

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 7, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On December 6, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, and Information and Broadcasting Anurag Singh Thakur - inaugurated India's first drone skilling and training virtual e-learning platform in Chennai.



- ✓ During the occasion, Thakur also launched the first of 1000 planned Drone Centre of Excellence at Garuda Aerospace's Manufacturing unit in Chennai
- ✓ The Union Minister also flagged off Garuda Aerospace's Drone Yatra, 'Operation 777' at Agni College of Technology, Chennai
 - ✓ The initiative is meant to educate and demonstrate the efficacy of drones for different agricultural uses across 777 districts in India
- ✓ According to the Minister, India will require at least 1 lakh drone pilots in 2023
- ✓ Further, Thakur distributed RPTO Certificates to 75 youth who successfully completed drone training and 10 Garuda Aerospace drones to young entrepreneurs who have decided to become drone service providers.
- ✓ Garuda Aerospace is a Chennai-based start-up dealing in drone technology

- ✓ Kisan Drones, developed by Garuda aerospace, are fitted with sensors, cameras, and sprayers and help in increasing food crop productivity, reducing crop loss, reduce farmer exposure to harmful chemicals
 - ✓ They enable precision spray of pesticides and fertilisers and also help with crop health monitoring, surveillance, industrial inspection, yield measurement, and crop loss mitigation.
 - ✓ Garuda Aerospace has a fleet of 400 drones and a well-trained team of over 500 pilots across 26 different cities.
 - ✓ Garuda Aerospace recently commenced its \$30 million Series A round at a \$250 million valuation.
 - ✓ Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has invested in the start-up and is also the company's Shareholder and Brand Ambassador.
- **On December 6, Chennai mayor R Priya – held discussions with San Antonio mayor Ron Nirenberg at Ripon Buildings**

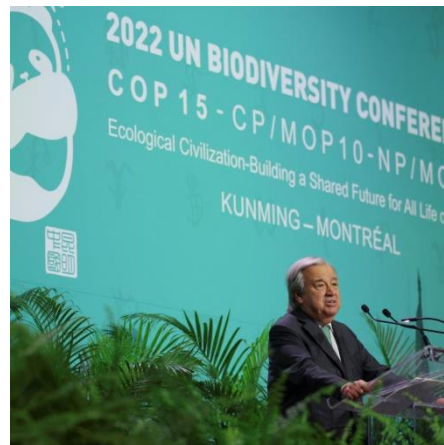


- ✓ The meetings sought to revive the 12-year-old sister city pact signed between Chennai and San Antonio in the US state of Texas
 - ✓ The pact had been signed by Ma Subramanian, then mayor, in 2010 as per the affiliation policy of Sister Cities International, a non-profit organization.
 - ✓ Officials of the Greater Chennai Corporation and San Antonio City will cooperate on implementation of civic infrastructure projects pertaining to public health, solid waste management, education, eco restoration and cultural heritage.
 - ✓ San Antonio is the seventh most populous city in Texas with a population of about 17 lakh.
- **The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) – has awarded the tender for the signalling system to a consortium led by Hitachi Rail**
- ✓ A consortium of Hitachi Rail STS SPA and Hitachi Rail STS India Pvt Limited was awarded the contract for the phase II corridor
 - ✓ The contract involves design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of signalling, train control and video management system for phase-2.

