

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 10, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **The Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) - to fund the construction of about 18km elevated stretch between Meenakshi College in Kodambakkam and Poonamallee Bypass in Chennai**
- ✓ The stretch is part of Chennai Metro Rail Limited's (CMRL) 118.9km 3-corridor phase-2 project.
- ✓ The AIIB will fund around ₹2,306 crore (\$320 million) to build the stretch covering 18 elevated stations
- ✓ The stretch between Meenakshi College and Poonamallee bypass is part of 26.1km corridor from Light House to Poonamallee Bypass.
- ✓ The stretch will connect localities like Porur, Iyyappanthangal, Kattupakkam, Kumananchavadi, Karayanchavadi and Poonamallee which are otherwise not equipped with good public transportation.
- ✓ Asian Development Bank (ADB) will fund the remaining part of the corridor between Light House and Meenakshi College covering around 8km
- ✓ The 52km stretch between Madhavaram and Sholinganallur and Madhavaram to CMBT will be funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- ✓ The construction for a 52km corridor in the phase is supposed to begin from June 2019 onwards.

- **Tamil Nadu assembly – passes a Bill on January 9 to replace an ordinance for extending time for registrations under the Tenancy Act**
- ✓ Now, landlords and tenants can register under the Act till third week of February this year.
- ✓ The bill was introduced by deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam, who holds housing and urban development portfolio
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Regulation of Rights and Responsibilities of Landlords and Tenants Act, 2017 was brought into force on February 22, 2019 repealing the Tamil Nadu Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1960.

- ✓ As per the new act, landlord and tenant shall enter into an agreement in writing with regard to the tenancy of the building within a period of 90 days from the date of commencement of the Act.
- ✓ It was subsequently extended to 365 days through promulgation of an ordinance on October 30 last year.
- ✓ The bill seeks to replace the promulgated ordinance.

- **Tamil Nadu Government – announces that the bull tamers taking part in jallikattu events this year should be from 21 to 45 years of age and should weigh at least 55kg**
- ✓ Last year, the age limit for the bull tamers was fixed to be in between 20 to 40 years.
- ✓ The participants will be given fitness certificates only after being examined by doctors.
- ✓ Bulls that participate in the games would have to be more than 120cm tall and between 3-8 years of age.
- ✓ Only native breeds with a hump will be allowed, and owners have to bring copies of their Aadhaar card, ration card and a photograph of the bull to obtain the fitness certificate.
- ✓ The annual jallikattu at Palamedu and Alaganallur will be held on January 16 and 17 this year.

- **The Tamil Nadu assembly - passed 15 bills in the recent assembly session on January 9**
- ✓ The bills include the one reverting to indirect elections to heads of urban local bodies, mayors of corporations, chairpersons of municipalities and town panchayats.
- ✓ The assembly unanimously adopted a resolution ratifying the amendment to the Constitution, which proposed to extend the reservation for the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes in Lok Sabha and Assemblies by another 10 years and ending reservation for the Anglo-Indians.
- ✓ At present, one member of the Anglo-Indian community is nominated to the Legislative Assembly though the member cannot vote in the House.
- ✓ Nancy Ann Cynthia Francis is the lone Anglo-Indian member in the House
- ✓ Bills were also passed to extend the term of special officers by another six months or until the first meeting of the elected local bodies
- ✓ A new bill seeking the use of EVMs in the elections to rural local bodies and to empower the Government to suspend president or vice-president of a registered society under certain circumstances and doing away third grade municipalities in the state were also passed.
- ✓ The House passed a bill to confer the government with the power of inspection and inquiry to monitor the use of government funds in TN Veterinary and Animal Sciences University and TN Dr J Jayalalithaa Fisheries University

- ✓ Another bill was also passed to revise the qualification prescribed for the post of registrar of Dr Ambedkar Law University.
- ✓ A bill was passed, which sought to repeal 150 laws as they had become obsolete and redundant.
- ✓ The passed bills include the Tamil Nadu District Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, and the Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Second Amendment) Bill 2020.

