

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 19, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched a web page and released a souvenir to mark the 150th birth anniversary of VO Chidambaram Pillai, in the State Assembly

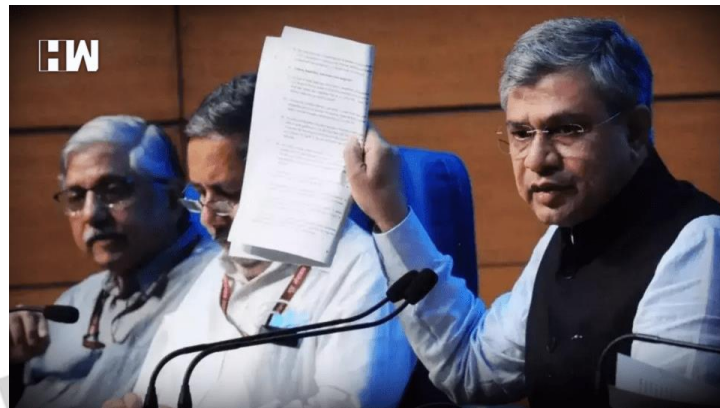


- ✓ On November 18, the state observed the 86th death anniversary of the freedom fighter VOC.
- ✓ The Tamil Virtual Academy has digitised 127 documents relating to the late freedom fighter, which are available on the Tamil Digital Library portal - <https://www.tamildigitallibrary.in/voc>
- ✓ The internet page in the Tamil digital library consists of 11 books written by VOC including seven editions and four translations
- ✓ The page also has e-books - 20 biographic books on VOC, six centenary year souvenirs, compilation of essays written on VOC, five research books and six other books on VOC.

- ✓ Besides, the page has 17 documentaries, seven handwritten copies and 38 other documents on the life of VOC.
- ✓ Tamil virtual academy is involved in converting all the books on VOC into e-books.
- ✓ In view of 150th birthday of VOC on September 3, 2021, CM Stalin had announced that Tamil virtual academy will take up the task of converting all the literature on VOC into e-books.

NATIONAL

- **On November 18, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw - released the draft of the Personal Data Protection Bill 2022 for public consultation**



- ✓ The new Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 is aimed at protecting digital personal data, seeks to allow transfer of data outside India, and provides for penalties regarding data breaches.
- ✓ The previous Data Protection Bill was revoked earlier this year, during the parliamentary Monsoon Session.
- ✓ Now the ministry has renamed it to Personal Data Protection Bill, which emphasizes solely on regulating personal data
- ✓ The new Bill had 30 provisions while the previous one had more than 90 provisions
- ✓ Some of the most notable inclusions in this draft is the regulation of social media and other tech companies
- ✓ This draft bill will undergo extensive consultation and the government is aiming to introduce in Parliament by the next Budget Session.
- ✓ The new Data Protection Bill, along with the Telecommunications Bill 2022 and the revamped IT Act of 2000 are expected to lay the legal groundwork for India's digital economy.
- ✓ The draft bill requires a data fiduciary -- i.e. an entity which processes user data -- to give an item-wise notice to user on data sought to be collected, in clear and plain language.
- ✓ It also mandates that the user should be allowed the right to give, manage, withdraw consent from sharing his/her information.

- ✓ If a user deletes their social media account on a particular platform, their data has to be deleted by the data fiduciary
 - ✓ A data fiduciary must retain personal data only so long as it is required for the purpose for which it was collected
- ✓ The bill states that a data fiduciary shall not undertake tracking or behavioural monitoring of children or targeted advertising directed at children.
- ✓ It also states that the data of the user should not be retained if it is not necessary for legal or business purposes
- ✓ The new bill also gives the owner of biometric data complete authority

Type of non-compliance	Maximum penalty
Failure to take reasonable security safeguards	₹250 cr
Failure to notify about data breach	₹200 cr
Non-fulfilment of obligations related to children's personal data	₹200 cr
Non-fulfilment of obligations of Significant Data Fiduciary	₹150 cr
Non-compliance with Bill's other obligations	₹50 cr

► In a first, the draft Bill has used the pronouns 'she' and 'her' for an individual, irrespective of their gender, in line with the government's philosophy of women empowerment

