

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 14, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu - has received an award from the Centre for 'Best Performance in Road Safety'**
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh presented the award to state transport minister M R Vijayabaskar on January 13.
- ✓ The state had registered a 32% decrease in road accident deaths in 2018, compared to last year



- ✓ Tamil Nadu topped India's state-wise accident chart twice in a row in 2016 and 2017.
- ✓ Strict enforcement by police in terms of wearing helmets, seatbelts and monitoring patrol vehicles, strengthening emergency care by establishing more trauma care centres, ambulances and responder bikes helped in reducing the deaths due to accidents in the state.
- ✓ As far as Chennai was concerned, a major change introduced in 2017-18 was the e-challan system
- ✓ The fines collected digitally were linked to the government database 'VAHAN', which was useful in identifying repeat offenders
- **The Madras high court - has set up a committee headed by a retired District Judge to organize jallikattu at Avaniapuram and Alanganallur in Madurai district this year.**
- ✓ The committee is also entrusted to monitor the jallikattu events at Palamedu


- ✓ A division bench of justice M Duraiswamy and justice T Ravindran appointed retired Principal district judge C Manickam as the Chairman of the committee to conduct jallikattu at Avaniapuram on January 15
- ✓ It had also appointed collector T G Vinay, Madurai city commissioner of police S Davidson Devasirvadam and corporation commissioner S Visakan as members of the organizing committee to conduct jallikattu at Avaniapuram on January 15.
- ✓ The retired judge, the collector, south zone IG K P Shanmuga Rajeswaran and assistant director of town panchayat were appointed as members of the organizing committee to conduct jallikattu at Alanganallur on January 17.

NATIONAL

- **The Union Aviation ministry - issued a public notice for a 'one-time opportunity' for voluntary disclosure of such drones and drone operators by January 31**
- ✓ After the deadline of January 31, 2020, anyone flying an unregistered drone will face action under various sections of the Indian Penal Code as well as Aircraft Act, 1934
- ✓ The offenders would be handed a prison sentence of up to 2 years or a fine of up to ₹10 lakh.
- ✓ The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had issued rules to regulate the use of drones in Indian airspace in August 2018
- ✓ As per the guidelines, the flying of drones require obtaining unique identification number (UIN), unmanned aircraft operator permit (UAOP) and other operational requirements including identification of civil drones and drone operators.
- ✓ All drones flying in India must be registered on the Digital Sky portal at <https://digitalsky.dgca.gov.in>.
- ✓ These rules came into effect from December 1, 2018.
- ✓ On successful submission of voluntary disclosure of possessing drone, a Drone Acknowledgement Number (DAN) and an Ownership Acknowledgement Number (OAN) will be issued 'online' to help in the validation of operations of drones in India.
- ✓ Currently, drone registration starts on January 14, 2020.
- **The Union Health ministry - has released a new draft National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2020 to address concerns of patients suffering from any rare disease and struggling under the high cost of treatment**

EYEING CROWD-FUNDING


Key Policy Initiatives Proposed under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To set up a national registry for rare diseases at ICMR to create a database of various rare diseases ➤ Financial support of up to Rs 15 lakh to Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries under Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi for rare diseases that require one-time treatment in tertiary hospitals only ➤ Screening and diagnosis to identify high-risk families, couples, pregnant women 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Voluntary crowd-funding for treatment by setting up a digital platform ➤ Categorise rare diseases based on clinical experiences & availability of treatment ➤ Government to notify selected centres of excellence. These will be premier government tertiary hospitals with facilities for treatment of rare diseases ➤ Facilitate environment to promote R&D for diagnosis
--	---	--

