

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-NOVEMBER 12, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On November 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - attended the 36th Convocation Ceremony of Gandhigram Rural Institute at Dindigul in Tamil Nadu



- ✓ The convocation of the deemed university is being held after a gap of two years owing to the pandemic.
- ✓ A total of 2314 students of 2018-19 and 2019-20 batches received their degrees in the convocation ceremony.
- ✓ This was followed by the Prime Minister awarding gold medals to the winners and honoris causa to the deserving candidates.
- ✓ Addressing the event, Prime Minister noted that Gandhigram was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi himself and one can see the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi's ideas of rural development at the institute.
- ✓ He said khadi remained very close to Mahatma Gandhi's heart and it has become very popular today

- ✓ The Prime Minister gave the examples of 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion' that revived the neglected and forgotten Khadi after a long time
- ✓ He informed that in the last 8 years, the sales of the Khadi sector saw an increase of over 300%.
- ✓ Khadi and Village Industries Commission clocked a record turnover of over Rs 1 lakh crore last year, said the PM
- ✓ Later, the Prime Minister drew everyone's attention to Kashi Tamil Sangamam which is going to take place in Kashi soon and said that it will celebrate the bond between Kashi and Tamil Nadu
- ✓ **PM Modi presented an honorary doctorate to music maestro Ilayaraja and mridangam exponent Umayalpuram Sivaraman during the event.**



- ✓ Ilayaraja was recently made an honorary member of Rajya Sabha under the Modi government
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Governor RN Ravi, Union Minister of State Dr L Murugan, Chancellor Dr K M Annamalai and Vice-Chancellor Prof Gurmeet Singh were also present at the ceremony
- ✓ During his address, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin made a staunch request to bring back education to the state list from the concurrent list of the Constitution to enable the state governments to take forward the ways of imparting education among people.
- ✓ In this regard, he told that education was originally placed under the state list when the Constitution was framed but moved into the concurrent list when emergency was in place
- ✓ Further, the CM explained how the state government provides various educational schemes like Pudhumai Penn, 7.5% reservation for government school students, Naan Mudhalvan, Illam Thedi Kalvi and state funding to study in IIT and IIM, as well as Kalloori Kanavu schemes.
- ✓ Citing Gandhi's affinity towards Tamil Nadu, the CM mentioned that the Mahatma visited the state 26 times and he was keen to learn Tamil

- ✓ Gandhi signed in Tamil and expressed his interest to study Tamil to read Thirukkural, said the CM.
 - ✓ Upon the arrival of PM, the chief minister gifted an English translation of Ponniyin Selvan novel to PM Modi.
 - ✓ A total of 115 medal winners, 2,314 graduates and diploma holders took part in the convocation
 - ✓ Gandhigram was started by the disciples of Gandhi, Dr G Ramachandran and his wife Soundaram
 - ✓ The patrons from Chinnalapatti donated 207 acres of land for establishing the Deemed-to-be university
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has 22 state-funded universities offering state-of-the-art education in arts, science, engineering, education, physical education, veterinary science, fisheries, Tamil development, law, music and agriculture.
- **Chief Minister M K Stalin - said the government has become the first in the state and the country to provide free electricity connections to 1.5 lakh farmers in just 15 months.**



- ✓ On November 11, the CM launched the scheme to provide 50,000 additional free power connections to farmers at a function in Aravakurichi, Karur.
- ✓ It was on September 21 last year, the CM launched the scheme to give one lakh free power connections to farmers.
- ✓ The CM said only 2.2 lakh free connections were issued to farmers in the ten years from 2011 to 2021 during the previous AIADMK regime.
- ✓ Former chief minister M K Karunanidhi introduced free electricity scheme to the farmers in the country in 1989-90 in order to increase food production

STATES

- **President Droupadi Murmu – inaugurated the e-Kumbh (Knowledge Unleashed in Multiple Bharatiya Languages) portal in Bhubaneswar, Odisha**



