

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 21, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - handed over the Thiruvalluvar Award for 2020 and the Thanthai Periyar Award for 2019 to N. Nithyanandha Bharathi and former Union Minister Gingee N. Ramachandran respectively, in Chennai on January 20.



- ✓ The winners of awards includes –
- ✓ Annal Ambedkar Award - K. Arjunan
 - ✓ Perarignar Anna Award - K. Samarasam.
 - ✓ Perunthalaivar Kamarasar Award - M.S. Mathivanan
 - ✓ Mahakavi Bharathiyar Award - P. Sivaraji
 - ✓ Pavendhar Bharathidasan Award - Thenisai Chellappa
 - ✓ Thamizhthendral Award - S. Sundararajan
 - ✓ Muthamizh Kavalakar K.A.P. Viswanatham Award - Manimekalai Kannan
 - ✓ Thamizhthai Award for 2019 - Chicago Tamil Sangam.
 - ✓ Kabilar Award - Poet Vetriyazhagan
 - ✓ U. Ve. Sa. Award - V. Mahadevan
 - ✓ Kambar Award - Saraswathi Ramanathan
 - ✓ Sollin Selvar Award - Kavidasan
 - ✓ Umarupulavar Award - Liakath Ali Khan
 - ✓ G.U. Pope Award - Maria Joseph Xavier.

- ✓ Ilango Adigal award - Gnanaselvan alias Thirugnanasambandham
- ✓ Amma Literary Award - Umayal Muthu
- ✓ Sinthanai Sirpi Singaravelar Award - Ashoka Subramanian alias S.K. Subramanian
- ✓ Maraimalai Adigalar Award - P. Muthukumaraswamy.
- ✓ Ayothidas Pandithar Award - V. Prabhakaran.
- ✓ Awards for Best Translation - S. Mohammad Yousuf, K.J. Masthan Ali, Siva. Murugesan, N. Kadikasalam, Marabin Maindhan, Vatsala, Murugudurai, Malan alias V. Narayanan, Kirusangini alias Brinda Nagarajan and A. Mathivanan.
- ✓ Chief Minister's Tamil Computing Award for 2018 - T. Nagarajan.
- ✓ Under the World Tamil Sangam, Madurai awards for 2019, P. Rajendran of Malaysia bagged the literary award, Muthu Kasturibai was conferred with the grammar award and Subhathini Ramesh was handed over the linguistic award.
- ✓ All award-winning personalities received a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a citation and a shawl.
- ✓ The institution that won the Thamizhthai Award received a cash prize of ₹5 lakh
- **The Tamil Nadu cabinet, chaired by the Chief Minister - cleared investment proposals worth ₹50,000 crore on January 20 to project the state's image as an attractive investment destination**
 - ✓ The clearances include providing structured package of incentives, depending on the employment generation potential of these units.
 - ✓ The middle-east based Al Kharafi is planning to build an oil refinery and petrochemical complex in SIPCOT industrial park in Tuticorin
 - ✓ It will provide indirect employment to around two lakh people in the region upon commencement.
 - ✓ The cabinet clearance was also granted for China's Wintech, a manufacturer of mobile phone accessories to set up a unit near Sriperumbudur, and BYD, a Chinese manufacturer of handset components in Kancheepuram district
 - ✓ BYD, a global player in electric vehicle segment, has commenced work on EV chasis in SIPCOT complex in Irungattukottai.
 - ✓ The company was earlier supplying components to Nokia and now it is planning to start a large scale unit to assemble mobile handsets.
 - ✓ In addition, the cabinet also gave clearances for expansion of certain industries, including Kaleeswari and Renault Nissan
 - ✓ The state government has already set up a facilitation cell for investment guidance and single window clearance led by the chief minister to provide speedy clearance to implement various projects in the state.
 - ✓ Last week, the cell cleared 15 projects with a total investment of ₹6,608 crore and the projects are set to generate jobs for 6,763 people in districts like Tuticorin, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Coimbatore, Trichy, Perambalur, Krishnagiri and Vellore.

- **The Union Government – has given the approval for making announcements in Chennai airport in Tamil, besides Hindi and English.**
- ✓ Minister of state for civil aviation, Hardeep Singh Puri announced that the Directorate of general aviation has already issued advisory to all the airlines to start making additional in-flight announcements in local languages without comprising any safety requirements
- ✓ The Chennai airport has been designated as a ‘silent airport’ by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) since May 1, 2017.
- ✓ However, announcements are made only in times of emergency.

