

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 12, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The Indirect elections to the posts of District Panchayat Presidents and Vice-presidents and Panchayat Union Chairperson and Vice-chairperson - were conducted in rural local bodies across the state on January 11
- ✓ The ruling party, AIADMK and its ally PMK won 14 district panchayat president posts and 13 vice-president posts.
- ✓ The opposition, DMK had to settle with 12 presidents and 13 vice-presidents
- ✓ The election for Sivaganga district panchayat was cancelled as a result of a tie with both the AIADMK and the DMK ending up with 12 votes each.

| TWIST IN THE TALE Party-wise break up of posts in rural local bodies | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Party | District panchayat: chairperson | District panchayat: vice chairperson | Panchayat union: chairperson | Panchayat union: vice chairperson |
| AIADMK | 13 | 7 | 140 | 94 |
| PMK | 1 | 3 | 7 | 19 |
| BJP | – | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| DMDK | – | 1 | – | 7 |
| AIADMK+ | 14 | 13 | 150 | 124 |
| DMK | 12 | 11 | 125 | 107 |
| Congress | – | 2 | 5 | 8 |
| CPI | – | – | 3 | 3 |
| DMK+ | 12 | 13 | 133 | 118 |
| AMMK | – | – | 2 | 5 |
| SDPI | – | – | – | 1 |
| Independent | – | – | 2 | 25 |
| Postponed | 1 | 1 | 27 | 41 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 27 | 27 | 314 | 314 |

Note: The postponement of the election process has been ordered due to reasons such as law and order, lack of quorum and illness of officials | Source: Tamil Nadu State Election Commission

- ✓ The AIADMK front won 150 posts and the DMK front won 133 chairpersons in the indirect elections held for the panchayat union chairpersons and vice-chairpersons across 314 panchayat unions

- ✓ The AIADMK front won 124 posts and the DMK front won in 118 places in the vice-chairperson elections.
 - ✓ Earlier, in the panchayat union election, the DMK and its allies had won 2,325 panchayat union councillors and AIADMK front had won 1,966 councillors out of the total 5,090.
 - ✓ Also, the DMK and its allies won 268 of the 515 district councillor posts in the state earlier.
 - ✓ Direct elections took place in two phases on December 27 and 30, for which the results were declared between January 2 and 4.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation - to conduct a polio vaccination drive on January 19 for vaccinating children up to the age of five**
- ✓ The population of children aged five and below in Chennai is estimated to be around 7.03 lakh.
 - ✓ In the earlier campaigns held on January 28 and March 11, 2018, and March 10, 2019, the total number of children inoculated were 7.49 lakh, 7.5 lakh and 7.55 lakh respectively
 - ✓ On January 19, the drive will commence at 7am and will be open till 5pm
 - ✓ It will be conducted at community halls, government hospitals, schools, private hospitals, railway stations, bus terminuses and other public places
 - ✓ Children will be marked with an 'indelible' ink on the little finger of the left hand after being administered the vaccine
 - ✓ This anti-polio drive is being conducted across the country for the last 24 years as World Health Organization (WHO) aims to make India 'polio-free'
- **Metrowater - has improved its capacity to recycle grey water from 45MLD (million litres a day) to 60MLD in its 2 tertiary treatment reverse osmosis (TTRO) plants in Koyambedu and Kodungaiyur.**
- ✓ A total of 530MLD of grey water is generated in the city, of which nearly 20% — 120MLD — is being treated by these 2 TTRO plants.
 - ✓ Treated water from Koyambedu is supplied to industrial units in Oragadam, Irungattukottai, Sriperumbudur and Pillaippakkam areas
 - ✓ The treated water from Kodungaiyur is supplied to industries in Manali, Ennore and Minjur
 - ✓ There are more than 500 industrial clusters in Sriperumbudur, Oragadam, Irungattukottai and Pillaippakkam areas in Kancheepuram district and another 200 plus units in Ennore, Manali and Minjur industrial units.
 - ✓ Prior to the setting up of TTRO plant in Koyambedu, about 25MLD of water was drawn from Chembarambakkam lake for industrial use
 - ✓ Also, Metrowater is in the process of setting up tertiary treatment plants with ultra filtration system in Nesappakkam and Perungudi.
 - ✓ In future, Metrowater is planning to release the water treated in the new systems into water bodies to help recharge the groundwater table

