

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 14, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Directorate of medical education – announces that the State will add at least 150 more MBBS seats in two state-run medical colleges during the admissions set to begin in June this year.**
- ✓ In addition, the state has issued no objection certificates for starting three private medical colleges in and around Chennai.
- ✓ Once these colleges start functioning, the state will have 600 additional M.B.B.S. seats in the coming academic year.
- ✓ The state has already got permission to increase 50 seats in Kanyakumari Medical College and Hospital from 100 and is awaiting the Centre's approval to increase 100 more seats in Coimbatore Medical and College Hospital.
- ✓ The state has given NoCs to Priyadarshini Medical College, Barath Medical College and Panimalar Medical College with each of these colleges having a capacity of 150 seats.
- ✓ This year, the state has also added 159 PG seats, the counselling for which will begin in a few days.
- ✓ With this, the total number of PG seats in the state has gone up from 1758 to 1917.

- **Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam - is set to present the State Budget in the Assembly for the 10th time on February 14.**



- ✓ The Deputy CM and Finance Minister of the State is still behind three others, if one takes into account the presentation of State Budgets since 1952.

- ✓ Thiru O. Panneerselvam has been serving as State's Finance Minister since May 2011, except for a 6-month period in 2017 when he was not part of the Cabinet
- ✓ In March 2017, it was Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar who presented the Budget in the Assembly as he was the Finance Minister at the time.
- ✓ C. Subramaniam, who handled the finance portfolio in the Ministries headed by C. Rajagopalachari and K. Kamaraj during 1952-62, and V.R. Nedunchezhiyan, who was the Finance Minister for 12 years (1980-87 and 1991-96) in the Cabinets headed by M.G. Ramachandran and Jayalalithaa, had presented 14 State Budgets each.
- ✓ In March 1976, C. Subramaniam, who had by then become the Union Finance Minister, got a rare opportunity to submit the State Budget in Parliament, as Tamil Nadu was under the President's rule following the dissolution of the Assembly two months earlier.
- ✓ Former Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, who held the Finance portfolio during 1970-76, 1989-91 and 1996-2001, had presented the Budget in the Assembly 13 times.

NATIONAL

- **The ministry of external Affairs (MEA) - renamed the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan on February 13**
- ✓ The Ministry also renamed the Foreign Service Institute where diplomats are trained as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service.



- ✓ The government's decision to rename the institutions in New Delhi came a day before the 68th birth anniversary of Sushma Swaraj, in honour of the legacy and decades of public service of the former external affairs minister.
- ✓ Sushma Swaraj was India's first full-time woman foreign minister and the second woman-ever to hold the post after former PM, Indira Gandhi.
- ✓ She was a seven-time Parliamentarian and three-time member of legislative assembly.
- ✓ She had served as the fifth Chief Minister of Delhi in 1998 for a short term.

- ✓ In 1977, she had become the youngest cabinet minister of Haryana at the age of 25 years.
- ✓ She had served as the External Affairs Minister under PM Narendra Modi's first term from 2014-2019
- ✓ She passed away on August 6, 2019 due to cardiac arrest at the age of 67 years.
- ✓ She was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, posthumously in the field of public affairs in 2020
- ✓ The Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra was established in 2011 to facilitate networking between India and the Indian community abroad
- ✓ The Foreign Service Institute was set up in 1986 by the Union External Affairs Ministry.
- ✓ It is one of the leading training organisations for diplomats, handling professional training of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officers

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **The first high-speed patrol boat being built for Vietnam under the \$100-million Line of Credit (LoC) - will be delivered by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) in September**
- ✓ Vietnam is procuring 12 such boats under the LoC extended in September 2014.
- ✓ 5 boats will be built by L&T while the remaining will be built in Vietnam.
- ✓ All the boats will be built by mid-2021
- ✓ In 2016, India had extended another \$500 million defence LoC to Vietnam
- ✓ Vietnam has also expressed interest in India's Akash surface-to-air systems and Dhruv advanced light helicopters.