- ✓ This includes a modern communication-based train control system that will allow automatic train operation without the need for a driver.
 - ✓ Besides driverless operations, the system will integrate other aspects like automatic train movement at the depot, functioning of platform screen doors and passenger information and display systems.
 - ✓ The system also enables real time streaming of video for management, monitoring and control from a centralised operation control centre (OCC).
 - ✓ The system will be certified by an independent safety assessment team, and it will be in accordance with international standards
 - ✓ The trains will be able to run with a minimum gap of 90 seconds in the new system unlike the phase I project.
 - ✓ The final approval and implementation of the system for public use will be done by the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS)
 - ✓ The contract worth Rs.1,620 crore is the largest signalling tender being executed by Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL).
 - ✓ Last month, French multinational rolling stock manufacturer Alstom was awarded a contract worth Rs 798 crore to design, manufacture, supply, test, and commission 78 advanced metro coaches by the CMRL.
 - ✓ The Chennai Metro phase 2 project connecting Poonamallee Bypass – Light House through 28 (18 elevated & 10 underground) stations was approved by the Tamil Nadu government in 2019 at an estimated cost of Rs 69,180 crore.
 - ✓ Since then, the cost has been revised down to Rs 61,843 crore by reducing station sizes.
 - ✓ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) had approved a \$356.67-million loan to support the expansion of Chennai Metro in 2021.
 - ✓ The 118.9km three-corridor phase-2 project is likely to be ready by 2026.
- **Karur corporation - has topped among 20 municipal corporations in Tamil Nadu in facilitating loans to street vendors under the Centre's PM SVANidhi scheme**
- ✓ Among other corporations, Tambaram corporation stood second while Trichy corporation has come third.
 - ✓ Karur corporation covered 88% of vendors while Tambaram corporation disbursed loan to 80% of its target
 - ✓ Further, the third placed Trichy corporation covered 76% of the targeted street vendors.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On December 6, UN secretary-general Antonio Guterres - addressed the participants at the opening of the 15th session of the UN biodiversity conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada.**



- ✓ Environment minister Bhupender Yadav will attend the session of the COP15 next week.
- ✓ During the conference, India along with over 100 other countries will push for a global goal to protect at least 30% of the planet by 2030 — called the '30x30 Target' — under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ✓ To be chaired by China, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) will see the adoption of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
 - ✓ The framework aims to contribute to keep global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and set the conditions for reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2050.
 - ✓ The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework will be the first global framework on biodiversity adopted since the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2010
 - ✓ The draft framework includes over 20 targets from proposals to reduce pesticide use, address invasive species, reform or eliminate subsidies that are harmful to the environment, and increase financing for nature from both public and private sources.
- ✓ Leaders and negotiators from 196 countries, including India, will participate in the two-week conference that is being held from December 7 to 19
- **NSA Ajit Doval – addressed the first India-central Asia meeting of the National Security Advisers in New Delhi on December 6**



- ✓ This is the first time India is hosting a meeting of top security officials from Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan
- ✓ The first ever one-day NSA level meet comes on the back of the first summit in January this year between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and presidents of the five Central Asian countries.
- ✓ The meeting comes at a time when India and the Central Asian countries are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.
- ✓ The next meeting of the India-Central Asia NSAs/secretaries of the security councils will be held in Kazakhstan in 2023

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

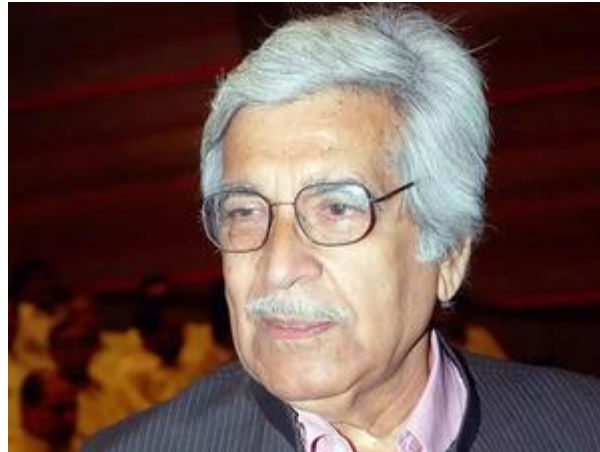
- **The government – has decided to allow a consortium of foreign funds and investment firms to own more than 51% in IDBI Bank**
 - ✓ The current guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) restrict foreign ownership in new private banks.
 - ✓ According to RBI, this criteria applies only for newly setup banks and would not apply to an existing entity like IDBI Bank
 - ✓ Further, the government and the RBI would also consider relaxing the five-year lock-in period for shares if a nonbanking financial company is merged into IDBI Bank.
 - ✓ IDBI Bank is one of the few lenders that the government is trying to offload its stake in.
 - ✓ The government and Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India together hold a stake of nearly 95% in IDBI Bank and are looking to sell 60.7% stakes.
 - ✓ At current prices, IDBI Bank has a market capitalisation of over Rs 63,000 crore.
 - ✓ In terms of classification, IDBI Bank is already considered as a private sector bank following the legal amendments that were introduced to enable the LIC to buy a 50% stake.