- ✓ The TTRO water has a TDS (total dissolved salts) level of less than 70/litre, even though it is still not been distributed for human consumption
- ✓ Generally, water that has TDS value less than 500/litre is fit for human consumption
- **The Madurai district police - is now planning to 'live stream' the jallikattu events scheduled to take place in Palamedu and Alanganallur on January 16 and 17 through 'Madurai Kavalan' mobile application**



- ✓ Following the success of the 'live streaming' last year, the event will also be streamed in Madurai district police Youtube channel and Facebook page.
- ✓ Last year, around 2.5 lakh people watched the events at Alanganallur and Palamedu
- ✓ Madurai Kavalan App was introduced in 2017.
- ✓ The app offers various citizen-friendly services like raising request for locked house monitoring system, SOS alert, complaint raising facility and monitoring movements of suspicious persons.
- ✓ About 936 men were given permission to take part in the Palamedu jallikattu on January 16 after undergoing the mandatory fitness certification
- ✓ They were checked by the medical team for their weight, not less than 55kg, age between 21 and 45 years, BMI of 19 to 21, and free of any non-communicable disease like asthma or cardiac problems.
- **The Northeast monsoon (NEM) - officially withdrew on January 10 without producing any cyclones or major systems to the state.**
- ✓ This year, rains were mostly influenced by easterly wave activity and the State received 45.3 cm of rainfall between October and December, a 2% excess
- ✓ An excess rainfall up to 19% of the long period average is termed 'normal' by the Meteorological Department
- ✓ The NEM provides 48% of the State's annual rainfall (44 cm) every year.
- ✓ Last year there was a rain deficit of 24%
- ✓ The Arabian Sea has recorded five cyclones this year against a normal of one every year.
- ✓ The last time five tropical cyclones were witnessed in a year was in 1902.
- ✓ This year, very severe cyclonic storm Vayu was witnessed from June 10-17, very severe cyclonic storm Hikka from September 22-25, super cyclonic storm Kyarr between October 24 and November 2, extremely severe cyclonic storm Maha

from October 30 to November 7, and Cyclone Pawan announced on December 5.

- ✓ As compared, the Bay of Bengal has witnessed only 3 cyclones—Pabuk, Fani and Bulbul—against the normal of 4 per year.
- ✓ One of the most arid districts — Ramanathapuram — received 45% excess rain due to the easterly wave
- ✓ Groundwater levels too saw a sustained increase across the districts, with Salem witnessing the highest increase in water table by 5.42 metres in December 2019.
- ✓ The Stanley reservoir at Mettur filled up to the brim four times this season.
- ✓ The water level in the dam attained its full reservoir level of 120ft on September 7, 24, October 23 and November 11 and was maintained at the full level for nearly 100 days.
- ✓ The Ellis Saddle surplus gates of the dam were first raised on September 6 for samba cultivation.
- ✓ After 40 years, the Noyyal river had a flow of 5,500 cusecs this season and its waters reached the Cauvery in Coimbatore district
- ✓ Similar is the case with Bhavanisagar dam and dams in Tirunelveli district, including Papanasam dam
- ✓ Several weather stations had exceeded 100 cm of rainfall, including Coonoor (137 cm) and Pamban (129 cm) this season
- ✓ The forecast of South Asian Climate Outlook Forum, which is supported by the World Meteorological Organisation, has been almost spot on this year.
- ✓ It had predicted normal rainfall for coastal Tamil Nadu and slight shortfall in western districts
- ✓ This year, the southwest monsoon had brought 16% surplus rains
- ✓ Chennai was one of the districts that constantly missed rains this monsoon, registering the rainfall of 64 cm, which is a 16% shortfall.
- ✓ The desilting of supply channels and waterbodies ahead of the monsoon under the Kudimaramath scheme helped many districts, including Kancheepuram and Tirunelveli, to store water and increase cultivation.

