



FVF **RYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS - november**

TAMIL NADU

- **The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) - has approved construction for 15.5 km airport-Kilambakkam Metro rail extension line.**
 - ✓ The Metro rail extension line from airport to Kilambakkam is estimated to cost of Rs 4,080 crore
 - ✓ However, the project is yet to be approved by the state government for funding
 - ✓ With the approval, Chennai Metro rail Ltd (CMRL) will soon start floating tenders for the project and begin identifying land for acquisition
 - ✓ The proposed railway line will link several southern suburbs beyond Tambaram, including the under-construction bus terminus at Kilambakkam, with city core areas
 - ✓ The extension line will pass through southern suburbs localities such as Pallavaram, Chromepet, Tambaram, Irumbuliyur, Peerkanaranai, Perungalathur, Vandalur and Kilambakkam.
 - ✓ The 15.5 km elevated line with 12 stations is an extension of phase-1 corridor from Washermenpet to the airport

- **On November 22, Chief Minister M K Stalin - launched the Anaiyur water supply development scheme executed by TWAD Board through videoconference.**
 - ✓ The scheme which will facilitate an additional 2.57 MLD of water supply was launched at Anaiyur by commercial taxes minister P Moorthy.
 - ✓ The municipality has a resource capacity of 4.16 MLD water supply.

NATIONAL

- **On November 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - launched the Karmayogi Prarambh module for all new appointees under the Rozgar Mela, via video conference**
- ✓ Under the programme, physical copies of appointment letters were handed over at 45 locations across the country, except Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh where the Model Code of Conduct is in force.
- ✓ The Karmayogi Prarambh Module is an online orientation course for all new appointees in various Government departments



- ✓ The new module will help the government employees to get familiar to the policies and enable their smooth transition into the new roles.
- ✓ The module includes code of conduct for Government servants, workplace ethics and integrity, human resource policies and other benefits and allowances
- ✓ Further, the government employees will also get an opportunity to explore other courses on 'igotkarmayogi.gov.in' platform to enhance their knowledge, skills and competencies
- ✓ This is the second time in the last one month that a Rozgar Mela was organized to hand over appointment letters to new government recruits.
- ✓ Earlier, in October, around 75,000 letters were distributed to the eligible government appointees
- ✓ The Rozgar Mela is a step towards the fulfilment of the commitment of the Prime Minister to provide the highest priority to employment generation in the country
- ✓ Earlier, in June, PM Modi had asked various government departments and ministries to undertake the recruitment of 10 lakh people on a 'mission mode' in the next year and a half
- ✓ Mission Karmayogi is a National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), which was launched on September 20, 2020
- ✓ It aims to upgrade the post-recruitment training mechanism of government officers and employees at all levels

- **Union Ports and Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal - announced India's first National Centre of Excellence for Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS).**
- ✓ The announcement was made by the Union Minister at the recently concluded "INMARCO 2022" in Mumbai.



- ✓ It is a major initiative by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) towards providing greener solutions.
- ✓ The NCoEGPS will be working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme of the MoPSW
- ✓ The National Centre of Excellence aims to develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption road map for green shipping to boost carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India.
- ✓ India intends to increase the share of renewable energy to 60% of the total power demand of each of its major ports through solar and wind-generated power from a present share of less than 10%.
- ✓ To set up the Centre of Excellence, the Deendayal Port Authority Kandla, Paradip Port Authority, Paradip, VO Chidambaranar Port Authority, Thoothukudi and Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi have announced their support to the ministry
- ✓ The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) is the knowledge and implementation partner for this project.
- ✓ The ports have also aimed to reduce carbon emissions per tonne of cargo handled by 30% by 2030
- ✓ The Maritime Vision Document 2030, released by PM Narendra Modi is a 10-year blueprint on India's vision of a sustainable maritime sector and vibrant blue economy
- ✓ India has been selected as the first country under the IMO Green Voyage 2050 project to conduct a pilot project related to Green Shipping.

