

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 25 AND 26, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- The 2nd edition of Global Investors Meet (GIM) 2019 – concluded on January 24 – with Rs 3 lakh crore of investment and promised jobs for one million people in the state



GIM IN NUMBERS

The MoUs include investment commitments from companies from countries like Japan, Korea and Germany, the CM said



POLICIES IN PIPELINE

TEXTILE | The government is working on a new policy for the textile industry. "A new integrated textile policy will be unveiled soon. It will have incentives for the sector," said textile minister OS Manian

ELECTRONIC MANUFACTURING | "With an eye on capturing 'at least 10%' of the \$1-trillion electronics market opportunity in India, a draft policy is almost ready and we are hoping to release it in February," said IT secretary Santhosh Babu. The policy will be in line with the National Electronics Policy 2.0

RENEWABLE ENERGY | TN Solar Energy Policy has been drafted and finalised. It will be released in a week, said state energy secretary Md Nasimuddin. Apart from incentives for solar power projects, the policy will also speak about rooftop solar power projects

Sector	No. of MoUs	Investment commitment (₹ Cr)	Employment potential
Major industry (manufacturing)	146	1,54,648	4,73,871
MSME (small businesses)	12,360	32,206	2,90,057
Housing	70	57,381	92,526
Energy	15	40,700	14,235
IT	10	11,674	1,66,171
Higher Education	50	1,013	6,797
Tourism	8	642	1,284
School Education	3	157	1,200
Agriculture	2	2,010	10,000

- ✓ MSME's alone account for 11% of the total investments, a significant increase from 7% in the inaugural GIM
- ✓ Large companies like Hyundai, PSA Peugeot, Saint Gobain, Eicher accounted for half of the promised investments
- ✓ Tangedco plans to start Floating solar plants on 3 dam reservoirs in the state – 100MW capacity in Mettur dam, 100MW in Bhavanisagar dam and 50 MW in Vaigai dam (At present, there is one floating solar power project at Rihand dam in Uttar Pradesh with 50MW capacity)

- ✓ The Government had signed a Rs 2000 crore MoU with GSE Avigna, an Indo-French venture – to set up a foodpark-cum-terminal market near Sriperumbudur
- ✓ Manufacturing sector dominated the proceedings followed by MSMEs, Housing, Tourism, Agriculture, Higher education and School education besides Energy and IT
- ✓ The 1st edition of GIM, organized in 2015 by the former Chief Minister J Jayalithaa, saw promise of Rs 2.42 lakh crore in investments and employment to 4.7 lakh people
- ✓ The next GIM is scheduled to take place in 2021

➤ **The Tamil Nadu Government – had changed the question pattern for the coming Class XII board exams**

- ✓ It had replaced multiple-choice questions in Part-A (one-mark questions) with ‘fill-in-the-blanks’, ‘match-the-following’, assertion-reason and similar questions
- ✓ The Government had earlier reduced the marks per subject from 200 to 100 and the exam duration by 30 minutes

➤ **Seven from Tamil Nadu get prestigious Padma shri award this year**



- ✓ The awardees are –
 - ✓ Bangaru Adigalar, Melmaruvathur-based spiritual sect founder
 - ✓ Sharath Kamal, Table tennis player
 - ✓ Nartaki Natraj, Transgender Bharatanatyam dancer
 - ✓ Madurai Chinna Pillai, Social worker and micro finance pioneer
 - ✓ Dr R V Ramani, Ophthalmologist
 - ✓ Anandan Sivamani, Drummer
 - ✓ Dr Ramaswami Venkataswami, Plastic surgeon expert
- ✓ Apart from these seven, 2 Tamil Cine exponents from other state-residences were also selected, namely Prabhu Deva, Actor (Karnataka) and Shankar Mahadevan (Maharashtra)
- ✓ Another awardee, Dr Mammen Chandy, is a resident of Vellore, though working in the Tata medical Centre in Kolkata
- ✓ No one from the state has been awarded Padma Vibhushan or Padma Bhushan this year

➤ **The Union Ministry of Environment – approved Rs 5,720 crore ‘complete-overhaul’ package for Tuticorin V O Chidambaram post – to meet the increasing volume of traffic**

- ✓ The plan includes deepening the harbor basin and approach channel to handle 15.2 m draft vessels, widening of port entrance, construction of 6 births and upgradation of existing berths 1 to 9 and north cargo berth I and II

