

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DEC 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **The state election commission - announces a fresh notification on December 7 for the civic poll schedule in the State**
- ✓ The elections for rural local bodies in 27 districts will be held in two phases on December 27 and 30 and the votes will be counted on January 2, both as announced earlier.
- ✓ The Supreme Court on December 6 directed the delimitation commission led by R Palaniswamy to delimit the nine newly constituted districts and thereafter hold the polls within the next four months
- ✓ Elections will not be held for rural local bodies in the nine reconstituted districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Vellore, Tirupattur, Ranipet, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi during the elections this month.
- ✓ As many as 91,975 posts of elected representatives in rural local bodies will be filled on completion of direct elections.
- ✓ Indirect elections will be held for filling 10,306 posts in rural local bodies.
- ✓ Indirect elections for chairpersons and vice chairpersons of district panchayats, panchayat unions and panchayat vice-presidents will be held on January 11.
- ✓ Electronic voting machines will be used in 114 polling booths in Melpuram panchayat union of Kanniyakumari district.

- **The Tamil Nadu government - has decided to withdraw Hindi as an optional language at the International Tamil Research Centre in Chennai.**
- ✓ Hindi had been replaced by Telugu
- ✓ 3 lakh originally allocated for teaching Hindi would now be used for teaching Telugu.
- ✓ The foreign language will continue to be French and it was announced that both the languages are optional and not compulsory for students

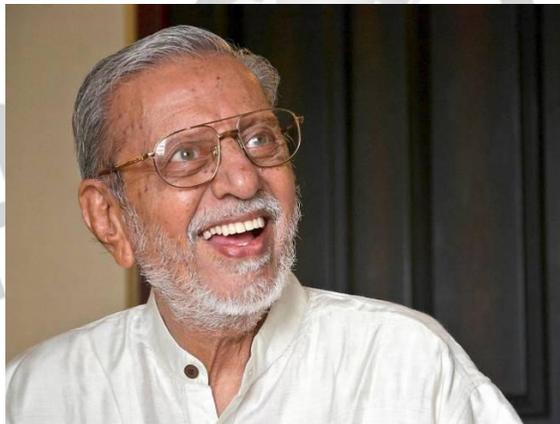
- ✓ The policy to have an additional local and foreign language at the Tamil Centre was introduced in 2014 by former chief minister, J Jayalalithaa
- **Anna University - has developed a new microscope which uses a 'mobile phone' to capture image of blood samples and analyse them**
- ✓ The new microscope is called 'Mobscope', which is a combination of mobile phone and microscope.
- ✓ The upper optical part of microscope has been replaced with a mobile phone that will capture the image of a blood sample
- ✓ The blood sample will be analysed with the help of an App thereby reducing time and eliminating need for lab technicians to analyse blood samples.
- ✓ The portable, cost-effective android-based imaging system developed by researchers can count red blood cells (RBC) and white blood cells (WBC) and platelets besides detecting anaemia and malaria

THE TECHNIQUE	ADVANTAGES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A blood sample is placed on the stage of the mobscope ➤ A mobile mounted on the eyepiece of the mobscope will capture the image of blood cells magnified by 1,000 times ➤ An app installed in the mobile will analyse the image ➤ The results will be displayed after 10 minutes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Portable and cost-effective ➤ Transportation of blood samples can be avoided <p style="color: white; background-color: blue; padding: 5px;">It can analyse blood samples much faster compared to conventional method</p>



- ✓ The device can also help doctors map an area quickly in case if there is an outbreak of a disease or epidemic like Dengue.
- ✓ This is the first time that a mobile microscope can have 1000X magnification, which normally ranges between 10X to 100X.
- ✓ The device is currently being validated at Stanley Medical College where the results of Mobscope were found to be more than 85% accurate compared to the results of conventional microscopes
- ✓ A microscope cost around ₹40,000 whereas the indigenously developed Mobscope will cost less than ₹10,000 with mass production.
- **The World Bank (WB) - had given preliminary sanction for ₹2,900 crore to the Health Department to bring its services on a par with global standards.**
- ✓ This was announced by the state Health Minister C. Vijayabaskar
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami will soon be launching various schemes utilising the World Bank's funds