- ✓ The draft policy intends to set up a registry under the Indian Council of Medical research (ICMR) to create a database of such patients
 - ✓ Then, the details would be used in providing financial assistance of up to ₹15 lakh to Ayushman Bharat beneficiaries for rare diseases that require a one-time treatment in tertiary hospitals only.
 - ✓ It also proposes a digital platform for voluntary crowd funding for covering the treatment expenditure
 - ✓ The crowdfunding is recommended as an alternate means of financial support and government hospitals are notified to facilitate treatment in such cases.
- **The Union Government - launched a central accident database management system, known as the Integrated Road Accident Database (IRAD) on January 13**
- ✓ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the IRAD at the road safety stakeholders' meet.
 - ✓ The IT tool will help in analysing the causes of road accidents and in identifying safety methods to reduce such accidents in the country.
 - ✓ It has been developed by the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) and will be implemented by the National Informatics Centre.
 - ✓ The project was developed at a cost of ₹258 crore and is being supported by the World Bank.
 - ✓ The system will be first tried out as a 'Pilot' project in 6 States with highest fatalities from road crashes — Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **A nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court – to examine the larger issue of faith-based customs violating fundamental rights of women in the Sabarimala women entry case**

LARGER BENCH, LARGER ISSUE	
<p>SC Bench CJI S A Bobde, Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, M M Shantanagoudar, S Abdul Nazeer, R Subhash Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant</p>	
<p>➤ Bench will only hear larger issue of faith-based customs violating fundamental rights of women, not adjudicate pleas seeking a review of SC's order overturning the Sabarimala tradition of barring female worshippers aged 10-50</p>	<p>➤ On Nov 14, 2019, then CJI Gogoi-led 5-judge bench asked a 7-judge bench to evolve guidelines for deciding cases involving clash of fundamental rights and faith emerging from women's entry to shrines. CJI Bobde then decided to constitute a 9-judge bench</p>

- ✓ The bench of Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices R Banumathi, Ashok Bhushan, L Nageswara Rao, M M Shantanagoudar, S Abdul Nazeer, R Subhash

Reddy, B R Gavai and Surya Kant has indicated that it will not limit the arguments not just to Sabarimala verdict, but to a whole 'larger' issue.

- ✓ The bench will also review the petitions “regarding the prohibition of entry of Muslim women in dargah/ mosque, the ban on Parsi women who married Non Parsi men from entering the fire temple and practice of female genital mutilation (FGN) among Dawoodi Bohras”
- ✓ However, it had clarified that it would not go into the legality of issues such as the practice of polygamy and ‘nikah-halala’ in Islam.

Points to ponder

Seven issues were framed by the five-judge Review Bench for the larger Bench. They form the crux but may be re-framed for future hearing before the nine-judge Bench. The 'broad' issues are:



Not restricting itself to the Sabarimala case, the Bench will examine larger issues of law.

- What should be the interplay between freedom of religion under Articles 25 and 26 and the right to equality under Article 14?

- Right to practice religion is subject to 'public order, morality and health' under Article 25(1). What do these terms actually mean?

- Is constitutional morality the over-arching morality in reference to the Preamble or limited to religious beliefs or faith?

- Should and, if so, how far can a court enquire into whether a

religious practice is essential to a particular faith?

- What is the meaning of the expression 'sections of Hindus' appearing in Article 25(2)(b) of the Constitution?

- Whether 'essential religious practices' deserve constitutional protection under Article 26?

- What is the extent to which courts should entertain PILs questioning religious practices filed by a third person who is not a member of that faith?

- ✓ The SC had also announced that it will not hear arguments on pleas challenging SC's September 28, 2018, judgment quashing the ban on entry of women in the specified age group, a tradition based on the presiding deity Ayyappa being a “naishtik brahmachari”
- ✓ On November 14, 2019, a five-judge bench led by then CJI Ranjan Gogoi, by 3-2 majority, decided not to alter the September 28 judgment allowing the entry of women of all ages
- ✓ However, it asked a seven-judge bench to provide guidelines for deciding cases involving clash of fundamental rights and faith emerging from women's entry to temples, mosques and agiyaris
- ✓ Chief Justice S A Bobde then constituted a nine-judge bench instead of seven judges.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Australian government - committed A\$50 million to an emergency wildlife recovery programme following the massive bushfire in the region.**
- ✓ The recent bushfire crisis engulfing the country was termed as “an ecological disaster” that threatens several species, including koalas and rock wallabies.
- ✓ Huge wildfires have burnt more than 27.7 million acres, nearly half the area of the United Kingdom, destroying or severely damaging the habitats of several native animals

