



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-DECEMBER 7, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The state tourism department - has released draft guidelines for adventure tourism on December 6.**
 - ✓ The adventure tourism guidelines focuses on various issues including identification of adventure tourist spots, improving infrastructure facilities in the respective locations and recognising adventure tour operators.
 - ✓ The draft guidelines will cover range of adventure tourism activities alongwith the operational issues ranging from tourists safety, ethics and risk management.
 - ✓ In this regard, TTDC managing director Sandeep Nanduri chaired a meeting of adventure tour operators in Chennai to elicit their views on the draft guidelines

- **In a first, the National Highways wing of the state highways department - is planning to build a flyover through a reserve forest to ensure free and safe movement of wild animals including elephants.**
 - ✓ The 12-metre-wide flyover spanning a distance of 2.4km will be constructed in the National Highway, NH-181 – Chinthamanipudur – Coonoor
 - ✓ It will extend from Kallar to the second hairpin bend of Mettupalayam – Coonoor Road
 - ✓ Madurai-based COS Consultancy Services has been chosen to conduct feasibility study for the 200 crore flyover structure and to prepare a detailed project report (DRP) in this regard
 - ✓ The World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature - India has been conducting studies at the Kallar elephant corridor since 2007.
 - ✓ The corridor, on the busy Mettupalayam – Coonoor Road, is used by animals including elephants, leopards, deer, sloth bears and gaurs.
 - ✓ As the stretch handles more than 8,500 vehicles daily, animals are forced to cross the road risking their lives to find alternative routes through populated areas, resulting in human-animal conflicts.

NATIONAL

- **The government - announced the release of a revamped post matric scholarship for over 4 lakh Scheduled Castes student beneficiaries in the country**
- ✓ The scheme has been announced on the occasion of the 66th death anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, observed as “Mahaparinivaran Divas”



- ✓ Social justice minister Virendra Kumar released the scholarship digitally through an online platform to over 4.09 lakh student beneficiaries
- ✓ The Minister also launched a national fellowship management and grievance redressal portal to connect with students directly, so that any concerns can be immediately reported on the portal itself.
- ✓ He also launched a new scheme that will focus on identifying meritorious SC students, including those from 112 aspirational districts whose education in reputed residential schools will be supported financially from 9th to 12th level.
- ✓ Under the revamped scheme, the scholarship will be transferred in DBT (direct benefit transfer) mode directly to the bank accounts of student beneficiaries through a dedicated online platform.
- ✓ The online platform will have robust cyber security measures that would assure transparency, accountability, efficiency, and timely delivery of the assistance without any delays.
- ✓ The scheme allows students to pursue any post matric course starting from Class XI onwards.
- ✓ The Ministry of social justice and empowerment has a database of 12 lakh student beneficiaries
- ✓ Further, the Ministry is uploading the data for students to enable the release of scholarship to all 60 lakh beneficiaries at the earliest.
- ✓ In December 2020, the government approved changes in the centrally sponsored scheme to benefit more than 4 crore SC students in the next 5 years so that they can successfully complete their higher education.

- ✓ The central government's contribution towards the scholarship amount is 60% and the balance has to be spent by the state government.
- ✓ The scheme has a pre-condition that the central share will be released only after the states release their 40% share
- ✓ However, this pre-condition has been waived off for the first year
- ✓ The states are supposed to undertake fool-proof verification of the eligibility, caste status, Aadhaar identification and bank account details on the online portal.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Aung San Suu Kyi, the ousted leader of Myanmar - was convicted on two charges and handed a four-year sentence**
- ✓ The sentence was later reduced to two years following an amnesty ordered by the country's military leader, General Min Aung Hlaing

BIGGER LEGAL CHALLENGES AHEAD

The prison sentence given to **Aung San Suu Kyi** is one small shot in a legal offensive intended to deal her and her National League for Democracy party a crippling political blow

OTHER CHARGES AGAINST HER
Telecommunications & export-import laws | Charged with improperly importing and possessing walkie-talkies that were operated by her security guards without a licence. Maximum penalty is 3 years and 1 year in prison respectively. Verdicts in both expected on December 13

Official secrets law | Suu Kyi & 4 co-defendants, Australian economist Sean Turnell who served as her adviser, face the British colonial era charge. Details have not been made public, though state TV has said Turnell had access to 'secret state financial data' and tried to flee the country.