- ✓ Globally, today, India stands fourth in RE power capacity, fourth in wind power, and fifth in solar power capacity.
- **The Ministry for Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) - released the first-ever National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) book recently**
- ✓ The strategy aims to reduce suicide mortality by 10% in the country by 2030.
- ✓ The strategy document highlights that one in three women dying from suicide across the world is from India and one in four men is from India.
- ✓ The NSPS programme is divided into three parts — immediate, intermediate and long-term strategy.
- ✓ The report includes World Health Organisation's approach in suicide prevention, known as 'LIVE LIFE' as a cross-cutting strategy
 - ✓ It refers to Leadership, Interventions, Vision and Evaluation (LIVE) and Less means for suicide, Interaction with media, Form the young, Early identification (LIFE).
- ✓ Under the strategy, the government plans to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years.
- ✓ It also aims to establish psychiatric outpatient departments to provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years.
- ✓ Further, the ministry also plans to integrate a mental well-being curriculum in educational institutions within the next eight years
- ✓ Under the NSPS, the government is looking at phasing out hazardous pesticides
- ✓ The report revealed that the most common method of suicide is hanging and poisoning, which account for over 80% of all suicides followed by drowning and immolation.
- ✓ Globally, suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in the youth population.
- ✓ India's contribution to global suicide stands close to 37% and 24.3% among women and men respectively
- ✓ India has a high suicide rate, with around 71% male and 29% female accounting for total number of suicide deaths in the country in 2020

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform - has been launched recently to mark the start of World Antimicrobial Awareness Week on November 18**
- ✓ It was launched globally by a quadripartite comprising the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the UN Environment Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health
- ✓ This initiative aims to highlight the threat presented to humans, animals, plants, ecosystems and livelihoods by AMR.

- ✓ The new platform will engage and empower stakeholders for a collective understanding of AMR challenges and opportunities and contain, combat and reverse AMR in line with the Global Action Plan and National Action Plans.
- ✓ It was recommended by the Interagency Coordination Group (IACG) on AMR in its 2019 report to the UN Secretary General.
- ✓ AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites no longer respond to antimicrobial agents
- ✓ As a result of AMR, antibiotics and other antimicrobial agents become ineffective and infections become difficult or impossible to treat, thereby increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness and death.
- ✓ An estimated 1.3 million people around the world die each year directly due to bacterial antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ World Antimicrobial Awareness Week is observed each year from November 18 to 24 to raise global awareness about AMR and highlight best practices to address it.
- ✓ The theme for the week is 'Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together'.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The Australian Parliament – has approved the India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) signed with India on April 2**
- ✓ This was announced by Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on his official Twitter handle on November 22
- ✓ The free trade agreement, ECTA, needed ratification by the Australian Parliament before its implementation
- ✓ In India, such pacts are approved by the Union Cabinet.
- ✓ The approval by the Australian Parliament paves the way for the rollout of the pact on a mutually agreed date
- ✓ The pact is expected to come into force from January 2023.
- ✓ The agreement would help in almost doubling the bilateral trade between both the countries to \$45-50 billion in about five years from the present \$31 billion
- ✓ The agreement would provide duty-free access to Indian exporters of more than 6,000 broad sectors including textiles, leather, furniture, jewellery and machinery in the Australian market.
- ✓ Apart from the India FTA, the Australian Parliament also cleared the trade deal with the UK.
- ✓ Last week, the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties of Australia recommended the Australian government to ratify the pact.
- ✓ This is the first time Australia has opened 100% of their product lines to a foreign country's products with no restrictions or quota
- ✓ Under the pact, Australia is offering zero-duty access to India for about 96.4% of exports (by value) from day one.

- ✓ This covers many products that currently attract 4-5% customs duty in Australia
- ✓ India's goods exports to Australia stood at \$8.3 billion and imports from the country were at \$16.75 billion in 2021-22
- ✓ **Further, the Australian Parliament has also approved an amendment to the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, a move which would help the Indian IT sector in operating in that market.**
- ✓ The move, as per estimates, may lead to savings of about \$200 million each year for over 100 Indian IT firms operating in Australia
- ✓ This was the third such agreement signed by the Indian government, after the Mauritius and UAE trade pacts.

BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Cosmetics major, L'oreal's mass market beauty brand Garnier - has partnered with social enterprise 'Plastics for Change' to set up a first-of-its-kind co-created plastic waste collection center in Chennai.**
- ✓ This is the first time ever such an association has been created by a company anywhere in the world
- ✓ The new facility will help collect 2,000 tons of plastic in the first year that would otherwise be ending up in oceans.
- ✓ Further, the facility will also provide employment to around 2,000 people from the local communities.
- ✓ The plastic collected will be integrated into the packaging of Garnier's haircare Ultra Doux range for the European markets
- ✓ Moreover, for the first time, Ultra Doux bottles will be made with 100% recycled plastic
- ✓ Garnier is also planning to set up plastic collection kiosks for customers in India to return empty/used Garnier bottles for a financial incentive across 20 prominent locations in Mumbai, Chennai, and Delhi.
- ✓ Garnier has already been partnering with Plastics for Change in India since 2020
- ✓ The partnership has helped collect the equivalent of 539+ tons of plastic and support more than 3,200 beneficiaries.
- ✓ It has also partnered with e-Commerce partners Amazon and Myntra
 - ✓ As part of this tie-up, Garnier will recycle two plastic bottles, through Plastics for Change, for every Garnier product bought on these platforms.
- ✓ In India, the packaging of Garnier's Micellar Cleansing Water product is made of 100% recycled plastic.
- **Wipro - has become the first Indian IT services company to allow its employees to start unions in Europe.**