COMMITTEES

- **The Fifteenth Finance Commission - will soon set up a Committee to address issues related to fiscal policy for both the Centre and the States, and present a road map for the same**
- ✓ The panel will be headed by Mr. N K Singh
- ✓ The other members will be from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, the Reserve Bank of India, the Ministry of Finance, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) panel and some of the States



- ✓ The Commission had also constituted a group on defence and internal security

- ✓ The mandate of this panel will be ‘to examine whether a separate mechanism for funding of defence and internal security ought to be set up, and if so, how such a mechanism could be operationalised.’
- ✓ This group will be chaired by Mr. Singh
- ✓ Its other members will be A.N. Jha, Member, Fifteenth Finance Commission along with Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Secretary, Ministry of Defence and Secretary (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance.

PERSONALITIES

- **Rishi Sunak, son-in-law of Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy – is promoted as Chancellor of the exchequer (finance minister) by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after post-Brexit cabinet re-shuffle**
- ✓ Another Indian, Priti Patel is already holding the post of Home Secretary in another Britain’s great office of state
- ✓ There are now four PIOs in Johnson’s cabinet.

DESIS ON TOP

Rishi Sunak, 39, new chancellor of exchequer, is an ex-banker and self-made millionaire



- His grandparents moved from Punjab to East Africa, and then to UK
- He met Akshata Murthy, Narayana Murthy’s daughter, at Stanford University. They married in Bengaluru

Priti Patel, 47, UK home secretary, is the first Indian-origin MP to hold a ‘great office of state’ in Britain

- Born in UK to Gujarati parents moving from Uganda

Alok Sharma, 52, secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy. Agra-born ex-banker is also minister for COP26, UN’s next big climate summit in Glasgow



- ✓ Reading MP Alok Sharma, 52, has been promoted to secretary of state for business, energy and industrial strategy
- ✓ The 39-year-old former barrister Suella Braverman has been appointed attorney general, the government’s most senior law officer.
- ✓ Alok Sharma, who was also named in charge of the crucial climate summit ‘COP26’, which will be hosted by Britain in November 2020.
- ✓ Thirty-nine-year-old Sunak was promoted to chancellor following the dramatic resignation of Pakistan-origin Sajid Javid from the post after a row with British PM Boris Johnson.
- ✓ The PM demanded that Javid remove all five of his most senior aides and replace them with advisers loyal to him to ensure the smooth handling of post-Brexit process.
- ✓ However, the chancellor refused and quit.
- ✓ The chancellor has overall responsibility for treasury’s work and is considered as the second most powerful role in the government.
- ✓ The four great offices of state are that of the Prime minister, Chancellor of the exchequer, Foreign secretary and Home secretary.

- ✓ So far, Rishi Sunak was serving under Sajid Javid as chief secretary to the Treasury
- ✓ Rishi has less than a month to deliver his first budget on March 11
- ✓ The 39-year-old ex-banker and self-made millionaire, who voted “leave” in the EU referendum, has been considered a rising star in the Tory party for quite a some time
- ✓ Sunak is married to the daughter of Narayana Murthy, co-founder of IT services company Infosys
- ✓ He was born in Southampton and is the son of G P Yashvir and pharmacist mother Usha.
- ✓ Sunak spent his professional career working for Goldman Sachs and a hedge fund.
- ✓ He has been a Conservative MP for Richmond in Yorkshire since 2015
- ✓ Priti Patel, the UK’s first Gujarati woman MP, made history in July when she became the first Indian-origin MP to hold one of the great offices of state as Home secretary.

ECONOMY

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has announced the elevation of five officials to the post of Executive directors.**
- ✓ The elevated officials are Indrani Banerjee, Regional Director, Nagpur, Saurav Sinha, chief general manager-in-charge, Vivek Deep, CGM in-charge, J.K. Dash, CGM in-charge, and P. Vijayakumar, the senior most RBI ombudsman.
- ✓ At present, RBI has 12 executive directors, and 5 of them are due to retire in 2020
- ✓ Earlier in January, Michael Patra was elevated to the post of Deputy Governor.
- ✓ Janak Raj replaced Patra as the executive director in-charge of monetary policy.
- ✓ All the elevated officials will be taking charge during the current year.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The Centre - appointed senior IAS officer Rajiv Bansal as the CMD of Air India on February 13**



- ✓ Bansal is currently serving as additional secretary in petroleum ministry
- ✓ Earlier, he held additional charge of AI chief in August 2017 for about four months when then chairman Ashwani Lohani was moved to Railway Board.