102-YR JAIL TERM?
 In total, Suu Kyi is facing a total of 11 charges which can bring in a maximum imprisonment of 102 years



Maximum penalty is 14 years in jail. Verdict is expected next year

Anti-corruption law | A special court is hearing multiple corruption cases against Suu Kyi covering the alleged acceptance of a bribe and abuse of office to obtain favourable terms on property transactions. Each of the corruption charges has a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment and a fine

Suu Kyi, who is facing another count of violating Covid curbs, has denied all charges

FROM HEROINE TO VILLAIN TO CONVICT
 Suu Kyi was kept under house arrest for nearly 15 years before her release in 2010 as the country embraced democratic reforms. Her administration had to cohabit with the generals who retained control of defence & security. In 2019, she infamously defended the army's 2017 crackdown on the Muslim Rohingya at The Hague, angering global community

- ✓ Suu Kyi was found to be guilty of inciting the public against the military and violating Covid-19 protocols by a special court
- ✓ She is being held by the military at an unknown location and would serve her sentence there
- ✓ The 76-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate (1991) is facing a total of 11 charges which can bring in a maximum imprisonment of 102 years.

- ✓ Suu Kyi is facing an incitement charge based on statements posted on her party's Facebook page after she and other party leaders were detained by the military.
- ✓ She was accused of spreading false or inflammatory information that could disturb public order.
- ✓ In addition, she was accused of violating Covid-19 restrictions for her appearance at a campaign event .
- ✓ Suu Kyi spent 15 years under house arrest between 1989 and 2010 for resisting the Myanmar's generals and later agreed to work alongside them when they promised to usher in democratic rule.
- ✓ Myanmar was rocked by massive protests after the military seized power in a coup on February 1 claiming massive voting fraud in the November 2020 election, which Suu Kyi's party won in a landslide
- ✓ Hundreds of people, including children, were killed in the consequent crackdown against the protesters by the forces
- ✓ Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), was among the key people detained by the military following the coup.
- ✓ The military has alleged that Suu Kyi won the election through massive voter fraud — a charge denied by the leader as well as previous election commission and international monitors.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - met Russian President Vladimir Putin for the 21st India- Russia Annual Summit at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on December 6**



- ✓ This is the first in-person between them since both the leaders met on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in 2019 in Brasilia
- ✓ The visit is in continuation of the tradition of annual summits held alternately in India and Russia.
- ✓ Earlier in the day, the two countries held their first 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministers.

- ✓ Later, the two countries signed an agreement for the procurement of 6,01,427 assault rifles AK-203 through Indo-Russia Rifles Pvt Ltd, under the military-technical cooperation arrangement for 2021-31.
- ✓ The countries also signed a treaty to amend the agreement on Cooperation for Kalashnikov series small arms manufacturing, which was first signed in 2019
- ✓ The meeting saw the signing of 28 agreements, 9 between governments and the rest business-to-business, across sectors from defence to energy to space exploration, science and technology, heavy engineering, to trade and investment
- ✓ Among other deals, the two sides signed the 'Agreement on Program of the Military-Technical Cooperation from 2021-2031'.
 - ✓ This 10 year Defence Cooperation Program outlines the ongoing defence cooperation and future possible cooperation between the two countries.
 - ✓ Such agreements are being signed since 1994.
- ✓ The long awaited Rs. 5,000 crore 'A-203 assault rifles' deal was also signed at the end of bilateral talks between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart Sergey Shoigu, paving the way for the production of over six lakh rifles in Amethi.
- ✓ The AK – 203 along with the SIG716 will replace the AK – 47 and INSAS rifles of India.
- ✓ The two sides also signed a protocol to allot land to set up Indian Consulate General in the city of Vladivostok.
- ✓ At the end of the summit, an India-Russia Joint Statement called 'Partnership for Peace, Progress and Prosperity' was released
- ✓ The Russian side has invited the Indian side to Moscow for the next round of 2+2 dialogue to be held in 2022, which has been accepted by India