- ✓ As many as a billion animals have either died in the burning or are at risk in their aftermath due to a lack of food and shelter.
 - ✓ An estimated 30% of koala habitat in New South Wales state may have been lost and the government is considering to list certain koala populations as “endangered” rather than “vulnerable”
 - ✓ The Australian Koalas are herbivorous animals that are native to Australia.
 - ✓ They are predominantly found in coastal areas of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.
- **The Lahore high court - declared as “unconstitutional” the formation of a special court that had awarded the death sentence to former military ruler General Pervez Musharraf last month after finding him guilty of treason.**
- ✓ In a unanimous verdict, a three-member bench of the Lahore HC ruled that the treason case against Musharraf was not dealt with by following the due process of the law
 - ✓ The special court which convicted Musharraf was formed without the approval of the cabinet as per the requirements of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which was passed in 2010
 - ✓ The death sentence, therefore, stands void, according to the federal government
 - ✓ Musharraf had challenged the special court’s decision in the Lahore high court on December 27, 2019, stating that the verdict was a mix of mistakes, errors and contradictory statements
 - ✓ Earlier, Musharraf was sentenced to death in absentia by a special court in Islamabad on December 17, 2019
 - ✓ The treason case was filed against Musharraf by the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government headed by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in 2013

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will attend the inaugural session of the “Raisina Dialogue” on January 14**
- ✓ It was organised by the External Affairs Ministry jointly with the Observer Research Foundation in Delhi
 - ✓ Former leaders, including former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and former Prime Ministers Helen Clark of New Zealand, Stephen Harper of Canada, Carl Bildt of Sweden, Anders Rasmussen of Denmark, Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan and Han Seung-soo of South Korea, will be attending the inaugural session
 - ✓ The title of the Raisina Dialogue this year is “Navigating the alpha century”.
 - ✓ Theme: 21@20: Navigating the Alpha Century
 - ✓ At least 12 Foreign Ministers, including Sergey Lavrov of Russia, Javad Zarif of Iran and Marise Payne of Australia, and 7 former heads of state and government will attend the dialogue
 - ✓ Afghanistan’s National Security Adviser Hamidullah Mohib and U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Matthew Pottinger are also attending the dialogue.

- ✓ The 5th edition of the annual conference will host 700 participants from more than 100 countries
- ✓ The Raisina Dialogue is to be held between January 14, 2020 and January 16, 2020 in New Delhi
- ✓ Since its inception in 2016, it is considered as India's flagship conference on geo-economics and geopolitics
- ✓ The conference is named after, "Raisina Hills", which is the seat of Government of India and Rashtrapati bhavan.
- ✓ The dialogue was designed on the lines of Shangri-La dialogue.

DEFENCE

- **The Army - has approved the creation of the new post of Deputy chief (strategy) as part of the overall restructuring**
- ✓ The need for the new 'crucial' post of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) or DCOAS (S) was felt during the 73-day troop confrontation between India and China at Doklam near the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction in June-August 2017
- ✓ The DCOAS (S) will have the Directors-general of military operations (DGMO), military intelligence (DGMI), operational logistics (DGOL), perspective planning (DGPP) and information warfare (DGIW) under his control at the Army HQs.