- **Researchers at Indian Institute of Technology, Madras - have designed and monitored the construction of a checkdam across the Palar river.**
- ✓ The checkdam at Vayalur (the tail end of the river) was built faster at a lesser cost resulting in significant increase in storage of surplus rainwater in the river
- ✓ The checkdam, designed by IIT-M, has saved nearly ₹49.5 crore in project cost
- ✓ The project was funded by Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam.
- ✓ A conventional weir-type checkdam costs around ₹82 crore and takes almost a year to complete the construction.
- ✓ However, this project was completed in six months at a cost of ₹32.5 crore.
- ✓ The construction of the checkdam began in March 2019 and the structure was ready by August 2019, before the onset of northeast monsoon
- ✓ The main function of the checkdam is to block the flow of water and create a pond to conserve rainwater.
- ✓ This allows water to infiltrate the aquifer beneath, apart from boosting groundwater levels
- ✓ The Palar river supplies drinking water to Chennai, Vellore and Kancheepuram districts.
- ✓ The dam was built to avoid water scarcity and prevent seawater intrusion.

- **Tamil Nadu – to receive a group of 110 students from various government schools of Chenab region districts in Jammu and Kashmir, as part of ‘Samagra Shiksha’ exchange programme.**
- ✓ ‘Samagra Shiksha’ is an ambitious programme of the Ministry of HRD
- ✓ It is intended for the school education sector starting from preschool to Class XII students.
- ✓ The programme enables the students to explore new avenues and education facilities across the country
- ✓ Organising such tours provide a platform to students to know more about their country and also to familiarise themselves with culture and history of the nation.
- ✓ These tours also encourage the students to make new friends and interact with their counterparts across other states for a better exposure of culture.

- **Chennai Metrowater – to collaborate with National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) soon for use of renewable energy in its water treatment facilities and reduce power consumption.**
- ✓ The Metrowater plans to install solar panels in its water treatment plants and in water distribution stations to decrease electricity expenditure, which contributes to roughly 33-37% of its total expenditure.
- ✓ The NIWE would provide technical support, check for viable economic models and help implement the project to produce 25 megawatt hour of solar power in the first phase of the project
- ✓ Initially, solar power plant of one megawatt hour capacity would be installed in Chembarambakkam water treatment plant within the next six months and it would be later extended to other facilities.

STATES

- **The Kerala state cabinet - has decided to inform the Registrar General of census, who comes under the Union home ministry, that Kerala will not implement the National Population Register (NPR) in totality**
 - ✓ However, Kerala would fully cooperate with Census 2021.
 - ✓ The decision has been taken to set aside public apprehensions on the issue and to maintain law and order in the state.
 - ✓ The state government will ask enumerators to exclude two questions - date of birth of respondents and details of their parents from the census questionnaire
 - ✓ The state government is of the stand that NPR is a prelude to National Register of Citizens (NRC)
 - ✓ Earlier, Kerala had joined West Bengal in halting the work on the NPR.
 - ✓ The LDF government, which has been in the forefront of the anti-CAA movement, was on a collision course with the Centre on the issue.
 - ✓ Earlier, the intelligence wing of state police has reportedly warned that the implementation of NPR or NRC would create severe tension in Kerala
 - ✓ The Kerala government has already filed a suit against Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in the Supreme Court, while the state assembly already passed a unanimous resolution urging the Centre to withdraw CAA.
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- **A special session of the Andhra Pradesh Assembly - passed the A.P. Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill, 2020 and the A.P. Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Repeal Bill, 2020 on January 20.**



- ✓ The Bills will facilitate the creation and development of Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool as legislative, executive and judicial capitals respectively.
- ✓ The bill was earlier approved by the AP cabinet chaired by CM Jaganmohan Reddy
- ✓ The proposal has been submitted to enable decentralisation and inclusive development of all regions, thereby ensuring "balanced and inclusive growth" of Andhra Pradesh.