➤ **Indian Coast Guard – is planning to deploy Long-range ‘Dhruv helicopters’ at the Chennai Coast Guard Air station**



- ✓ At present, the Chennai station has Chetak helicopters and Dornier aircrafts
 - ✓ The latest Dhruv Mk III can cover almost the entire areas of Chennai city and most of the maritime area where its ICG ships operate on the south-eastern seaboard
 - ✓ Range capabilities
 - ✓ Dhruv – 600 km
 - ✓ Chetak – 200 km to 290 km and can be operated from ships
 - ✓ Earlier in March 2017, HAL signed the contract with the Coast Guard to supply Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) like Dhruv to boost low intensity maritime operations and coastal security capabilities
 - ✓ The first Green helicopter was earlier successfully tested in June 2018
 - ✓ The first Dhruv squadron of the ICG was commissioned in March 2002 and ICG Air Enclave, Goa
- **Chennai’s Apollo Hospitals – to get South East Asia’s first Proton Cancer therapy Centre**



- ✓ The newly built Apollo Proton Centre was inaugurated by Vice-President, Venkaiah Naidu
- ✓ It has a particle accelerator, cyclotron, which bombards positively charged magnet-controlled proton particles that target and kill cancer cells
- ✓ The highly controlled photon beams are recommended as standard care in European countries for all children who require radiation
- ✓ The facility can be used for the treatment of tumours in brain, breast, oesophagus, eye, abdominal organs, head and neck, liver, lung, lymphoma, prostate, soft tissue and spine
- ✓ The treatment is expected to cost between Rs 35 to Rs 40 lakh with most insurance companies now covering the therapy

- **Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister for Science, technology and earth sciences and environment, forests and climate change – inaugurated 3 DST Technology Mission centres in Chennai on January 25, 2019**
- The centres, set up at a cost of Rs 50 crores, will bring together researchers from premier institutes, laboratories and Government departments to undertake Research & Development (R&D) work in the field of Solar energy and water management



- ✓ One of the 3 centres is a test bed for solar thermal desalination solutions, established by IIT, Madras and Empereal KGDS in Narippaiyur in Ramanathapuram district – to develop customized technological solution to address water challenges in the arid coastal village
- ✓ The other 2 centres, including DST-IITM Solar Energy Harnessing centre, will focus on R&D activities like silicon solar cells and solar thermal technologies
- ✓ The last centre, the DST-IITM Water Innovation Centre for Sustainable Treatment, reuse and Management of Efficient, Affordable and Synergistic Solutions (SUTRAM) of Easy Water – will undertake research and training programmes in waste water management and treatment systems
- ✓ Led by IIT Madras, 8 partnering institutions like CSIR-CLRI and Indian Institute of Toxicological Research, Lucknow will be conducting research in the related areas
- **Tamil Nadu's 2 Police officers – named for the President's police medal for 'Distinguished' Service on this year's Republic day**
- ✓ The 2 officers honoured for their services are –
 - ✓ B Govindasamy, Deputy superintendent of police, Special investigation unit, Trichy
 - ✓ E Sorimuthu, Inspector of police, special task force, Erode
- ✓ Apart from these officers, 21 police officers were awarded President's police medal for 'Meritorious' service

- **The Tamil translation of Andrei Makine’s ‘La vie d’un home inconnu’ (The Life of an unknown man) – was awarded the 2nd Romain Rolland prize for literary translation – at the ongoing Jaipur Literature festival**
- ✓ It was translated by S R Kichenamourty, former head of the French department of Pondicherry University
- ✓ The award was presented by the French ambassador Alexandre Ziegler
- **Coca-Cola, beverage major – launches a TN-focused fizzy grape drink ‘Colour’ under its Minute Maid brand**



- ✓ The launch is part of Coca-Cola’s strategy to develop products that suite the specific palate of regional consumers
- ✓ It is also an addition to the company’s portfolio under its ‘fruit circular economy’ program, wherein it helps local farmers with stable demand
- ✓ The drink is made from grapes sourced locally from farmers based in South India

- **Tamil Nadu – gets 2 awards, one for the State and another for its district Thiruvannamalai, in the National Girl Child Day celebrations on January 24, 2019**



- ✓ The celebrations were held in New Delhi as part of “Beti Bachao Beti Padoo” (BBBP) scheme of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
- ✓ The State won praise for bringing out a guide book on BBBP in Tamil



- ✓ Nandhini Nagaraji, a 13-year old girl from Thiruvannmalai and who was the face of ‘No to Child marriage’ campaign in the district, had received praise when she shared her journey at the award function

