

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 24, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Higher Education Minister Ponmudi - has announced that Tamil and English will be included as compulsory subjects with a common syllabus in the degree courses of the affiliated colleges of all the state universities from next year.**
- ✓ According to the Minister, all universities will have English and Tamil for the first four semesters in UG courses
- ✓ A new skill-based curriculum has been prepared for arts and science courses so that students become not only job seekers but also employers, said the Minister
- ✓ A meeting of vice-chancellors and registrars was held on November 23 at the Tamil Nadu State Council of Higher Education (TANSCHE), under the chairmanship of Minister of Higher Education Ponmudi, regarding the restructuring of the syllabus.
- ✓ After the review meeting, the Minister said private companies and Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation will take part in the revision of syllabus for arts and science courses.
- ✓ TANSCHE, which prepared the revised syllabus for arts and science courses, circulated the rough draft among vice-chancellors.
- ✓ Further, it was decided during the meeting that Foundations will be allowed to be established in every university in the name of leaders who have worked for political and social progress

- **On November 23, Health Minister Ma Subramanian - released a guidebook titled 'Safe Surgery-Protocols and Checklists- A Reappraisal' at a workshop on safe surgical practices**
- ✓ The book will help doctors to adopt international protocols and guidelines to standardise safety norms before surgery, during the procedure, post-surgery and after discharge.

- ✓ Around 600 government hospital surgeons attended the event held at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital.



- ✓ During the workshop, the Minister said that the Health Department will constitute a Regional Death Audit Committee in four districts - Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchy, and Chennai - to audit deaths after surgery to avoid human and other errors
 - ✓ The committee having orthopaedicians, anaesthetists, surgeons and medicine specialists will audit avoidable complications and submit a report
 - ✓ The death audits are to be conducted in hospitals, where the panel will monitor existing audits, and analyse the special cause of death
- ✓ The 65-page checklist framed based on guidelines by World Health Organization (WHO) and other organisations on safe surgery had necessary modifications to suit local requirements
- ✓ The head of surgeons who attended the workshop will train junior doctors on protocols to be followed during and after the surgery
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, over 5,000 surgeons work at the healthcare centers, and at least 10,000 surgeries are performed every day from three departments - Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine (DPH), Department of Medical and Rural Health Services (DMS), and Directorate of Medical Education (DME).
- **Mayiladuthurai district - was ranked 3rd place by the Union ministry of Jal Shakti in the category of 'Best Performing Districts' for the month of October**
 - ✓ The district was categorised under 'achievers' in providing functional household tap connections (FHTC) to the households.
 - ✓ The chairperson of the District Water Sanitation Mission (DWSM) and collector of Mayiladuthurai district R Lalitha was honoured with the 'Achievers' award by Union minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a virtual meeting held on November 21.
 - ✓ Champhai and Mamit districts in Mizoram secured the first and second positions in this category

- ✓ Ranipettai district also secured 3rd position by providing 75% tap connections to households and was ranked as a 'high achiever'.



- ✓ Kolasib and Serchhip districts in Mizoram stood in the first two positions in this category
- ✓ Further, Kallakurichi district bagged the 1st rank in 'Performers' category



- ✓ Jal Jeevan mission aims to assist, empower and facilitate water supply infrastructure so that every household in the country has a functional household tap connection by 2024.
- ✓ In achieving this target, the districts across the country are selected in various categories under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan mission 2023 for the month of October.
- ✓ The districts with 100% tap connections during the month were selected as front runners, while the districts with 75 to 100% tap connections were ranked as high achievers
- ✓ The districts providing 50 to 75% tap connections come under the achiever category while the districts with 0 to 25% tap water connections are included in the category of aspirants.
- ✓ In Mayiladuthurai, out of the 2.02 lakh rural households recorded as per Yearly Data Updation (YDU), 1.13 lakh houses have been provided FHTCs under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2020-21.

- ✓ Accordingly, 55% of the rural houses have been provided with FHTCs in Mayiladuthurai district, while the rest of the households will be provided with FHTCs before March 2024
- **Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras, and the University of Birmingham, U.K - have partnered to launch a joint Masters' program from next year**



- ✓ This is the first of its kind partnership at masters' level involving India's premier engineering institution and a UK Russell Group University
- ✓ Under the programme, students will study in Birmingham and Chennai before receiving a single degree awarded by both universities.
- ✓ The collaboration between the two institutes will also support research in fields of data science, energy systems, and biomedical engineering.
- ✓ The universities have also agreed to establish a joint research fund to support academics and researchers in these three areas.
- ✓ The joint programme will be delivered at the campuses of both institutions and mutual recognition of academic credits issued by each university will lead to the award of a single degree certificate.
- ✓ The agreement comes after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in February where both institutions declared their intention to further develop their partnership

NATIONAL

- **The government - has identified nearly 2.5 lakh fair price shops (FPS) or ration shops to upgrade them as 'one-stop shops'**
- ✓ These 'one-stop shops' will have different facilities including e-services such as for paying utility bills and submitting PAN application.
- ✓ So far 39,000 such shops have been converted as common service centres (CSCs).
- ✓ The food and public distribution ministry has urged all the states and UTs to provide the CSCs at the ration shops in collaboration with the CSC e-Governance India.

