

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 6, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - is planning to invite global bids for a consultant to do a detailed master plan for a second airport site – likely to be Parandur near Sunguvarchatram - within a week
- ✓ The selected consultant will prepare the financial model and development model for the airport under a public-private-partnership (PPP) framework
- ✓ It will also conduct a techno-economic feasibility study and prepare a project report, assist the government in obtaining statutory clearances and conduct bid process for selection of the developer.



- ✓ The AAI authorities visited recently the proposed site at Parandur as well as at Mamandur near Cheyyar Sipcot industrial park, as per the suggestions of the state government.
- ✓ Once the site is officially identified, Sipcot will freeze the land
- ✓ Currently, the state has international airports at Chennai, Coimbatore, Trichy and Madurai and domestic airports at Tuticorin and Salem.
- ✓ Chennai remains one of the four busiest airports in the entire country, with 20.36 million passengers recorded in 2017-18.

- ✓ It also constituted 6.7% share in the country's total aircraft movement during the last year.
 - ✓ The rise in demand necessitated the state government to look out for alternate sites such as Manallur near Gummidipoondi and Thiruporur for a second airport
 - ✓ As per the Vision 2023 plan of former chief minister J Jayalalithaa, the development of a greenfield airport in Sriperumbudur on a PPP basis was suggested initially.
- **The grand consecration of the 1000-year old Sri Brahadeeswarar Temple (Big Temple) in Thanjavur - was conducted after a gap of 23 years**
- ✓ The ceremony was performed in both Tamil and Sanskrit, as per the directions of the Court.
 - ✓ The event was witnessed by Maratha royal family members led by Prince Babaji Rajah Bhonsle Chatrapati



- ✓ Thirugnanasambandar's Thirumurai was recited by the Odhuvars before pouring holy water on the 'Kalasam' erected atop the 216-ft high Vimanam (temple tower) over the sanctum sanctorum of Sri Brahadeeswarar in the Big Temple at 9.21am amidst vedic hymns being recited in Sanskrit by priests.
 - ✓ The events before the consecration had begun on January 27.
 - ✓ Poorvanga puja and 8 Kala Yaga pujas were held on February 1
 - ✓ The event concluded with the final phase of 8 Kala puja on February 5
- **L&T-MBDA Missile Systems (LTMMSL) - has established a missile integration facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ It is a joint venture between Larsen & Toubro and the European defense company MBDA.
 - ✓ The facility, spread over an area of 16,000 square meters, has been constructed in the Special Economic Zone
 - ✓ It will be used to manufacture weapons for the domestic and global markets.
 - ✓ L&T has a 51% stake in the joint venture, while the remaining 49% is held by MBDA.

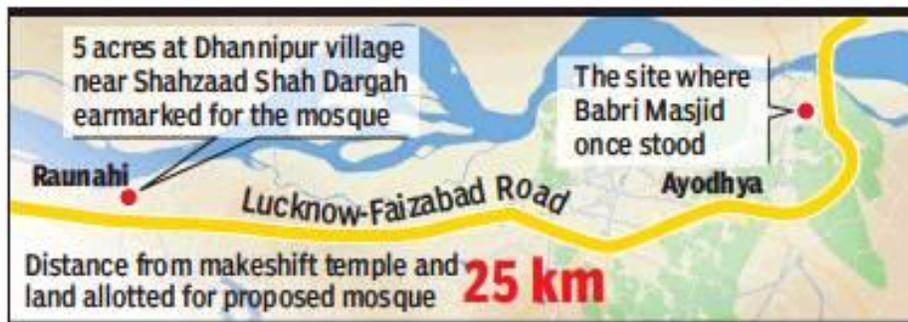
STATES

- **The Karnataka government – announced the launch of a new doorstep delivery scheme ‘Janasevaka scheme’ on February 4, 2020.**
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government has launched an exclusive mobile number (080-44554455), a website (janasevaka.karnataka.gov.in) and a mobile application to provide easy access to its citizens on important government services.
- ✓ The Janasevaka scheme will facilitate the home delivery of 53 important government services ‘directly’ to the citizens
- ✓ Also, the scheme intends to digitize several services and make them easily available to the citizens
- ✓ The list of services includes issuance of ration card, health card, senior citizen identity card, marriage registration certificate among others.
- ✓ A Jan Sevak is appointed to deliver the services under the scheme
- ✓ The beneficiary will have to place the request for the service through the website or through the phones
- ✓ The service will be costing Rs 115 to the citizens, excluding the cost of documentation
- ✓ At present, every ward in Bengaluru will be allocated one Jan Sevak each , which might be later increased depending on the workload.
- ✓ The scheme was initially implemented on a pilot basis in Dasarahalli assembly constituency in Bengaluru.
- ✓ It has been now extended to other constituencies including Bommanahalli, Mahadevapura and Rajajinagar assembly constituencies.
- ✓ In the next phase, the scheme is expected to be extended to all 27 assembly segments in Bengaluru besides Anekal.
- ✓ Earlier, such citizen-centric scheme was successfully implemented by the Delhi Government.
- ✓ Recently, Andhra Pradesh government has also initiated a similar doorstep delivery scheme across the state.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi- announced the formation of a 15-member autonomous trust for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya on February 5**
- ✓ The announcement follows the clearance of a detailed scheme for the shrine and its surrounding complex by the Union Cabinet
- ✓ It came just four days before the three month deadline set by the Supreme Court was to end
- ✓ The trust will be named as ‘Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust’

