

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On November 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - paid tributes to Azha. Valliappa on his 100th birth anniversary



- ✓ Popularly called Kuzhanthai Kavignar, Azha. Valliappa is a famous Tamil writer known for his literary work for children
- ✓ According to the PM, Azha. Valliappa is remembered not only for his outstanding writing and poetry but also for his efforts to popularise history, culture, and literature among children.
- ✓ Born in Rayavaram in Pudukottai district, Azha. Valliappa (November 7, 1922 – March 16, 1989) was a prominent children's poet, who started writing poems from the age of 13.
- ✓ He is hailed as the father of Tamil children's literature and has authored over a 1,000 poems and more than 55 books.
- ✓ Azha. Valliappa founded the Children's Writers' Association in 1950 to bring together writers for children.
- ✓ He was the editor-in-chief of five children's magazines for over 16 years.
- ✓ After a stint in Shakti, a magazine, he joined Indian Bank.

- ✓ He started writing poems and essays while working at the bank and continued to write even after his retirement from the bank in November 1982.
  - ✓ Valliappa's first assortment of 23 poems titled "Malarum Ullam" was released in 1944 followed by the next collections titled "Sirikkum Pookal"
  - ✓ He served as honorary editor of Balar Malar, Damaram, Sanghu, Poonchulai and Gokulam newspapers and magazines.
  - ✓ Valliappa was conferred the titles of "Pillai Kaviarasu" and "Mazalai Kavi Chemmal" by varied organisations.
  - ✓ In 1982, the Madurai Kamaraj College conferred the title of "Tamil Pervaich Chemmal" on him
- **The first trial run of the Vande Bharat Express on Chennai-Bengaluru-Mysuru route - was completed on November 7**



- ✓ The semi-high speed train left MGR Chennai Central and reached Mysuru 16 minutes earlier than the scheduled time.
  - ✓ The new rake was released by Integral Coach Factory on November 6.
  - ✓ The new service will be flagged off from Bengaluru on November 11 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - ✓ It will run six days a week, except on Wednesdays
  - ✓ The train covered the 504km distance in 6 hours and 24 minutes with stoppages at Katpadi, Jolarpet and KSR Bengaluru City.
  - ✓ The scheduled travel time of Vande Bharat train is 6 hours and 40 minutes.
  - ✓ Even though the train achieved maximum speed of 100kmph on some stretches, the average speed of the train remained at 75-77kmph.
  - ✓ The train that can run at 180kmph has automatic doors, GPS-based audio-visual passenger information system, on-board WiFi hotspot, ergonomical seats, LED lights and other amenities.
- **On November 7, the school education department - released the exam schedule for classes X, XI and XII.**

- ✓ As per the schedule, more than 8.8 lakh students will write the Class XII board exams from March 13 to April 3 at 3,169 centres.
- ✓ Class XI exams will be held from March 14 to April 5 for about 8.5 lakh students at 3,169 centres.
- ✓ Class X exams will be conducted from April 6 to 20 for more than 10 lakh students at 3,986 centres.

## STATES

- **Nagaland's first ever bird documentation event 'Tokhü Emong Bird Count (TEBC)' - was held from November 4 to 7, 2022**
- ✓ It was organised in collaboration with the Wokha Forest Division and the Divisional Management Unit, Nagaland Forest Management Project (NFMP), Wokha, Nagaland and Bird Count India



