

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-DECEMBER 2, 2021

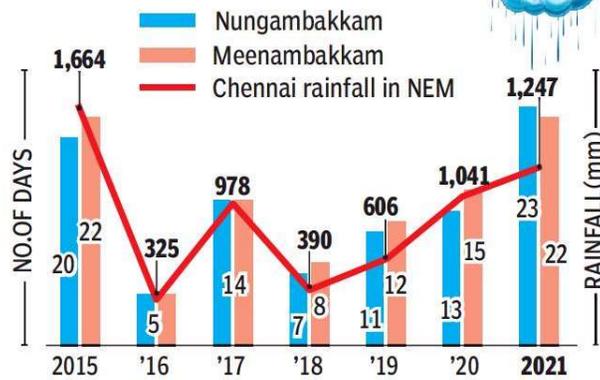
TAMIL NADU

- **The first phase of 'Illam Thedi Kalvi' scheme for students in rural parts of Madurai district - was formally inaugurated by state ministers P T R Palanivel Thiagarajan and P Moorthy on December 1.**
- ✓ In the first phase, a total of 956 centres will be functional in rural areas of Madurai.
- ✓ Students of classes I to VIII will have classes at their school or community halls with volunteers for one-and-a-half hours every day after school hours.
- ✓ In Madurai, 1,062 volunteers have been selected and trained for the scheme.
- ✓ The ministers inaugurated the classes organised at the centre in Alathur, in the presence of district collector S Aneesh Sekhar, district chief educational officer R Swaminathan and other officials.

NATIONAL

- **South peninsular India - recorded the highest ever rainfall in November since 1901, as per the India Meteorological Department (IMD)**
- ✓ The 'heavy', 'very heavy' and 'extremely heavy' rainfall events that occurred last month were the highest over the last five years in the country.
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and south interior Karnataka received 169% excess rainfall last month
- ✓ In general, the country witnessed 645 'heavy' (64.5 to 115.5 mm), 168 'very heavy' (115.6 to 204.5 mm) and 11 'extremely heavy' (over 204.5 mm) rainfall events in November.
- ✓ The Met department attributed such rainfall events to the active phase of northeast monsoon
- ✓ Overall, five low-pressure systems formed over the Andaman Sea in November which was nearly double the average number of low-pressure systems in the month.
- ✓ According to the IMD, the monthly rainfall over the south peninsular India is most likely to be above normal (>132% of Long Period Average) during December

**NO. OF RAINY DAYS (2.5MM AND MORE)
AND MONTHLY RAINFALL IN NOVEMBER**



**YEARS WITH NO. OF RAINY DAYS
EXCEEDING 20 IN NOVEMBER** (In days)



IN NOVEMBER

Avg monthly rainfall for city ————— **374.4mm**

Avg number of rainy days in
Nungambakkam and Meenambakkam ————— **11.1 days**

RAINFALL

Chennai annual
1,382.9mm

Northeast monsoon-
(October to December)
867.4mm

NUNGAMBAKKAM

Actual rain **203cm**
Normal **140cm**

MEENAMBAKKAM

197cm
138cm

- ✓ The south peninsular India consists of five meteorological subdivisions — Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, Coastal Andhra Pradesh & Yanam, Rayalaseema, Kerala & Mahe and south interior Karnataka.
- ✓ In respect of Chennai, the month of November ended with 1,044.3mm in Nungambakkam, just 5mm short of November 2015's 1,049.3mm, and 981.8mm in Meenambakkam
- ✓ According to IMD, a rainy day is one when there is 2.5mm or more rain recorded in 24 hours
- **A panel of expert advisers - have recommended the first at-home treatment for Covid-19, Molnupiravir, to the US Food and Drugs Administration (USFDA) for approval.**
- ✓ If the FDA gives emergency authorisation to the drug, it may pave way for emergency use authorisation for the drug in India.
- ✓ Usually expert committee recommendations are accepted by the regulator.