- ✓ After retiring from Railway, Lohani was made AI CMD last February for a year and has since completed his second term.
- ✓ Now, Bansal will take charge again as AI chairman from Lohani at a time when the divestment process of the airline is on and bids have been invited.
- ✓ Bansal, an IAS officer of Nagaland cadre, is a civil engineer from IIT Delhi.
- ✓ In his long and distinguished career, he has served as secretary, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission, joint secretary in department of heavy industries and as director in aviation ministry.
- ✓ He has earlier been on boards of Bhel, National Aviation Company of India and Alliance Air, among other organisations

OBITUARY

- **Rajinder K. Pachauri (79 years), former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – passed away on February 13.**
- ✓ Dr. Pachauri was the founder and chief executive of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI).
- ✓ In 2002, he was elected Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was established by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ✓ He received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the IPCC, with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, in 2007.

SPORTS

- **World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) - has been ranked number one by the IOC's Boxing Task Force ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers**
- ✓ The honour of world No. 1 makes him the first Indian boxer in over a decade to achieve the global top position in his category.



- ✓ In 2009, Olympic bronze medallist Vijender Singh was named as No. 1 for the first time after he won a bronze medal in the 75kg division and opened India's account at the world championships
- ✓ The 24-year-old Panghal holds the Top position with 420 points, as per the list released by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Boxing Task Force, which is administering the sport right now.

➤ **Manpreet Singh, the Indian skipper and one of the top midfielders in international hockey - was named the FIH Player of the Year (2019)**

- ✓ He becomes the first Indian to get this honour, since the introduction of awards in 1999.
- ✓ The 27-year-old got more votes than Belgium's Arthur van Doren and Lucas Vila of Argentina, who finished second and third respectively.
- ✓ Manpreet polled a total of 35.2% of combined votes, which includes national associations, media, fans and players.
- ✓ Van Dorren, on the other hand, got combined vote share of 19.7% while Villa polled 16.5% in his favour.
- ✓ In 2019, Manpreet led the country to victory in the FIH Series Finals and the Olympic qualifiers, which helped India secure a spot in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- ✓ Under his captainship, India also reached the final of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup and won the Olympic test event in Tokyo last year.
- ✓ Just a week ago, Indian women's hockey team's striker Lalremsiami and Indian men's team midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad had bagged the FIH Rising Star of the Year awards
- ✓ Last month, Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal won the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award.
- ✓ Manpreet, who made his international debut in 2011, has won 263 caps for the national team and has played two Olympics — London 2012 and Rio 2016.

➤ **The Indian Golf Union (IGU) - has been suspended by the sports ministry till further notice**

- ✓ The move follows after the national federation failed to comply with the National Sports Development Code of India (2011) and conduct elections, despite being given a fifth interim extension in the last couple of years
- ✓ The sports ministry's 90-day lifeline for enforcing the NSDCI ended on November 8.
- ✓ The IGU picks the teams directly for tournaments like Queen Sirikit Cup, Eisenhower Trophy, Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship, Bonallack Trophy and even Asian Games in the amateur category

➤ **Jolly Rovers and Grand Slam - were awarded the Raja of Palayampatti Shield, the symbol of supremacy in the TNCA first division league, for the 2018-19 and 2017-18 seasons respectively at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium**

- ✓ Former TNCA, BCCI and ICC chief N. Srinivasan, TNCA president Rupa Gurunath and secretary R. S. Ramasaamy were among those who distributed the trophies and shields.

