TAMIL NADU

- The Madurai bench of Madras high court – ordered to conduct the Avaniapuram jallikattu this year under the supervision of a committee headed by a retired District Judge, similar to last year.

- A division bench of Justice M Duraiswamy and Justice T Ravindran made this oral observation on hearing the petitions regarding organising jallikattu events in Madurai district.

- The state government has passed an order permitting jallikattu at Avaniapuram from January 15 to 31.

- The order was passed by the animal husbandry, dairying and fisheries department.

- Earlier, in 2019 the court had passed an order constituting a committee headed by a retired district judge to conduct the jallikattu.

- Last year, a committee comprising a retired judge, eight members of Thenkal Pasana Vivasayigal sangam, 16 villagers and three advocates has conducted the event.

- The Greater Chennai Corporation - has submitted a proposal requesting ₹53,000 crore funding from the World Bank for host of projects across Chennai.
The proposal was put forth following the meetings between commissioner G Prakash, with Sumila Gulyani, programme leader of infrastructure and sustainable development at World Bank (India) as part of the Chennai city partnership programme.

The city of Chennai had been chosen by the World Bank to be highlighted as a model for other major cities in the developing world.

The corporation has sought ₹10,000 crore each for three projects –

- 100 square km of mega streets
- Widening of 21 arterial roads including Sardar Patel Road and Kaliamban Koil Road
- Area-based development in Sholinganallur, Velachery, Thiruvanmiyur, Mylapore, Anna Nagar, Thiruvottiyur and Purasaiwalkam

Two other significant projects planned to be undertaken with funding are -

- Bio-mining of legacy waste at the city’s two dumpyards in Kodungaiyur and Perungudi at a cost of ₹1,338 crore and
- Construction of 17 flyovers and 7 bridges at a cost of ₹3,725 crore

Area-based development includes construction of pedestrian plazas and allied facilities such as wide footpaths with seats and play areas for children, redevelopment of parks and 24x7 water supply with digital metering.

This project is currently underway in T Nagar alone and the corporation plans to replicate it in the other locations as well

The Chennai Corporation - is installing ‘smart poles’ in various parts of the city

It will facilitate better integration of key aspects of the command and control system.

- The poles will be integrated with the command and control system, collecting data from across the city
- They will have facial recognition cameras to help identify criminals, and provide assistance to people who need medical attention
- The poles will collect data on the amount of rainfall in a particular location
- A public address system to share information on various civic aspects with people will also be installed
- Assessment of pollution levels in an area and transmission of the data collected to the command and control centre in real time will also be a feature of the poles

The smart poles will have a rain gauge, public address system, camera and equipment to monitor pollution.
They will also involve in collecting data on traffic at important roads.

The ‘smart pole’ installed near Ripon Buildings has a public address system, camera, rain gauge and equipment to monitor pollution and illumination of the roads during the night.

**NATIONAL**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs - issued a notification that the provisions of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 will come into force from January 10.
- The CAA intends to provide Indian citizenship to six minorities or non-Muslim communities (Hindu, Jain, Parsi, Sikh, Christian, and Buddhist) coming from Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh as a result of religious persecution into India on or before December 31, 2014.
- The Act was passed by Parliament on December 11 and got the President’s assent on December 12.
- Earlier, a person will be given citizenship of India after staying in the country for a minimum period of 11 years.
- The CAA will not apply to the tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura, as these areas are included in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution
- Also, it will not be applicable in the areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram, where Inner Line Permit (ILP) was notified under Bengal Eastern Border Regulation, 1873

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah - inaugurated the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) on January 10 in New Delhi

- The I4C is a seven-pronged system, which includes
  - National cyber Crime Threat Analysis Unit,
  - Platform for Joint Cyber crime Investigation team,
  - National Cyber Crime reporting portal,
  - Cyber crime ecosystem management unit,
  - National cyber-crime training centre,
  - National Cyber Research and Innovation centre and
  - Cyber crime Ecosystem management unit

- The project was approved in October 2018 at an estimated cost of ₹415.86 crore
- So far, fifteen States and UTs have agreed to set up Regional Cyber Crime Coordination Centres
Apart from IC4, the central government has also launched NIC-CERT (National Informatics Centre-Computer Emergency Response Team).