- ✓ The Supreme Court had earlier set a 90-day deadline for formation of the trust as part of its verdict on November 9, 2019
- ✓ The verdict had upheld the claim of Hindu sides for a 'site' where the Babri Masjid had stood before its demolition on December 6, 1992.
- ✓ As per the PM, the government had decided to transfer the entire 67.703 acres to the trust.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has allotted 5 acres of land to the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board in Dhannipur village in Sohawal tehsil of Ayodhya, around 25 km from the site where the Babri Masjid once stood.
- ✓ The land is located at a distance of 18 km from the Faizabad district headquarters



- ✓ Located at Dhannipur village in Ayodhya's Sohawal tehsil, the plot is only 200m from the Lucknow-Gorakhpur highway, thereby ensuring easy access to a mosque
- ✓ Faizabad district was officially renamed Ayodhya on November 13, 2018
- ✓ In its November 9, 2019 verdict on the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title suit, the apex Court had given the government three months' time period to pick an alternative 5-acre site within Ayodhya for the construction of a mosque.

Track to the temple

A look at the key points of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement regarding the construction of a Ram temple at Ayodhya

- Mr. Modi announced the formation of a 15-member Trust named 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra', to oversee the construction of the temple

- This Trust will be empowered to take independent decisions on the construction of the temple and other related subjects, Mr. Modi said

- He said the government will transfer the whole of the approx 67.703 acres acquired

land to the new Trust

- Its members include Jagatguru Shankracharya, Jyotishpeethadheeshwar Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj, Jagatguru Madhavacharya Swami Vishwa Prasannatheerth Ji Maharaj, Yugpurush Paramanand Ji Maharaj, Swami Govinddev Giri Ji Maharaj, Vimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, Anil Mishra, Kameshwar Chaupal and Mahant Dinendra Das

The trust will comprise **15 members**, including one individual from the Dalit community

- Two prominent practising Hindus will be nominated by the board of trustees. Two Hindu IAS officials below the rank of Joint Secretary to the govt. will be appointed by the Centre and the U.P. govt. Ayodhya District Collector will be the ex-officio trustee



The Trust will be headed by former Attorney General and Supreme Court lawyer **K. Parasaran**

- ✓ The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will have 15 members, one of whom will be from the dalit community
- ✓ **Members**
 - ✓ K Parasaran, former Attorney General and senior advocate – Head of the trust
 - ✓ Kameshwar Chaupal, a Dalit leader from Patna, Bihar who was among the first to lay the foundation stone for Ram Mandir at Ayodhya in 1989
 - ✓ Bimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, erstwhile royal from Ayodhya
 - ✓ Jagadguru Shankaracharya,
 - ✓ Jyotish Peethadhishwar Swami Vasudevan
 - ✓ Saraswatiji Maharaj (Allahabad),
 - ✓ Jagadguru Madhvacharya Swami Vishwaprasanna Tirthaji Maharaj (from Pejawar Math in Udupi),
 - ✓ Yugpurush Parmanandji Maharaj (Haridwar),
 - ✓ Swami Govinddev Giri Pratham Mohanraj (Pune)
 - ✓ Anil Mishra, Homeopathic Doctor from Ayodhya
 - ✓ Mahant Dharendra Das from Nirmohi Akhara, Ayodhya.
 - ✓ Two prominent persons will be selected by the Temple trust.
 - ✓ An IAS officer to be nominated by the Central and State government each will also be in the Trust
- ✓ The trust's registered office will be at R-20 in Delhi's Greater Kailash Part-I
- ✓ It is the residence-cum-office of K Parasaran, senior advocate who had argued on behalf of deity Ram Lalla Virajman, representing the Hindu parties, in the Supreme Court
- ✓ 93 year old Parasaran, a Padma Vibhushan and Padma Bhushan awardee, will also be one of the trustees in Shri Ram TeerthKshetra
- **The Union Cabinet - has approved the proposal to bring 1,540 multi-state cooperative banks** under the Reserve Bank of India regulation.
- ✓ On February 5, the cabinet has given its approval to the amendments to the Banking Regulation Act
- ✓ Information and Broadcasting Minister, Prakash Javadkar made the announcement after a cabinet meeting.
- ✓ The cooperative banks have 8.6 lakh account holders, with a total deposit of about ₹5 lakh crore.
- ✓ The move will ensure more accountability and transparency in the functioning of the cooperative banks, thereby helping to prevent malpractices.
- ✓ The cooperative banks will now be required to fulfill regulatory requirements that have been set for scheduled commercial banks.
- ✓ Following the announcement, the cooperative banks will be required to conduct regular audits as per the RBI mandate and take RBI's approval for the appointment of its CEO.
- ✓ The announcement has been made following the recent PMC bank crisis.