TO SHED NON-OP FLAB

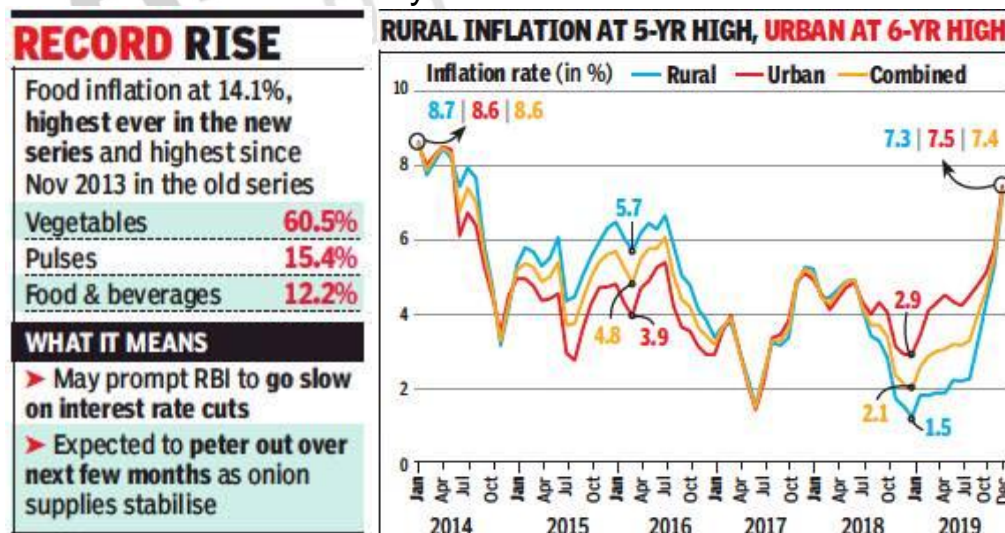
- Need for post of deputy chief of army staff (strategy) was felt during faceoff with China at Doklam in 2017
- Currently, ad hoc panel constituted to handle operations, plans & logistics during a Doklam-like crisis
- Aim to eliminate duplication, get rid of non-operational flab and provide single-point advice to Army chief

- ✓ The Army has also approved the shifting of the entire Rashtriya Rifles (RR) directorate from New Delhi to the Northern Command in Kashmir.
- ✓ The Rashtriya Rifles was first raised as a small force in 1990 to handle specialised counter-insurgency operations in J&K
- ✓ At present, it has 63 battalions (almost 70,000 soldiers) divided into 5 division-like headquarters commanded by Major Generals.
- ✓ They are Delta Force (Doda district), Kilo Force (Kupwara and Baramulla), Romeo Force (Rajouri and Poonch), Victor Force (Anantnag, Pulwama and Budgam) and Uniform Force (Udhampur and Reasi).
- **The Indian Navy - has decided to use a new fuel with higher technical specifications called 'High Flash High Speed Diesel' (HFHSD – IN 512)**
- ✓ The new fuel, developed in collaboration with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL), was formally launched on January 13

- ✓ The new specification provides a better quality fuel and also result in a reduced carbon footprint
- ✓ Before choosing the fuel, around 22 test parameters were considered, which included certain critical parameters such as flash point, cetane number, sediment content, sulphur content, cold filter plugging point and oxidation stability.
- ✓ The Navy and IOCL jointly studied the international regulations of MARPOL, NATO, ISO before deciding on the revised technical specification.

ECONOMY

- **Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer price index (CPI) - increased to a five and a half-year-high of 7.4% in December**
- ✓ It was also higher than the last month's 5.54% and way high than the 2.11% recorded in December 2018
- ✓ For the first time since July 2016, the inflation figure went past the 6% upper band of the RBI's comfort zone.
- ✓ The previous instance during which retail inflation touched 7.39% was in July 2014, just after Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his first term in office.
- ✓ The key reason for the sharp spike this time is attributed to the increase in vegetable and pulse prices.
- ✓ Vegetable prices increased to an annual 60.5%, largely driven by onions, and pulses, whose prices have risen up by 15.4%.
- ✓ Onion prices were above the ₹100 per kg mark in many major cities due to a 26% fall in production.
- ✓ The food price index rose 14.1% during December, the highest in the new series, which was introduced in January 2014



- ✓ It was the highest in nearly six years since November 2013 when it had increased to 15.4% in the old series which had 2010 as the base year
- ✓ Inflation in rural areas was at a 5-year high of 7.3% during December while in urban centres it was at a 6-year high of 7.5%.
- ✓ The Centre has instructed the RBI to maintain inflation in the range of 2-6%.

