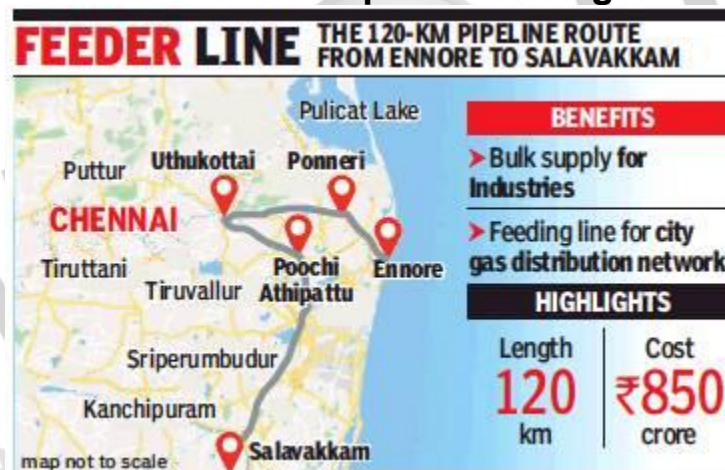


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 25, 2019

### TAMIL NADU

- The Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) of the Centre - has approved Indian Oil Corporation's Ennore-Kancheepuram underground pipeline project.



- ✓ The Rs 849 crore project is aimed at ensuring piped natural gas supply to residents and industries in and around Chennai
- ✓ The 120km pipeline will act as a feeder line for the upcoming City Gas grid Distribution (CGD) project, which intends to replace LPG cylinders with piped Natural gas (CNG) supply
- ✓ Till the CGD project becomes operational, the pipeline will be used to provide bulk supply of Natural gas to industries
- ✓ Earlier this year, IOC started operations along Ennore-Manali pipeline project.
- ✓ Industries like Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Madras Fertilizers Limited and Tamil Nadu Petro products Limited have already started receiving gas through these pipes
- ✓ According to the project design, 30 inch pipelines will be laid from Ennore LNG Terminal situated inside Kamarajar Port Limited, Ennore, to Salavakkam Village in Kancheepuram via Ponneri and Uthukottai.

- ✓ The Natural gas imported at the terminal will be transported to gas consumers, including Hyundai Motors and Saint Gobain near Sriperumbudur along this pipeline route.
- **Chennai - to have a fleet of 500 electric bikes, that can be hired on a rental basis, by the end of January 2020**

## Powering change

SmartBike Mobility has a plan to steadily expand its operations



- By end of January 2020, city will have 500 battery-operated electric bikes
- Chennai has over 500 smart bikes in over 50 locations. The bikes have a 3 speed nexus gear with pedal power
- Over 500 people use the bikes every day
- The firm intends to have 500 stations across Chennai with over 5,000 smart bikes and electric bikes by the end of 2020
- Currently, users are riding 3 to 5 km

- ✓ To begin with, the bikes will be available in Old Mahabalipuram Road (OMR), East Coast Road (ECR), at Metro and MRTS stations and popular residential and commercial centres.
- ✓ The project will be implemented by SmartBike Mobility Private Limited in collaboration with Mahindra Susten, a part of the Mahindra Group.
- ✓ All the stations will have infrastructure for recharging the vehicles.
- **The Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC) - has begun to operate the second electric bus (from Ashok Leyland) in Chennai.**
- ✓ It had already completed the trial run of the first electric bus on the A1 route between Thiruvanmiyur and Central Railway Station in the last 3 months.
- ✓ The second bus is being operated on a longer circular route to test the battery performance.



- ✓ The air-conditioned electric bus is to be operated with the first leg starting from Broadway to Puratchi Thalaivar MGR Bus terminus in Koyambedu (route no. 15S), the second leg from Koyambedu to Siruseri (Bus no. 570S) and the last leg from Siruseri to Broadway (Bus no. 102).
- ✓ The second e-bus has a chargeable battery, while the first one had a battery swap technology.
- ✓ The new e-bus could run for a minimum of 200 km on a single charge, whereas the first e-bus with battery swap technology could operate only for 40 km.

