

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 24, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

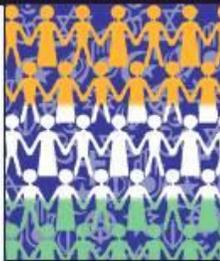
- **The Tamil Nadu Government – announced that the first phase of Census 2021 will be held for 45 days in June and July, 2020**
- ✓ The second phase will be held between February 9 and 28, 2021.
- ✓ The first phase will consist of house listing and housing census in which 34 questions will be asked to every household.
- ✓ An enumerator will be collecting relevant details under a numerical code
- ✓ The number code is based on the state, district, taluk, town panchayat, village panchayat, municipality, corporation and ward.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has 37 districts including the newly created ones
- ✓ The training of enumerators will commence in April-May.
- ✓ Four national trainers have been deputed to train master trainers at district level
- ✓ About 1.5 lakh enumerators, mostly school teachers, will be on the field to collect the details.
- ✓ All entries will be carried out using the apps installed in the smartphones of the enumerators.
- ✓ Along the state borders, people who are well versed in Tamil and the regional language of the neighbouring state will be deployed for enumeration.
- ✓ The app will be available in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Hindi
- ✓ The Centre is spending more than ₹500 crore for carrying out census in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The NPR in the State would be commenced between April and September, during which the first phase of census also would be carried out in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ The main difference between census and NPR is that while NPR comes under the Citizenship Act, Census is being done under a separate Census Act

## NPR VS CENSUS

### Difference between NPR (National Population Register) and Census

#### NPR

- Comes under Citizenship Act
- Will be rolled out between June and Jul
- Will take details about families, number of people in a household, age, number of months stay in present place, marital status etc
- Aims to create database of every resident in the country



#### CENSUS

- Carried out every 10 years under Census of India 1948 Act
- Since 1971 onwards, there are two phases of Census. First is for house-listing and second is population enumeration
- In Tamil Nadu, the first phase will be rolled out between June and July and second phase between February 1, 2021, and February 28, 2021
- Census gets details about the standard of living, literacy, marital status, migration, languages spoken, fertility particulars etc

- ✓ The details of NPR will provide the type of families and the age difference among the people living in the household
- ✓ The 2010 NPR was used for fine-tuning the public distribution system (PDS) in the State.
- ✓ It was also used for rolling out the chief minister's health insurance scheme and several other schemes in the State.
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - laid the foundation for DLF's 'DownTown IT Park' at Taramani on January 23.**



- ✓ It will be coming up at a cost of ₹5,000 crore and will create 6.8 million sqft of IT space in Chennai
- ✓ Realty developer, DLF had secured the global bid for the 26.64 acre to develop a 2.5 million sqft IT SEZ facility at an offer price of Rs. 750 crore.
- ✓ DLF, backed by Singapore's sovereign fund GIC, will commence construction of 2.5 million sqft of built-up space in the first phase
- ✓ It will subsequently develop the entire 6.8 million sqft in the next six years.

- ✓ The project is a joint venture with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO).
  - ✓ Upon completion, the project will offer direct employment opportunity to 70,000 people and indirect employment opportunities to 6,000 people.
  - ✓ With this, Chennai will become DLF's second largest market after Gurugram.
  - ✓ DLF has been present in Chennai for the last 15 years.
  - ✓ DLF Cybercity Chennai, in Manapakkam, is the largest IT SEZ in the State at an area of 7.2 million sqft.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – has decided to charge extra money for removing garbage from the localities, starting from April 2020**
- ✓ As per the proposal, households in the city, owners of commercial establishments and those hosting events will have to pay extra money as 'user fee' for removing garbage to the city corporation.