- ✓ On November 11, President Murmu unveiled various projects of the Union Ministry of Education, which included 20 engineering books of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) translated into Odia language
 - ✓ These books for the first year – nine for B.Tech degree and 11 for diploma students – have been translated by Technical Education Department in collaboration with the Institute of Odia Studies and Research (IOSR).
 - ✓ The translated books are available in the newly launched portal 'e-KUMBH'
 - ✓ During the event, the President also launched the Glossary of the technical terms developed by the Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT) in Odia Language.
 - ✓ Odisha Governor Ganeshi Lal, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, and Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan were present during the event
 - ✓ The President, who hails from Odisha, is on her maiden two-day visit to the state after assuming the top constitutional post in the country
 - ✓ The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) signed an MoU with IOSR on October 18, 2021, to introduce engineering education in Odia in alignment with National Education Policy 2020.
- **The Maharashtra government - has said it will not give permission to start new colleges wanting to offer conventional programmes like arts, science and commerce (BA, BSc and BCom).**
- ✓ The decision was taken on the recommendations of former Pune University vice chancellor Narendra Jadhav
 - ✓ According to Jadhav, there was an “over-saturation” of conventional colleges in the state and “severe” student vacancies in many institutes, including those offering law, B.Ed or B.PEd (bachelor of physical education).
 - ✓ Moreover, the government is planning to recalibrate the existing courses in such a way that 70% will be theory-oriented and 30% will be skill-based.
 - ✓ The government is of the opinion to promote and permit only the courses that offer employability, are new-age, and are needed by industry and society.

- ✓ The points were made in a meeting chaired by deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis which focused on the implementation of the New Education Policy and the path ahead for the state.
- **The JMM-led coalition government in Jharkhand - passed two landmark bills in the one day special extended monsoon session of the assembly on November 11**
 - ✓ The first bill seeks to define state locals based on the land survey records of 1932, popularly known as “khatiyān”
 - ✓ The second bill intends to raise quotas for government jobs from 60% to 77%, including an increase in reservations for OBCs from 14% to 27%.
 - ✓ The government will send a proposal to the Centre for their inclusion in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution after the governor’s assent to make them law
 - ✓ The move would protect the reservation quota from judicial review and equip them with a “safety shield”.
 - ✓ Jharkhand’s legislature is unicameral.
 - ✓ The bill titled “The Jharkhand Definition of Local Persons and for Extending the Consequential Social, Cultural and Other Benefits to Such Local Persons Bill, 2022” proposes to consider everyone local whose name or names of ancestors appear in the last land survey conducted by the British in 1932, commonly called the “khatiyān of 1932”.
 - ✓ In 2001, the NDA government has reduced the quota of OBCs in the state from 27% to 14%

NATIONAL

- **On November 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - flagged off Chennai-Mysuru Vande Bharat Express at Kranthiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) Railway Station in Bengaluru.**
 - ✓ This will be the fifth Vande Bharat train in the country.



- ✓ The scheduled service of the 16-coach express will start from Chennai on November 12
- ✓ The inaugural special will stop at nearly 40 enroute stations for people, rail enthusiasts to see the train which is being operated for the first time in south India.
- ✓ The new train, which will stop at Katpadi also, is to be operated on all days except Wednesdays.
- ✓ It will have 14 chair cars and two executive chair cars.
- ✓ The train offers superior travel experience and modern facilities like automatic doors, on-board WiFi hotspot, ergonomical seats, one-touch lights and bio-vacuum toilets, among others.
- ✓ The Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru Vande Bharat train will reach Bengaluru in four hours 30 minutes as against the four hours 45 minutes travel time by Shatabdi express.
- ✓ At 75-77kmph average speed, Vande Bharat train on Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru route may be the slowest among the five such trains currently running
- ✓ The average speeds of other VB trains are - New Delhi-Varanasi (95kmph), New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra (82kmph), Mumbai CentralGandhinagar (84kmph) and New Delhi-Amb Andaura in HP (79kmph).
- ✓ The speed of Vande Bharat trains is capped at 130kmph, though they have exceeded 180kmph in trial runs.
- ✓ **Later, the Prime Minister inaugurated the Terminal 2 of Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, which is a first-of-its kind 'Terminal in a Garden'**
- ✓ The terminal, built at a cost of around Rs.5,000 crore, will double the passenger handling capacity of the airport to 5-6 crore passengers per annum, from the current capacity of about 2.5 crore
- ✓ **The Prime Minister also flagged off the 'Bharat Gaurav Kashi Darshan' train, which is operated by Karnataka's Muzrai Department, under the 'Bharat Gaurav' train initiative of Railways**
- ✓ The Government of Karnataka gives cash assistance of Rs 5,000 to the Kashi Vishwanath Yatra pilgrims, who visit holy places including Varanasi, Ayodhya and Prayagraj
- ✓ The train offers an eight-day tour package at discounted rates for pilgrims.
- ✓ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi also unveiled 108-foot bronze statue of city's founder Nadaprabhu Kempegowda, which is hailed as 'Statue of Prosperity'**
- ✓ It is the "first and tallest bronze statue of a founder of a city", as per 'World Book of Records'.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Karnataka Basavaraj Bommai, Governor of Karnataka Thawar Chand Gehlot and Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnav and Prahlad Joshi were present during the event.

