

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 29, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On November 28, Chief minister M K Stalin - launched STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) laboratories on wheels for government school students.



- ✓ This initiative is to encourage government school students to develop an interest in science and mathematics.
- ✓ Launching the initiative, the chief minister flagged off 100 mobile STEM labs from Adi Dravidar Government Girls' Higher Secondary School at Kattur, Trichy.
- ✓ Chief Minister Stalin is on a two-day official visit to the central region.
- ✓ A sum of Rs.25 crore has been sanctioned for the initiative named 'Vaanavil Mandram' which would benefit 25 lakh students in 13,210 schools in the state.
- ✓ A model STEM lab session was conducted in the Kattur Adi Dravidar school where the CM interacted with the students and teachers.
- ✓ Later, CM Stalin inaugurated the first State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) industrial park for Perambalur district at Eraiyur village.

- ✓ CM Stalin also inspected the excavation site of Chola-era palaces at Maligaimedu near Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district.

NATIONAL

- **The 53rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI) - ended on November 28 in Goa, with a closing award ceremony at Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Stadium near Panaji,Goa**
- ✓ Spanish film 'I have electric dreams' received the 'Golden Peacock award for the best film' during the closing ceremony of the Film Festival.



- ✓ Union minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr L Murugan and Goa CM Pramod Sawant participated in the closing ceremony
- ✓ Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur also conferred the Film Personality of the Year Award on Telugu star Chiranjeevi and felicitated in Hebrew the makers and star cast of megahit Israeli Netflix-series 'Fauda'.
- ✓ For his immense contribution towards international cinema, Spanish film director Carlos Saura has been honoured with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award



- ✓ A total of 75 youngsters, all in the age group 18 – 35, attended the Film Festival as special guests, as part of the '75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow' initiative of the Government.
 - ✓ These 75 youngsters, also competed in a "53-Hour Challenge" to produce a short film on their idea of India@100, all in 53 hours
 - ✓ The highest number of the selected winners are from Maharashtra, followed by Tamil Nadu and Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.
- ✓ This year, France was named as the 'Country of Focus' and eight films from France were screened under the package
- ✓ The Polish film 'Perfect Number', directed by Krzysztof Zanussi, was the closing film at the 53rd International Film Festival, 2022.
- ✓ Vahid Mobasheri (Best Actor, Male) and Daniela Marin Navarro (Best Actor, Female) took home the top acting honours in the festival
- ✓ Further, Payam Eskandar's Iranian film Nargesi bagged the ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal in the festival.
- ✓ For the first time, Pavilions made an appearance at IFFI in line with major international markets like the Marche du Cannes.
 - ✓ This year, there was a total of 42 Pavilions, housing the film offices of the various state governments, the participating countries, industry players and media units from the ministry.
- ✓ A new Book Adaptation Program, "Books to box office", has been introduced this year
 - ✓ The new initiative aims to bridge the gap between good stories printed in books and good films that can be made by adapting books.
- ✓ IFFI 53 featured a Divyangjan Special Section and special academic sessions, to make the festival more inclusive and accessible for specially-abled (Divyangjan) film enthusiasts.
- ✓ The 9-day festival featured 183 international films and 97 Indian films in 65 international and 15 Indian languages from 78 countries worldwide
- ✓ A total of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films from India were showcased in the 'Indian Panorama.'
- ✓ To mark the golden jubilee of Manipuri cinema, IFFI 53 showcased Five Feature and five Non-Feature films, curated by Manipur State Film Development Society under Indian Panorama.
- ✓ One of the most significant film festivals in Asia, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was first held in 1952.
- ✓ The International Film Festival of India is conducted by the National Film Development Corporation together with the Entertainment Society of Goa
- **US e-commerce giant Amazon - is shutting down its wholesale distribution business in India amid the ongoing economic slowdown**
- ✓ Amazon Distribution, a wholesale ecommerce website for small neighbourhood stores around Bengaluru, Mysore & Hubli, will be shut down in a phased manner.