- ✓ These schemes include improving trauma services and bringing them on a par with international standards, and obtaining national-level quality certification for government hospitals across the State
- ✓ Recently, the state Health Department had won appreciation from the World Health Organisation for meeting its targets on various parameters well ahead of the 2030 deadline.
- **Governor Banwarilal Purohit - has contributed ₹1 lakh for the 2019-20 Armed Forces Flag Day Fund, which was inaugurated on December 7**
- ✓ On the occasion marking the Armed Forces Flag Day, the Governor urged the people to support former servicemen by donating to the Fund generously.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has contributed ₹47.46 crore to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund in 2018-19
- **Actor Charuhasan - will receive the lifetime achievement award on December 12 at the Chennai International Film Festival, in recognition of his contribution to the Arts**



- ✓ With 130 films to be screened from 55 countries, the festival will be held from December 12 to 19 in Chennai
- ✓ The festival's opening ceremony will be held at Kalaivanar Arangam with the screening of The Parasite, the Palme d'Or winner.

STATES

- **The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik - has launched the 'Madhu App', a smart learning application for school students.**



- ✓ It is intended to help out the students to study through video and tutorials
- ✓ Madhu App is named after Utkal Gaurav Madhusudan Das, who is the first graduate of Odisha state.

NATIONAL

- **In a major decision, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla - has limited to 3 the number of private member's bills that an MP can introduce in a session of Parliament.**
- ✓ Also, it has been announced that the number of "amendments" that a member can move to the "Motion of Thanks to the President's address" and "cut motions" to a "demand for grant" cannot exceed 10.
- ✓ The ceiling on the unlimited private member's bills, "amendments" and "cut motions" has been brought about by new insertions in the "Directions by the Speaker" in the ongoing 17th Lok Sabha session.
- ✓ A private member's bill is a legislation introduced by a "non-minister MP" through which he draws the attention of the government to an issue that he considers is important enough to deserve a new law
- ✓ The second half of every Friday during a session is dedicated to private member's bills.
- **The Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of Maldives, Ibrahim Mohammed Saleh - jointly inaugurated 4 important development projects in the Maldives through video conference recently**
- ✓ These four projects include – Three Fish Processing plants, Launch of RuPay card in the Maldives, Lighting up of Male with LED lights and Fast Interceptor Craft 'Kaamyab' given to the Maldives as a 'gift'

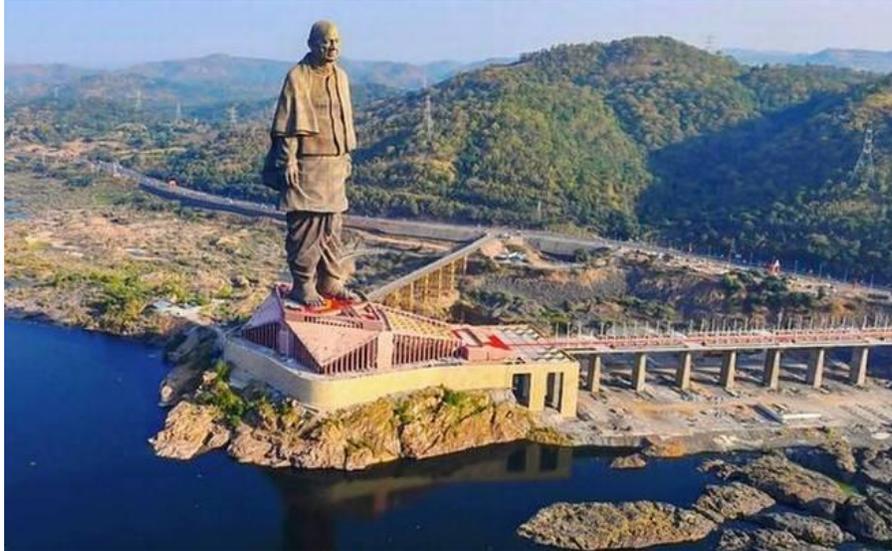


- ✓ The projects were conceived as a result of the Indian Government's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the Maldives government's 'India First' policy.
- ✓ India launched the Neighborhood First Policy to give political and diplomatic priority to the South Asian countries in the era of globalization
- **The Vice President of India M Venkaiah Naidu - launched 'Bhartiya POSHAN Anthem' with an aim to make India malnutrition free by 2022.**