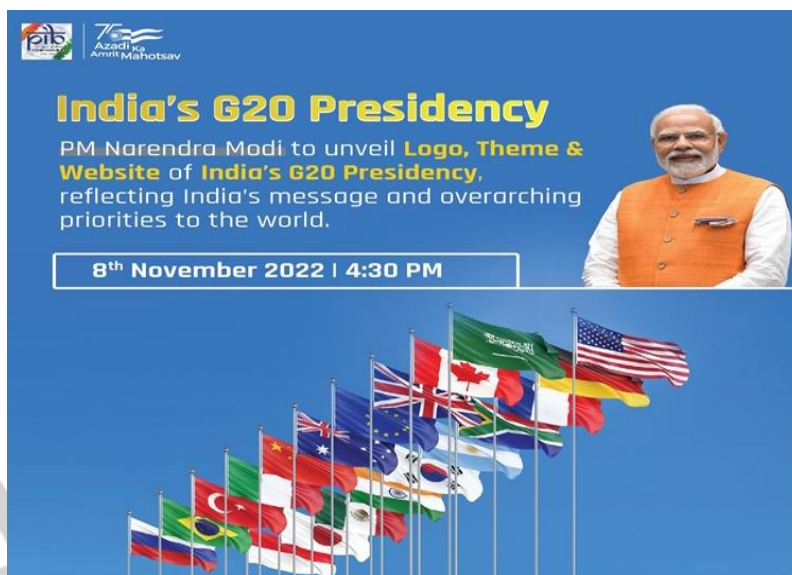
- ✓ The event was held on the occasion of Tokhü Emong – a post-harvest festival of the Lotha Nagas and coincides with BNHS Salim Ali Bird Count – a national level bird count event.
- ✓ During the event, birdwatchers and enthusiasts took part in the bird count by listing different species and uploading it in the bird-recording platform – eBird.
- **Chief Minister Pramod Sawant – launched the logo of Purple Fest recently in an event held in Goa**



- ✓ The 'Purple Fest – Celebrating Diversity' is a first-of-its-kind inclusive festival that embraces, expresses and celebrates persons with disabilities.
- ✓ It will be organized from January 6 to 8 next year in Panaji, Goa
- ✓ The event will be organised by the Office of State Commission for Persons with Disabilities Goa in collaboration with Directorate of Social Welfare and Entertainment Society of Goa

## NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will unveil the logo, theme and website of India's G20 presidency on November 8**



- ✓ India will assume G20 Presidency from 1st December, 2022
- ✓ The G20 summit will take place in Bali, Indonesia on November 15-16 and PM Modi is set to be among the top leaders attending it.
- ✓ The logo, theme and website of our G20 Presidency would reflect India's message and overarching priorities to the world.
- ✓ G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation, representing almost 85% of the global GDP, more than 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world's population
- ✓ India is currently part of the G20 Troika (current, previous and incoming G20 presidencies) comprising Indonesia, Italy and India.
- ✓ During the course of its G20 presidency, India will hold about 200 meetings in 32 different sectors at multiple locations across the country.
- ✓ The G20 Summit to be hosted by India in September 2023 will be one of the highest profile international gatherings to be held in the country.
- ✓ The members of G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the UK, the US and the European Union.



- ✓ India has included Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the United Arab Emirates as guest countries during its presidency, while Spain is invited as a permanent guest
  - ✓ The G20's finance track has eight focus areas – global macroeconomic policies, infrastructure financing, international financial architecture, sustainable finance, financial inclusion, health finance, international taxation and financial sector reforms
  - ✓ The sherpa track will focus on anti-corruption, agriculture, digital economy, employment, environment and climate, education, energy transition, health, and trade and investment.
- **Chief Justice of India (CJI) UU Lalit - bid farewell to the Supreme Court on his last working day on November 7**



- ✓ On his last working day, the proceedings of the ceremonial bench headed by the CJI will be telecast live on behalf of the Supreme Court.
  - ✓ The Chief Justice of India shares the bench with his successor in the Ceremonial Bench
- ✓ CJI Lalit will be superannuating on November 8, which is a court holiday due to Guru Nanak Jayanti.
- ✓ While speaking at the ceremonial bench in the top court for the last time, CJI Lalit said that he is happy to pass on the baton to Justice DY Chandrachud, the son of the 16th Chief Justice YV Chandrachud
- ✓ CJI Lalit prioritised the listing of important constitutional cases, brought in transparency by live streaming the court proceedings and streamlined the listing process by ensuring transparency in the registry and decreasing pendency of cases
- ✓ CJI Lalit said he is indebted for the love and support he has got during his 74-day tenure, in which there were three benches hearing constitution related cases at one point of time.