- ✓ Regarding the penalty provisions, the government has raised the penalty amount to up to Rs.500 crore for violating the provisions proposed under the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022
 - ✓ The draft personal data protection bill in 2019 proposed a penalty of Rs.15 crore or 4% of the global turnover of an entity.
- ✓ The draft proposes to set up a Data Protection Board of India, which will carry on functions as per the provisions of the bill
 - ✓ The board will determine non-compliance with provisions of the Bill and also decide on penalties for it
- ✓ The draft proposes a penalty of up to Rs.250 crore in case the Data Fiduciary or Data Processor fails to protect against personal data breaches in its possession or under its control
- ✓ The draft is open for public comment till December 17.
- ✓ The first draft of the Bill was formulated by the Justice BN Srikrishna Committee in 2018.
- ✓ The Data Protection Bill, 2019 was introduced on December 11, 2018 and then referred to the joint committee of both houses of Parliament (JCP) for examination.
- ✓ The JCP report was presented to Lok Sabha in December 2021.
- ✓ The Bill was then returned with as many as 81 amendments and it was rescinded from the Lok Sabha by the Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in August this year

- **On November 18, the Government - announced that a Quick Response (QR) code on the packaging label will be mandatory for the top 300 drug formulations to help verify the counterfeit, fake and substandard drugs.**
- ✓ The Drugs (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2022, will require medicines like Calpol, Allegra, Betadine Ointment, Gelusil, and Dolo 650 to include QR codes on their packaging
- ✓ The new rule will be effective from August 1, 2023, as per a notification issued by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ These QR codes or bar codes will help verify the authenticity and traceability of the drugs.
- ✓ The QR code will comprise data on the unique product identification code, batch number, date of manufacturing and expiration, proper and generic name of the drug, brand name, name and address of the manufacturer and manufacturing licence number
- ✓ This system is already enforced in several nations, such as Russia, Britain, Germany, and the United States, among others.

- **The government - has doubled the maximum term for chiefs of public sector banks to 10 years by amending the Nationalised Banks Scheme, 1970.**
- ✓ Earlier, the MD or executive director of a public sector undertaking (PSU) bank was eligible for a maximum tenure of 5 years or 60 years whichever was earlier.
- ✓ This is also applicable for whole-time directors of all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).
- ✓ The notification, which applies to executive directors and MDs, allows for a term of five years, extendable for another five years.
- ✓ Usually, the government appoints the MD and CEO for a period of three years, which can be extended by two years or until the person's retirement date
- ✓ However, the Centre has the right to terminate the term of office of a whole-time director, including the managing director, any time before the expiry.
- ✓ The amendment would be called Nationalised Banks (Management and Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Scheme, 2022

- **The government - recently notified E-waste (management) rules 2022, that will come into force from 1 April next year**
- ✓ The new rules will be applicable to every manufacturer, producer, refurbisher, dismantler and recycler involved in manufacturing, sale, transfer, purchase, refurbishing, dismantling, recycling and processing of e-waste or electrical and electronic equipment.
- ✓ This is applicable to all electrical devices and radiotherapy equipment, nuclear medicine equipment and accessories, Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), electric toys, air conditioners, microwaves, tablets, washing machine, refrigerator and iPad among others

- ✓ Under the new rules, the number of items that have been categorized as e-waste has been increased from the earlier 21 to 106
- ✓ The rules mandate to reduce the use of lead, mercury, cadmium among others in the manufacturing of electronic equipment that have an adverse impact on human health and the environment
- ✓ Further, manufacturer should use the technology or methods so as to make the end product recyclable
- ✓ They shall ensure that components or parts made by different manufacturers are compatible with each other so as to reduce the quantity of e-waste.
- ✓ The Central Pollution Control Board shall conduct random sampling of electrical and electronic equipment placed on the market to monitor and verify the compliance of reduction of hazardous substances provisions
- ✓ If a product does not comply with the e-waste management rules, the manufacturer will have to withdraw all samples from the market.
- ✓ It is the responsibility of the manufacturer to collect e-waste generated during manufacture and to ensure its recycling or disposal
- ✓ However, the rule does not apply to waste batteries, packaging plastics, micro enterprises and radio-active waste, as covered under the provisions of the law

INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 18, International scientists - have voted to opt for new metric prefixes to express the world's largest and smallest measurements**
- ✓ The change was voted on by scientists and government representatives from across the world attending the 27th General Conference on Weights and Measures in Versailles Palace, Paris.
- ✓ It marks the first time in more than three decades that new prefixes have been added to the International System of Units (SI), the agreed global standard for the metric system
- ✓ The Conference governs the SI and meets roughly every four years
- ✓ The new prefixes approved are -- ronna and quetta for the largest numbers -- and ronto and quecto for the smallest.
- ✓ Among the largest numbers, ronna stands for a billion billion billion, and quetta, which is a thousand instances bigger than that.
- ✓ Among the smallest numbers, ronto means a billionth of a billionth of a billionth, and quecto, which is a thousand instances smaller than that.
- ✓ **The arrival of the new prefixes means the Earth can now be stated to weigh six ronnagrams, and Jupiter about two quettagrams**
- ✓ An electron weighs a few rontogram, and a single bit of information saved on a cell phone is about 10 quectograms in mass.
- ✓ In general, convention dictates that the larger prefixes end in an 'a', and the smaller ones in an 'o'.

- ✓ The UK's National Physical Laboratory is the agency responsible for the new prefixes
- ✓ The SI was established in 1960 and the last time a new prefix was added in 1991, when chemists wanting to express vast molecular quantities proposed the addition of zetta and yotta.
- **Cambridge Dictionary - has declared “homer” as its word of the year 2022**
- ✓ The word “homer” was searched over 79,000 times this year on the Cambridge Dictionary's website, with 65,401 searches occurring on May 5.
- ✓ It was the ‘Wordle’ answer that day, which indicates a five-letter word that needs to be found out within the six guesses allowed.
- ✓ The word did not refer to the Greek poet and author Homer but was a reference to an informal American English word for a 'home run' in baseball.
- ✓ Homer is short for “home run” – a point scored in baseball when you hit the ball, usually out of the playing field, and are able to run around all the bases at one time to the starting base.
- ✓ Other five-letter words that saw a sudden increase in searches during the last year include “humor”, “caulk”, “tacit” and “bayou”.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On November 18, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - delivered the inaugural address at the third ‘No Money for Terror’ (NMFT) Ministerial Conference on Counter-Terrorism Financing at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.**



- ✓ Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai, Home Secretary, Ajay Kumar Bhalla, and Director General of National Investigation Agency, Dinkar Gupta were those present on the occasion.

- ✓ The two-day conference organised on November 18 and 19 is being attended by delegations from 72 countries and 15 international organisations.
 - ✓ Around 450 delegates from across the world, including ministers, Heads of Multilateral organisations and Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Heads of Delegations will attend the meeting.
 - ✓ At the conference, discussions will focus on four sessions under the themes - 'Global Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing', 'Use of Formal and Informal Channels of Funds for Terrorism', 'Emerging Technologies and Terrorist Financing' and 'International Co-operation to Address Challenges in Combating Terrorist Financing'.
 - ✓ The first session on Trends in Terrorism and Terrorist Financing will be chaired by Home Minister Amit Shah.
 - ✓ China will skip the global meeting on 'No Money for Terror' conference, even though it was invited to attend this conference.
 - ✓ However, Pakistan and Afghanistan were not invited to the meet
 - ✓ The “No Money for Terror” conference was started in April 2018 at Paris as an initiative of the French government to specifically focus on cooperation between countries to halt terror funding.
 - ✓ In November 2019, the conference was held at Melbourne, Australia.
 - ✓ It was to be held in India in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.
- **The fifth edition of the Paris Peace Forum – was hosted recently in Paris on November 11 and 12**



- ✓ The forum focussed on methods to overcome the socio-economic impact of multiple crises, develop international cooperation on major issues, support multilateralism and improve global cooperation mechanisms.
- ✓ During the two-day forum, participants including heads of international organisations, NGOs, multinational companies and financial institutions exchanged views on global governance.
- ✓ The fifth edition of the Forum was organized based on the theme “Riding out the multicrisis”.
- ✓ The Paris Peace Forum was initiated by French President Macron in 2018 to promote multilateral cooperation and address global challenges

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- India's first private rocket, Vikram-S – was launched from a launch pad in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh on November 18



SKY'S THE LIMIT

- 20 secs post launch, Vikram-S achieves velocity of Mach 5
- 545 kg rocket hits altitude of 89.5 km in 155 secs
- 6-metre-long vehicle carried three payloads
- 5 minutes after launch, it covered 121.2 km before splashdown

Nov 18, 2022:
Creates history by launching India's first privately developed rocket into suborbital space

KNOW THE FOUNDERS
Pawan Kumar Chandana from Machilipatnam
An IIT-Kharagpur Alumnus previously worked at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre for six years and worked for GSLV-Mk3 (LVM3).
Naga Bharath Daka from Ongole
An IIT-Madras alumnus was also at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre before he co-founded Skyroot with Chandana.