- ✓ Last week, the food ministry held a detailed discussion with the state governments on the options to improve the profitability of ration shops
- ✓ During this meeting, the Tamil Nadu government made a presentation on the best practices to transform these outlets.
- ✓ The ration shops in Tamil Nadu are now selling commodities such as minor millets, grocery items and branded FMCG products in addition to subsidised wheat and rice.
- ✓ According to the food ministry, around 10,000 ration shops in Maharashtra have got the ISO certification
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is also working towards adopting a similar model of certification of the ration shops in the state.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Centre has urged all the states and UTs identify and develop 75 model ration shops in each district and share the list with the food ministry

CONFERENCES

- **The fourth edition of the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) - began in New Delhi on November 23**



- ✓ Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The National Maritime Foundation is Navy's knowledge partner and chief organizer of the event, which will be held till November 25 this year
- ✓ The aim of this apex-level regional dialogue is to assess the opportunities and challenges that emerge within the Indo-Pacific
- ✓ The theme of IPRD-2022 is the 'Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative', which was mentioned by PM Modi in Bangkok at 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) on November 4, 2019.
- ✓ The Dialogue will have six professional sessions spread over the three-day period
- ✓ In addition, there will be Margdarshan session which would include addresses from Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav

- ✓ The first two editions of IPRD were held in 2018 and 2019 respectively at New Delhi, while IPRD 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19 outbreak.
- ✓ The third edition of IPRD was held in 2021 in online mode.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On November 23, the European Space Agency - named the first ever “parastronaut” indicating the approval to allow people with physical disabilities to work and live in space.**

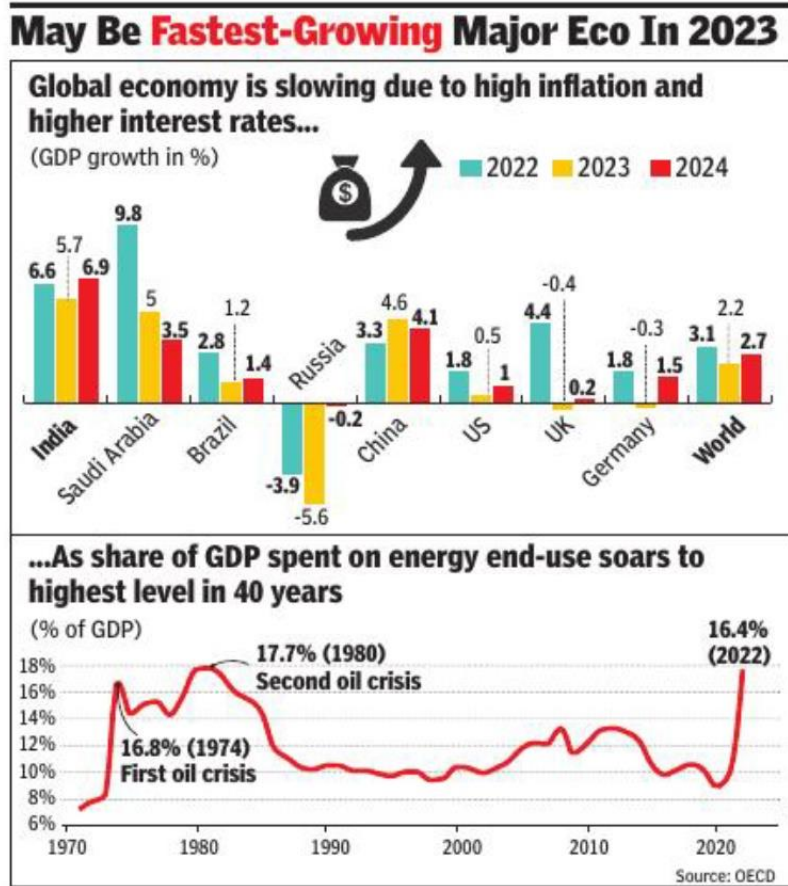


- ✓ Former British Paralympic sprinter John McFall was selected as part of a new generation of 17 recruits picked for astronaut training.
- ✓ He will take part in a feasibility study designed to allow ESA to assess the conditions needed for people with disabilities to take part in future missions.
- ✓ McFall, 41, will join five new career astronauts and 11 reserves in training after ESA announced its new astronaut ranks for the first time since 2009.
- ✓ ESA posted openings last year for people capable of passing its psychological, cognitive and other tests inspite of their disability.
- ✓ The agency had received 257 applications for the role of astronaut with a disability.
- ✓ Following a motorcycle accident that led to his right leg being amputated at the age of 19, McFall won the 100-metres Bronze Medal at the Beijing Paralympic Games in 2008.

ECONOMY

- **On November 23, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - lowered India’s growth projection for the current year to 6.6% from 6.9% earlier**
- ✓ However, the global thinktank had retained the country’s status as the second-fastest growing economy in FY 2023 after Saudi Arabia.
- ✓ Next year, India is projected to be the fastest growing major economy despite further slowdown in GDP expansion.

- ✓ The agency had predicted a weaker forecast for the global economy in the wake of high inflation and an energy crisis over several parts of the world due to the Ukraine war



- ✓ The war is expected to increase the risk of debt distress for low-income countries and food scarcity, the agency said.