STATES

- **The Jammu & Kashmir government – begins the implementation of the central ‘Right to Information Act, 2005’ in the state**
 - ✓ On January 9, the government directed all departments to appoint public information officers and first appellate authorities under the central RTI law.
 - ✓ The J&K Right to Information Act of 2009 (enacted by the then NCP-Congress government led by Omar Abdullah) is repealed and the application of the central law by the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 takes over in the state
 - ✓ The bifurcation of the state of Jammu & Kashmir into two Union Territories — J&K and Ladakh — has led to the repeal of more than 150 ‘erstwhile’ laws
- **The Andhra Pradesh Government - signed Memorandum of Understanding with a German firm to implement Zero Budget Natural Farming in the state.**
 - ✓ The state Government will take a loan of Rs 1015 crores from the German firm to fund climate resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF).
 - ✓ Along with ZBNF implementation, the Government will also implement Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in the State.
 - ✓ The Government of India is promoting ZBNF through Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana since 2015-16.
 - ✓ The ZBNF was first adopted by Karnataka.
 - ✓ In 2018, Andhra Pradesh became the first state in the country to introduce an ambitious plan of 100% natural farming in the State by 2024.

NATIONAL

- **Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union minister of communication, electronics & IT, law & justice - inaugurates the ‘undersea’ cable laying work for submarine optical fibre link from Chennai to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, in Chennai on January 9**
 - ✓ The cost of the project is Rs.1,224 crore
 - ✓ The project is being executed by the national service provider, BSNL
 - ✓ The ‘underground’ cable will connect a distance of 2,250km, including connecting seven major islands

- ✓ After the implementation of the project, expected by June 2020, the bandwidth availability in the islands will jump nearly 100 times to 400 Gbps from the present 3.2 Gbps
- ✓ As on date, the islands are connected to the mainland through satellite link that has only limited bandwidth.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Britain's House of Commons – passes a bill approving the country's departure from the European Union at the end of the month.**
- ✓ British lawmakers voted by 330-231 to pass the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, which sets the terms of Britain's departure from the 28-nation 'EU' bloc.
- ✓ After passing through parliament's unelected House of Lords, the bill should become law so that UK can leave the EU on the scheduled date of January 31
- ✓ Thus, Britain will become the first nation ever to quit the EU bloc on January 31.
- ✓ The move is facilitated following the recent massive victory of British PM, Boris Johnson on December 12, 2019
- ✓ The Conservative Party of Johnson won 364 seats in the 650-member House of Commons
- ✓ Brexit was one of his key campaign promises of Johnson
- ✓ The people of Britain had voted to leave the European Union in a historic referendum on June 24, 2016.
- ✓ While Northern Ireland, London and Scotland had voted to remain in the European Union, Wales and the English shires had voted to leave the EU
- ✓ The UK was earlier scheduled to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019, which was later postponed till May 22 and October 31, before settling for January 31 deadline

DEFENCE

- **Sea Guardians, a nine-day Naval drill – was launched in North Arabian Sea between China and Pakistan navies on January 6, 2020**
- ✓ On January 10, 2020, India deployed its INS Vikramaditya in North Arabian Sea where the exercise is being held.
- ✓ The move indicates that India is watching the developments cautiously and make sure the maritime delimitation is not infringed upon.
- ✓ Of late, China has been increasing its presence in the region, which includes the collaboration with countries like Pakistan and Djibouti
- ✓ INS Vikramaditya is one of the top-rated aircraft carriers globally.
- ✓ It was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 2013.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Hindi Day – January 10



- ✓ The day promotes the language of Hindi worldwide, by creating a suitable environment for more people to speak the language
- ✓ Former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced to celebrate World Hindi Day on January 10 every year in 2006.
- ✓ It is the fifth most spoken language among the total languages spoken in the world.
- ✓ 'National Hindi Day' is celebrated on September 14 every year.
- ✓ September 14 marks the day when the Constituent Assembly gave Hindi the status of official language in 1949
- ✓ The day also marks the birth date of Beohar Rajendra Simha.
- ✓ Hindi was adopted the official language of India on his 50th birthday.
- ✓ It is spoken by about 43 crore people in the world
- ✓ Hindi is believed to be derived from Sanskrit and written in the Devanagari script.