SPACE ROUTE
June 2018 Skyroot Aerospace founded by former Isro scientists Pawan Kumar Chandana & Naga Bharath Daka
July 2018 Startup raises \$1.5 million from Myntra and Curefit founder Mukesh Bansal
Aug 2020 Test fires India's first privately developed liquid fuel rocket engine – Raman
Dec 2020 Test fires India's first privately built solid rocket propulsion stage – Kalam-5
May 2021 Raises \$11 million in Series-A round led by Greenko founders Anil Chalamalasetty & Mahesh Kolli
Nov 2021 Test fires country's first privately developed fully cryogenic rocket engine – Dhawan-1 that uses LNG & liquid oxygen as propellants
Jan 2022 Raises \$4.5 million via Series-B bridge round led by early Google investor Ram Shriram's Sherpalo Ventures
Sept 2022 Raises \$51 million in Series-B round led by Singapore's GIC
Nov 2022 Announces Mission Prarambh to launch India's first privately built rocket into space in mid-November

- ✓ The rocket - developed by Skyroot Aerospace - has been named after Vikram Sarabhai, hailed as the father of India's space sector.
- ✓ The mission has been named 'Prarambh', which means “beginning”.
- ✓ The 6-metre tall single stage fuel rocket Vikram-S blasted off from ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota
- ✓ The rocket was said to have achieved the peak apogee of 89 km while the target was 80 km
- ✓ The mission also carried payloads built by N Space Tech India, Space Kids and BazoomQ.
 - ✓ The first two are Indian space companies while BazoomQ Space Research Lab is from Armenia.

- ✓ The satellite developed by SpaceKidz India is called FunSat, parts of which were developed by school students.
- ✓ The launch will be sub-orbital, with the vehicle travelling slower than orbital velocity.
- ✓ While the vehicle will reach outer space, it will not remain in orbit around the Earth and the overall flight will take less than five minutes.
- ✓ The rocket is now set to begin its descent soon, where it will safely splash in the Bay of Bengal, about 130km away from land.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi had opened the space sector for participation by private players in June 2020
- ✓ After this, Hyderabad-based Skyroot was the first space startup to sign an agreement to use Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launch and test facilities.
- ✓ The company was co-founded by Pawan Chandana, an aerospace engineer and IIT Kharagpur alumnus, and Bharath Daka, an electronics engineer and IIT Madras alumnus
- ✓ It was launched in 2018 and backed by Singapore sovereign wealth fund GIC.
- ✓ According to Skyroot Aerospace, Vikram is a series of modular Space launch vehicles especially crafted for the small satellite market.
- ✓ Under the Vikram series, over 20,000 small satellites are estimated to be launched in the coming decade
- ✓ Vikram-S is capable of reaching Mach 5, five times the speed of sound and it can carry a payload of 83 kg to 100 kilometers
- ✓ The Vikram rockets will be able to carry between 290 kg and 560 kg payloads into sun-synchronous polar orbits.
- ✓ Vikram is one of the world's first few all-composite rockets that has 3-D printed solid thrusters for spin stability of the launch vehicle.
- ✓ The launch vehicle met all the mission parameters, clearing the stage for the company to launch the Vikram-I rocket next year.
- ✓ The company is developing three variants of the Vikram rocket – Vikram I, II and III
- ✓ Vikram-I can carry 480 kilograms of payload to Low Earth Orbit, Vikram-II is equipped to lift off with 595 kilograms of cargo and Vikram-III can launch with an 815 kg to 500 km Low Inclination Orbit.
- ✓ A Vikram-1 can be assembled in 24 hours while a Vikram-2, meant for heavier payloads, can be assembled in 72 hours, according to Skyroot

APPOINTMENTS

- **Eminent Indian-American academician, Sunil Kumar - has been appointed the next president of Massachusetts-based private research institution Tufts University**



- ✓ Kumar is currently serving as Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Johns Hopkins University
- ✓ He will succeed President Anthony Monaco as Tufts' 14th president on July 1, 2023
- ✓ Kumar will be first person of colour to occupy the position.
- ✓ Indian-born Kumar was previously dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business
- ✓ Kumar's academic career commenced at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he taught for about 12 years and was later the Fred H. Merrill Professor of Operations, Information and Technology.
- ✓ He has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Mangalore University, a master's degree in computer science and automation from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore and a PhD from the University of Illinois in 1996.