Earlier, on August 30, the Home Ministry had unveiled its National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

Through the portal, citizens can report any kind of cyber crime irrespective of the place where it has occurred.

The portal enables filing of all cybercrimes with specific focus on crimes against women, children, particularly child pornography, child sex abuse material, online content pertaining to rapes/gang rapes.

**SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- The Supreme Court - stays the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal’s December 18 decision reinstating Cyrus Pallonji Mistry as executive chairman of Tata Sons
- A bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant stayed the order within 10 seconds of hearing
- The NCLAT had suspended its direction for reinstatement of Mistry till January 18 to facilitate further appeal.
- Mistry was removed on October 24, 2016, nearly four years after his appointment.
- Of the eight directors, seven voted for his ouster while one abstained.
- The Board of directors has recalled his predecessor Ratan Tata to return as chairman on an interim basis for four months.
- Later, the Tata Sons named N Chandrashekaran as the new Chairman of the group in January 2017.
- Mistry was also removed as the director of Tata Sons on February 6, 2017
- The board of Tata Sons had approved the plan of the company to go private from public in September 2017, which was also struck down by the NCLAT
- Earlier, in July 2018, a two-judge panel comprising V Nallasenapathy and B S V Prakash Kumar in the National Company Law Tribunal had upheld Tata Sons’ decision to sack its former Chairman, Cyrus Mistry
- Cyrus Mistry was the sixth Chairman of Tata Sons in nearly 15 decades and the first to not belong to the Tata family
- Mistry had joined the group in 2006 and was appointed deputy chairman in November 2011.

**SPORTS**

- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal - launched the third edition of the Khelo India Youth Games at Guwahati, Assam on January 10
- Top athletes from all the seven north-eastern States joined Assam’s champion athletes in the final torch relay
- Assam’s star runner, Hima Das lit the symbolic Games Flame
Close to 6,800 athletes from 37 States and union territories will compete.

On day one, The 15 year old, Priyanka Dasgupta (Tripura) won the girls’ under-17 all-round crown in the gymnastics competition

The 14 year old, Jatin Kumar Kanojia of Uttar Pradesh clinched the boys’ under-17 all-around gymnastics gold

The Indian women’s hockey team captain Rani Rampal - has been nominated for the ‘World Games Athlete of the Year’ by Hockey governing body, FIH

Overall, 25 athletes have been nominated for this award from their respective sports by their international federations

The FIH has recommended Rani in recognition of her outstanding performances and her ability to lead by example

HOW REPUBLIC DAY TABLEAUX ARE SELECTED?

Which tableaux proposals got selected for R-Day 2020?

15 states, 1 UT and 6 ministries or departments (Overall -22) were selected to present tableaux on Republic Day this year.

22 proposals were selected from a total of 56 received — 32 from the states and UTs, and 24 from ministries and departments

How are tableaux selected?

The Ministry of Defence conducts the selection process for tableaux.

A committee of experts constituted from art fields invites proposals from states, Union Territories, ministries and departments.

The deadline to submit proposals was August 31, 2019 for the 2020 Republic Day parade.

The committee makes its decisions over two rounds –

- It first evaluates sketches and designs of the tableaux and provides suggestions for alterations, if any
- Next, the participants are asked to develop three-dimensional models for a second round of examination.

These models are then judged by the committee for its final decision on their selection.

What are the criteria for selection?

The Ministry of Defence suggests tableaux should be developed around broad themes — an event in the state or UT’s history, festivals, cultural or architectural heritage, a development scheme, the environment.

Each participant is allowed to design only one tableau.
✓ The cost of designing and constructing models for the selection process are to be borne by participants.
✓ If participants fail to attend their meetings with the committee, they will be disqualified.
✓ As per the guidelines, there should be, as far as possible, “some movement, sound and animation on the tableaux.”
✓ The tableaux should not carry any logos, and must have the state or agency name in Hindi on the front, English on the back, and the regional language on the side where applicable.