- **Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu – inaugurated the 173rd annual Thyagaraja Aradhana at the saint's 'Samadhi' in Thiruvaiyaru on January 11**



- ✓ The festival will be held for five days on the banks of the Kaveri in Thiruvaiyaru, a confluence of five rivers, in the Thanjavoor district
- ✓ The music festival is famous for the rendering of devotional songs composed by Saint Thyagaraja by well known and emerging artists
- ✓ The most important event in the festival, the group-singing of the five Ghana Raga compositions of Saint Thyagaraja, is known as the Pancha Rathna Keertanas - the five jewels of the Saint's compositions
- ✓ This is usually held on the Pushya Bahula Panchami day, commemorating the passing away of Saint Thyagaraja on, 6th January 1847, at the age of 79.
- ✓ This year the day falls on 15th of January.
- ✓ On January 15, more than 1,000 musicians are expected to participate in the group singing of the Pancha Rathna Kritis to pay homage to the musical genius.
- ✓ The trinity of Carnatic music refers to the three greats of Carnatic music - Thyagaraja Swamy (1767–1847), Muthuswamy Dikshithar (1775-1835) and Shyama Sastry (1762–1827)

NATIONAL

- **The Social Justice Ministry - issued a notification on January 10, 2019, notifying the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019**
- ✓ The act was passed by Parliament on November 26 and given Presidential assent on December 5, 2019.
- ✓ It intends to end discrimination against transgender persons in the areas of education, employment and healthcare
- ✓ It also recognises the right to self-perceived gender identity and allows the certification from a district magistrate
- ✓ As per the new law, in case a transgender person has had a gender-change surgery, they can obtain a certificate from the hospital where they had the operation, and apply for a change in their certificate.

- **The Union Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change - has recently notified the new 'Wetland Conservation Rules'.**
- ✓ The new rules prohibit expansion or setting up of colonies or industries and disposal of demolition waste within the wetland areas.
- ✓ Each state and union territory (UT) has to establish an 'authority' to define strategies for wetland conservation and to enable a wiser usage of these wetlands within their jurisdiction
- ✓ As per the notification, the wetland authority has to publish a list of all wetlands situated in the States or UTs within 3 months from the date of publication of these rules
- ✓ The Ministry has also launched a web portal for sharing information regarding the implementation of the Wetlands Rules
- ✓ The National Wetland Management Committee was formed in 1987

- ✓ All those submerged areas, either permanent or seasonal, are called wetlands.
- ✓ These wetland ecosystems provide habitats for aquatic animals, birds, etc.
- **Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman - will present her second budget on February 1, 2020.**
- ✓ The budget session will begin from January 31 and will be held in two phases till 3 April
- ✓ The first phase of Union Budget 2020-21 will be held from January 31 to February 11 and the second phase from March 2 to April 3
- ✓ The gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in the July-September quarter of the current fiscal year has come down to 4.5% which is six-year low.
- ✓ This will be the lowest rate of growth since the economic recession in 2009

PERSONALITIES

- **Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari, an Indian-American based in Hyderabad - is one among 11 NASA graduates who have completed the initial astronaut candidate training and have been shortlisted for NASA's moon mission assignment.**



- ✓ Raja Chari did his engineering from the Air Force Academy and went to MIT to complete his master's in Aeronautical Engineering.

DEFENCE

- **The naval variant of the Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) - Mk1 - successfully conducted an "arrested landing" for the first time on the deck of 44,400-tonne aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on January 11**
- ✓ This is the first time an indigenous fighter, which has been designed and developed by DRDO, has made 'arrested' landing on an aircraft carrier in India
- ✓ The elite countries that hold this capability includes US, China, UK, Russia and France.
- ✓ It was flown by Commodore Jaideep Maolankar



