:2018 Certifications
- ✓ This certification has been granted by the certification agency after comprehensive audit and adherence to all laid down norms.
- ✓ The train's primary maintenance is handled by Basin Bridge Coaching Depot of Indian Railways' Chennai Division.
- ✓ The Chennai – Mysore Shatabdi Express was introduced on 11 May 1994 and inducted with state-of-the-art Linke Hofmann Busch coaches on 1 July 2009

- ✓ It is the first ISO 9001:2001 certified train in the Southern Railway zone
- ✓ The train is known for maintaining 100% passenger amenities in working condition, 100% Bio-digester toilet operations as well as 100% functional sub-pantry equipment
- **The Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SPM) in Kolkata - has become the first Major Indian Port to get a Radio over Internet Protocol (ROIP) System**



- ✓ This is the first time that a ROIP system is being introduced as a marine communication mode in any Major Indian Port.
- ✓ It shall cover the entire Hugli river Estuary from Kolkata to Sandheads, having base stations at 4 locations - Kolkata, Hugli point, Haldia and Sagar Pilot Station
- ✓ With this facility, vessels can be directly communicated via Radio, from Kolkata, especially during storms and inclement weather.
- ✓ SPM Kolkata, the only riverine port in the country, has been continuously maintaining its top position among Indian major ports for the past 152 years

INTERNATIONAL

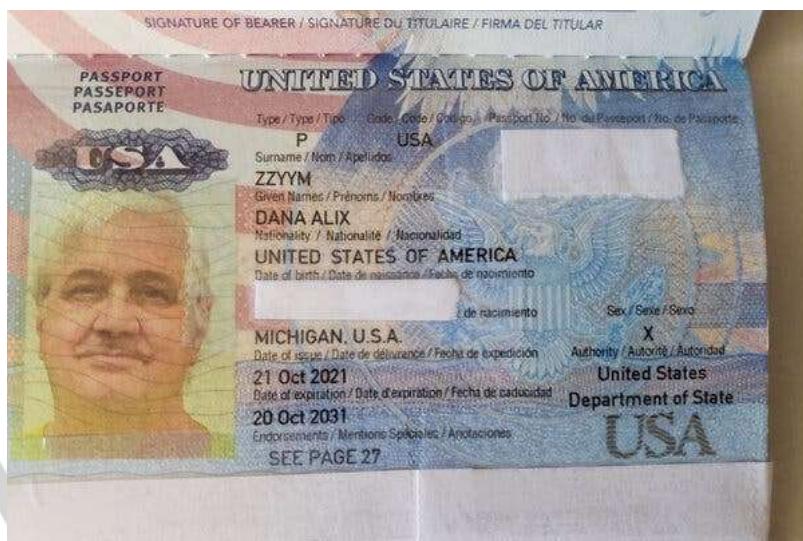
- **Facebook - has changed its corporate name to Meta as part of a major rebranding announced recently**



- ✓ However, the change will apply only to the parent company and individual platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram will retain their names.
- ✓ The move is similar to Google's 2015 corporate restructuring into a parent company called Alphabet.

- ✓ According to the company's founder and Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, Meta refers to a technology called "metaverse" – a shared 3D virtual environment which can be accessed by people using different devices.
- ✓ Through this platform, people can meet, play and work using virtual reality headsets, smartphone apps and augmented reality glasses.
- ✓ Zuckerberg also unveiled a new logo at the company's headquarters in the United States' California, replacing the thumbs-up "Like" with a blue infinity shape.

- **The US State Department - had issued its first passport with an "X" gender designation, which denotes that a person is neither exclusively male nor female**



- ✓ The country's first gender-neutral passport was issued to Dana Zzyym, an intersex military veteran who sued the State Department in 2015
- ✓ Zzyym, an intersex activist from Fort Collins, Colorado, was denied a passport for failing to check male or female on an application.
- ✓ With this, the United States has joined countries such as Australia, New Zealand, Nepal, and Canada, in allowing its citizens to designate a gender other than male or female on their passports
- ✓ Earlier in June, the State Department said that it is planning to add a third gender marker for non-binary, intersex, and gender-nonconforming people

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **On November 4, the Indian Air Force - deployed two military aircraft to send 100 tones of nano nitrogen fertiliser to Colombo, Sri Lanka**
- ✓ The deployment of two IAF C-17 Globemaster aircrafts was essentially to support Sri Lanka's organic farming initiatives
- ✓ India had sent the consignment of fertiliser following a request from the Sri Lankan government.