- ✓ The RBI had imposed several restrictions on the operation of the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) bank in September 2019 after some irregularities were revealed to the RBI.
- ✓ RBI placed the restrictions as the bad loans in the bank accounted to 3.76% of its advances
- ✓ Also, the profit of the bank decreased from 100 crores in 2018 to 99 crores in 2019
- ✓ The RBI has barred the bank from issuing loans or opening any new fixed deposit accounts.
- ✓ Initially, it had also capped the withdrawal limit to Rs 1000, which was later raised to Rs 50,000 to avoid inconvenience to the bank's customers
- ✓ The PMC bank was also prohibited from making any type of investment and accepting fresh deposits without approval from the RBI.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Justice Amitava Roy (retd.) committee's 300-page report on Prison reforms – was taken up for hearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde on February 5**
- ✓ As per the report, every new prisoner should be allowed a free phone call a day to his family members to see him through his first week in jail.
- ✓ This is among the several recommendations — besides modern cooking facilities, canteens to buy essential items and trial through video-conferencing — made by the Supreme Court-appointed committee.
- ✓ Another recommendation is for the use of video-conferencing for trial
- ✓ The committee concluded that most prisons are “filled with undertrial prisoners”, whose numbers are highly disproportionate to those of convicts.
- ✓ The undertrial prisoner suffers the most spending years behind bars without a hearing.
- ✓ Speedy trial remains one of the best ways to avoid the unwarranted phenomenon of over-crowding.
- ✓ As per the report, the kitchens are congested and unhygienic and the diet has remained unchanged for years now.
- ✓ The SC had in September 2018 appointed the Justice Roy Committee to examine the various problems in prisons, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.
- ✓ Besides Justice Roy, a former Supreme Court judge, the members included an IG, Bureau of Police Research and Development, and the DG (Prisons), Tihar Jail.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 11th edition of DefExpo (Defence Exhibition) - was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on February 5, 2020.**



- ✓ At the inaugural speech, PM Modi announced that India will work towards increasing its Defence economy to \$5 billion.
- ✓ The exhibition aims at making India a technological power house through initiatives such as Start up India, Skill India and Make in India.
- ✓ During the event, India announced its aim to develop 25 products based on Artificial Intelligence in next 5 years
- ✓ India recently shifted towards “Assemble in India” from “Make in India”.
- ✓ Therefore, the new mantra was coined at the DefExpo namely “Make in India, for India and for the world”.
- ✓ India had already set an export target of Rs 35,000 crores in next 5 years
- ✓ In the last two years, the defence exports of the country has been increased to a phenomenal Rs 17,000 crores.
- ✓ The DefExpo is biennial event organized by Ministry of Defence.
- ✓ Over 1,000 national and international defence firms are participating in the event this year
- ✓ The five day exhibition will conclude on February 9, 2020
- ✓ Until 2016, the DefExpo has been held in New Delhi
- ✓ In 2017, former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar decided to shift it to Goa from Delhi.
- ✓ The last edition was held in Chennai when Nirmala Sitharaman was the Defence Minister

DEFENCE

- **The third Scorpene submarine, Karanj - will be delivered to the Indian Navy by December 2020**
- ✓ All six submarine deliveries would be completed by 2022
- ✓ The Scorpene submarine has the ability to be equipped with an Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system



- ✓ The first AIP will be equipped during the first refit of the first Scorpene, beginning 2023
- ✓ Karanj was launched into water in January 2018 and is currently in advanced stages of sea trials.
- ✓ The first Scorpene, Kulvari, was commissioned in 2018.
- ✓ The second Scorpene, Khanderi was inducted in September 2019.

ECONOMY

- **The Direct Tax Vivad Se Vishwas Bill, 2020 - was tabled in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 5, 2020.**



- ✓ The bill aims to resolve around 4,83,000 dispute cases related to the pending direct tax payments to the tune of ₹9.32 lakh crore in various appellate forums.
- ✓ The 'vivad se vishwas' scheme was announced by the Finance Minister during her budget speech on February 1, 2020
- ✓ The scheme offers a complete waiver on interest and penalty to the taxpayers who pay their pending taxes by March 31, 2020
- ✓ If a taxpayer is not able to pay direct taxes by March 31st, he will get further time extension till June 30th, by paying 10% more on the tax.
- ✓ In cases in which the interest and the penalty are being disputed, the taxpayer will have to pay 25% of the disputed amount till March 31, after which, it will be 30% of the disputed amount.
- ✓ This scheme is similar to the 'Indirect Tax, Sabka Vishwas' scheme, which was introduced by the Finance Minister during her maiden budget presentation in July 2019.