- ✓ The service will no longer operate from December 29, 2022.
 - ✓ Significantly, it's the third business the retail giant has closed in India
 - ✓ Earlier, the company announced to discontinue its food delivery service- Amazon Food and ed-tech venture- Amazon academy
 - ✓ The Amazon food delivery service was started in 2020 as a pilot project based in Bengaluru
 - ✓ Amazon started the Amazon Academy as an online learning platform for engineering students to prepare for competitive exams like the JEE.
 - ✓ The Amazon food delivery service will now stop from December 29, while Amazon Academy will be discontinued from August 2023
 - ✓ Meanwhile, the company recently laid off around 10,000 employees from its global workforce.
 - ✓ However, the recent shutting down of three Amazon verticals will not affect Amazon Business, which is a B2B marketplace “where 3P (third-party) sellers sell only to business customers who are mainly small businesses and enterprises”.
- **On November 28, Bharat Biotech - announced that it will work on variant-specific versions of the world's first intranasal Covid-19 vaccine iNCOVACC**
- ✓ iNCOVACC has received emergency use authorisation as a primary dose and heterologous booster for people above 18 years.
 - ✓ iNCOVACC is a recombinant replication deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike protein derived from the Wuhan strain.
 - ✓ The vaccine, that needs to be stored at 2°C to 8°C, was evaluated in phase 1, 2 and 3 clinical trials
 - ✓ It has been specifically formulated to allow intranasal delivery through nasal drops and has been designed and developed to be cost-effective in low and middle-income countries.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The word “Gaslighting” – referring to mind manipulating, grossly misleading, downright deceitful — was chosen as Merriam-Webster’s word of the year**

- ✓ The search for the word on merriam-webster. com increased 1,740% in 2022 when compared over the year before
- ✓ Merriam-Webster's top definition for gaslighting is the psychological manipulation of a person that "causes the victim to question the validity of their own thoughts, perception of reality, or memories and leads to confusion, loss of confidence and self-esteem, uncertainty of one's emotional or mental stability".
- ✓ Gaslighting is a tool frequently used by abusers in relationships — and by politicians and other newsmakers.
- ✓ It can happen between romantic partners, within a broader family unit and among friends or can be a corporate tactic, or a way to mislead the public.
- ✓ There's also another related term "medical gaslighting," when a health care professional dismisses a patient's symptoms or illness as "all in your head. "
- ✓ The word was brought to life 80 years ago with "Gas Light," a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton.
- ✓ The term was later used by mental health practitioners to clinically describe a form of prolonged coercive control in abusive relationships.
- ✓ Merriam Webster, which logs 100 million page views a month on its site, chooses its word of the year based solely on data.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On November 28, Space-tech startup Agnikul Cosmos - announced the opening of India's first private launchpad in Isro's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh**
- ✓ The new facility was inaugurated on November 25 by Isro chairman and Secretary in the Department of Space, S Somanath



- ✓ It has two sections — the Agnikul launchpad and the Agnikul mission control centre – separated by a distance of around 4 metre.
- ✓ These are designed in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) and will be fully operated by homegrown space startup Agnikul Cosmos

- ✓ The new launch facility will be used for testing and developing new launch vehicles by the private sector
- ✓ AgniKul, incubated at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT Madras), plans to guide and control its upcoming launches from this facility
- ✓ In December, Agnikul Cosmos is expected to launch its first rocket called Agnibaan, which is powered by a 3D-printed, patented engine called Agnilet.
 - ✓ Agnibaan is a two-stage, customizable launch vehicle capable of delivering up to 100 kg of payload to orbits around 700 km in altitude (low Earth orbits) and enabling plug-and-play configuration.
 - ✓ Agnilet is the world's first single-piece 3D-printed engine that was entirely designed and manufactured in India.
 - ✓ It was successfully test-fired at ISRO in early 2021, becoming the first company in the country to do so.
- ✓ Earlier, Agnikul Cosmos became the first Indian firm to sign an agreement with ISRO, in December 2020
- ✓ India's first private rocket launch occurred on 18 November, when Hyderabad-based private space firm Skyroot Aerospace launched its suborbital rocket from Isro's SDSC facility

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Navy launched 'Ikshak', the third of the four survey vessels (Large) project – on November 26 at Kattupalli, Chennai**
- ✓ Madhumati Hampiholi, the spouse of Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, launched the ship to the chanting of an Atharva Vedic invocation in accordance with naval marine custom
- ✓ The ship, named 'Ikshak' which means 'Guide', made her first contact with water of Bay of Bengal at the Launch Ceremony



- ✓ The contract for building four SVL ships was signed between Ministry of Defence and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on 30 October, 2018 for a total cost of Rs.2,435 crore.