- ✓ The import of Nano nitrogen liquid fertiliser came months after Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's decision in May to stop chemical fertilizer imports
- ✓ Sri Lanka is facing a severe shortage of fertilizers after the ban
- ✓ The delivery came in the middle of a row between China and Sri Lanka over supply of 20,000 tonnes of contaminated organic fertilisers by Chinese companies and China's blacklisting of People's Bank of Sri Lanka for credit default.
- ✓ Earlier, Sri Lanka has received the first consignment of 3.1 million litres high quality non-harmful Nano Nitrogen liquid fertiliser from India to help the island nation's Eastern province in the cultivation of maize and paddy in October 2021

COMMITTEES

- **A National Steering Committee (NSC) - has been formed for the implementation of NIPUN Bharat Mission recently**
- ✓ The Department of School Education and Literacy had launched the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat Mission in July, 2021
- ✓ The mission aims to achieve the goal of universal proficiency in foundational literacy and numeracy for every child by end of Class 3 by 2026-27, as envisaged by National Education Policy 2020
- ✓ The newly-formed Committee will be chaired by the Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister of State for Education Annapurna Devi will be the vice-chairperson.
- ✓ The objective of the committee will be to monitor the progress of the National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy and provide guidance on policy issues and achieve the desired target in 2026-27.
- ✓ The other members of the NSC include - Secretary, School Education and Literacy; Director NCERT; Secretary Education Uttar Pradesh; Secretary Education, Karnataka; Director SCERT Gujarat and Director SCERT Sikkim.
- ✓ Representatives of seven union ministries -- Women and Child Development, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Health and Family Welfare, Finance, Electronics and Information Technology and Panchayati Raj; two experts

from NCERT and RIE Ajmer; and three external experts will also be members of the committee.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

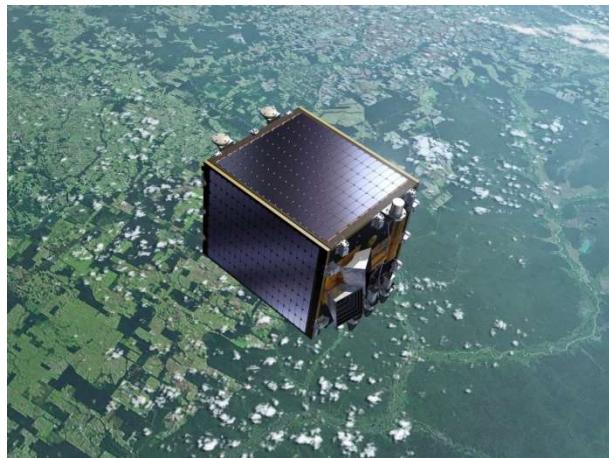
- **The Delhi Regional Security Dialogue on Afghanistan - will be hosted by India in New Delhi on November 10, 2021**
- ✓ The meeting will discuss the overall security situation in Afghanistan following the Taliban's capture of power in the country
- ✓ The meeting will be chaired by National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval.



- ✓ Two earlier meetings in this format have been held in Iran in September 2018 and December 2019.
- ✓ The third meeting in India could not be held earlier due to the pandemic.
- ✓ India had formally invited the NSAs of Russia, Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for the meeting.
- ✓ Pakistan has not attended the previous meetings of this format.
- ✓ Central Asian countries as well as Russia and Iran have confirmed participation
- ✓ This is the first time that all Central Asian countries, not just Afghanistan's immediate land neighbours, are participating in this format
- ✓ India has so far made contributions of around \$3 billion for Afghan redevelopment projects

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **European Space Agency's oldest serving Earth observing mission, Proba-1 mini-satellite – has completed 20 years in orbit**
- ✓ Measuring just 60 x 60 x 80 cm, Proba-1 (Project for On Board Autonomy) autonomously performs advanced guidance, navigation, and control processing, as well as payload resources management.
- ✓ Its two imaging instruments – the Compact High Resolution Imaging Spectrometer (CHRIS) and the panchromatic High Resolution Camera (HRC) – have contributed more than 1000 images of more than 1000 sites
- ✓ The images have been vital for monitoring several environmental concerns across the globe