## STATES

- **Sondekoppa, a village 40km northwest of Bengaluru – to host Karnataka's first detention centre for illegal immigrants**



- ✓ A hostel for Backward class, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students of a nearby government school in the village has been renovated to become the detention centre for 'illegal immigrants'

- ✓ This centre can accommodate not more than 30 immigrants at a time
- ✓ The building comprises six rooms, of which three have been converted into five-bedded dormitories.
- ✓ The 28-year old L-shaped building, standing on half an acre, was in disuse for over a decade.
- ✓ According to village records, it was built in 1992 for SC/ST and Backward class students and it was shut in 2008 due to dwindling strength
- ✓ Sondekoppa is located in Nelamangala taluk of Karnataka's Bengaluru Rural district

## NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi - approved over ₹3,941.35 crore for updating the National Population Register (NPR) across the country, barring the state of Assam**

### The numbers game

The Cabinet approved over **₹3,941.35 crore** for updating the NPR and **₹8,754.23 crore** for conducting the Census of India



- The data for NPR was collected in 2010, along with the house-listing phase of the Census of India, 2011

- This data was updated in 2015 through a door-to-door survey, and its digitisation has also been carried out

- It was decided to update

the NPR, along with the house-listing phase of Census 2021, during April to September 2020 in all States and UTs, except Assam

- Details under 14 categories would be collected through door-to-door enumeration, along with the Census

- The objective of the NPR is to create a comprehensive identity database of every usual resident (who has been living at a particular place for the past six months). The database would contain demographic as well as biometric particulars

- ✓ It had also approved an allocation of ₹8,754.23 crore for conducting the Census of India, 2021.
- ✓ The NPR is an exercise that was started in 2010 along with house-listing phase of 2011 Census of India
- ✓ It happens once in every 10 years
- ✓ The Citizenship Rules, 2003, provide for the creation of a National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC), or the National Register of Citizens (NRC), based on the data gathered in the NPR
- ✓ The decennial census will be conducted in two phases — house listing and housing census from April to September, 2020, and population enumeration from February 9 to 28, 2021.

- ✓ The various States which used the NPR data collected by the Registrar General of India (RGI) were Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Odisha, Manipur and Rajasthan towards the planning of various beneficiary schemes in their states
  - ✓ The NPR was updated in 2015 by seeding it with biometric details of Aadhaar
  - ✓ It is mandatory for every usual resident of country to register in NPR
  - ✓ A 'usual resident' is defined as a person who has resided or intends to reside in an area for past 6 months or more
  - ✓ The data under NPR was collected through door-to-door enumeration
  - ✓ It includes various categories like age, marital status, place of birth, nationality (as declared), present and permanent residential address, occupation, activity and educational qualification.
  - ✓ Household wise NPR data was used in better targeting of schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Jan Dhan Yojana, Prime Minister Awas Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Saubhagya etc
- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister – approves two schemes in honour of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, ahead of his birth anniversary on December 25**
- ✓ The first scheme is to improve groundwater management in villages and the other is to rename the tunnel being built under the Rohtang Pass after the Later Prime Minister



- ✓ The first scheme, called 'Atal Bhujal Yojana', is a scheme for sustainable management of ground water resources through community participation
- ✓ It will be implemented in identified priority areas in 7 States - Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ It would be launched in 8,350 villages across 78 districts.
- ✓ The scheme was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the occasion of 95th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Late Atal Bihari Vajpayee on December 25, 2019
- ✓ The Cabinet had approved ₹6,000 crore for the Atal Bhujal Yojana for five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25

