

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 30, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On December 29, Tech giant Apple - said that it has placed its key supplier in India – Foxconn’s Sriperumbudur facility near Chennai – “on probation”**
- ✓ The decision has been taken after improper working conditions in the facility were flagged as some employees suffered food poisoning at the hostel managed by the firm.
- ✓ Apple is monitoring the situation and will ensure standards are met before the facility reopens.
- ✓ Under probation, Apple is likely to stop offering new business temporarily to the Taiwanese electronic maker’s facility that assembles iPhone 12 and iPhone 13.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Foxconn Technology Group said that some of its offsite dormitory facilities in Sriperumbudur do not meet the required standards.
- ✓ The company said it is investigating the issues and restructuring the local management team.
- ✓ Earlier this month, a large number of Foxconn India employees — a majority of them women — protested after reports of workers being hospitalised after consuming food provided at a hostel managed by the firm.
- ✓ The state government intervened to end the protest.
- ✓ Foxconn then assured the state that it will provide standard food and other quality facilities to the employees
- ✓ The company also said it will work to build new hostel premises spanning at a cost of Rs 570 crore to accommodate about 18,750 employees.

NATIONAL

- **Biological E - has got the go-ahead to conduct clinical trials for the Corbevax vaccine as a booster dose**
- ✓ India’s first indigenously manufactured protein sub-unit vaccine Corbevax has received emergency use authorisation (EUA) from the drug regulator

- ✓ India plans to start administering precaution doses to frontline workers and senior citizens with comorbidities from January 10.
- ✓ The Subject Expert Committee is learnt to have recommended grant of permission to conduct the Phase-III trials for Corbevax as a booster subject to certain conditions
- ✓ Having completed two Phase-III clinical trials with over 3,000 subjects aged between 18 and 80 at 33 sites across India, Corbevax was found to be safe, well tolerated and immunogenic, as per Biological E.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 29, Pakistan - announced that it has set up a first-ever body of Hindu leaders to take care of the minority community's temples in the Muslim-majority country.**
- ✓ The ministry of religious affairs constituted the Pakistan Hindu Mandir Management Committee on the pattern of the already working Pakistan Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee.
- ✓ The inaugural meeting of the committee was chaired by minister for religious affairs Pir Noor-ul-Haq Qadri.
- ✓ Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) chairman Asif Hashmi briefed the meeting on the matters.
- ✓ The ETPB is a statutory board that manages religious properties and shrines of Hindus and Sikhs who had migrated to India following the partition.

RANKINGS

- **IIT-Madras - has bagged the top rank in the latest Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) in the category of centrally-funded technical institutions.**

SEVEN IITs & IISc AMONG TOP 10

➤ IISc Bengaluru bagged 6th rank, followed by IIT-Hyd, IIT-Kharagpur, NIT, Kozhikode, & Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, UP

➤ ARIIA ranks major higher educational institutions in India on **innovation, start-up and entrepreneurship development**

➤ ARIIA saw registration of **3,551** higher educational and **1,438** technical institutions



“ IIT-Madras places a lot of emphasis on innovation among students and faculty, which has resulted in a successful and fast-growing deep technology startup ecosystem in the country

Bhaskar Ramamurthi, DIRECTOR, IIT-M

- ✓ IIT-Mumbai and IIT-Delhi secured second and third positions in the overall rankings

- ✓ Panjab University, Delhi Technological University and Netaji Subhas University of Technology have been ranked as top three in the state and deemed university (government and government-aided) categories.
- ✓ The 2021 rankings were released by the Ministry of Education (MoE) on December 29.
- ✓ ARIIA is a policy initiative of the Ministry of Education
- ✓ It systematically ranks all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to promotion and support of “innovation and entrepreneurship development” among students and faculties.
- ✓ The first edition of ARIIA started in 2019 and 496 institutes had competed then.
- ✓ The present edition of ARIIA saw registration of 3,551 higher education HEIs and 1,438 technical institutions (including all IITs, NITs, IISc, etc.)
- ✓ The third edition has introduced a special framework for non-technical institutions that further strengthens the innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystem in Indian higher education institutions.
- ✓ Indira Gandhi National Open University and Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, were ranked top two in Institute of National Importance, Central University and CFIs (Non-Technical) category
- ✓ Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India and Sree Narayana College, Kerala, were ranked as the top two institutions in the General (Non-Technical) category.
- ✓ ARIIA critically evaluates institutions on parameters like patent filing and grants, number of registered students and faculty startups, fund generation by incubated start-ups, specialized infrastructure created by institutions to promote innovation and entrepreneurship, etc.
- ✓ Union education minister Subhas Sarkar virtually announced the ARIIA 2021 rankings.