- **On December 6, the World Bank - improved its GDP growth forecast for India to 6.9% for FY23 in its India Development Update**
 - ✓ According to the World Bank, the revision was due to higher resilience of the Indian economy to global shocks and better-than-expected second quarter numbers.
 - ✓ India's economy grew at 6.3% in September quarter 2022-23 as compared to 13.5% in the June quarter.
 - ✓ In October, the World Bank had slashed India's GDP growth forecast to 6.5% from 7.5%.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, Fitch Ratings has retained India's economic growth forecast at 7% for the current fiscal, but cut projections for the next two financial years

- ✓ In its December edition of Global Economic Outlook, Fitch projected India's GDP to grow at 7% in the current fiscal, at a slower rate of 6.2% cent in FY24 and at 6.9% in FY25.

OBITUARY

- **Eminent economist and former Union minister Yoginder K Alagh - passed away in Ahmedabad on December 6**



- ✓ Alagh, who was 83, was emeritus professor at Ahmedabad-based Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research (SPIESR).
- ✓ Born in Chakwal, in present-day Pakistan, in 1939, Alagh studied at the University of Rajasthan and later got a doctorate in economics from the University of Pennsylvania, USA.
- ✓ During the 1980s, he headed the Agricultural Prices Commission (APC) as well the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP).
 - ✓ As chairman of APC (now called the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Price), he set up its econometrics cell
 - ✓ The cell recommends minimum support prices for different crops and also published its reports with a view to encourage debate
 - ✓ At BICP, Alagh initiated the first round of economic reforms that involved price decontrol in steel, cement and aluminium
- ✓ Alagh headed a Planning Commission task force in 1979 which devised the first ever poverty estimates based on calorie requirements— consuming less than 2,400 calories and 2,100 calories – for rural and urban areas respectively
- ✓ He was executive vice-chairman of the Gujarat government's Narmada Planning Group for the Sardar Sarovar multipurpose dam project in 1980-82, and a member of the Planning Commission between 1987 and 1990
- ✓ Later Alagh became Union Minister of State with independent charge of Power, Science & Technology and Planning & Programme Implementation during the United Front government in 1996-98.

- ✓ Between 1964 and 1969, he taught economics at the University of Pennsylvania and returned to be assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.
- ✓ He went on to hold positions as vice-chancellor of the Jawaharlal Nehru University (1992-96), and chairman of the Institute of Rural Management Anand (2006-12).
- ✓ He was also the first chancellor of the Central University of Gujarat at Gandhinagar.

SPORTS

- **Sixteen-year-old Aditya Mittal - has become India's 77th chess Grandmaster during an ongoing tournament in Spain.**



- ✓ The Mumbai player, who had secured three GM norms, crossed 2,500 ELO points mark during the sixth round of the ongoing Ellobregat Open tournament in Spain.
 - ✓ He drew the game against Spain's No. 1 Francisco Vallejo Pons to achieve the feat.
 - ✓ To become a GM, a player has to secure three GM norms and cross the live rating of 2,500 ELO points
 - ✓ Mittal earned his maiden GM norm at Serbia Masters 2021, second GM norm at Ellobregat Open 2021 and the third GM norm at Serbia Masters 2022.
 - ✓ He is Mumbai's second GM after Pravin Thipsay and Maharashtra's 11th GM
 - ✓ The others from Maharashtra to achieve this title include Praveen Thipsay, Abhijit Kunte, Vidit Gujrathi, Akshyaraj Kore, Swapnil Dhopade, Shardul Gagare, Abhimanyu Puranik, Raunak Sadhwani, Sankalp Gupta and Harshit Raja.
 - ✓ Mittal is also the fifth Indian to achieve the GM title in 2022 after Bharath Subramaniyam, Rahul Srivatshav, V Pranav V and Pranav Anand.
- **BCCI – has named three female umpires - Vrinda Rathi, Janani Narayan and Gayathri Venugopalan - to officiate in this year's Ranji Trophy beginning on December 13.**
 - ✓ It will be a first for Indian cricket when female umpires will be asked to officiate in the men's cricket matches