CPI Index – A REPORT

India stands about halfway in a ranking of 180 countries for perceived corruption in 2019. But while its score was just two points below the average score for the year and remained unchanged over 2018, the country did slide two places in the latest edition of the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) published by advocacy group Transparency International, which noted that as a trend, globally, corruption is “more pervasive in countries where big money can flow freely into electoral campaigns and where governments listen only to the voices of wealthy or well-connected individuals”

Most countries struggling to root out corruption

India's score suggests the country did not make much of an improvement in combating corruption last year. But the report notes that more than two-thirds of countries – including some advanced economies – are “stagnating or... backsliding in their anti-corruption efforts”

Top ranked

	CPI Score 2019	Rank
New Zealand	87	1
Denmark	87	1
Finland	86	3
Switzerland	85	4
Singapore	85	4

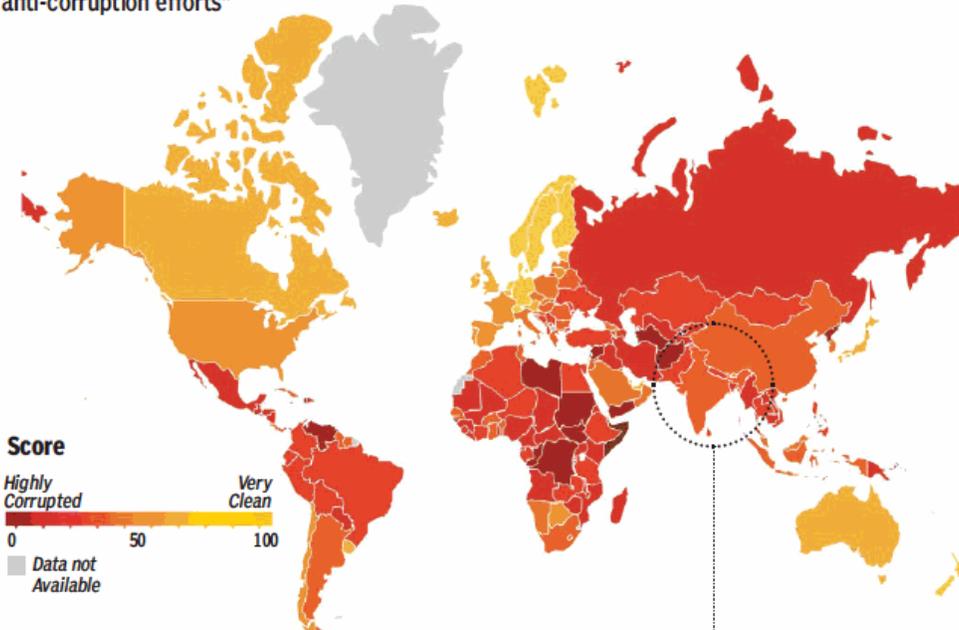
Bottom

	CPI Score 2019	Rank
Afghanistan	16	177
Yemen	15	175
Syria	13	178
South Sudan	13	179
Somalia	12	179
	9	180

43/100
Average score

2/3 of countries scored below 50/100

Since 2012, only 22 countries have significantly improved their scores while 21 have significantly declined, including Australia and Canada



India, China have the same score, rank

India			China			Sri Lanka			Nepal			Pakistan			Bangladesh		
Year	Rank	Score	Year	Rank	Score	Year	Rank	Score	Year	Rank	Score	Year	Rank	Score	Year	Rank	Score
2019	80	41	2019	80	41	2019	93	38	2019	113	34	2019	120	32	2019	146	26
2018	78	41	2018	87	39	2018	89	38	2018	124	31	2018	117	33	2018	149	26
2017	81	40	2017	77	41	2017	91	38	2017	122	31	2017	117	32	2017	143	28

It all boils down to money in politics

70 Average index score of countries that have proper policies and implementation of finance regulations for political parties

Mid 30s

Average score of countries where party finance rules either don't exist or are poorly enforced

The Index ranked 180 countries for their perceived levels of public sector corruption through expert assessments and surveys of business executives

India's struggled to clean up party funding

Party financing has remained a controversial matter in Indian politics. An attempt to increase transparency was made by the NDA government in 2017 with the electoral bond scheme. But it has faced severe criticism from opposition parties and some experts