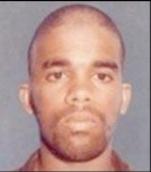


- ✓ Later, PM Modi paid floral tributes to the statues of saint poet Kanakadasa and Maharshi Valmiki at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru
- **The grades awarded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) - to Indian higher education institutes are proposed to be completely scrapped.**
- ✓ Instead, the assessment body is planning at making accreditation a binary process.
- ✓ This means that universities and colleges will be tagged as either 'accredited' or 'still-to-be accredited'.
- ✓ As per the new proposal, the NAAC, the NIRF (National Institutional Ranking Framework) and the NBA (National Board of Accreditation) will be merged into a "meta-accrediting body" under the name 'National Assessment Council'
- ✓ The new body will develop an assessment framework with separate parameters for autonomous colleges, teaching universities and research universities.
- **The Finance Ministry – has recently launched a new scheme to provide financial support for development expenses of Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects.**
- ✓ The new initiative 'India Infrastructure Project Development Fund Scheme (IIPDF)' was rolled out earlier this month by the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on November 3

- ✓ This central sector scheme seeks to grant necessary funding support to the project sponsoring authorities, both in the Central and State Governments, for creating viable PPP projects
- ✓ Funding under IIPDF Scheme is in addition to the already operational 'Scheme for Financial Support to PPPs in Infrastructure (Viability Gap Funding Scheme)'
 - ✓ The Viable Gap Funding (VGF) of 40% of the Total Project Cost is provided by the Indian Government and the sponsoring authority in the form of capital grant at the construction stage of the project.
 - ✓ This VGF scheme was launched to provide funding for PPP infrastructure projects that are economically justified but not commercially viable because of large capital requirements
- ✓ The total corpus of the IIPDF is Rs.150 crore for a period of three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On November 11, the Supreme Court - ordered the premature release of six persons convicted for carrying out the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.**
- ✓ The six convicts serving life imprisonment in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case includes Nalini Sriharan, R P Ravichandran, Santhan, Murugan, Robert Payas and Jayakumar

					
Nalini Sriharan	Ravichandran	Murugan	Santhan	Robert Payas	Jayakumar
<p>PREMATURE RELEASE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991, at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu by a woman suicide bomber of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group from neighbouring Sri Lanka ➤ Seven convicts were sentenced to death for their role in the killing 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In 2001, Nalini Sriharan's sentence was reduced to a life term ➤ The sentence of six more convicts was also commuted in 2014. The same year, then Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalitha initiated moves to free them 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In May this year, the Supreme Court used its extraordinary powers to free the seventh convict, A.G. Perarivalan

- ✓ They were found to have good conduct in jail and all of them had acquired various degrees during their stay in jail.
- ✓ A bench of Justices B R Gavai and B V Nagarathna noted that the Tamil Nadu cabinet had recommended their release on September 9, 2018, and this opinion will be binding on the Governor before whom the convicts had filed remission plea in December 2015
- ✓ It was finally forwarded by the governor to the President on January 27, 2021, and it still remains undecided for more than a year and nine months.