**CLEAN CHENNAI COMES AT A PRICE**

GARBAGE COLLECTION FEE (MONTHLY CHARGES)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Residential buildings   ₹10- ₹100 based on built up area from 500sqft to 2,400sqft</li> <li>➤ Wedding halls   ₹10,000 for less than 1,000kg of solid waste and ₹15,000 for more than 1,000kg of solid waste</li> <li>➤ Star hotels   ₹3,000 for less than 1,000kg/day and ₹5,000 for above 1,000kg/day</li> <li>➤ Cinema theatres   ₹3,000 for one screen and ₹1,500 for each additional screen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Government and private offices   ₹300 - ₹3,000 based on area</li> <li>➤ Events   ₹5,000 - ₹20,000 based on number of attendees</li> <li>➤ Private schools   ₹500 - ₹3,000</li> <li>➤ Places of worship   ₹500</li> </ul>
	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PENALTIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Littering   ₹500</li> <li>➤ Unauthorised dumping of construction waste   ₹2,000-₹5,000</li> <li>➤ If area not cleaned up 12 hours after public gathering   ₹5,000</li> </ul>	

- ✓ Greater Chennai Corporation passed a special council resolution on the matter on November 20, 2019, under the Solid Waste Management bye-laws, 2019
- ✓ Subsequently, it had approached the state government which passed the GO on January 10, 2020, which is expected to be notified in the gazette soon
- ✓ Minister for municipal administration S P Velumani announced that the user fee would make the law stringent and help the state government realise its objectives of ensuring cleanliness in the capital city.
- ✓ According to the bye-laws, an user fee of Rs 10 to be paid every month by the occupants of a house with a built-up area of up to 500 square feet, while those living in a house with built-up area of more than 2,400 square feet will have to pay ₹100 per month.
- ✓ The bye-laws propose to collect the fee from hotels, lodges, public and private community centres, cinema theatres, private and government offices, stalls to

which trade licence is issued, private schools and colleges, places of worship and medical institutions.

- ✓ For medical institutions, the fee would be for collection of non bio-medical waste only.
  - ✓ The organisers of events would have to pay as user fee ₹5,000 if less than 500 people attend, while it would be ₹20,000 if more than 1,000 persons attend.
  - ✓ The fee would have to be paid along with the property tax once in six months
  - ✓ Apart from the user fee, the byelaws also stipulate the collection of huge amount as penalty for littering.
  - ✓ For instance, unauthorised dumping of construction waste in any public place will lead to a fine of ₹2,000 for upto one tonne of waste and ₹5,000 for more than a tonne.
  - ✓ A fine of Rs.500 would be collected from anyone who are burning waste on private premises, while anyone found burning waste material in public places would be made to pay ₹1,000 as penalty
  - ✓ In the case of a public gathering or a cultural programme, the organisers will have to pay a penalty of ₹5,000 if the venue is not cleaned up within 12 hours of the conclusion of the event.
- **The state government - ordered artificial recharge structures in rivers and tanks to augment groundwater resources in the delta districts of Tiruvarur and Thanjavur.**
- ✓ The initiative is necessitated as majority of the firkas in these two districts are over exploited and ground water extraction is more than 100%.
  - ✓ Thanjavur, the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu, depends on groundwater resources for more than 50% of the irrigation needs
  - ✓ However, increased extraction of groundwater for agricultural needs is one of the major causes of concern.
  - ✓ The rate of groundwater depletion was very severe due to poor rainfall and inadequate storage in Mettur reservoir.
  - ✓ The scene is similar in Tiruvarur district also.
  - ✓ The state Public Works department had already sanctioned ₹61 crore for 704 recharge shafts and wells in Thanjavur district and 181 such structures in Tiruvarur district
  - ✓ The concerns about depleting groundwater also arise from the fact that the delta region has clay soil, which makes it more vulnerable
- **The Tamil Nadu government - has granted administrative approval for the implementation of intra-State portability of ration cards in the State..**
- ✓ The centre's ambitious 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme is expected to be rolled out by the Centre in June throughout the country.
  - ✓ The scheme enables ration cardholders to purchase foodgrain from any fair price shop within the State.