- ✓ The RBI is scheduled to announce its next bi-monthly monetary policy on February 6.

APPOINTMENTS

➤ **Michael Debabrata Patra – is appointed as the new Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**

- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Patra for a three-year tenure.
- ✓ Patra, a former Executive Director at the RBI, replaces Viral Acharya who resigned from the post in July 2019.
- ✓ Patra was overseeing 4 departments, Department of Statistics and Information Management, Monetary Policy, Departments of Economic and Policy Research.
- ✓ A fellow of Harvard University, Patra joined the RBI in the year 1985
- ✓ He has held the post of Executive Director in the Monetary policy department in 2005
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has three deputy governors at present, which includes - NS Vishwanathan, BP Kanungo and MK Jain.
- ✓ Shaktikanta Das is the Governor of RBI

➤ **Senior IPS officer A P Maheshwari - was appointed Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on January 13**

- ✓ Maheshwari is a 1984 batch IPS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- ✓ He is currently serving as special secretary (internal security) in the home ministry
- ✓ He will hold charge as CRPF chief up to his retirement on February 28, 2021, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ The position of DG CRPF was lying vacant after R R Bhatnagar retired on December 31.
- ✓ ITBP chief S S Deswal was holding additional charge as DG CRPF in the interim period
- ✓ The over 3.25 lakh-strong CRPF is the world's largest paramilitary force
- ✓ It is deployed across several areas of insurgency and unrest such as J&K, north-east and Left-wing extremism-hit areas.
- ✓ It is also the primary force responsible for providing security during parliamentary and assembly elections.

SPORTS

➤ **Jasprit Bumrah – received the Polly Umrigar Award, the highest award of Indian Cricket, on January 12**

- ✓ He bagged this award for the Best international cricketer (2018-19) at the BCCI Annual Awards event.
- ✓ Jasprit Bumrah was also given the Dilip Sardesai Award for taking highest Wickets in Test Cricket- 2018-19

- ✓ Poonam Yadav was given the Best International Cricketer (Female) Award
- ✓ Shafali Verma was honored with the Outstanding International Debut Award in Women's Cricket
- ✓ Apart from that, she was also honored with Jagmohan Dalmiya Award for Outstanding Performance in Junior Domestic Cricket in the 2018-19 season.
- ✓ India's former captain and World cup winner, Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Anjum Chopra were awarded the Colonel CK Naidu Lifetime Achievement Award
- ✓ **BCCI Awards: Full List of Winners**
 - ✓ **Kris Srikanth** - Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award
 - ✓ **Jasprit Bumrah** - Polly Umrigar Award for Best International Cricketer (Men)
 - ✓ **Anjum Chopra** - BCCI Life Time Achievement Award For Women
 - ✓ **Poonam Yadav** - Best International Cricketer (Women)
 - ✓ **Dilip Joshi** - BCCI Special Award
 - ✓ **Mayank Agarwal** - Best International Debut (Men)
 - ✓ **Jasprit Bumrah** - Dilip Sardesai Award for Highest Wickets in Test Cricket- 2018-19
 - ✓ **Cheteshwar Pujara** - Dilip Sardesai Award for Highest Run Getter in Test Cricket- 2018-19
 - ✓ **Shafali Verma** - BCCI Best International Debut (Women)
 - ✓ **Jhulan Goswami** - Highest Wickets in One Day Internationals (2018-19) Women
 - ✓ **Shivam Dube** - Lala Amarnath Award For the Best All-Rounder in the Ranji Trophy
 - ✓ **Smriti Mandhana** - Highest Run Getter in One Day Internationals -2018-19 (Women)
 - ✓ **Vidarbha Cricket Association** - Best Performance in BCCI Domestic Tournaments (2018-19)
 - ✓ **Virendra Sharma** - Best Umpire in Domestic Cricket (2018-19)
 - ✓ **Shafali Verma** - Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy for Best Woman Cricketer (Junior Domestic) of 2018-19