- ✓ The Anthem is written by famous lyricist Prasoon Joshi and rendered by renowned vocalist, Shankar Mahadevan.
- ✓ Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Nutrition Campaign Mission' in March 2018.
- ✓ According to the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey 2016–18, about 34.7% of Indian children under the age of 5 are malnourished in the country.
- **Geological Survey of India (GSI) - found Potash mineral resources in Bikaner and Nagaur during surveys.**
- ✓ This was announced by the Minister Of Mines, Coal and Parliamentary Affairs, Prahlad Joshi
- ✓ It is for the first time that these reserves have been found in Bikaner and Nagaur districts of Rajasthan.

- ✓ So far, about 2500 million tonnes of potash reserves have been discovered.
- **The Statue of Unity in Gujarat - has outdistanced the footfall of the Statue of Liberty in the U.S., with an average 15,000 visitors a day, in just over a year of unveiling**



- ✓ The monument was a tribute to the country's first Home Minister Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ✓ The Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, with a height of 182 metres
- ✓ It was designed by the Indian sculptor Ram V. Sutar
- ✓ It is located near the Sardar Sarovar Dam on the river Narmada in Kevadiya town in Gujarat.
- ✓ A total of 30,90,723 tourists have visited Kevadia till November 30 this year, generating a total income of R85.57 crore.
- **Members of Parliament – to give up subsidy on food at Parliament Canteen to save Rs 15.40 crores annually**
- ✓ The Business Advisory Committee had suggested the abolition of food subsidy in the Canteen of Parliament.
- ✓ Now, MPs will have to pay according to the cost of food, which will be at a normal rate instead of subsidized rate
- ✓ Northern Railway is running the Canteens in Parliament House since July 1968 on 'No Profit and No Loss' basis

INTERNATIONAL

- **The US - has recently passed the 'Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act' to stop the mass detainment, torture and harassment of around 10,00,000 Uyghur Muslim and other ethnic Muslim communities in China.**



- ✓ The Uyghur Human Rights bill instructs US government bodies to prepare reports on China's treatment of the Uyghurs in re-education camps
 - ✓ The main purpose of these re-education camps in Xinjiang province of China was to make them adhere to the ideology of the Chinese Communist Party.
 - ✓ The detainees are not permitted to leave the camp till the government decides to free them.
 - ✓ The Uyghurs are a predominantly Muslim minority Turkic ethnic group, whose origins can be traced to Central and East Asia
 - ✓ Their native region is considered to be the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in the People's Republic of China, which is tightly controlled by Chinese authorities.
 - ✓ The Uyghurs are considered to one of the 55 officially recognized ethnic minority communities in China.
- **Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company – announces the World's largest public issue (IPO)**
- ✓ It has raised \$2,560 million (Rs 1.82 lakh crore) from the IPO.
 - ✓ Aramco fixed the IPO price at \$8.53.
 - ✓ The previous record was named after China's e-commerce company Alibaba.
 - ✓ It raised \$2,500 million (Rs 1.57 lakh crore) through the US stock market in 2014.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The NATO summit - was held in the United Kingdom during 3-4 December.**



- ✓ The summit was held in Watford, United Kingdom.
- ✓ NATO was established on 4 April 1949, with its headquarters at Brussels, Belgium.
- ✓ Initially, NATO had 12 members and now it has been expanded to 29 member countries.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