- ✓ The intra-State portability would be introduced in Thoothukudi and Tirunelveli districts on a pilot basis and then it will be rolled out across the entire State
- ✓ Presently, there are 35,233 fair price shops run by various agencies such as Cooperatives, the Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation and women's self-help groups, among others
- ✓ Overall, 2,05,03,379 families have been provided with smart ration cards in the State.

## STATES

- **The Kerala State Election Commission - launched the facial recognition technology for voters of select 10 polling stations in Kompally Municipality of Medchal Malkajgiri district.**
- ✓ The use of the new technology enables a polling official verifying a voter's ID proof using a smartphone and then taking his/her photo.
- ✓ The voter's photo is then uploaded on the server using 'face recognition app'.
- ✓ This image is matched with the photo on the voters' list.
- ✓ If, the image is tallied, a green mark appears on the smartphone, stating he/she is a genuine voter.
- ✓ A total of 7,700 voters cast their vote at these 10 polling stations in Kerala.

## NATIONAL

- **The traditional Christian hymn 'Abide with me' - is back on the list of tunes for this year's Beating Retreat ceremony.**
- ✓ Additionally, the national song Vande Mataram will be played for the first time at the Beating Retreat this year.
- ✓ The enchanting "Beating Retreat" ceremony is likely to conclude this year with the country's national song "Vande Mataram" instead of "Sare Jahan se Achha"



- ✓ The iconic "Sare Jahan se Achha", had replaced the decades-old tradition of playing a traditional Christian hymn and Mahatma Gandhi's favourite "Abide with Me" at the end of the "beating retreat" musical spectacle.

- ✓ In ancient and mediaeval times, the military “beating retreat” ceremony, with buglers playing the retreat, was used as a signal to halt fighting, recall patrolling units and lower flags at sunset.
- ✓ In modern-day India, it signifies a spectacular musical end to the annual Republic Day celebrations.
- ✓ It is held at Vijay Chowk at one end of the majestic Rajpath in New Delhi
- ✓ The popular Christian hymn “Abide with Me” was composed by poet Henry Francis Lyte, but is usually sung to William Henry Monk’s melody “Eventide”
- ✓ The tune had been played at the annual ceremony since 1950
- ✓ In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the ceremony ended with the ever-popular tune of Sare Jahan se Achha
- ✓ In 2018, for instance, 25 of the 26 performances were tunes composed by Indian musicians, with “Abide with Me” being the only western tune
- ✓ In 2019, ‘Abide with Me’ was among the 8 western tunes out of the 27 performances.
- ✓ This year, ‘Vande Mataram’ is all set to replace ‘Abide With Me’ indicating the end of western tunes.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Queen Elizabeth II - gave her formal assent for Brexit bill on January 23 to expedite the exit of Britain from the European Union by January 31**
- ✓ Her Majesty approved the bill in accordance with the Royal Assent Act 1967.
- ✓ The head of state’s ceremonial approval of the withdrawal legislation allows Britain to leave its neighbours and trading partners in the European Union
- ✓ Britain will become the first-ever to leave the major bloc
- ✓ British PM, Boris Johnson and two top EU officials in Brussels are expected to sign the separation treaty on January 24
- ✓ The European Parliament will now hold a vote on the withdrawal agreement next week.
- ✓ The PM, Boris Johnson will now be responsible for defining the terms on which UK trades with the remaining 27 EU states.
- ✓ The formal talks are not expected to begin until March
- ✓ The UK Parliament ratified the Brexit law on January 22, 2020, finally approving the terms of Britain's historic departure from the EU
- ✓ The House of Commons had already approved the EU withdrawal agreement earlier on January 9 by 330-231 votes.
- ✓ The people of Britain had voted to leave the European Union in a historic referendum on June 24, 2016.
- ✓ Northern Ireland, London and Scotland had voted to remain in the European Union, while Wales and the English shires had voted to leave the bloc.
- ✓ The UK was earlier scheduled to leave the European Union on March 29, 2019, which was later postponed to May 22 and October 31 last year.