NATIONAL

- **Two new judges, Justice S Abdul Nazeer and Justice Ashok Bhushan – join 5-judge Ayodhya Bench for the January 29 hearing of the 2.77 acre Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid disputed land, pending in SC since 2011**



- ✓ Earlier Justice U U Lalit and Justice N V Ramana recused from the case, citing personal reasons
- ✓ The bench is led by the CJI, Ranjan Gogoi and consists of other two members Justice S A Bobde and Justice D Y Chandrachud
- **Southern Railway – has started recruitment under ‘Sports quota’ category after a gap of 4 years**
- ✓ It had not recruited a single person since 2014-15 under its allotment quota

PERSONALITIES

- **The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) – has filed a case against Chanda Kochhar, former ICICI Bank MD & CEO, her husband Deepak Kochhar and Videocon group MD Venugopal N Dhoot – for alleged irregularities in six high-value loans worth Rs 1,875 crore**



- ✓ They were charged with criminal conspiracy, cheating and corruption for entering into collusion for the total loans worth Rs 3,250 crore to Videocon group
- ✓ Chanda, a Padma Bhushan awardee, was on the committees which sanctioned Rs 300 crore to Videocon International Electronics Ltd (VIEL) and Rs 750 crore to Videocon industries Ltd (VIL) – in lieu of the alleged financial favours
- ✓ The allegations had led to Kochhar’s exit from ICICI bank last year

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- ISRO – had registered its first successful launch for 2019 – after PSLV-C44 launched 740 kg-Microsat R into a 277.2 km orbit along with Kalamsat – from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 11.37 pm on January 24, 2019



- ✓ Microsat R, an imaging satellite for military application, was developed by DRDO

APPOINTMENTS

- Raja Krishnamoorthi, a prominent Indian-American Congressman – has been named as the Chairman of a panel on Economic and consumer policy in the United States



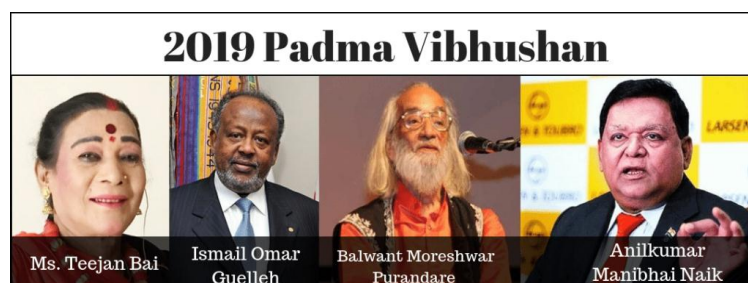
- ✓ Thus, he becomes the first ever member of South asian descent to chair a congressional committee or subcommittee
- ✓ He will be heading the House oversight committee's subcommittee on Economic and consumer policy

AWARDS

- **The Government – announced Bharat Ratna, the nation’s highest civilian honour for –**
 - ✓ **Pranab Mukherjee, former President**
 - ✓ **Bhupen hazarika, late Assamese singer and**
 - ✓ **Nanaji Deshmukh, late social activist and RSS veteran**



- ✓ Bharat Ratna is being conferred after a gap of 3 years, the last being in 2015 awarded to former Prime Minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Banaras Hindu University founder Madan Mohan Malviya
 - ✓ Pranab, who was the 13th President of India and served from 2012 until 2017, has been a veteran Congressman and has also served under Indira Gandhi. He was also finance minister under the prime ministership of Manmohan Singh
 - ✓ Nanaji Deshmukh, who died at the age of 94 in 2012, was a member of the Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1979 representing the Balrampur in Uttar Pradesh. He also served as a nominated member of the Rajya Sabha from 1999 to 2005
 - ✓ Bhupen Hazarika, legendary singer-composer from Assam who died in 2011, was also conferred with the award
- **The Government – announced 112 entries in the Padma Awards for this year**
 - ✓ It includes 4 Padma Vibhushan, 14 Padma Bhushan and 94 Padma Shri
 - ✓ This year’s awardee includes 21 women, 3 posthumous winners and 11 persons from the category of foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI
 - ✓ It also has one transgender, Nartaki Natraj, a Bharatanatyam exponent of international repute, who was named in the Padma Shri award list
 - ✓ Padma Vibhushan awardees