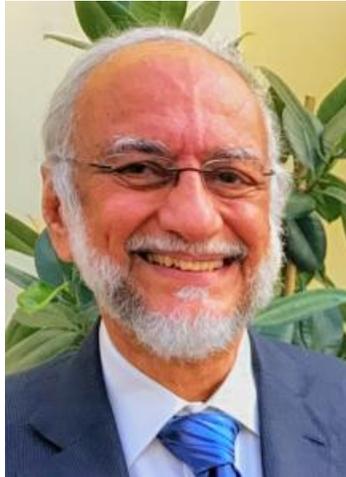
- **Indian Space Research Organisation's (Isro) - has sought ₹75 crore from the Centre specifically for the Chandrayaan-3 mission as an addition to its existing budget.**
- ✓ Of this, ₹60 crore will be intended for "meeting expenditure towards machinery, equipment and other capital expenditure," while the remaining ₹15 crore has been requested under revenue expenditure head.
- ✓ As per initial plans, Chandrayaan-3 will have a lander, a rover and a detachable propulsion module to carry fuel.
- ✓ Isro is looking to launch Chandrayaan-3 Moon landing mission as early as next November
- ✓ Isro has been granted funds to the tune of Rs 666 crore as part of the original 2019-2020 budget for the various missions and activities.
- ✓ Of the ₹666 crore, ₹8.6 crore has been allotted for the proposed human spaceflight programme to be implemented in 2022, nearly ₹12 crore for development of small satellite launch vehicle, while ₹120 crore is intended for development of its launch pad.
- ✓ The UR Rao Satellite Centre — responsible for assembling and testing satellites — followed by Satish Dhawan Space Centre (the spaceport) have together sought the highest allocation of ₹516 crore.

DEFENCE

- **India and Russia - will conduct a joint military exercise 'Indra' from 10 to 19, December**
- ✓ The war exercise aims to develop a mutual understanding regarding maritime security operations between both the nations.
- ✓ It is a tri-service military exercise between Russia and India to be held at Babina, Goa, and Pune.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2018, Indra exercise was conducted at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh under the aegis of the United Nations.

AWARDS

- **Co-founder of Blue Cross of India, S Chinny Krishna - has been conferred with the 'Winsome Constance Kindness Award' for 2020 in recognition of his work for animal welfare**



- ✓ He will donate the cash component of the award — 20,000 AU dollars — to Blue Cross of India, which was the first to introduce 'catch/neuter/return - Animal Birth Control' programme for street dogs
- ✓ The Award is sponsored by the Kindness Trust, based in Australia
- ✓ It is headed by Philip and Trix Wollen, who supports more than 550 projects in 40 countries through the Trust
- ✓ Previous recipients of the coveted award include Jane Goodall, Sir David Attenborough and leading animal welfare activists.
- ✓ Though Blue Cross of India was registered in 1964, it started out as Animal Aid Association, which was established in 1959

SPORTS

- **Chennai-based Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa - crowned the joint-winner in the FIDE Open category of the London Chess Classic with 7.5 points from 9 rounds**



- ✓ Praggu shared the top spot with Australian GM Anton Smirnov.
 - ✓ Praggu's city-mate Aravindh Chithambaram finished third with 7 points, while Praggu's sister R Vaishali ended with 6.5 points.
 - ✓ This is Praggu's third tournament victory in 2019.
 - ✓ He had earlier won the Xtracon Open in Denmark in July and followed that up by clinching the World Youth championships in Mumbai in October
 - ✓ Praggu had finished 9th in the World Juniors in New Delhi in October
 - ✓ The 14-year-old recently became the second youngest in the world to cross the 2600 ELO rating on December 6
- **Satnam Singh Bhamara - has been provisionally suspended by the National Anti-Doping Agency (Nada) after he failed a dope test last month.**



- ✓ Bhamara is the first Indian player to play for an NBA team, Dallas Mavericks, in 2015
- ✓ The 23-year-old Punjab player has failed an out-of-competition test conducted in Bangalore by the National Anti-Doping Agency during the preparatory camp for the South Asian Games
- ✓ However, Bhamara disputed the charge levelled against him maintaining that he "was and remains a clean" athlete
- ✓ The 23-year-old Bhamara has requested the NADA for a hearing by its Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP) and to decide his case within three months.
- ✓ If Bhamara is found guilty of doping by the Panel, he faces a maximum ban of four years for a first time offender
- ✓ Bhamara did not participate in the 13th South Asian Games which began on December 1 in Kathmandu, citing personal reasons.
- ✓ The 7-foot-2-inch player was training at the SAI Centre, Bangalore for the South Asian Games

RANKINGS

- **India was the fifth most climate-affected country in 2018 - according to the Global Climate Risk Index 2020 released recently**

