



FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - November**

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - is planning a new medical college that will offer undergraduate courses with Tamil as the medium of instruction.**
- ✓ The state government plans to build the new medical college at the Communicable Diseases Hospital run by Greater Chennai Corporation in Tondiarpet
- ✓ However, work on the proposed college will begin only after six districts in the state get the Union government's nod to start new medical colleges
- ✓ This was announced by health minister Ma Subramanian on October 31
- ✓ The directorate of medical education, which oversees administration of all state-run medical colleges, will seek approval from the National Medical Commission (NMC) to start medical colleges in Perambalur, Mayiladuthurai, Tenkasi, Ranipet, Tirupattur and Kancheepuram districts in 2023.
- ✓ Of the 72 medical colleges in the state, 36 are state-run institutions under the control of the government
- ✓ It is the government's policy to start one medical college in every district of the state
- ✓ While Chennai has Madras Medical College, Stanley Medical College, Kilpauk Medical College and Government Medical College, Omandurar and Coimbatore has the Government Coimbatore Medical College and ESIC Medical College, all other districts have one college each.
- ✓ The newly formed districts besides Perambalur and Kancheepuram do not have a medical college yet.
- ✓ For the last one year, a state appointed committee has been working on translating first year medical books.
- ✓ A three-member committee appointed by the state health department has been deputed to translate all the medical textbooks meant for first year MBBS students.
- ✓ In addition to this, the Tamil Nadu Textbook Society is also translating medical textbooks into Tamil.

NATIONAL

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) - has made it mandatory for institutions offering programmes under online and open and distance learning (ODL) mode to register students in the Academic Bank of Credit (ABC).**
- ✓ Accordingly, 58 higher education institutions (HEIs) offering online programmes and 86 HEIs running their programmes in distance mode have to comply with the ABC rules
- ✓ These rules facilitate curriculum flexibility and interdisciplinary/ multidisciplinary academic mobility of students across the HEIs through credit transfer.
- ✓ The HEIs now will have to create unique ABC IDs of its students in digital form and deposit their credits.
- ✓ This year, several universities have made the ABC portal (abc.gov.in) compulsory

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Black Sea Grain deal – is being implemented by the United Nations, despite Russia's decision to suspend its participation in the scheme.**
- ✓ A record volume of 354,500 tonnes of agricultural products was carried on vessels leaving Ukrainian ports on October 31 as part of the Black Sea grain deal
- ✓ Turkey, which helped broker the deal, remained committed to the deal which involves the inspection of cargoes at a Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul.
- ✓ On October 30, Russia suspended its participation in the Black Sea deal citing a major Ukrainian drone attack on its naval base near the port of Sevastopol in Russian-annexed Crimea.
- ✓ Notably, Sevastopol in Moscow-annexed Crimean Peninsula serves as the headquarters for the Black Sea fleet of Russia
- ✓ During the day, Russia told U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres that it was suspending the deal for an "indefinite term" because it could not "guarantee safety of civilian ships" travelling under the pact.
- ✓ The grain initiative has been a rare example of cooperation between Ukraine and Russia since Russia's invasion in February.
- ✓ The establishment of the corridor helped to steady grain markets and curb global prices after they hit record levels
- ✓ Ukraine is often referred to as the 'breadbasket of Europe' because of its high market share of exports of wheat, corn, and grain
- ✓ Ukraine supplies around 45 million tonnes of grain to the world every year.
- ✓ On July 22, Turkey and the UN brokered the agreement in Istanbul to ship grain from Black Sea ports safely between Russia and Ukraine to ease the global food crisis caused by the conflict.
- ✓ Under the deal, exports of grain, food, and fertilizer, including ammonia, were allowed to resume through a "safe maritime humanitarian corridor" from three key

Ukrainian ports, viz Chornomorsk, Odesa, and Yuzhny/Pivdennyi to the rest of the world.