- **Pakistan - conducted a training launch of the surface to surface ballistic missile, Ghaznavi, on January 23**
- ✓ The missile has the capability to deliver both conventional and nuclear warheads up to a range of 290km
- ✓ The launch was part of a training exercise “aimed at rehearsing operational readiness procedures during day and night”.

## **INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **India - supplied 30,000 doses of measles/rubella vaccine to Male from the Serum Institute of India, Pune on January 23, responding to an emergency requirement in the Maldives**
- ✓ The outbreak comes within three years after the World Health Organisation declared the Maldives measles-free.
- ✓ Four fresh cases have been tested positive in the last week
- ✓ Male had initially approached Denmark and also Unicef for the vaccine but both apparently said they would require at least four weeks to arrange and supply it.
- ✓ It was then that the Maldives government approached the Indian embassy on January 20.
- ✓ The Indian government’s proposal follows the implementation of Memorandum of Understanding on Health cooperation between both the countries.
- ✓ The MoU was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Male in June 2019
- ✓ India is also helping build a 100-bed Cancer Hospital in Hulhumale as part of its \$800 million Line of Credit to the island nation

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **Nepal - has invited the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan, along with several other heads of governments and states, for the Sagarmatha Dialogue**
- ✓ The three-day event from April 2 will be the biggest diplomatic dialogue in Nepal’s recent history
- ✓ It is expected to be attended by many global leaders apart from the leaders of the SAARC countries.
- ✓ The event is expected to focus on the threat of climate change to the modern world.

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **Captain Tania Sher Gill - will lead an all-men contingent comprising 147 personnel on Republic Day Parade.**



- ✓ Captain Tania belongs to a family where men had served in the Army for three generations
- ✓ The girl from Punjab's Hoshiarpur, Tania, was the first woman officer to be a 'parade adjutant' in the Army Day parade in Delhi a few days ago
- ✓ Captain Gill's father served in 101 Medium Regiment (artillery), grandfather in the 14th Armed Regiment (Scinde Horse) and great-grandfather in the Sikh Regiment.
- ✓ An engineering graduate in electronics and telecommunications, Tania was commissioned into the Corps of Signals in 2017
- ✓ This year, an all-women CRPF team will display its daredevilry on motorcycles on Rajpath.
- ✓ There are 16 marching contingents, including 6 from the Army and 22 tableaux from various States and departments
- ✓ This year's parade will witness several firsts --
  - ✓ For the first time, PM Narendra Modi, chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat and the three Service chiefs will pay tributes to the fallen soldiers at the War Memorial, not at Amar Jawan Jyoti in India Gate
  - ✓ A major attraction at the parade will be the anti-satellite missile tested under Mission Shakti by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
  - ✓ The Army will showcase the recently inducted 155-mm Dhanush towed howitzer.
  - ✓ This is the first time Start Up India is participating at the Parade.
  - ✓ The Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) operating under Ministry of Commerce and Industry is planning to showcase tableau on Start Up India with the theme – Reach for the sky
  - ✓ The Indian Navy will showcase its tableau at the Republic Day parade under the theme - Indian Navy-Silent, Strong and Swift
  - ✓ The National War Memorial is located at the 'C' Hexagon near India Gate.
  - ✓ Inaugurated in February 2019, it was built in memory of 22,500 Indian soldiers who had laid down their lives for the country after Independence.
  - ✓ A new Amar Jawan Jyoti was also established there.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM) and Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany - have developed a new**

**class of material for use as cathode or positive electrode that can increase the lifetime and the performance of lithium-ion (Li-ion) batteries.**



- ✓ They were using a new cathode material, which is a complex compound that contains five or more metal ions in 'fixed' equal amounts.
- ✓ The researchers developed 'high entropy oxides' (HEO) or crystalline solid solution material containing the ions of five metals — manganese, cobalt, nickel, copper and zinc.
- ✓ While only oxygen ions occupy the anionic site or a negatively charged ion attracted to the anode, fluoride ions replaced some of the oxides to adjust the electrochemical properties.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

- **The Central Vigilance Commission - has appointed A.D.M. Chavali as a member in the Advisory Board for Banking & Financial Frauds.**



- ✓ He was the retired executive director of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
- ✓ The Advisory board is headed by T.M. Bhasin, ex-Vigilance Commissioner and former chairman-cum-managing director of Indian Bank.