NATIONAL

- **The 3rd edition of PM Modi's interaction programme Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020 – took place at 11am on January 20 with students from across the country and abroad**



- ✓ During the discussion, the PM advised the students various ways to overcome and beat exam stress.
- ✓ He also urged students to value time and learn how to balance academics and extracurricular activities.
- ✓ The PM emphasized that even though the students need decent marks and grades, it was important that they must focus on other aspects of life and improve their personalities.
- ✓ He also told them to use technology judiciously and not use it while spending time with families
- ✓ The PM also advised students not to be afraid of failures
- ✓ About 2.6 lakh students from Classes 9 to 12 participated in an essay competition, out of which 2,000 were selected to attend the event in Delhi
- ✓ There were 50 differently-abled students in the audience.
- ✓ Pariksha Pe Charcha is an annual event organised by the Union Human Resource Development Ministry on the issue of examination stress.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - accepted the Centre's proposal to take control of embattled real estate giant Unitech Limited on January 20**
- ✓ The Centre has decided to set up a new board of directors, headed by retired IAS officer Yudvir Singh Malik, to take over the management and initiate steps to finish the housing projects in which over 30,000 people have invested
- ✓ A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah also approved the names of other Directors in the company, which includes --

- ✓ Anoop Kumar Mittal - Ex-CMD of National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC)
- ✓ Renu Sud Karnad - Chairman of HDFC Credila Financial Services Pvt Ltd
- ✓ Jitu Virwani - CMD of property developer Embassy Group
- ✓ Niranjan Hiranandani - MD of Mumbai-based Hiranandani Group
- ✓ Girish Kumar Ahuja - Chartered accountant
- ✓ B Sriram - Former MD and CEO of IDBI Bank
- ✓ Unitech Group founder, Ramesh Chandra was refused by the Supreme Court to be inducted in the board at this stage.
- ✓ The Apex Court instructed the newly constituted board of directors to prepare the resolution framework of the company within two months and submit it to the court

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Team leader of a Chinese government expert team, ZhongNanshan, a respiratory expert – has confirmed human-to-human transmission in the outbreak of a new coronavirus in China**
- ✓ It is based on the assessment that two people in Guangdong province in southern China contracted the virus from family members
- ✓ The announcement raises the possibility that the virus could spread more quickly and widely.
- ✓ The Chinese authorities have also announced a sharp increase in the number of confirmed cases to 217, till date, 198 of which were in Wuhan.
- ✓ The human transmission raises more concern as millions of Chinese are set to travel during the ongoing festival season around the Chinese New Year on January 25.
- ✓ The outbreak had started late last month when people picked it up at a fresh food market in Wuhan
- ✓ The government has alerted people, especially those in Wuhan who had the relevant symptoms like fever and cough, to get tested at hospitals as soon as possible.
- ✓ Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already reported at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China.
- ✓ South Korea reported its first case on January 20, when a Chinese woman from Wuhan tested positive for the new coronavirus, a day after arriving at Seoul.
- ✓ Coronaviruses cause diseases ranging from the common cold to SARS or severe acute respiratory syndrome.
- ✓ SARS first infected people in southern China in 2002 and spread to more than 25 countries, killing nearly 800 people by 2003.

DEFENCE

- **Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat- dedicated the newly resurrected 222 Squadron with BrahMos-embedded Sukhoi-30MKIs to the nation at the Air Force Station (AFS) in Thanjavur on January 20.**



- ✓ To begin with, five to six Sukhoi-30MKI fighter planes will be stationed at AFS in Thanjavur along with 2.5 ton Air Launched BrahMos Cruise Missile and the full capacity of 18 planes would be reached eventually
- ✓ This is also the first Sukhoi squadron of the IAF with BrahMos missiles.
- ✓ With the launch, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will now get more airpower to strike at any target at sea and on land with pinpoint accuracy 24x7 and in all-weather conditions
- ✓ The IAF test-fired the BrahMos Air launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) from a Sukhoi-30MKI on May 22, 2019.
- ✓ It was the second successful test-firing of the BrahMos ALCM from a Su-30MKI, where the missile achieved a direct hit on the target, thus proving its high accuracy hit rate
- ✓ The Squadron is being inducted in Tamil Nadu to check the fast-expanding strategic footprint of China in the Indian Ocean Region. (IOR)
- ✓ The 222 Squadron, also known as Tigersharks, was raised in September 1969 at Ambala, and was moved to Halwara in 1971
- ✓ It also took part in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war
- ✓ Later it was moved back to Ambala in 1975 and from there to Hindon in 1985.
- ✓ The squadron became the first to be equipped with Mig-27 fighters and was 'numberplated' in March 2011.
- ✓ The 222 Squadron will be the second IAF fighter squadron located in South India.
- ✓ The first one is No 45 nicknamed 'Flying Daggers' squadron which is based at Sullur airbase in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The Flying Daggers squadron is also equipped with India's first LCA, Tejas Mk.1 fighters.
- ✓ In 2018, during the Gagan Shakti Indian Air Force Exercise, the capabilities of the Su-30MKI aircraft were demonstrated at large scale.
- ✓ BrahMos Supersonic Cruise Missiles are capable of striking targets at a distance of over 300 KM with pinpoint precision accuracy.