SPORTS

- **On November 18, star paddler Manika Batra – created history by becoming the first Indian woman to reach the semifinals of the Asian Cup Table Tennis tournament**



- ✓ World No. 44, Manika defeated higher-ranked World No. 23 Chen Szu-Yu of Chinese Taipei in a hard-fought women's singles quarterfinals of the ITTF-ATTU Asian Cup in Bangkok
 - ✓ A day earlier, Manika stunned world No 7 Chen Xingtong of China in the Round of 16 to reach the quarterfinals
 - ✓ With the win, Manika became only the second player from India after Chetan Baboor (who won silver in 1997, bronze in 2000) to reach the semi finals of the Asian Cup Tournament
 - ✓ On November 19, Manika faces Japan's Mima Ito, the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist ranked fifth in the world in the semi finals
 - ✓ Manika Batra had won four gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 2018, and the Delhi-born athlete was also awarded the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in the year 2020.
 - ✓ The 2018 Arjuna Award winner will be hoping to go all the way and become the first Indian woman to clinch the Asian Cup trophy.
- **The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) - has sacked Chetan Sharma-led All India Selection Committee after the Indian cricket team failed to reach the final of the T20 World Cup in Australia.**




- ✓ BCCI has also invited applications for the position of National Selectors and listed out criteria for considerations in its release.
- ✓ The new chairman's job mandate has a description of "selecting captain in each format" which suggests that BCCI might be moving towards split captaincy in near future.
- ✓ The age cap is 60 years and the incumbent would have to be retired from active cricket for at least five years.
- ✓ He has to play at least seven Test matches or 30 first-class games or 10 ODIs along with 20 first-class games.
- ✓ Also for the first time, the BCCI job domain description contains that the chairman would have to address the media with regards to team related queries
- ✓ During Chetan's tenure, India had also failed to reach knock-out stage in the 2021 edition of T20 World Cup and lost the World Test Championships final.

- ✓ Chetan Sharma (North zone), Harvinder Singh (Central Zone), Sunil Joshi (South Zone) and Debasish Mohanty (East Zone) have had the shortest stint as senior national selectors in recent times
- ✓ There was no selector from West Zone after Abbey Kuruvilla's tenure ended.
- ✓ After the AGM in January 2021, Chetan Sharma took over as chairman of selectors with Mohanty and Kuruvilla joining him.
- ✓ Joshi and Harvinder were appointed national selectors in February 2020
- ✓ A senior national selector normally gets a four-year term subject to extension

VIKRAM-S vs SSLV - COMPARISON

Vikram-S	WHEN SMALL GOES BIG		SSLV (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle)
First privately built rocket by Skyroot Aerospace	BUILT BY	Indian Space Research Organisation	
6m	HEIGHT	34m	
545kg	WEIGHT	120tonnes	
0.375m	DIAMETER	2m	
Solid-fuelled propulsion	PROPULSION	Three solid stages and a liquid propulsion based velocity trimming module (VTM) as a terminal stage	
Single-stage	NO. OF STAGES	Three	
480kg to 500km low inclination orbit/ 290kg to 500km <i>(Payload capacity for Friday's launch 83kg to 100km)</i>	PAYLOAD CARRYING CAPACITY	Single satellite up to 500kg to low earth orbit. Multiple satellites ranging from 10kg to 300kg into low earth orbit	
November 18, 2022	LAUNCH OF FIRST ROCKET	August 7, 2022	
Sounding rocket complex, Isro spaceport, Sriharikota	LAUNCH PAD	Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota	



“ Their (Skyroot) rocket, Vikram-S, is ready. Though this is not going to launch a satellite in orbit – it is going to be a sub-orbital mission – it will demonstrate that young people with a dream to build something big can actually do so in India – **S Somanath**, ISRO CHAIRMAN