- ✓ The company has entered into an agreement with employee representatives to set up a European Works Council (EWC) following a request by employees in 2019.
- ✓ The move encourages employees to have a constructive debate on issues that impact them.
- ✓ The EWC agreement was negotiated with employee representatives from 13 countries including Germany, the Netherlands, France, Sweden, and Finland.
- ✓ Wipro has over 30,000 employees in Europe.

APPOINTMENTS

- **IIT-Guwahati director, professor T G Sitharam - has been appointed new chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)**



- ✓ This was announced by the ministry of education on November 22.
- ✓ He will serve as the head of the technical education regulator for three years or before he turns 65 years old, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Sitharam will take charge from University Grants Commission chairman, Jagadesh Kumar, who was holding interim charge of the top post for the technical education regulator
- ✓ Kumar took charge after Anil Sahasrabuddhe superannuated on September 1, 2021 upon turning 65.
- ✓ Sitharam took over as the director of IIT-Guwahati in July, 2019.

SPORTS

- **The 2024 edition of ICC Men’s T20 World Cup - will be played in a different format with the participation of 20 countries**
- ✓ As per the new format released by ICC, the 20 participating countries will be divided into four groups of five teams each and the first round will be followed by a Super Eight stage.
- ✓ In the 2021 and 2022 editions, the first round was followed by the Super 12 stage.
- ✓ However, in the next tournament, the top two teams from each of the four groups will progress to the Super Eight phase, where they will be further divided into two groups of four each.

- ✓ Then, the top two sides in each of the two Super Eights groups will enter the semi-finals, which will be followed by the final.
- ✓ As many as 12 teams have already secured their berth in the next edition of the tournament to be played in West Indies and United States.
- ✓ As hosts, the West Indies and the USA take up the first two spots.
- ✓ The top eight teams in the recently-held T20 World Cup in Australia (top four in each Super 12 group) have already gained spots for the 2024 tournament
- ✓ Afghanistan and Bangladesh, the next best teams on the ICC men's T20I rankings, also secured their spot.
- ✓ The final eight spots for the 2024 tournament will be decided in regional play.
- ✓ Africa, Asia and Europe will have two qualification spots, with one spot for both the Americas and East-Asia Pacific regions.

RANKINGS

- **India - has improved its position by six slots and is now placed at 61st rank as per the Network Readiness Index 2022 report released recently**
- ✓ The report tracks the network-based readiness of 131 countries based on their performances in four different parameters - technology, people, governance, and impact.
- ✓ The country's overall score has improved to 51.19 in 2022 from 49.74 in 2021, as per the report
- ✓ India secured 1st rank in AI talent concentration and 2nd rank in Mobile broadband internet traffic within the country and International Internet bandwidth
- ✓ Further, the country has got 3rd rank in Annual investment in telecommunication services and Domestic market size, 4th rank in ICT Services exports and 5th rank in FTTH and Building Internet subscriptions and AI scientific publications.
- ✓ As per the report, India is ranked 3rd out of 36 countries in the group of lower-middle-income nations after Ukraine and Indonesia
- ✓ Meanwhile, the United States took the 1st spot from the Netherlands (4th) as the most network-ready society.
- ✓ It is followed by Singapore with a score of 79.35 and Sweden with a score of 78.91
- ✓ The biggest mover is Singapore (2nd), which rose from seventh position last year to rank second in this year's index, pushing Denmark (6th) and Finland (7th) out of the top 5
- ✓ Other five countries that have secured the Top 10 spots include Netherlands (4th), Switzerland (5th), Germany (8th), South Korea (9th) and Norway (10th).
- ✓ In the Asia Pacific region, Singapore is at the top spot, followed by South Korea and Japan
- ✓ The report was prepared by the Portland Institute, an independent non-profit, nonpartisan research and educational institute based in Washington DC.