- ✓ The regulatory subject expert committee (SEC) in India has not given its recommendations primarily because the drug is yet to be approved in its country of origin.
- ✓ According to experts, the pill can play a significant role if vaccine induced and natural immunity are threatened by the new variant Omicron.
- ✓ Indian companies, including Natco, Dr Reddy's, Cipla, Sun Pharma, Hetero and BDR Pharma are awaiting the regulatory nod to introduce the generic antiviral in the country at affordable prices.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 1, the European Commission - unveiled a plan to invest €300 billion (\$340 billion) globally by 2027 in infrastructure, digital and climate projects**
- ✓ The investment is considered as a better alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- ✓ The scheme, called Global Gateway, aims to strengthen Europe's supply chains, boost EU trade and help fight climate change, focusing on digitalisation, health, climate and energy and transport sectors, as well as education and research.
- ✓ China launched its Belt and Road project in 2013 to boost trade links with the rest of the world and has been spending heavily on the development of infrastructure in dozens of countries around the world.
- ✓ However, it was widely speculated that financing offered by Beijing is often unfavourable, not transparent, and makes some poorer countries, especially in Africa, dependent on China through debt.
- ✓ Unlike China, the EU would ensure local communities benefited from the infrastructure projects under Global Gateway and would also bring with it the private sector's participation
- ✓ EU money, in the form of grants, loans and guarantees, will come from the bloc's institutions, governments, as well as EU financial institutions and national development banks.
- ✓ It would be offered "under fair and favourable terms" so as not to leave governments of third countries with a debt problem.

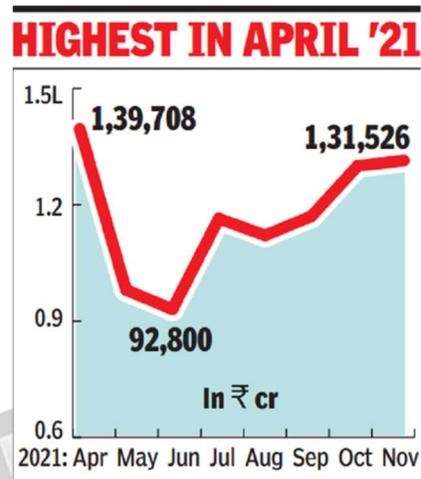
INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India - had joined the G20 Troika which comprises Indonesia, Italy, and India — the current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies respectively.**
- ✓ This was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs on December 1
- ✓ India will assume the G20 presidency on December 1, 2022, from Indonesia
- ✓ India will convene the G20 Leaders' Summit for the first time in India in 2023.
- ✓ The G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, which reflects recognition that global prosperity is interdependent and our economic opportunities and challenges are interlinked

- ✓ Indonesia assumed the G20 presidency on December 1 and will convene various G20 meetings throughout the year culminating into the G20 Leaders' Summit on 30-31, October 2022
- ✓ The Summit will be held under the overall theme of "Recover Together Recover Stronger".

ECONOMY

- **The GST collections - touched ₹1,31,576 crore in November 2021 on the back of a strong festival sale**



- ✓ This is the second-highest monthly collections achieved since the introduction of the new tax regime from July 2017
- ✓ The November collections (for transactions in October) was slightly higher than the ₹1.3 lakh crore deposited in the treasury last month and 25% higher than a year ago.
- ✓ The previous record monthly collection was witnessed in April, for which the numbers have been revised downwards from Rs 1,41,384 crore announced earlier to Rs 1,39,708 crore.
- ✓ The collection figures for May and June too have been revised.

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL DAY

- **World AIDS Day – December 1**
- ✓ The Day is observed every year to spread awareness about the dangers of HIV, Human Immunodeficiency Virus and honour those who have lost their lives due to this deadly disease.
- ✓ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome or AIDS is a life-threatening disease in which a person's immune system becomes weak and redundant, leading to death.
- ✓ In 1986, India detected its first case of Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).



- ✓ World AIDS Day was first conceived in 1988 in the month of August by Thomas Netter and James W. Bann
 - ✓ Thomas Netter and James W. Bann were both public information officers for the AIDS Global Program of the World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland
 - ✓ After the concept was approved, it was agreed that AIDS Day will be observed on December 1, every year.
 - ✓ UNAIDS lead campaigning for World AIDS Day since 2004.
 - ✓ Theme 2021 - "End Inequalities, End AIDS"
 - ✓ According to WHO, over 36 million lives have been lost to HIV or AIDS-related diseases so far, and an estimated 37.7 million individuals were living with it in 2020
- **National Pollution Control Day – December 2**



- ✓ The day is observed in the memory of those who have lost their lives in the Bhopal Gas tragedy on the night of December 2nd and 3rd, 1984
- ✓ The horrific industrial accident took place due to the leak of Methyl Isocyanate gas in the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Madhya Pradesh, killing thousands of people
- ✓ Bhopal gas tragedy is said to be one of the world's worst industrial disasters to date.
- ✓ The day is observed to spread awareness on managing and controlling industrial disasters, preventing the pollution produced by industrial processes or human negligence.

- ✓ According to the National Health Portal of India, around 7 million people across the globe die every year due to air pollution.
- ✓ Nine among ten people across the world do not have access to safe air and consequently face risk of respiratory disorders, lung cancer, brain or kidney damage and heart disease in long run.
- ✓ In September 1974, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was established in India underneath the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act