- ✓ The court applied its May 18 2022 judgment of releasing life convict AG Perarivalan in Rajiv Gandhi assassination case to the remaining life convicts and ordered their release forthwith.
- ✓ In the Perarivalan case, the Supreme Court had taken note of the Governor's inordinate delay in taking a decision on the mercy petition and had invoked powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.
- ✓ In its May 1999 order, the Supreme Court had upheld the death sentence of four convicts Perarivalan, Murugan, Santhan and Nalini.
- ✓ Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated by a LTTE suicide bomber during an election rally in Sriperumbudur on May 21,1991

INTERNATIONAL

- **Twitter - suspended the \$8 subscription program it launched earlier this week to combat a growing problem of users impersonating major brands**
- ✓ The company has also reinstated “official” badges for high-profile accounts, with the gray badge reappearing below the profiles of businesses and major media outlets based on an internal approved list.
- ✓ The marker was rolled out earlier this week before being scrapped.
- ✓ Twitter is struggling with impostor accounts since the company allowed paying subscribers to get verified blue check marks.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On November 11, US President Joe Biden – announced several new initiatives to combat climate crisis at the UN climate conference (COP27)**



- ✓ The initiatives announced by Biden include doubling the US commitment to the adaptation fund to \$100 million for global climate resilience
- ✓ He also proposed expanding access to its early warning system for African countries
- ✓ Further, Biden sought to strengthen the proposed domestic methane regulations in the oil and gas sector that would reduce the country’s methane from covered sources by 87% below 2005 levels.

- ✓ His announcement also covers efforts to advance the Global Methane Pledge (GMP) which has been endorsed by over 130 countries representing half of global methane emissions.
 - ✓ India is, however, not part of the GMP, keeping in view the possibility of expanding this pledge to cover farm and livestock sectors — key components of the country's economy.
 - ✓ However, the GMP is largely meant for reducing methane emissions in the energy sector
 - ✓ The GMP is not part of the official decisions under the UN framework, but it is considered an important global effort to cut methane emissions which have significantly higher warming potential.
 - ✓ According to experts, limiting warming to 1.5 degree C will require dramatic reductions in global methane emissions of at least 30% by 2030 from 2020 levels.
 - ✓ The GMP was launched by the US and European Union at COP26 in Glasgow last year.
 - ✓ Currently, the oil and gas sector represents the fastest and the crucial methane emissions reductions opportunities to achieve the GMP target.
- **On November 9, the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) - has announced the launch of Infrastructure Resilience Accelerator Fund (IRAF) at the India Pavilion of COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt**



- ✓ IRAF, a multi-donor trust fund, was established with the support of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
- ✓ It will be managed by the United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (UN MPTFO), New York
- ✓ The fund will be used to support global action on disaster resilience of infrastructure systems, especially in developing countries and Small Island Developing States.
- ✓ The initiative is supported by India, the UK, Australia and the European Union

- ✓ The IRAF will offer customized technical assistance, capacity building, research, knowledge management, and support across the infrastructure life cycle for countries at all stages of development.
 - ✓ One of the first initiatives to be supported by IRAF is the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS).
 - ✓ Around \$50 million in financial commitments have already been announced for IRAF over an initial duration of five years.
 - ✓ CDRI was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi at the UN Climate Action Summit in New York on September 23, 2019.
 - ✓ It is a partnership of national governments, UN agencies and programmes, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and knowledge institutions
- **On November 8, the Mangrove Alliance for Climate (MAC) - was launched with India as a partner at the 27th Session of Conference of Parties (COP27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt**



- ✓ Its members include the UAE, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Australia, Japan, and Spain.
- ✓ The MAC was launched to meet the goal towards increasing the carbon sinking by preserving and restoring mangrove forests
- ✓ India is home to one of the largest remaining areas of mangroves in the world — the Sundarbans — and has vast expertise in restoration of mangrove cover
- ✓ The members will also share expertise and support each other in researching, managing and protecting coastal areas.
- ✓ As the intergovernmental alliance works on a voluntary basis, the parties will decide their own commitments and deadlines regarding planting and restoring mangroves
- ✓ Mangrove forests consist of trees and shrub that live in intertidal water in coastal areas