- ✓ The naval Tejas, made the landing on the carrier with arrestor wires – thereby abruptly stopping fighters soon after landing on the deck because of limited runway length
- ✓ The naval LCA-Mk1 made its maiden flight in April 2012.
- ✓ It had earlier completed extensive trials on the shore-based test facility (SBTF) at Goa.
- ✓ The SBTF in Goa replicates the flight deck of an aircraft carrier
- ✓ It was built specifically to train naval pilots in the complex manoeuvres of landing on the short flight deck of an aircraft carrier.
- ✓ At present, the Navy operates 45 MiG-29K fighters, acquired from Russia for \$2 billion, from the aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya
- ✓ These Russian jets will also fly from the first indigenous 40,000-tonne aircraft carrier Vikrant, which is under construction.
- ✓ The DRDO is now designing a Mark-II version of the naval Tejas, with a higher thrust engine than the one used in the Mark-I version
- ✓ While the IAF has plans to induct 123 Tejas jets, the Navy was supposed to get around 50 of the naval variants
- ✓ The Tejas LCA was developed by HAL in the 1980s using technologies from Russia, France and Russia

APPOINTMENTS

- **Haitham bin Tariq al-Said - was sworn in as the new Sultan of Oman after the death of long-time ruler Qaboos bin Said Al Said.**

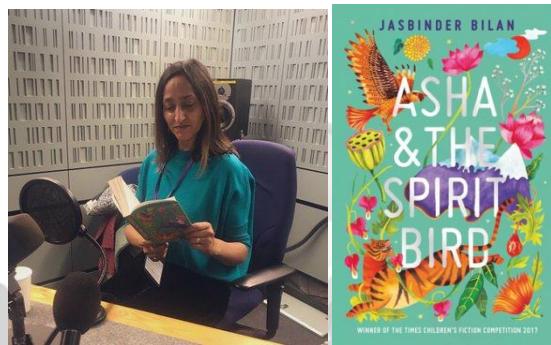


- ✓ Sultan Qaboos bin Saeed had ruled Oman since 1970 as the 8th Sultan of the House of Al Said
- ✓ He was the Arab world's longest-serving ruler

- ✓ The new Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq, is the cousin of the late Sultan
- ✓ He was chosen by Sultan Qaboos as his successor, as the Sultan had no children.
- ✓ Sultan Qaboos is credited for modernising Oman and improving ties with Israel and acting as a mediator for the US in the gulf region
- ✓ The Sultan of Oman is the highest decision-maker and holds the parallel position of the Prime Minister, Defence Minister, Finance Minister, Foreign Affairs Minister and the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces in the country.

AWARDS

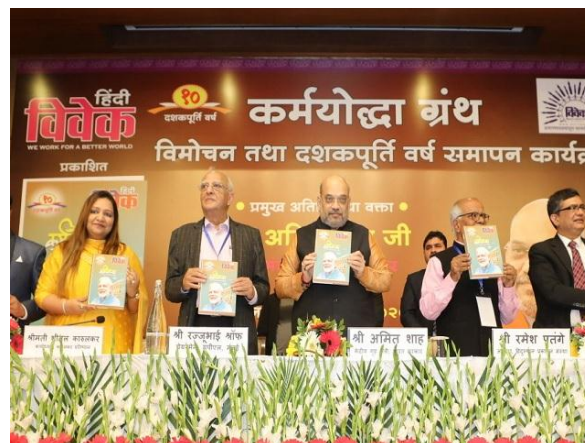
- Indian-origin writer Jasbinder Bilan - has been conferred with the UK Children's Book Award for her debut novel 'Asha and the Spirit Bird'.



- ✓ The writer has presented her childhood in this biography against the backdrop of the Himalayan Mountains
- ✓ She will receive a cash award of five thousand pounds as a prize for this book
- ✓ Another Indian writer Kishwar Desai won the debut novel award for the mystery novel based on female infanticide, 'Witness the Night' in 2010.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah - released the book 'Karmyodha Granth', based on the life of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recently.



- ✓ The book explains various works and schemes of PM Narendra Modi during his tenure
- ✓ It mentions that the government provides better health facilities to the deprived people under Ayushman Yojana, which was a dream project of Narendra Modi.