- ✓ Teejan Bai, folk singer (Chhatisgarh)
- ✓ Ismail Omar Guelleh, Djibouti President
- ✓ Anil Manibhai Naik, L&T Group Chairman (Maharashtra)
- ✓ Balwant Moreshwar Purandare, Marathi theatre artist (Maharashtra)

- ✓ Padma Bhushan (14 Awardees)
- ✓ John Chambers (Foreigner) — Trade & Industry-Technology — USA
- ✓ Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa — Public Affairs — Punjab
- ✓ Pravin Gordhan (Foreigner) — Public Affairs — South Africa
- ✓ Mahashay Dharam Pal Gulati — Trade & Industry-Food Processing — Delhi
- ✓ Darshan Lal Jain — Social Work — Haryana
- ✓ Ashok Laxmanrao Kukade — Medicine-Affordable Healthcare — Maharashtra
- ✓ Kariya Munda — Public Affairs — Jharkhand
- ✓ Budhaditya Mukherjee — Art-Music-Sitar — West Bengal
- ✓ Mohanlal Viswanathan Nair — Art-Acting-Film — Kerala
- ✓ Nambi Narayan — Science & Engineering-Space — Kerala
- ✓ Kuldip Nayar (Posthumous) — Literature & Education (Journalism) — Delhi
- ✓ Bachendri Pal — Sports-Mountaineering — Uttarakhand
- ✓ V K Shunglu — Civil Service — Delhi
- ✓ 14. Hukumdev Narayan Yadav — Public Affairs — Bihar

- **Lance Naik, Nazir Ahmad Wani, a militant-turned-jawan – was posthumously conferred the country's highest peacetime gallantry medal, Ashoka Chakra on Republic Day this year**



- ✓ Nazir joined the Territorial Army '162 Infantry Battalion' of Jammu and Kashmir in 2004 and then went on to win 2 Sena medals for bravery in 2007 and 2017
- ✓ He laid down his life heroically by killing 2 terrorists and injuring one in a major counter-terrorism operation in which a total of six terrorists were killed in November 2018 at Hirapur village near Batagund in Shoplan district

OBITUARY

➤ Krishna Sobti, eminent Hindi author and essayist (93 years)



- ✓ Sobti, born in 1925, was known for writing about issues of female identity and sexuality
- ✓ Mitro Marjani, Zindaginama and Surajmukhi Andhere ke were some of her famous works
- ✓ She received prestigious honours like Sahitya Akademi (for her book Zindaginama) and Jnanpith awards
- ✓ She was also offered Padma Bhushan, which she had declined
- ✓ She had also written under the name Hashmat

SPORTS

➤ Pantsulaia Levan, Georgian Grandmaster – won the 11th Chennai Open International Grandmaster tournament in Chennai



- ✓ This was Levan's second successive win after he had won the Delhi open a fortnight ago
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's M Pranesh, secured his maiden International Master (IM) norm during the tournament

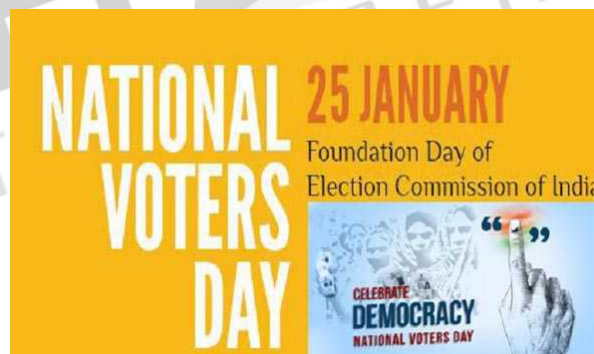
- **Former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir, Indian football team captain and all-time top scorer Sunil Chhetri, Table tennis sensation Sharath Kamal, wrestler Bajrang Punia were among the recipients for the Padma Shri awards announced on the eve of the Republic Day**



- ✓ Amongst other sportspersons to receive the Padma Shree are Harika Dronavalli (Chess), Prashanti Singh (Basketball), Sharath Kamal (Table Tennis), Bombayla Devi Laishram (Archery), Ajay Thakur (Kabaddi)
- ✓ Veteran women mountaineer Bachendri Pal was honored with the Padma Bhushan, the second highest civilian award

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **National Voters Day – January 25**



- ✓ The day is observed in the country to encourage more young voters taking part in the electoral process
- ✓ The observance of the day has been started from January 25, 2011 to mark the Election Commission's foundation day in 1950
- ✓ Theme 2019 – 'No voter to be left behind'