OSCAR NOMINATIONS 2020 - REPORT

Best Actor

Joaquin Phoenix
Joker



Adam Driver
Marriage Story



Leonardo DiCaprio
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood



Antonio Banderas
Pain and Glory



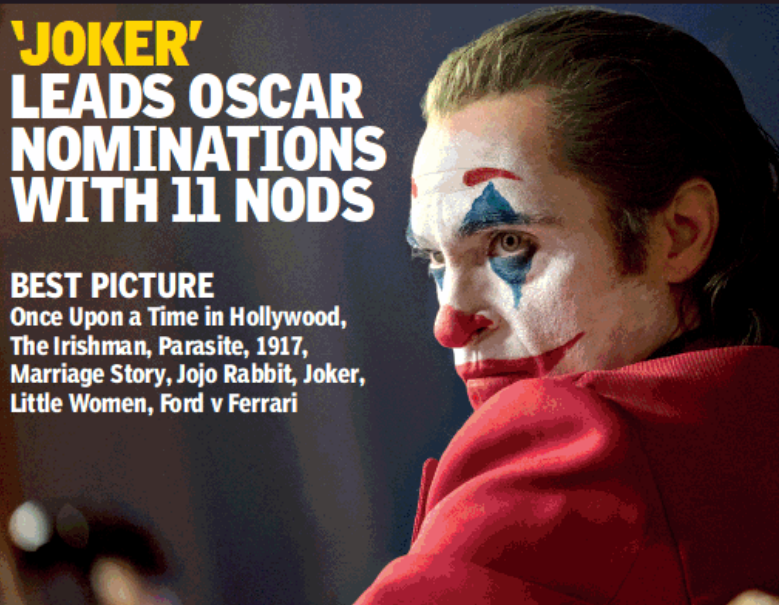
Jonathan Pryce
The Two Popes



'JOKER' LEADS OSCAR NOMINATIONS WITH 11 NODS

BEST PICTURE

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood,
The Irishman, Parasite, 1917,
Marriage Story, Jojo Rabbit, Joker,
Little Women, Ford v Ferrari



Best Director

Martin Scorsese
The Irishman

Bong Joon Ho
Parasite

Quentin Tarantino
Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Sam Mendes
1917

Todd Phillips
Joker

Best Actress



Renee Zellweger
Judy



Charlize Theron
Bombshell



Scarlett Johansson
Marriage Story



Saoirse Ronan
Little Women



Cynthia Erivo
Harriet

Best Supporting Actor

Brad Pitt | Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Al Pacino | The Irishman

Joe Pesci | The Irishman

Tom Hanks | A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood

Anthony Hopkins | The Two Popes



Best Supporting Actress

Laura Dem | Marriage Story

Margot Robbie | Bombshell

Florence Pugh | Little Women

Scarlett Johansson | Jojo Rabbit

Kathy Bates | Richard Jewell

Indian Connection

'St. Louis Superman'

by Indian-American filmmakers Smriti Mudhra and Sami Khan gets Oscar nod for Best Documentary Short. **Oscars will be held on Feb 9**



Best Animated Feature

Toy Story 4 | Klaus | How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World | Missing Link | I Lost My Body

No Diversity

Women were nearly absent from the top awards categories. All best-director nominees are men, and story lines of most of the top films are driven by male characters. Acting and directing awards contenders are largely white

24 NOMINATIONS TO NETFLIX FOR MAFIA EPIC 'THE IRISHMAN' AND DIVORCE DRAMA 'MARRIAGE STORY'