- ✓ On his last working day, Justice UU Lalit pronounced the verdict in six cases, which included the 10% reservation for the Economically Poor (EWS) of the general category and the Amrapali housing scheme
  - ✓ Senior Advocate Vikas Singh, President of Supreme Court Bar Association, gifted CJI Lalit a memorabilia signed by the members of the Bar.
  - ✓ Earlier in October, Chief Justice of India UU Lalit recommended the name of the Supreme Court Justice DY Chandrachud as his successor to the Government of India.
  - ✓ Justice UU Lalit was sworn in as the 49th Chief Justice of India on 27 August this year.
  - ✓ Justice Chandrachud is likely to be sworn in as the 50th Chief Justice of India on November 9.
  - ✓ He will have a term of just over two years with his tenure ending on November 10, 2024.
  - ✓ Some of his notable judgments include on the cases of fundamental right to privacy, decriminalisation of homosexuality, Sabarimala case, decriminalisation of adultery and the Ayodhya title dispute case.
  - ✓ On September 27, 2018, a bench headed by then Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra delivered a landmark judgment on a live telecast or webcast of important proceedings in matters of constitutional importance.
  - ✓ For the first time since its inception, the Supreme Court had on August 26 live streamed proceedings of the ceremonial bench of then CJI N V Ramana, which was his last working day in the top court.
  - ✓ From September 27, the top court started live streaming proceedings of the Constitution benches through its webcast channel and YouTube.
- **Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - released the Swachh Survekshan Grameen (#SSG) 2023 Toolkit and launched the SSG 2023 dashboard recently on November 2**



- ✓ The Minister launched the toolkit at the technical session on “Rural WASH Partnerships – the way forward”, which was organized on the second day of the 7<sup>th</sup> India Water Week

- ✓ During the session, the Minister also launched the web portal for the 'Twinpit to Retrofit Abhiyan'
- ✓ The Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has been conducting SSG since 2018 onwards to rank the States and Districts on the basis of their performance attained on key quantitative and qualitative parameters under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)
- ✓ The Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2023 Toolkit comprises information on various stages of assessment, baseline rankings of the Panchayats and Districts based on their ODF Plus progress as reported on SBM-G Integrated Management Information System (IMIS).
- ✓ The India Water Week is an annual activity of Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ✓ This year, the 7<sup>th</sup> Water Week has been inaugurated on November 1 at the India Expo Centre in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh by the President, Droupadi Murmu.
- ✓ Other countries participating in the weeklong event are Finland, Germany, Israel and European Union

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On November 7, the Supreme Court - has upheld the 103rd Constitution Amendment providing for 10% quota for the economically weaker sections (EWS) from unreserved categories in a 3:2 split verdict.**
- ✓ The beneficiaries can avail the quota for admission to government, private, unaided educational institutions and government jobs.
- ✓ A five-judge Constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Uday Umesh Lalit delivered the verdict in the matter and held that it does not violate the basic structure of the Constitution

MAJORITY JUDGMENT	MINORITY VERDICT
<p>“Reservation for the EWS does not violate basic structure on account of 50% ceiling because <b>ceiling limit is not inflexible</b> —Justice <b>Dinesh Maheshwari</b></p> <p>Treating EWS as a separate class would be a reasonable classification. Just as equals cannot be treated unequally, unequals cannot be treated equally. <b>Treating unequals equally violates equality under the Constitution</b> —Justice <b>Bela M Trivedi</b></p> <p>It's necessary to take into review the manner of identification and ways of determining backward classes and also ascertain <b>whether the criteria adopted is relevant for today's conditions</b>. Though B R Ambedkar wanted it only for 10 years, it has continued for seven decades —Justice <b>J B Pardiwala</b></p>	<p>“By excluding the poor among SC/ST/OBC... the amendment <b>practises constitutionally prohibited forms of discrimination</b>... Our Constitution does not permit exclusion and this amendment <b>undermines the fabric of social justice and thereby the basic structure</b>... the <b>'othering' of socially and educationally disadvantaged classes</b>... by excluding them from this new reservation on the ground that they enjoy pre-existing benefits is to heap <b>fresh injustice based on past disability</b> —Justice <b>S Ravindra Bhat</b> along with Chief Justice <b>U U Lalit</b></p>

- ✓ CJI UU Lalit and Justice Ravindra Bhat struck down the EWS amendment holding the exclusion of SCs, STs and OBCs from the purview of economic backwardness to be “discriminatory and arbitrary”.
- ✓ Justices Dinesh Maheshwari, Bela Trivedi and JB Pardiwala upheld the EWS amendment, which would push the total reservation to 59.5% in central institutions



- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the ruling DMK, which opposed the amendment in Parliament, and which was party to the case in the Supreme Court, termed the decision a “setback” to the fight for social justice
- ✓ Tamil Nadu had opposed the EWS quota, saying the economic criteria cannot be the basis for classification and the top court will have to revisit the Indra Sawhney judgement if it decides to uphold this reservation.
- ✓ The SC during Indra Sawhney case had ruled that reservation should not exceed 50%, barring certain extraordinary situations.
- ✓ The apex court had on September 27 reserved the verdict on the legal question of whether the EWS quota violated the basic structure of the Constitution
- ✓ The Centre has earlier submitted before the Supreme Court that EWS reservation does not violate the basic structure.
- ✓ The top court heard as many as 40 petitions and most of the pleas, including the lead one filed by 'Janhit Abhiyan' in 2019, challenged the validity of the Constitution Amendment (103rd) Act 2019.
- ✓ The Centre, through the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019, introduced the provision for EWS reservation in admissions and public services.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha cleared the bill on January 8 and 9 in 2019 respectively and it was then signed by then-President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ✓ The EWS quota is over and above the existing 50% reservation to SCs, STs, and Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ✓ Through the 103rd amendment, Articles 15(6) and 16(6) were introduced in the Constitution of India, providing 10% reservation in jobs and admissions to persons other than SC, ST and OBC whose annual family income is below Rs.8 lakh.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On November 7, Belgium - became the third nation in the world to pledge funding to help developing countries cope with damage and losses caused by climate change**
- ✓ Belgium has pledged to offer €2.5 million (\$2.5 million) in support for Mozambique for a period from 2023 to 2028
- ✓ Previously only Scotland and Denmark had pledged funding for climate-linked loss and damage.
- ✓ Denmark pledged over \$13 million in aid, saying the funds would go to the Sahel region in northwestern Africa and other fragile regions.
- ✓ At the COP26 summit, Scottish leader Nicola Sturgeon announced a symbolic £1 million loss and damage investment as a way to encourage industrialised countries to follow suit.

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **On November 7, UN chief Antonio Guterres - unveiled an action plan to achieve “early warnings for all” in the next five years**





- ✓ The initiative seeks initial new targeted investments of \$3.1 billion between 2023 and 2027
- ✓ It would cover disaster risk knowledge, observations and forecasting, preparedness and response, and communication of early warnings to all across the globe.
- ✓ The plan, drawn up by the WMO and its technical partners, was supported by 50 countries including India.
- ✓ Currently, half of the countries in the world lack these facilities.
- ✓ According to the Global Commission on Adaptation, spending just \$800 million on such systems in developing countries would avoid losses of \$3-16 billion per year.
- ✓ During his address, Guterres told world leaders at the climate summit in Sharm el Sheikh to “cooperate or perish” and “It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact – or a Collective Suicide Pact”
- ✓ He called for a new pact between rich and poor countries to make deeper cuts in emissions with financial help and phasing out of coal in rich nations by 2030 and elsewhere by 2040.
- ✓ Guterres called on the US and China to especially work together on climate.
- ✓ The speech comes a day after the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) flagged how climate change-induced extreme weather events caused severe devastation in many countries this year
- ✓ India’s environment minister Bhupender Yadav reiterated the country’s support while speaking at the meet.
- ✓ He said India has launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure which is working towards developing applications of climate forecast and early warning for reducing infrastructure losses and disruption in basic services.
- ✓ Yadav also said India has integrated hazard, vulnerability and exposure information to develop Web-DCRA (Dynamic Composite Risk Atlas) to enable swift and advanced action on early warnings.

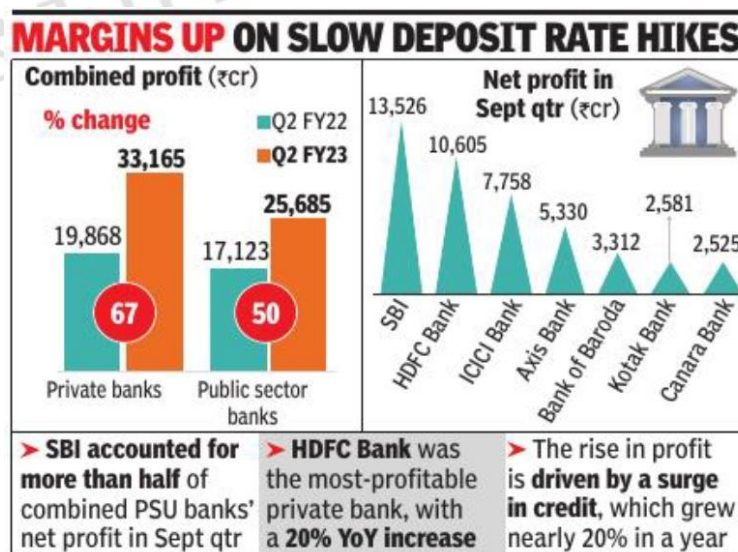
## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Scientists in the UK - have infused blood cells grown in a laboratory into people in the first such clinical trial in the world.**