- ✓ When the agreement was signed, the UN World Food Programme said some 47 million people had moved into “acute hunger” as the war halted Ukrainian shipments.
- ✓ The first ship under the deal left Ukraine on August 1.
- ✓ Amir Mahmoud Abdulla of Sudan was appointed as the United Nations Coordinator for the Black Sea Grain Initiative on August 12.
- ✓ The grain deal had restarted shipments Ukraine, allowing sales on world markets, targeting the pre-war level of 5 million metric tonnes exported from Ukraine each month.
- ✓ More than 9 million tonnes of corn, wheat, sunflower products, barley, rapeseed and soy have been exported from Ukrainian ports under the deal
- ✓ The major chunk, around 50%, of the total shipments went to high-income countries like Spain, Netherlands, Korea, Germany, Ireland and Israel.
- ✓ Around 25% of the total shipment had gone to lower-income countries, with Egypt receiving the maximum of 8%, followed by India and Iran, while the remaining 25% was sent to upper-middle-income countries like Turkey.
- ✓ Black Sea Grain deal was set to expire on November 19, 2022, while the negotiations are underway for its renewal

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 6th High Level Dialogue on Migration and Mobility (HLDMM) between India and the European Union - was held in Brussels on October 27**



- ✓ The discussions covered a wide range of issues related to the promotion of safe, orderly and regular migration including prevention of irregular migration.
- ✓ Both sides expressed satisfaction at the successful implementation of India- EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility.
- ✓ Besides the two delegations led by the co-Chairs, the dialogue was attended by representatives of the Diplomatic Missions of EU Member States in Brussels who were invited as Observers.

- ✓ According to the MEA, the representatives of other line Ministries of the Government of India like Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Labour and Employment were represented in the Indian delegation.
- ✓ The 5th edition of the Dialogue was held in New Delhi in July 2019.
- ✓ The India-EU Common Agenda for Migration and Mobility (CAMM) was established during the 13th India-EU Summit that was held in 2016

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The uncrewed module 'Mengtian,' or 'dreaming of the heavens' - was launched from the Wenchang launch facility in Hainan on a Long March 5B rocket on October 31**



- ✓ It is the third and final module of the under-construction Tiangong space station
- ✓ Once integrated, it will mark the completion of the construction of the space station, giving China a long-term permanent presence beyond Earth's orbit
- ✓ The Tiangong will be the second permanently inhabited space station in low-earth orbit after the NASA-led International Space Station.
- ✓ China was banned from the International Space Station since the year 2011 after the US refused to let NASA to work with China
- ✓ The Tianhe, Wentian, and Mengtian lab modules will form a basic T-shape structure of the Chinese space station, which is about a fifth of the International Space Station (ISS) by mass
- ✓ In April 2021, China began construction of its space station with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main living quarters for astronauts.
- ✓ In July this year it launched Wentian, or "Quest for the Heavens", a laboratory module where scientific experiments will be performed.

- ✓ The 23-ton Wentian lab module is heavier than any other single-module spacecraft currently in space
- ✓ The Chinese space station was designed for a lifespan of at least 10 years in low-earth orbit

ECONOMY

- **The RBI - has announced its first pilot project to use central bank digital currency (CBDC) in the wholesale market (e₹-W) for secondary trade in government securities from November 1.**
- ✓ The central bank will launch a similar pilot project for the retail segment (e₹-R) in closed user-groups of customers and merchants within a month
- ✓ For the wholesale segment, the pilot will test the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities
- ✓ Nine banks — SBI, Bank of Baroda, UBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Kotak Mahindra, Yes Bank, IDFC First, HSBC — have been identified for participation.
- ✓ In October, RBI issued a concept note on central bank digital currency (CBDC), listing the risks and benefits of introducing these currencies.
- ✓ The concept note broadly defines CBDC as the legal tender issued by a central bank in a digital form.
- ✓ As per the concept note, the digital rupee will provide an additional option to the currently available forms of money and CBDCs are aimed to complement, rather than replace, current forms of money
- ✓ The digital rupee is similar to sovereign paper currency but takes a different form, exchangeable at par with the existing currency and shall be accepted as a medium of payment, legal tender and a safe store of value.
- ✓ It is the digital form of the fiat currency, but unlike crypto it is issued and regulated by the central bank.
- ✓ In India, based on the usage, digital rupee will be demarcated into two broad types - general purpose (retail) and wholesale.
- ✓ Retail rupee will potentially be available for consumers and businesses, while wholesale rupee is designed for restricted access by financial institutions
- ✓ The nine banks have already opened accounts with RBI to transact in CBDCs, and when a transaction happens, money will be transferred instantaneously.
- ✓ In her Union Budget speech this year, the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced that a Digital Rupee will be issued by RBI in FY23

OBITUARY

- **Former Tata Steel MD Dr Jamshed J Irani, also known as “Steel Man of India“ - died in Jamshedpur on October 31**
- ✓ Irani retired from the board of Tata Steel in June 2011, leaving behind a legacy that won him and the company many laurels.