Ranking 2018 (2017)	Country	CRI score	Death toll	Deaths per 100 000 inhabitants	Absolute losses (in million US\$ PPP)	Losses per unit GDP in %	Human Development Index 2018 Ranking ¹²
1 (36)	Japan	5.50	1 282	1.01	35 839.34	0.64	19
2 (20)	Philippines	11.17	455	0.43	4 547.27	0.48	113
3 (40)	Germany	13.83	1 246	1.50	5 038.62	0.12	5
4 (7)	Madagascar	15.83	72	0.27	568.10	1.32	161
5 (14)	India	18.17	2 081	0.16	37 807.82	0.36	130
6 (2)	Sri Lanka	19.00	38	0.18	3 626.72	1.24	76
7 (45)	Kenya	19.67	113	0.24	708.39	0.40	142
8 (87)	Rwanda	21.17	88	0.73	93.21	0.34	158
9 (42)	Canada	21.83	103	0.28	2 282.17	0.12	12
10 (96)	Fiji	22.50	8	0.90	118.61	1.14	92

- ✓ India also recorded the highest number of fatalities due to climate change in 2018
- ✓ Japan, the Philippines and Germany were found to be the most climate-affected countries in 2018.
- ✓ The heatwave was one of the major causes of damage in 2018, apart from the flooding.
- ✓ Besides seeing one of the worst floods in Kerala leaving over 220000 people displaced with 20000 houses and 80 dams destroyed, India's east coast was hit by two cyclones - Titli and Gaja in October and November 2018
- ✓ The 15th edition of Global Climate Risk Index for 2020, published by International Environmental think tank Germanwatch, assessed 181 countries and quantified the impacts of climate change

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Soil Day – December 5



- ✓ The purpose of celebrating this day is to make the common people aware of the importance of soil as a vital contributor to the human well-being.
- ✓ The observance of the day was first announced in the 68th General Assembly of United Nations in December 2013
- ✓ Theme 2019 – Stop Soil Erosion, Save Our Future

ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE – A REPORT

DARK SIDE OF THE MOON



WHEN IS IT HAPPENING THIS YEAR?

DEC 26, 2019
8.06am to 11.19am

WHAT IS ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE?

It occurs when Moon is too far from Earth and appears to completely cover Sun. This results in a ring of light around darkened Moon



PREVIOUS ECLIPSE IN TN
JAN 15, 2010

NEXT ECLIPSE IN TAMIL NADU
May 21, 2031

NEXT ECLIPSE VISIBLE IN INDIA
June 21, 2020

PATH OF THE ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE



>The eclipse will first be seen in Saudi Arabia and then east and southern India, northern Sri Lanka, parts of Indian Ocean, and Indonesia before people in Australia can watch it

A partial eclipse will be visible throughout most of Asia and northern Australia

IN CHENNAI, only partial phase of the eclipse will be visible. However, at maximum eclipse, 84.7% of the disk of Sun will be covered by Moon

> Before the start of the annular phase, partial eclipse will begin. In places where annular eclipse occurs, over 93% of the disk of Sun will be covered by Moon

HOW TO WATCH THE PHENOMENON

> Use a card or box projector or projector using binoculars or telescope to view solar eclipse

> Use special purpose solar filters like eclipse glasses or a welder's glass rated 14 or higher

> Don't look at Sun without protective gear or directly through a pinhole, binoculars or telescope

TIMINGS WHEN THE ECLIPSE WILL BE VISIBLE IN CITIES OF TAMIL NADU

Place	Partial Begins	Annular Begins	Max	Annular ends	Partial ends
Ooty	8.06	9.27	9.29	9.30	11.09
Coimbatore	8.06	9.28	9.29	9.31	11.11
Tirupur	8.06	9.28	9.30	9.31	11.12
Erode	8.07	9.29	9.30	9.31	11.13
Karur	8.07	9.30	9.31	9.32	11.14
Dindigul	8.07	9.30	9.31	9.33	11.14
Sivaganga	8.08	9.31	9.32	9.33	11.16
Trichy	8.07	9.31	9.32	9.33	11.16
Pudukottai	8.08	9.31	9.33	9.34	11.17
Chennai	8.09	--	9.35	--	11.19

Text: U Tejornayam, Graphic: Sasi Meena

BIRLA PLANETARIUM

> In Chennai, Coimbatore and Trichy, the public can watch the spectacle on eclipse day

> In other districts, college professors will be trained to teach students to watch Sun and Moon and measure their radius