OBITUARY

- **Dr Sarada Menon, the country's first woman psychiatrist (98 years) - died on December 5 in Chennai, following age-related ailments**



- ✓ Born in Mangaluru, Menon graduated from the Madras Medical College (1947) and joined a two-year specialization course in psychiatry in Bengaluru-based

National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) in the year 1957

- ✓ She became the first woman psychiatrist in the country when she began working in 1959 at what is now the Institute of Mental Health (previously government Kilpauk mental hospital) in Chennai.
- ✓ She was the longest serving Superintendent at the IMH, holding the post of the institute for more than 18 years
- ✓ Soon after her retirement, Menon founded the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF) in 1984.
- ✓ SCARF has been affiliated with the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a collaborating centre for mental health research and training since 1996
- ✓ It continues to be a premier NGO offering treatment and rehabilitation for those with mental illness and support for their caregivers.
- ✓ She stepped down from her position in 1995 and remained an advisor.
- ✓ In September, Menon was among senior doctors to walk into IMH when Tamil Nadu launched a RVIVE, a community café managed by people recovering from mental illness.
- ✓ She authored many papers on mental health and was bestowed with many national and international awards including the Padma Bhushan in 1992.

SPORTS

- **Russia - took an unassailable 2-0 lead over Croatia in the Davis Cup final in Madrid on December 5**



- ✓ With this, Russia will secure their third Davis Cup title and first in 15 years
- ✓ Russia's third title equals the Czech Republic and Germany in seventh place on the all-time list of Davis Cup winners.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Russian Federation's women's team won the event in Prague with a 2-0 victory over Switzerland in the final
- ✓ With this, Russia becomes the fourth nation to win both Davis Cup and Billie Jean King Cup titles.

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL DAY

➤ International Civil Aviation Day - December 7



- ✓ The Day is observed every year by the United Nations to highlight the importance of international civil aviation organisations in air travel across the globe.
- ✓ It also seeks to raise awareness about the role played by aviation sector in the social and economic development of countries or regions.
- ✓ The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), a United Nations body, is the nodal agency to ensure cooperation among various air carriers and to keep up with the safety standards of international aviation
- ✓ Theme till 2023 - "Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development."
- ✓ The ICAO council establishes every five-year special anniversary theme for International Civil Aviation Day – as in 2014, 2019, 2024, 2029
- ✓ The Council representatives pick a special theme for the full four-year intervening period
- ✓ The Day was first observed in the year 1994 for the first time on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Civil Aviation by the ICAO on December 7
- ✓ In 1996, the UN General Assembly declared this day as International Civil Aviation Day
- ✓ The international civil aviation network carries over 4 billion passengers annually and the global air transport sector supports 65.5 million jobs.

➤ Armed Forces Flag Day – December 7

- ✓ The Armed Forces Flag Day is observed every year as an honour to the sailors, soldiers and airmen of India who bravely fought and continues to fight to safeguard the country.
- ✓ The funds collected on this Day are used for the welfare of the serving personnel and veterans and to rehabilitate battle casualties



- ✓ India has been celebrating Armed Forces Flag Day every year since 1949.
- ✓ On August 28 1949, then Defence Minister Baldev Singh appointed a committee that agreed to have an Annual Flag Day on December 7
- ✓ The Day is primarily observed to collect funds dedicated to armed personnel's welfare and give small flags in exchange to the donors to instil a sense of responsibility in Indians to take of our Armed personnel and their families.
- ✓ Small flags and car flags in red, deep blue, and light blue colours representing the three services are distributed in return for donations throughout the country.
- ✓ The government of India had established the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) to aid in the welfare and rehabilitation of veterans (Ex-Service Men).
- ✓ There are around 32 lakh Ex-Service Men, with an additional 60,000 added each year owing to superannuation.