ECONOMY

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) - reduced India's GDP growth estimate to 4.8% for 2019-20 citing slowing domestic demand, stress in the non-banking financial sector and a decline in credit growth

CHINA BACK AS GROWTH CHAMP

Country	2019 Estimate In %
India	4.8
China	6.1
Brazil	1.2
Russia	1.1
South Africa	0.4
US	2.3
World	2.9

- ✓ As per IMF, India's growth is estimated at 4.8% in 2019, projected to improve to 5.8% in 2020 and 6.5% in 2021 (1.2 and 0.9 percentage point lower than in the October World Economic Outlook)
- ✓ This is a sharp reduction from the 6.1% projected in October and below the 5% estimated by the Reserve Bank of India and India's National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ✓ India's slowdown was also cited as the reason for the decline in emerging market growth projections.
- ✓ For emerging market and developing economies, a pickup in growth was predicted from 3.7% in 2019 to 4.4% in 2020 and 4.6% in 2021, a downward revision of 0.2% for all years
- ✓ It was also the sharpest decline among the emerging economies
- ✓ China's growth has been revised upward by 0.2% to 6% for 2020, reflecting the recent trade deal with the United States
- ✓ India also looks set to lose the fastest growing major economy tag for the next two years and is expected to overtake China when growth recovers to 6.5% in 2021-22
- ✓ According to IMF, global growth, estimated at 2.9% in 2019, is projected to increase to 3.3% in 2020 and go up further to 3.4% in 2021.
- ✓ Gita Gopinath is the Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund
- ✓ Appointed in October 2018, she was named as one of the top global thinkers in 2019 by Foreign Policy and was named as one of the top 25 economists under 45 years of age by the IMF in 2014.
- ✓ She is also the co-director of the International Finance and Macroeconomics program at the National Bureau of Economic Research.
- ✓ Gita has also previously worked as the Economic Adviser to the Chief Minister of Kerala.
- ✓ The President of India honoured Gita Gopinath with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, the highest honor for an Indian-origin person, in 2019.

- **India - was listed among the top 10 recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2019, as per the Global Investment Trend Monitor report compiled by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**
- ✓ The nation had attracted \$49 billion in inflows, which is a 16% increase from the previous year
- ✓ However, the global FDI hasn't registered a major change in 2019 and stood at \$1.39 trillion, which is a 1% decline from a revised \$1.41 trillion in 2018
- ✓ The South Asia recorded a major 10% increase in FDI to \$60 billion
- ✓ The FDI inflows to developed countries remained at a historically low level
- ✓ They have decreased by a further 6% to an estimated \$643 billion.
- ✓ The FDI to the European Union (EU) also fell down by 15% to \$305 billion
- ✓ Similarly, there was no major change in flows to US, which received \$251 billion FDI in 2019, as compared to \$254 billion in 2018

APPOINTMENTS

- **Former health minister Jagat Prakash Nadda - was elected unopposed as the 11th President of BJP on January 20, with the support of 21 states units and the parliamentary party**



- ✓ He replaces home minister Amit Shah, who held the position for five-and-a-half years.
- ✓ After his inauguration, Nadda, announced that the BJP would target coming to power in states where the party has not yet registered electoral success.
- ✓ J.P. Nadda, 59, did his schooling at St. Xavier's, Patna, and graduated from Patna College, Patna University.
- ✓ He rose from student politics in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the RSS, to State politics in Himachal Pradesh and then performed an important stint in national politics since 2010.
- ✓ He became the first ABVP president of the students' union in Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla
- ✓ Later, he was made the ABVP's organisational general secretary in Delhi between 1985 and 1989.
- ✓ Nadda's stint in Delhi helped him fight his first Assembly election in 1993.
- ✓ In all, he has won in 3 Assembly elections, and has been a Minister twice in the Himachal Pradesh government.
- ✓ When Union Minister Nitin Gadkari became BJP President, he made him national general secretary and then got him elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2012.
- ✓ He was made Union Health Minister in the first Narendra Modi government, but returned to organisational work in the second.
- ✓ He was made the BJP's first working president in June 2019