- ✓ The Centre will bear half of this cost and the rest will be covered by the World Bank loan
  - ✓ The states for this scheme have been selected according to the level of groundwater exploitation and degradation.
  - ✓ The scheme will also help in supplying water to every house hold by 2024.
  - ✓ The Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti will be the nodal agency for the project
  - ✓ Currently, only 3 crore out of 18 crore rural households today have clean piped water
  - ✓ The Centre has aimed to provide the remaining 15 crore rural households with piped water in the next five years.
  - ✓ On the eve of occasion, the Rohtang tunnel, being constructed from Manali to Leh, would be renamed as the 'Atal Tunnel'
  - ✓ About 80% of the work on the tunnel had so far been completed
  - ✓ The construction of tunnel was approved in June 2000, when Vajpayee was the Prime Minister
  - ✓ The tunnel reduces the distance between Leh and Manali by 46 kilometres
  - ✓ The strategic tunnel is 8.8 km long, making it the world's longest, above the altitude of 3,000 metres in the world
- **The Cabinet - had approved the release of ₹627.40 crore for 10 projects sanctioned during 2018-19 under the Swadesh Darshan scheme of the Tourism Ministry**
- ✓ It had also allocated ₹1,854.67 crore for various new projects under the scheme during 2019-20
  - ✓ The scheme intends to develop tourism infrastructure under 15 'thematic' circuits — Himalayan, North East, Krishna, Buddhist, coastal, desert, tribal, eco, wildlife, rural, spiritual, Ramayana, heritage, Tirthankar and Sufi.
- **The Government - decided to merge 8 different railway services and create a central service named 'Indian Railways Management Services' (IRMS)**
- ✓ It is also planning to restructure the Railway board like a Company board in order to streamline its operations for improved decision making and for ending 'departmentalism' in the service.
  - ✓ Currently, the Board comprises 8 members, each representing their service, with the Chairman being the first among equals.
  - ✓ The structure has remained unchanged since 1905.
  - ✓ Under the new system, the Chairman will be the new CEO and he will be the final authority on all issues.
  - ✓ In addition, there will be 4 members, handling finance, operations & business development, infrastructure, and rolling stock portfolios.
  - ✓ There will also be a Director general in charge of Human resource, who will report to the chairman and CEO.

- ✓ In addition, the board will have Independent members who will be experts in fields such as finance, industry and management, much like independent directors on corporate boards.
- ✓ The unification of services has been earlier recommended by various panels for reforming railways, including the Prakash Tandon Committee (1994), Rakesh Mohan Committee (2001), Sam Pitroda Committee (2012), and Bibek Debroy Committee (2015).

## DEFENCE

- **The Union Cabinet - approved the post of the country's first ever Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) or tri-service chief and its charter on December 24**
- ✓ The CDS will provide a "single-point military advice" to the government
- ✓ He will coordinate planning, procurements and logistics in the armed forces
- ✓ He will also be responsible for ensuring integration of land-air-sea operations through the setting up of theatre commands

### CDS: ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Act as principal military adviser to defence minister on tri-Service matters (Army, Navy &amp; IAF chiefs will continue to advise the minister on matters concerning their forces)</li> <li>➤ Head a new department of military affairs (will include the armed forces) within MoD</li> <li>➤ Will also be the permanent chairman of the chiefs of staff committee, but will not exercise any military command (3 Service chiefs will continue to have full operational control of their forces)</li> <li>➤ Will function as the military adviser to the PM-led Nuclear Command Authority</li> <li>➤ Will administer all tri-Service organisations, with direct command over space &amp; cyberspace agencies</li> <li>➤ Facilitate restructuring of military commands to bring synergy in operations, including establishment of theatre commands</li> <li>➤ Provide integrated inputs to relevant authorities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Will be member of Defence Acquisitions Council &amp; Defence Planning Committee</li> <li>➤ Assign inter-Service prioritisation to arms procurements based on the anticipated budget</li> <li>➤ Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services by augmenting combat capabilities &amp; reducing wasteful expenditure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bring synergy in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs, maintenance of the three Services within three years of the first CDS assuming office</li> <li>➤ Evaluate plans for 'Out of Area Contingencies' as well as other contingencies such as humanitarian assistance &amp; disaster relief</li> </ul>
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- ✓ The CDS will function as Military adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority, led by the Prime Minister
- ✓ He will have the direct command of Tri-service organisations to handle new warfare domains and agencies of space and cyberspace.