- ✓ As per the strategy adopted by GRSE, first ship was built at GRSE, Kolkata and construction of balance three ships (upto outfitting stage) has been sub-contracted to L&T Shipbuilding, Kattupalli
- ✓ The first of class ship 'Sandhayak' was launched on 5 December, 2021.
- ✓ The Survey vessels -large (SVL) ships will replace the existing Sandhayak Class survey ships with new generation hydrographic equipment to collect oceanographic data.
- ✓ The Survey Vessel (Large) ships are 110 m long, 16 m wide with deep displacement of 3400 tons.
- ✓ The hull of these ships is made from indigenously developed DMR 249-A steel manufactured by Steel Authority of India Limited.
- ✓ With a capability to carry four Survey Motor Boats and an integral helicopter, the primary role of the ships would be to undertake full scale coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of Ports and navigational channels
- ✓ The ships would also be deployed for collecting oceanographic and geophysical data for defence as well as civil applications.
- ✓ In their secondary role, the ships are capable of providing limited defence, besides serving as Hospital ships during emergencies
- ✓ The Survey Vessels Large will have over 80% indigenous content by cost

APPOINTMENTS

- **Foreign secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra - has been granted a 16-month extension in the post beyond his date of superannuation on December 31**



- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the extension in service up to 30.04.2024 or until further orders, whichever is earlier
- ✓ Kwatra, a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, took charge in May this year as the 34th Foreign Secretary of India, succeeding Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- ✓ Kwatra is known to have extensive expertise in dealing with India's neighbourhood as well as the US, China and Europe.
- ✓ Earlier, Kwatra was serving as India's envoy to Nepal.

- ✓ He was formerly ambassador to France and was joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office from October 2015 to August 2017.
- ✓ The extension of his tenure comes at a time when India is assuming the presidency of the G-20 from the current chair Indonesia on December 1.

SPORTS

- **Maharashtra captain and opening batter, Ruturaj Gaikwad – became the first batsman in the world to hit seven consecutive sixes in an over**



- ✓ He achieved the feat at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad in the Vijay Hazare Trophy quarter-final against Uttar Pradesh on November 28
- ✓ The record for most sixes in an over (overall) though remains with wicket keeper-batter Lee Germon of New Zealand who struck eight of those for Canterbury in a Shell Trophy first-class game against Wellington during the 1989–90 season.
- ✓ Gaikwad accomplished this feat on the penultimate over bowled by UP's left arm spinner Shiva Singh, who conceded a no-ball in the fifth delivery of the over.
- ✓ This is the highest number of runs conceded by a bowler in List A, alongside the Kiwis player WC Ludick.
- ✓ In India, this is the highest number of runs conceded by a bowler in list A with the previous best of 35 runs by Hyderabad batter Ravi Teja in the 2009/10 season
- ✓ During the course of this knock, Gaikwad slammed an unbeaten 220 off just 159 balls with 10 fours and 16 sixes.
- ✓ Ruturaj and Shiva Singh's 43 runs in an over is now a joint world record in List A cricket that includes ODIs.
 - ✓ The only other previous instance was the combined effort of Brett Hampton and Joe Carter, against the bowling of Willem Ludick, for Northern Districts against Central Districts in a Ford Trophy game in Hamilton in 2018
 - ✓ This game played in New Zealand's domestic one-day tournament saw two no balls been bowled.
- ✓ In international cricket, only four players have hit six sixes in an over—South Africa's Herschelle Gibbs, India's Yuvraj Singh, West Indies' Kieron Pollard and USA's Jaskaran Malhotra.

- ✓ Other cricketers to have hit six sixes in different domestic formats are Sir Garfield Sobers, Ravi Shastri, Ross Whiteley, Hazratullah Zazai, Leo Carter, and Thisara Perera.
- ✓ Further, Gaikwad finished with 16 sixes, equalling Malhotra, Soumya Sarkar, AB de Villiers and Rohit Sharma on the list of most sixes in a List A individual innings
 - ✓ He is however behind Eoin Morgan and Namibia's Gerrie Synman (17) and D'Arcy Short who had hit 23 sixes for Western Australia against Queensland in 2018.
- ✓ His 220* is the fifth-highest score by an Indian in List-A cricket
 - ✓ The top score in List-A cricket by Tamil Nadu opener N Jagadeesan's 277 was also recorded at this year's Vijay Hazare Trophy, against Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ The 25-year-old Gaikwad now also holds the record for hitting most number of runs in a single over - 42.
 - ✓ The earlier record was held by Elton Chigumbura of Zimbabwe who had scored 39 off Alauddin Babu in a Dhaka Premier Division match in 2013.



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