Presidents of Bharatiya Janata Party

Atal Bihari Vajpayee 1980 to 1986	Lal Krishna Advani 1986 to 1990, 1993 to 1998 and 2004 to 2005	Murli Manohar Joshi 1991 to 1993
Kushabhau Thakre 1998 to 2000	Bangaru Laxman 2000 to 2001	K. Jana Krishnamurthy 2001 to 2002
M. Venkaiah Naidu 2002 to 2004	Rajnath Singh 2005 to 2009 and 2013 to 2014	Nitin Gadkari 2010 to 2013
Amit Shah 2014 to 2020	Jagat Prakash Nadda Jan 20, 2020 onwards	

KBK InfoGraphics Source: BJP website

AWARDS

- **Deepa Venkat, the daughter of Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu - was conferred the 'Champion of Change' Award by former President Pranab Mukherjee**



- ✓ She was handed over the award in recognition of her contributions in the field of social welfare.
- ✓ Deepa was managing the Swarna Bharat Trust, which conducts skill development programmes in various trades, for the last 20 years.
- ✓ Other noted recipients of the second edition of awards in 2019 include Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren for his work in aspirational districts in Jharkhand, and, Delhi's deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia for his work in the field of education.
- ✓ MoS Finance Anurag Thakur and Patanjali's Acharya Balakrishna were also awarded for their exemplary work in social welfare.

SPORTS

- **Sachin Tendulkar and Viswanathan Anand- have been excluded from an the government constituted advisory panel 'All India Council of Sports' (AICS)**
 - ✓ They are excluded from the panel because the two have attended only a couple of meetings of the committee
 - ✓ The advisory panel was created to decide on matters relating to the development of sports in the country
 - ✓ It also advices the Ministry of Sports on drafting better policies and programmes for promotion of sports.
 - ✓ Former off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and ex-India captain and former chairman of the selection committee, Krishnamachari Srikkanth, have been named as the new members in the panel
 - ✓ The AICS was created in December 2015 during the tenure of then sports minister Sarbananda Sonowal
 - ✓ Veteran sports administrator Prof Vijay Kumar Malhotra, was named as the panel's first independent Chairman in the rank of minister of state.
 - ✓ Prof Malhotra has again been appointed the committee's chairman in its second tenure.
 - ✓ The committee's original strength size has also been reduced from 27 members to 18 in its second term
 - ✓ In the committee's new list for second term, there are two other notable exclusions – Indian badminton's chief national coach Pullela Gopichand and Bhaichung Bhutia
 - ✓ Some of the new members who have included in the panel include Limba Ram (archery), P T Usha (athletics), Bachendri Pal (mountaineering), Deepa Malik (para-athlete), Anjali Bhagwat (shooting), Renedy Singh (football) and Yogeshwar Dutt (wrestling).
- **The Badminton World Federation (BWF) - has given the approval for using synthetic feather shuttlecocks at its sanctioned international tournaments at all levels from the year 2021**

Types of Shuttlecock

- 1 Feather**
 - Types of Feather - GOOSE & DUCK
 - Used in Pro-level/Competitions
 - Light in weight, requires power
 - Damages easily
- 2 Synthetic**
 - Types of Synthetic - NYLON & PLASTIC
 - Used in Schools, small clubs for training
 - Cheaper than feather, last longer
 - Requires less power

- ✓ Currently, feathers from goose and duck species are used to manufacture shuttles around the world.
- ✓ The synthetic feather shuttlecocks will be more durable & economical compared to traditional shuttlecocks and it has similar flight and performance.
- ✓ During the initial transition period, the tournament hosts will be given a choice between the synthetic and traditional shuttlecocks.
- ✓ The name 'shuttlecock' originated in the 1570s in England.
- ✓ The shuttlecocks being used now are made from 16 overlapping feathers.
- ✓ In India white duck feathers are used, while in China, goose feathers are used in the shuttlecocks.
- ✓ In every shuttlecock, feathers from only one of the wing (left or right) are used.