SPORTS

- **Cheteshwar Pujara - slammed his 50th first-class century during Saurashtra's Ranji Trophy group 'B' match against Karnataka at Rajkot**



- ✓ With the century, Pujara joined an elite list of 9 Indians led by Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid.
 - ✓ Pujara, who has 18 Test centuries, is fourth on the list of active players with most first-class centuries behind former England skipper Alastair Cook (65), former South Africa captain Hashim Amla (52) and India's domestic cricket giant Wasim Jaffer (57)
- **Batting legend Sachin Tendulkar - has been shortlisted as one of the 20 contenders for the greatest Laureus Sporting Moment 2000-2020 Award.**



- ✓ The moment is titled 'Carried on the shoulders of a Nation', a reference to the Indian cricket team's World Cup triumph.
 - ✓ In his sixth attempt at the World Cup, Tendulkar finally became a part of a victorious team in 2011.
- **Indian weightlifter Sarbjeet Kaur - has been banned from the sport for 4 years by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) for doping violation**



Kaur's sample, that was collected during 34th Women Senior National Weightlifting Championship, tested positive for "intake of prohibited non-specified substance"

- ✓ Her dope test sample was collected by a NADA Dope Control Officer during the 34th Women Senior National Weightlifting Championship held at Vishakhapatnam.
- ✓ The analysis of the dope sample revealed the presence of prohibited substances - Di-hydroxy-LGD-4033, Ostarine (Enobosarm) and Selective Androgen Receptor Modulations (SARM)
- ✓ Sarbjeet Kaur had won the 71kg event at the women's national weightlifting championships in February 2019
- ✓ Apart from Sarbjeet, other Indian weightlifters who were earlier banned for doping violations include –
 - ✓ Commonwealth Championship silver medalist, Seema
 - ✓ Arjuna Award winner and Olympian & CWG gold winner, Satheesha Rai
 - ✓ Olympian, Sanamacha Thingbaijani Chanu

RANKINGS

- **Kanhaiya Kumar, Prashant Kishor, and Mahua Moitra - have been named in the Forbes' list of '20 people to watch in the 2020s'**

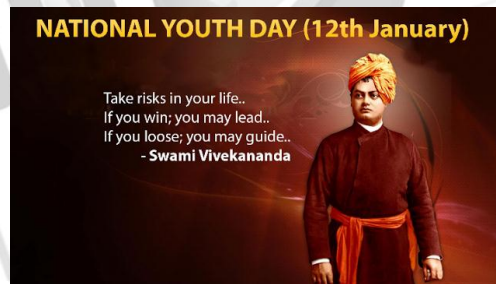


- ✓ The list contains the names of politicians, entrepreneurs, entertainers, and sportspersons
- ✓ Kanhaiya was ranked 12th in this list and Prashant at 16th position.
- ✓ Kanhaiya Kumar is the former president of JNU Students Union and leader of the Communist Party of India
- ✓ Prashant Kishor is JDU national vice-president and has been a political strategist since 2011

- ✓ Mahua Moitra is the member of 17th Lok Sabha, hailing from West Bengal and representing the Trinamool Congress party (TMC)
- ✓ A US-based political commentator and comedian, Hassan Minhaj is on the Top position in the list
- ✓ Four other Indians have also been ranked in this list, which includes - Aditya Mittal (Group CFO and CEO, Arcelor Mittal Europe), The Godrej family, Dushyant Chautala (deputy CM of Haryana) and Garima Arora
- ✓ A chef by profession, Garima Arora, has been ranked 14th in the list.
- ✓ She has become the first Indian woman to receive a Michelin star as her restaurant, Gaa, in Bangkok was awarded by the 2019 Michel Guide for Thailand.
- ✓ Other prominent global leaders to find a place in the list includes Gotabaya Rajapaksa (President of Sri Lanka), Mohammed bin Salman (Crown Prince, Saudi Arabia), Jacinda Ardern (New Zealand PM), Boris Johnson (PM, the UK) and Sanna Marin (Finland PM)
- ✓ Environmental Activist Greta Thunberg is ranked 15th on the list

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ National Youth Day – January 12



- ✓ The day commemorates the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda
- ✓ The Ministry of Youth affairs and sports celebrate the day this year with the focus on the state of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ The day is being observed across the country since 1985.
- ✓ On this day, the National Youth festival is observed across the country since 1995
- ✓ This year, the 23rd edition of the festival will be held between January 12, 2020 and January 16, 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Theme 2020 – ‘Fit Youth Fit India’
- ✓ Several classical dance programmes including Bharatanatyam, Odissi, Manipuri, Kuchipudi are to be held on the occasion.

