

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 9, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The Union environment ministry's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) - has granted environmental clearance (EC) for phase III of the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway project.**
- ✓ The Phase III of the project will connect Sriperumbudur with Gudipala in Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ As part of the project, nearly 19,000 trees will be cut down and five hectares of reserved forest with another 2,000 trees will be diverted
- ✓ To compensate, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project implementation agency, has promised EAC that around 1.69 lakh trees will be planted along the road.
- ✓ NHAI will spend ₹3,472 crore for this project, which is expected to benefit more than 50,000 vehicles every day.
- ✓ At present, Chennai motorists mostly take the Vellore-Hosur route to reach Bengaluru, which takes at least six to seven hours.
- ✓ The expressway aims at bringing it down to four hours.
- ✓ The total length of the proposed third phase is 106 km.
- ✓ As per the initial design, the project involves construction of 54 bridges, 13 vehicular subways and six toll plazas.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Health - has placed a purchase order for one crore doses of Zydus Cadila's three-dose Covid vaccine ZyCoV-D at ₹358 per dose, excluding GST.**
- ✓ The government aims to start distribution of the jabs by December once supplies start flowing in.
- ✓ The vaccine will be administered using a needle-free applicator called "PharmaJet", as against the usage of traditional syringes

- ✓ The needle-free applicator, also called a jet injector, pressurises liquid medication into a narrow stream that is capable of penetrating skin.
- ✓ The pricing includes ₹265 per dose of ZyCoV-D plus ₹93 for a needle-free applicator
- ✓ The Ahmedabad-based pharma company, Zydus Cadila, had earlier proposed a price of Rs 1,900 for its three-dose regimen.
- ✓ So far, three vaccines have been administered in India's immunisation drive - Serum Institute of India's Covishield (95.69 crore doses), Bharat Biotech's Covaxin (12.22 crore doses) and the Russian Sputnik vaccine (10.9 lakh doses).
- ✓ The government has been procuring Covishield at ₹215 per dose, whereas Covaxin costs ₹225 per dose.
- ✓ Both Covishield and Covaxin are two dose vaccine and are administered through traditional syringe.
- ✓ For private hospitals, the price of Covishield is capped at ₹780 per dose, Covaxin at ₹1,410 and Sputnik V at ₹1,145 a dose.
- ✓ ZyCoV-D — the world's first plasmid DNA vaccine — is a three dose vaccine that will be given on day zero, day 28 and day 56.
- ✓ The vaccine received emergency use authorisation from India's drug regulator on 20 August, 2021
- ✓ ZyCoV-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 years and above

AWARDS

- **On November 8, President Ram Nath Kovind – conferred the highest civilian awards in the country, the Padma Awards, to 119 distinguished personalities at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi**



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar were present during the occasion
- ✓ This year, seven Padma Vibhushan, 10 Padma Bhushan and 102 Padma Shri Awards for the year 2020 were conferred
- ✓ It includes 29 women awardees, 16 Posthumous awardees, and 1 transgender awardee.
- ✓ Among the individuals who received the Padma Vibhushan were former Japanese Shinzo Abe, sculpture artist Sudrashan Sahoo, Dr Belle Monappa Hegde, a cardiologist and former vice-chancellor of Manipal University, Union ministers George Fernandes (posthumous), Arun Jaitley (posthumous), Sushma Swaraj (posthumous) and Pandit Chhannulal Mishra, Hindustani classical and semi-classical vocalist and late singer SP Balasubrahmanyam
- ✓ The Padma Bhushan went to former Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi (who received the award posthumously), Kannada literature doyen Chandrashekhara Khambhara, Badminton player PV Sindhu, singer KS Chitra, former Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, among others.
- ✓ This year's Padma Shri awardees include Sridhar Vembu, CEO of Zoho Corporation, vocalist Bombay Jayashri, India's first woman Air Marshal Dr Padma Bandopadhyay (retd), Bollywood personalities Kangana Ranaut, Adnan Sami, Ekta Kapoor, Karan Johar, Tamil actor and TV debate personality Solomon Pappiah, visually challenged Malayalam writer Balan Pootheri, Balinese performing artist I Wayan Dubia, applied mathematician Rangasami Lakhminarayana Kashyap and Matha B Manjamma Jogati among others.
- ✓ Former high commissioner to India, Muazzem Ali,(posthumous) and 1971 war hero Col Quazi Sajjad Ali Zahir, became the first Bangladeshi citizens to be honoured with the Padma Shri
- ✓ The Padma Awards are one of the highest civilian honours of India announced annually on the eve of Republic Day.
- ✓ The Awards are given in three categories - Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of higher order) and Padma Shri (distinguished service).
- ✓ The Padma Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, which include art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.

SPORTS

- **On November 8, Vidarbha's left-arm spinner Akshay Karnewar - became the first ever bowler in cricket history not to concede any runs from his quota of four overs in the T20 format**

- ✓ Vidarbha's 29-year-old left-arm spinner Akshay Karnewar ended his quota of four overs with figures of 4-4-0-2 against Manipur in the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at the ACA Stadium in Vijayawada



- ✓ This feat has never been achieved in a T20 International, including domestic and franchise T20 cricket.
- ✓ Akshay Karnewar is an ambidextrous bowler, which means he can bowl both right-arm off-spin and left-arm orthodox spin
- ✓ On the same day, in another match between Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, Venkatesh Iyer produced figures of 4-2-2-2, which is the fifth most economical spell bowled in all of T20 cricket
- ✓ Before Karnewar, Pakistani left arm fast bowler, Mohammad Irfan held the record of bowling the most economical 4-over spell ever in T20 cricket.
- ✓ Irfan had conceded just one run in his quota of 4 overs while playing for Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 3 years ago

NATIONAL DAY

- **Uttarakhand Foundation Day – November 9**



- ✓ Uttarakhand, the 27th state of India, was formed on this day in the year 2000 after joining several districts from the Northwestern part of Uttar Pradesh and a portion of the Himalayan Mountain range.
- ✓ It was earlier known as Uttaranchal and renamed Uttarakhand on January 1, 2007
- ✓ Known as the 'Land of Gods', the state has very rich natural resources like glaciers, rivers, dense forests, and snow mountain peaks.

- ✓ The name Uttarakhand has been derived from the Sanskrit language, which literally means 'northern city'
- ✓ It also has the four most sacred and revered Hindu temples also known as Char Dham of Uttarakhand - Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamnotri.
- ✓ The neighbouring states of Uttarakhand are Tibet, Nepal, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