- ✓ The micro-satellite was developed by ESA's General Support Technology Programme (GSTP) and built by an industrial consortium led by the Belgian company Verhaert.
- ✓ While CubeSats are more and more common and available these days, Proba 1 was ESA's first venture into small missions.
- ✓ It also marked the beginning of a series of Proba satellites, including Proba-2 (2009), Proba-V (2013), and the currently-in-testing Proba-3
- ✓ Proba-3 seeks to study the Sun's corona and has been planned for launch in 2023.
- ✓ The satellite indicated many firsts for ESA – from being the first to use a lithium-ion battery to being the first ESA spacecraft with fully autonomous capabilities.
- ✓ The PROBA spacecraft was launched on October 22, 2001 on the PSLV-C3 launcher of ISRO from Sriharikota Range

DEFENCE

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force - jointly flight-tested an indigenously-developed long-range (LR) bomb from an aerial platform recently



- ✓ The LR Bomb, after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, was guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits

- ✓ The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of range sensors including Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), Telemetry and radar deployed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.
- ✓ The LR Bomb has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.
- **The 7th Indian Navy Frigate of P1135.6 class, named 'Tushil' - was launched recently at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia**



- ✓ "Tushil" is a Sanskrit word meaning Protector Shield
- ✓ The contract for construction of two ships was signed between India and Russia on October 18.
- ✓ According to an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) signed between India and Russia, two ships of Project 1135.6 class are to be constructed in Russia and two ships to be built in India at M/s Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)
- ✓ The construction of these ships is based on the Indian Navy's specific requirements to meet the entire spectrum of naval warfare in all three dimensions of Air, Surface and Sub-surface.
- ✓ These ships are being equipped with major Indian supplied equipment such as Surface to Surface Missiles, Sonar system, Surface Surveillance Radar, Communication Suite and ASW system along with Russian Surface to Air Missiles and gun mounts.
- ✓ They feature "stealth technology" in terms of low radar and underwater noise signatures.

➤ **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully tested the high-speed expendable aerial target (HEAT) called ABHYAS recently**

- ✓ The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha.
- ✓ The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems.



- ✓ Abhyas is being developed at Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) under DRDO.
- ✓ Abhyas is designed for autonomous flying with the help of an autopilot, under development at ADE
- ✓ The flight test of ABHYAS was carried out as a part of developmental flight trials.
- ✓ It is being developed for the Indian Armed Forces.

OBITUARY

- Renowned cricket coach Tarak Sinha – passed away due to lung cancer in New Delhi on November 6



12 International Players

1 Coach

- ✓ Tarak Sinha produced 12 international cricketers besides several first-class cricketers since starting the Delhi's famous Sonnet Cricket Club in 1969
- ✓ He produced some of the country's top domestic and international cricketers, such as Surinder Khanna, Sanjeev Sharma, Manoj Prabhakar, the late Raman Lamba, KP Bhaskar, Ajay Sharma, Atul Wassan, Aakash Chopra, Anjum Chopra, Rumeli Dhar, Ashish Nehra, Shikhar Dhawan, Rishabh Pant, Nitish Rana, and many others.

- ✓ He coached three generations of cricketers and earned the lifetime Dronacharya award in 2018.
- ✓ The BCCI used his expertise only once when they appointed him as the women's national team coach.
- ✓ He worked with a very young batch of players that had Jhulan Goswami, Mithali Raj in their ranks.

SPORTS

- India's woman pistol ace Manu Bhaker and Iran's reigning Olympic champion Javad Foroughi - won the 10m air pistol mixed team gold at the inaugural ISSF President's Cup at Wroclaw, Poland



- ✓ The Indo-Iranian pair prevailed over French-Russian duo of Mathilde Lamolle and Artem Chernousov 16-8 in the gold medal match on November 5.
- ✓ Bhaker and Foroughi were placed third in qualification to qualify for the first semifinal where they topped the field of four pairs to make it to the final.
- ✓ The inaugural ISSF President's Cup is a rechristened version of the World Cup Finals
- ✓ The top 12 athletes of the year according to world ranking are invited to determine the best individual athletes of the year in their respective Olympic events.

NATIONAL WEEK

- The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) – has observed the “Vigilance Awareness Week 2021” from October 26 to November 1, 2021.



- ✓ The awareness campaign is observed every year as a mark of respect to Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhai Patel, whose birth anniversary falls on October 31.
- ✓ Theme 2021 - Independent India @ 75: Self Reliance with Integrity
- ✓ The purpose of Vigilance Awareness Week is to raise awareness among the public about the ill effects of corruption.
- ✓ The Central Vigilance Commission is the apex integrity institution of the country and endeavours to promote integrity, transparency and accountability in public life.
- ✓ It was established in 1964 and given statutory status in 2003, by an act of Parliament.