- ✓ They act as effective carbon stores, holding up to four times the amount of carbon as other forested ecosystems
 - ✓ Mangrove forests capture vast amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and their preservation can both aid in removal of carbon from the atmosphere and prevent the release of the same upon their destruction.
 - ✓ Indonesia hosts one-fifth of the overall mangroves in the South Asia, while India holds around 3% of South Asia's mangrove population
 - ✓ Besides the Sundarbans in West Bengal, the Andaman region, the Kachchh and Jamnagar areas in Gujarat too have substantial mangrove cover.
- **On November 7, the International Drought Resilience Alliance (IDRA) - was launched at the 27th Conference of Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCC) at Sharm El-Sheikh.**



- ✓ The alliance, consisting of 30 countries and 20 organisations, will help each other to be better prepared for future droughts
- ✓ Droughts have increased in frequency by 29% since 2000, with around 55 million people affected every year, according to the latest 'Drought in Numbers' report compiled by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- ✓ Drought-generated economic losses from 1998 to 2017 were about \$124 billion (Rs 1,011.57 crore) across the world
- ✓ Political commitments included a five million Euro (Rs 40.76 crore) seed fund by Spain, which was aimed at supporting the alliance's work and mobilise more resources
- ✓ President of Kenya William Ruto made a commitment to plant five billion trees in the next five years and 10 billion trees in 10 years.
- ✓ The IDRA was first announced by Spain at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly in September 2022

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers - have discovered a new species of estuarine crab at the mangroves of Parangipettai near the Vellar River estuary in Cuddalore district.**



- ✓ It is named 'Pseudohelice annamalai' in recognition of Annamalai University's 100 years of service in education and research
- ✓ This latest discovery was credited to scientists based at Centre of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Marine Biology, a department of Annamalai University, who were also joined by researchers of National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan
- ✓ While crabs can survive in different kinds of marine ecosystems, be it oceans, seas, rivers, or lakes, this one has been categorised as an estuarine crab, as it was found near an estuary
- ✓ So far, only two other crab species namely Pseudohelice subquadrata and Pseudohelice latreilli had existed in the genus Pseudohelice
- ✓ Moreover, this new species is only native to the Indian subcontinent and also the first ever estuarine crab found in high intertidal areas of Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Pseudohelice annamalai has a unique colour between dark purple and dark grey, with brown or white patches on the posterior (carapace) and light-yellow legs and claws (chelipeds).
- ✓ It is small, found in muddy banks of mangroves and has a diameter of 20 millimetres.

SPORTS

- **On November 11, India – won an impressive four gold medals at the 2022 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships in Amman, Jordan**
- ✓ Lovlina Borgohain, Saweety Boora, Parveen Hooda and Alfiya Pathan won titles in their respective weight divisions to produce one of the finest shows by Indian boxers at the Asian meet.
- ✓ This was the third-best performance by the country's women boxers at the championships in terms of winning gold.
- ✓ Earlier, India had won seven gold medals in 2005 and five in 2003.



- ✓ The 2022 World Championships bronze medalist Parveen (63kg), the 2020 Tokyo Olympics bronze medalist Lovlina Borgohain (75kg), the 2016 World Championships silver medalist Saweety (81kg) and Alfiya Pathan (81+kg) won their final encounters to bag the coveted gold medal.
- ✓ This is Lovlina's third Asian medal, following bronze in the welterweight category in 2017 and 2021
- ✓ Among other boxers, Minakshi (52kg) lost in her final to finish with a silver medal
- ✓ Two-time Commonwealth Games bronze medallist Mohammad Hussamuddin's (57kg), Thailand Open champions Sumit (75kg), Narender (92+kg) and Govind Kumar Sahani (48kg) ended their campaign with bronze medals
- ✓ On November 12, five-time Asian Championships medallist Shiva Thapa (63.5kg) will look to clinch his second gold medal when he takes on Abdullaev Ruslan of Uzbekistan
- ✓ Having already confirmed his sixth medal, Thapa is the most successful male pugilist in the competition's history.
- ✓ Thapa is the sole Indian male boxer to reach the final in the championships
- **Indian shooters - won a gold, silver and bronze in the 15th Asian Airgun Championship in Korea on November 11.**
- ✓ The gold came from Divyansh Singh Panwar in the men's 10m air rifle junior event, while Kiran Ankush Jadhav shot a silver in the corresponding senior event.
- ✓ Sri Karthik Sabari Raj won bronze in junior men's air rifle.