- ✓ This is the first time in the world that red blood cells that have been grown in a lab have been given to another person as part of the trial
- ✓ If proven safe and effective, manufactured blood cells could revolutionise treatments for people with blood disorders such as sickle cell and rare blood types.
- ✓ This is a path-breaking trial as it is difficult to find enough well-matched donated blood for some people with these disorders
- ✓ The team, including researchers from the University of Cambridge in the UK, said the red blood cells were grown from stem cells of donors and then they were transfused into healthy volunteers.
- ✓ The trial is studying the lifespan of the lab grown cells compared with infusions of standard red blood cells from the same donor.
- ✓ The lab-grown cells are fresh, so the research team expects them to perform better than a similar transfusion of standard donated red cells, which contains cells of varying ages.

## BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **Indian commercial banks - have reported a combined profit of nearly Rs 59,000 crore for the September quarter**
- ✓ This is an increase of 57% over the Rs 37,567 crore net in the year-ago period.
- ✓ This is the highest profit recorded by Indian banks in any quarter.
- ✓ Private banks have collectively reported a profit of Rs 33,165 crore, which is around 67% more than Rs 19,868 crore in the previous year.
- ✓ Public sector banks have reported a combined net of Rs 25,685 crore for Q2, up 50% from Rs 17,123 crore in FY22.



- ✓ More than half of the profit has been generated by SBI, which posted its highest quarterly earnings of Rs 13,256 crore, an increase of 74% over previous year.
- ✓ SBI's record net has made it the most profitable company this quarter on a consolidated basis.

- ✓ The consolidated net profit of SBI at Rs 14,752 crore was higher than Reliance Industries' Rs 13,656 crore profit
- ✓ In the private sector, HDFC Bank reported a net profit of Rs 10,605 crore, an increase of 20%.
- ✓ Among other private banks, ICICI Bank reported a profit of Rs 7,758 crore (up 37%), Axis Bank Rs 5,330 crore (70% gain) and Kotak Bank Rs 2,581 crore (27% increase).
- ✓ For public sector banks, the profits for the first half of the current fiscal year was Rs 40,991 crore, an increase of 31% over Rs 31,290 crore in the first half of FY22.
- ✓ Besides SBI, other PSU banks have also reported high growth in profits.
- ✓ Canara Bank reported a 89% jump in net profit to Rs 2,525 crore, while Bank of Baroda's net rose 59% to Rs 3,312 crore and Union Bank of India posted a net profit of Rs 1,848 crore with 21% rise.

## **BOOKS & AUTHORS**

- **Patricia Lacina, Chargé d'Affaires of US Embassy - launched a book titled 'All About Municipal Bond' in New Delhi recently on November 3**



- ✓ In the book, Vadodara Municipal Corporation's (VMC) successful listing of municipal bond was mentioned as a case study
- ✓ VMC's bond has been chosen as a case study as it has been the most successful municipal bond in the country with the highest subscription and a low yield price
- ✓ VMC listed a five-year Rs 100 crore bond at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on March 23.
- ✓ The municipal bond will be used for 14 projects under AMRUT scheme and received 36 bids on the BSE BOND platform for Rs 1,007 crore—10 times the issue size.
- ✓ The funds raised via the bonds have been deployed for the Sindhrot Water Supply Project that caters to the needs of the drinking water supply as well as the Liquid Waste Management Project to help in the disposal of sewage water effectively.



- ✓ Gujarat's Vadodara is the second Indian city to issue a municipal bond with assistance from the US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance.
- ✓ The first city to avail the US Treasury Department's services was Pune in 2017.