- ✓ Among the trio, Gayathri has already served as a reserve (fourth) umpire in Ranji Trophy in the past
 - ✓ Chennai-based Janani Narayanan and Mumbai based Rathi are seasoned umpires and were included in International Cricket Council's panel of development umpires back in 2018.
 - ✓ Delhi-based Gayathri, who could not make it as a player, is among the three registered umpires in the BCCI panel besides Janani and Vrinda.
- **Young Indian shuttler Manisha Ramadass - has claimed the BWF Female Para-Badminton Player of the Year award for her stellar run this season.**



- ✓ On December 5, the BWF named Manisha as the winner after the 17-year-old won the gold in the World Championships in the SU5 section.
- ✓ Along with her achievements in the singles division, Manisha and Mandeep Kaur won the bronze medal in the women's doubles SL3-SU5 category at the World Championships
- ✓ Manisha, who is from Tamil Nadu, has been in excellent form this year, winning 32 of her 34 singles matches
- ✓ Overall, she claimed 11 gold and five bronze medals in the year 2022
- ✓ Other contenders in this section were India's Nithya Sre Sumathy and Manasi Joshi, Sarina Satomi, Giuliana Poveda Flores, and Pilar Jauregui.

- ✓ India's HS Prannoy was named the Best Dressed Male of the Year at the 2022 Gala Dinner.



- ✓ After Kidambi Srikanth in 2017 and PV Sindhu in 2018, he was the third Indian to win this award.
- ✓ Paralympic champion Pramod Bhagat and Thomas Cup winner HS Prannoy, however, missed out on the prestigious award.
- ✓ Bhagat, who claimed his fourth world championships singles gold this year, was among those short-listed for the BWF Male Para-Badminton Player of the Year.
 - ✓ The award went to WH2 world champion and reigning Paralympic champion Daiki Kajiwara, winner of 10 gold and four bronze medals overall.
- ✓ Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen (Denmark) and Zheng Si Wei/Huang Ya Qiong (China) won the BWF Player of the Year Awards in the men's category and pair of the year category respectively.
 - ✓ Axelsen won nine titles, including his second World Championships crown, along with three consecutive World Tour titles
- ✓ The BWF Female Player of the Year was won by Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who achieved the rare honour of winning back-to-back World Championships titles within a nine-month eligibility period from November 1, 2021, to October 31, 2022
 - ✓ She also won two other titles - the All-England Open and the Japan Open – during the period.
- ✓ Fajar Alfian/Muhammad Rian Ardianto's superb consistency through 2022, when they made eight finals and won four, saw them named the BWF Most Improved Players of the Year.
 - ✓ The Indonesians won the honour ahead of HS Prannoy and Jeong Na Eun/Kim Hye Jeong.
- ✓ Japan's 21-year-old Kodai Naraoka, who had a meteoric rise in 2022, won the Eddy Choong Most Promising Player of the Year.
 - ✓ Naraoka made four finals and won the Vietnam Open.

STATE-WISE COMPARISON OF MATERNAL MORTALITY RATIO (MMR) – A REPORT

HOW THE STATES FARE

	2010-12	2014-16	2018-20	At the level of
India	178	130	97	Nicaragua
Kerala	66	46	19	US
Maharashtra	87	61	33	Mexico
Telangana	110	81	43	Vietnam
Andhra Pradesh	110	74	45	Mongolia
Tamil Nadu	90	66	54	Maldives
Jharkhand	219	165	56	Ecuador
Gujarat	122	91	57	Ecuador
Karnataka	144	108	69	Morocco
Uttarakhand	292	201	103	Nicaragua
West Bengal	117	101	103	Nicaragua
Punjab	155	122	105	Nicaragua
Haryana	146	101	110	Algeria
Rajasthan	255	199	113	Algeria
Bihar	219	165	118	South Africa
Odisha	235	180	119	South Africa
Chhattisgarh	230	173	137	Pakistan
Uttar Pradesh	292	201	167	Yemen
Madhya Pradesh	230	173	173	Bangladesh
Assam	328	237	195	Namibia

Source: SRS for India and states MMR, UNICEF for international equivalents