## **AWARDS**

- **Former IPS officer Kumar Munnan Singh - has been selected for the first-ever 'Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar' for his contribution in the field of disaster management in the individual category.**



- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5 lakh along with a certificate
- ✓ The Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre in Uttarakhand, an organisation working in the field of natural calamity relief, has been selected in the institution category
- ✓ Established in 2006, the centre will be given a certificate and a cash prize of ₹51 lakh
- ✓ The award is announced every year on January 23, the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.
- ✓ It was constituted last year by the Government
- ✓ The award aims to recognise the exemplary work done by individuals and institutions in India in the field of disaster management.
- ✓ As many as 330 nominations were received this year and the final decision on the awards was taken by the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Kumar Munnan Singh was appointed as a founder member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in 2005 in recognition of his commendable work during the destructive 2004 Tsunami.
- ✓ He has also served as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau
- ✓ In order to commemorate Netaji's 123<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary this year, the Union Government is inaugurating a temple at Varanasi in the name of Netaji with a Dalit woman as a chief priest.
- ✓ The prayers are to be performed to Bharat Mata at the temple.

## SPORTS

- **Rowing Federation of India – has lifted rower Dattu Bhokanal's two-year suspension on January 23.**
- ✓ Bhokanal was banned on charges of leaving 'mid-way' in a 2018 Asian Games event.



- ✓ The move follows the intervention of the Indian Olympic Association president Narinder Batra.
- ✓ Bhokanal was a member of the Indian quartet that won a gold in the men's quadruple sculls event in the Asian Games but later left the single sculls race midway
- ✓ He was banned by the RFI (Rowing Federation of India) in March, 2019

# RANKINGS

- **India's ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index, 2019 - has dropped from 78 to 80 compared to the previous year**
- ✓ The Corruption Perceptions index was released by Transparency International on January 23 during the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos

## Status check

The Corruption Perceptions Index uses a scale of zero (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). The global average for 2019 is 43

Country	Score in 2019	Rank in 2019	Change in rank from '18
Denmark	87	1	0
New Zealand	87	1	1
U.K.	77	12	-1
U.S.	69	23	-1
India	41	80	-2
China	41	80	7
Brazil	35	106	-1
Pakistan	32	120	-3
Russia	28	137	1
Bangladesh	26	146	3
Somalia	9	180	0

- ✓ India has scored 41 out of 100 this year, same like last year.
- ✓ India shared the 80<sup>th</sup> position along with Benin, China, Morocco, and Ghana.
- ✓ India's neighboring country Pakistan was ranked 120 on the list.
- ✓ The index ranking is based on 13 surveys and expert assessments to measure public sector corruption in 180 countries and territories, giving each a score from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- ✓ According to the Global Corruption Perception Index, two-third countries' score is less than 50 and the average score is 43.
- ✓ The top ranked countries are New Zealand and Denmark, with scores of 87 each, followed by Finland (86), Singapore (85), Sweden (85) and Switzerland (85).
- ✓ The bottom countries are Syria, South Sudan and Somalia with scores 13, 12 and 9 respectively.

# NATIONAL DAY

## ➤ National Girl Child Day – January 24



- ✓ The observance of the day is to create awareness about discrimination against girl children and to provide continuous support and all required facilities to the girls in the country
- ✓ Also, the day highlights the importance of health, education and nutrition of girl child in the welfare of the society.
- ✓ The day was first observed in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Government of India
- ✓ The Government of India has initiated National Girl Child Day to bring equality in society as a campaign.
- ✓ The International day of girl child is celebrated on October 11 every year.

