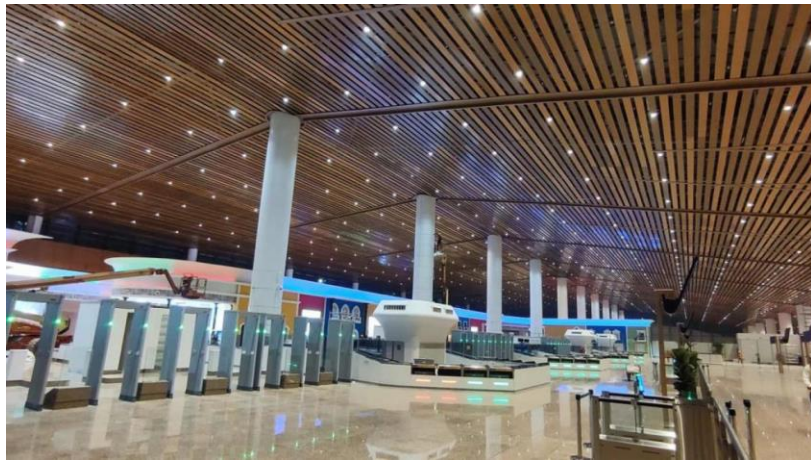


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 16, 2022

NATIONAL

- **On December 15, the Lok Sabha - passed a Bill to include two communities — Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran — in the list of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in Tamil Nadu**
 - ✓ It was passed on the basis of the recommendation of the state of Tamil Nadu
 - ✓ Union minister for tribal affairs Arjun Munda moved the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Second Amendment) Bill, 2022
 - ✓ The bill proposes to amend Part XIV of the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 after consultation with the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
 - ✓ The proposed legislation seeks to provide justice to tribal communities of Tamil Nadu and the move would benefit about 27,000 people in the state.
 - ✓ Once the Bill becomes an Act, the members of Narikoravan and Kurivikkaran communities will be entitled to all benefits being provided to those belonging to the ST category
 - ✓ This includes reservation benefits in educational institutions and government jobs.
 - ✓ The lower house further took up for discussion another Bill for granting ST status to a caste — Hattee — in Himachal Pradesh.

- **The newly inaugurated Manohar International Airport (MIA) at Mopa - has become the first airport terminal in the country to bag the Indian Green Building Council's (IGBC) platinum rating under the Green New Buildings rating system**
 - ✓ This was announced by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
 - ✓ MIA obtained the green certification after undertaking several sustainable features to preserve natural resources by conserving energy and water, and reducing waste.



- ✓ MIA is the first IGBC pre-certified and certified airport terminal under the Green New Buildings rating system.
- ✓ The Mumbai International Airport Private Ltd, which operates the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, was the first platinum certified airport under the Existing Building (O&M) rating system.
- ✓ MIA is operated by GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL), which has directed considerable effort to reduce the airport's carbon footprint.

REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT

Steps taken by GMR Goa International Airport Ltd (GGIAL), operator of the Manohar International Airport

➤ Planted 5.5 lakh native and adaptive tree species in and around the airport to enhance green cover and reduce the heat island effect

➤ Installed a 5MW solar power generation system to cater to 60% of the total annual energy consumption

➤ Installed a 340kg organic waste composter on site to



treat 100% of the organic waste generated daily

➤ Sent 488 tonne of construction waste for reuse and recycling instead of using it at landfills

- ✓ It has planted 5.5 lakh native and adaptive tree species in and around the airport to enhance green cover and reduce the heat island effect.
- ✓ In order to obtain the platinum rating, GGIAL has installed a 5MW solar power generation system to cater to 60% of the total annual energy consumption.
- ✓ A 340kg organic waste composter is installed on site to treat 100% of the organic waste generated daily.
- ✓ The GMR Group has also sent 488 tonnes of construction waste for reuse and recycling instead of using it at landfills.
- ✓ IGBC's Green New Building rating system offers steps to efficiently reduce energy and water consumption and waste generation, while focusing on recycling, use of

on-site energy and effective waste treatments.

- **Scientists at the Pune-based Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology (ICMR-NIV) - have developed a highly sensitive test kit that can detect Nipah virus-specific antibodies — IgM as well as IgG — in the blood within hours.**
- ✓ This ELISA-based IgM/ IgG antibody kit will be critical to outbreak investigations and surveillance activities.
- ✓ The IgM antibody presence indicates recent infection, while the IgG antibody in the blood hints at past exposure to the virus.
- ✓ Differential diagnosis of Nipah infection is often difficult as it mimics other diseases.
- ✓ The NIV kit looks out for antibodies in the blood, a process that doesn't need a special lab.
- ✓ The antibody test kits can also play a critical role in serosurveys, to understand the extent of virus exposure in a community.
- ✓ Nipah's case fatality rate (CFR) can range from 65% to 100%, while the CFR has been between 1% and 2% in most Indian states for Covid-19.

INDIA AND OTHERS

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - recently announced cutting down the treatment time for multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) from 18-24 months at present to six months**
- ✓ The treatment is called BPaLM, including four antibiotics — bedaquiline, pretomanid, linezolid and moxifloxacin.
- ✓ However, this treatment regime will not be immediately available to Indian patients.
- ✓ The reason for the local delay is that the Indian authorities want to wait for the outcome of an ongoing 18-month long trial for a regimen called BPaL from which BPaLM was derived.
- ✓ BPaL is meant for the sickest TB patients with extremely drug-resistant TB (XDR) who have resistance to more drugs than MDR-TB patients have.
- ✓ Many countries, such as South Africa, rolled out BPaL for its XDR or pre-XDR patients as studies have shown it has a success rate of up to 93%.
- ✓ The interim results of the trial with 400 pre-XDR patients across India are likely to be announced in January 2023.
- ✓ Once the interim results are announced, BPaL and BPaLM are likely to be rolled out for patients across the country.

DEFENCE

- **On December 15, first night trial of Agni-V - was successfully carried out by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) in collaboration with DRDO from Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast**



- ✓ The test was to validate new technologies and equipment on the missile
- ✓ The three stage solid-fuelled Agni-V, in its full operational configuration, was successfully tested for its entire range
- ✓ The nuclear-capable Agni-V missile has the capability of hitting targets beyond the range of 5000 km
- ✓ The SFC had last tested the Agni-V in October 2021
 - ✓ SFC is a key tri-services formation that manages and administers all the strategic assets and falls under purview of the Nuclear Command Authority of India.
- ✓ The Agni-V is operationally better than earlier Agni variants because it is a canister-launch missile to ensure less maintenance as well as swifter transportation and firing
- ✓ Agni-5 is an ingeniously built advanced surface-to-surface ballistic missile developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- ✓ It is a fire-and-forget missile, which cannot be stopped without an interceptor missile.
- ✓ The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) is the brain-child of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
- ✓ The program had five missiles P-A-T-N-A, Prithvi, Agni, Trishul, Nag, and Akash.
- ✓ The Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and they have already been deployed
- ✓ Agni V can bring almost the entire Asia, including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe, under its striking range
- ✓ In June, India successfully carried out a night launch of the nuclear-capable Agni-4 ballistic missile