- ✓ He was the MD of the erstwhile Tata Iron and Steel Company, rechristened Tata Steel, from 1992 till retirement.
- ✓ Irani has enabled Tata Steel to reinvent itself with the focus on becoming the lowest-cost steel producer in the world despite maintaining quality that could compete in the international market.



- ✓ He was instrumental in starting the Tata Education Excellence Program in 2003 to improve the quality of academic facilitation through a calibrated approach adopted from the renowned Malcolm Baldrige Performance Excellence criteria.
- ✓ Irani was born in Nagpur in Maharashtra to Jiji and Khorshed Irani on June 2, 1936.
- ✓ He went to the University of Sheffield in the UK as a JN Tata scholar, where he secured a Master's in Metallurgy in 1960, and a PhD in Metallurgy in 1963.
- ✓ Irani started his professional career with the British Iron and Steel Research Association in Sheffield in 1963
- ✓ He returned to India to join Tata Steel or Tata Iron and Steel Company, as it was then known, in 1968 and joined the firm as assistant to the director in charge of research and development.
- ✓ Irani joined the Board of Tata Steel in 1981 and was also a non-executive director from 2001 for a decade
- ✓ He became joint managing director of Tata Steel in 1988, and managing director in 1992, before retiring in 2011
- ✓ Besides Tata Steel and Tata Sons, Irani also served as a director of several Tata Group companies, including Tata Motors and Tata Teleservices.
- ✓ He was the chairman of board of governors at Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow.
- ✓ Irani, along with his sister Diana Hormusjee, instituted "Jiji Irani Challenge Cup", a cricket tournament organised by Zoroastrian Club of Secunderabad in memory of their father
- ✓ After being appointed an International Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 1996, he was conferred an honorary knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II in 1997.
- ✓ Later in 2007, he received the Padma Bhushan government of India

SPORTS

- On October 30, Red Bull's double world champion Max Verstappen - won the 2022 Mexico City Grand Prix



- ✓ With the victory, the Dutch driver had set a Formula One record of 14 victories from a single season, as well as the most points scored.
- ✓ The reigning world champion Verstappen led from pole position at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez, and followed by Mercedes's Lewis Hamilton.
- ✓ Red Bull's Sergio Perez finished third in front of his home crowd.
- ✓ Verstappen's win was his fourth and the second consecutive victory in Mexico.
- ✓ In Austin, Texas, last weekend he had equalled German champions Michael Schumacher (2004) and Sebastian Vettel (2013) on 13 wins in a season.
- ✓ There are more races now than then, however, with the 2022 season featuring 22 compared to 19 in 2013 and 18 in 2004.
- ✓ Verstappen also took his points tally to 416 -136 more than Perez who moved up to second overall and three more than the previous record set by Hamilton in 2019.
- ✓ It was also a ninth win in a row and 16th from 20 races for Red Bull, who won the constructors' title in Texas with three rounds to spare

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- World Cities Day - October 31



- ✓ The day is observed every year to promote cooperation among countries on urbanization and addressing the various challenges associated with it
- ✓ Shanghai, China, is hosting the event this year under the theme “Act Local to Go Global.”
- ✓ “Better City, Better Life” has been the general theme of World Cities Day since its inception, but each year, a sub-theme is also announced
- ✓ On December 27, 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established World Cities Day through a resolution.
- ✓ The first celebration of the day took place on October 31, 2014.
- ✓ The second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in 1976 influenced the UNGA’s decision to establish World Cities Day.
- ✓ The UN-Habitat programme, established the following year, promotes the development of sustainable cities in line with SDG 11 goals.
- ✓ It conducts the annual Urban October programme for this purpose which begins on the first Monday of the month and ends on October 31, with World Cities Day.