- ✓ The CDS will be a four-star general with the same pay and perks as the Army, Navy and IAF chiefs
- ✓ He will be the “first among equals” as Permanent Chairman of Chiefs of staff committee (COSC) and Head of a new Department of Military Affairs in Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ The government also recently informed Parliament that the CDS would come in the purview of ‘Right to Information Act’, in accordance with the provisions of the RTI Act, 2005.
- ✓ The CDS will also be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the Defence Minister and Defence Planning Committee chaired by the NSA.
- ✓ The CDS would also evaluate plans for 'Out of Area Contingencies', as well other contingencies such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR).
- ✓ General Bipin Rawat is the frontrunner for the post, after he completes his three-year tenure as Army chief on December 31.
- ✓ Vice-Chief of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane has already been appointed as the next Army chief

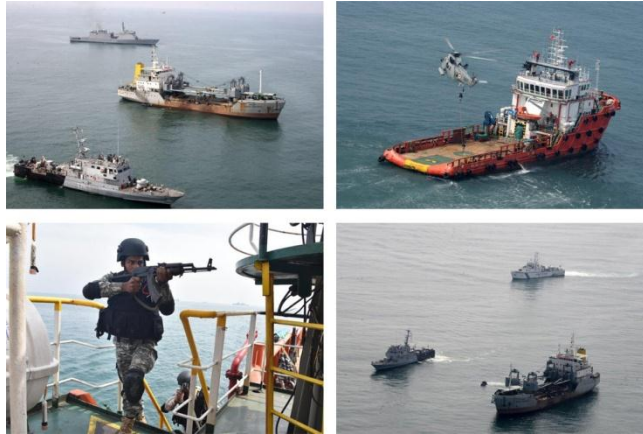
### **WILL ACT AS...**

- Principal military adviser to defence minister on tri-service matters
- Head of a new dept of military affairs within MoD
- Permanent chairman of chiefs of staff committee (without military command)
- Military adviser to PM-led Nuclear Command Authority

- ✓ The Charter of the CDS will prepare the 15-lakh strong armed forces for wars of the future.
- ✓ The CDS is mandated to ensure the Army, Navy and IAF integrate to reduce wasteful expenditure amidst the severe fund crunch for military modernization
- ✓ More than 70 countries like the US, the UK, France and Germany, among others, have a CDS-like post for integration in military planning and operations
- ✓ In the US, for instance, the Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff is the highest-ranking military officer and principal military adviser to the President.
- ✓ India currently has 17 single-Service commands (Army 7, IAF 7 and Navy 3), while there are only 2 tri-service commands in the shape of the Andaman & Nicobar Command and the Strategic Forces Command to handle nuclear weapons.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence already has 4 departments — Defence, Defence production, Ex-servicemen welfare and DRDO — which are headed by secretary-rank officers.
- ✓ A committee was formed under the chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to finalize the modalities and responsibilities of CDS



- ✓ The PM Modi, in his Independence Day address this year from Red Fort, announced the appointment of a CDS
- **The Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard - conducted large scale anti-hijacking exercise, 'Apharan' recently at Cochin port**



- ✓ About 12 ships and helicopters of Cochin Port trust, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard participated in the exercise
- ✓ This is the first time an anti-hijacking exercise is being conducted at a large scale in the entire country and in the port of Cochin
- ✓ The exercise also helped to devise an integrate crisis management for the port of Kochi or Cochin.
- ✓ The exercise assumes importance as hijacking of merchant vessels is one of the challenging scenarios of the Indian Navy
- ✓ The Indian Navy began its anti-piracy operations in Gulf of Aden since 2008

## SPORTS

- **Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala (both Haryana) - won junior and senior golds at the National Shooting Championships in Bhopal.**



- ✓ Manu won the gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol event, while Anish emerged victorious in 25m rapid fire pistol.

- ✓ The 17-year-old Manu is ranked 4th in the world in the women's air pistol rankings
- ✓ In the Women's senior event, Devanshi Dhama won silver, while Yashaswini Singh Deswal won the bronze.
- ✓ In the Girls's junior section, Manu defeated Sharvari Bhoir for the gold, while Devanshi Dhama won the bronze
- ✓ Both Manu and Yashaswini have already secured quotas for the Tokyo Olympics.
- ✓ Similarly, in the Men's senior event, Bhavesh Shekhawat from Rajasthan had won silver and Vijayveer Sidhu won bronze
- ✓ In the Boy's junior event, Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu won silver and Udhayveer Sidhu won bronze

