

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 28, 2019**

**TAMIL NADU**

- ◆ **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – lays the foundation stone for the new AIIMS to come up at Thoppur, Madurai on January 27**



- ✓ It will be developed at a cost of more than Rs 1,200 crore under the 'Prime Minister Swasthya Suraksha Yojana'
  - ✓ After laying the foundation stone, he also inaugurated, via video conference, three super-specialty hospitals in Madurai, Tirunelveli and Thanjavur, which have been established at a cost of Rs 150 crore each
- ◆ **Tamil Nadu Government – to establish 'MSME trade and investment promotion bureau (M-TIB)'**
    - ✓ It will be an autonomous body facilitating single window clearance for MSMEs
    - ✓ The MSMEs or small businesses provide employment opportunities to more than 113 lakh persons with a total investment of Rs 1,93,704 crore in Tamil Nadu as on March 2018
    - ✓ The Secretary of MSME, Dharmendra Pratap Yadav would be the chairperson of M-TIB
    - ✓ The bureau would be led by an IAS officer with representatives from Tamil Nadu small and tiny industries, association, federation of Indian export organization and Engineering export promotion council of India and other similar organizations
    - ✓ A dedicated website would also be created to profile the MSME sector and its products
    - ✓ It would also conduct applied research on MSMEs department policy and administration, giving feedback to the Government

◆ **A rake in Pearl City Express (Chennai-Tuticorin) – was upgraded under the Railway Ministry's 'Project Utkrishi'**



- ✓ The project was designed to improve the condition of coaches running in mail/express trains
- ✓ Thus, it becomes the first rake to be upgraded under the project in Madurai division in the state
- ✓ The rake, upgraded at Rs 60 lakh, had undertaken its first trip on January 26

◆ **The new 'Thiruvalluvar' Statue – is all set to be installed at the 10<sup>th</sup> World Tamil Conference in Chicago in July 2019**



சிகாகோவில் ஐஓஓ மாநாடு நடைபெறவுள்ள 10 ஆவது உலகத் தமிழ் ஆராய்ச்சி மாநாட்டில் நிறுவப்பட்டவுள்ள திருவள்ளுவர் சிலைபுடன், செய்தித்துறை அமைச்சர் கடம்பூர் ராஜூ, விஜிபி உலகத் தமிழ்ச் சங்க நிறுவனர் வி. ஜி. சந்திரசேகரம், தமிழ் வளர்ச்சித்துறை இயக்குநர் கே. விசயராசாவன், தீபிபி வள்ளிநாயகம் உள்ளிட்டோர்.

- ✓ It was developed by VGP World Tamil Sangam and so far the Thiruvalluvar statue has been installed in 43 places all around the world

## **SCHEMES**

◆ **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath - launched the Rs 50000-crore farm debt-waiver scheme named 'Jai Kisan Rin Mukti Yojana'**



- ✓ It would benefit 55 lakh small and marginal farmers in the state

◆ **Madhya Pradesh – announced ‘Yuva Swabhiman Yojana’ scheme**



**MP Yuva  
Swabhiman  
Yojana 2019**

- ✓ It aims to provide 100 days of employment for the unemployed youth from the economically weaker sections of the society in urban areas

**NATIONAL**

◆ **The Supreme Court – cancels the Ayodhya case hearing by a 5-judge bench scheduled for January 29**

- ✓ The 5-judge bench was reconstituted on January 25 following the recusal of Justice UU Lalit from hearing the matter
- ✓ The cancellation follows the non-availability of Judge S A Bobde on the said day for the hearing
- ✓ Other members of the bench are CJI, Ranjan Gogoi and Justices D Y Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer

◆ **India’s fastest and first engineless train, Train 18 – to be named ‘Vande Bharat Express’**



- ✓ The 16-coach train will run between Delhi and Varanasi at a maximum speed of 160 kmph
- ✓ It is expected to be flagged off by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi soon
- ✓ The train was manufactured in just 18 months at a budget of Rs 97 crore by Integral Coach Factory, Chennai
- ✓ It was rolled out on October 29, 2018 by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani at the Chennai’s Integral Coach Factory (ICF)
- ✓ It is considered as a replacement for Shatabdi Express, introduced in 1988

◆ **The Election Commission of India - launches Voter Awareness Forum (VAF) in New Delhi on January 16, 2019**

- ✓ Similar VAFs were launched by the Chief Electoral Officers in the state capitals and by District Election Officers in the districts simultaneously
- ✓ The VAFs are informal forums created to generate awareness around the electoral process by means of various activities like discussions, quizzes, competitions and other engaging activities
- ✓ The voter awareness forum is a part of the Electoral Literacy Club (ELC) programme of the Election Commission of India
- ✓ The ELC programme, launched on the 8th National Voters Day on January 25, 2018, envisages setting up of Electoral Literacy Club in every educational institution and election booth

◆ **President of India – gives his assent to ‘The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Act, 2019’ on January 10, 2019**

- ✓ The bill, notified in the Gazette of India, seeks to abolish the no-detention policy in schools
- ✓ The Lok Sabha had already passed the bill in July 2018
- ✓ It amends ‘The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009’ to all children aged 6-14 years
- ✓ According to the Union HRD Minister, over 25 states favour abolishing the no-detention policy
- ✓ Key Provisions of the bill
- ✓ As per the bill, it would be left to the states to decide whether to continue the no-detention policy
- ✓ The bill provides for regular examination in classes V and VIII
- ✓ If a child fails in these exams, the amendment bill seeks to provide him or her additional opportunity to take a re-examination within two months after undergoing the remedial teaching
- ✓ If the students still do not pass the exam, the state government may decide to detain them.

◆ **Union Ministry of Culture - announces The Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018**

**Awardees**

Year	Awardees	Contribution
2015	Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari	Contribution in rural development, education, development of natural resources.

2016	Akshaya Patra Foundation and Sulabh International	Akshaya Patra Foundation was chosen for its contribution in providing mid-day meals to millions of children across India
		Sulabh International was chosen for its contribution in improving the condition of sanitation in India and emancipation of manual scavengers.
2017	Ekal Abhiyan Trust	Contribution in providing education for rural and tribal children in remote areas pan India, rural empowerment, gender and social equality
2018	Yohei Sasakawa	For his contribution in Leprosy Eradication in India and across the world

- ✓ The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted in the year 1995 on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- ✓ The Award for every year is selected by a Jury under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister
- ✓ Julius K Nyerere, former Tanzanian President, was the first recipient of the award in 1995

◆ **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – inaugurated the Kollam bypass in Kerala**



- ✓ The Kollam Bypass on the National Highway-66 is the first National Highway project in the country taken up on a 50:50 Centre-State partnership
- ✓ The 13-kilometre-long two-lane bypass is constructed at a cost of Rs 352 crore

◆ **The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment - has drafted a 5-year action plan - for addressing the problem of drug and substance abuse in the country**

- ✓ It is titled as 'The National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR), 2018 to 2023'
- ✓ It involves the education, de-addiction and rehabilitation of affected individuals and their families
- ✓ A steering committee would be constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Social Justice Ministry to monitor the effective implementation of the NAPDDR

## COMMITTEES

### ◆ **Ministry of Finance - constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on issues relating to lottery**

- ✓ The decision to form the panel was taken at the 32<sup>nd</sup> GST council meet held on January 10, 2019 at New Delhi



- ✓ The GoM will have Sudhir Mungantiwar, Finance Minister, Maharashtra as its convenor with 7 other ministerial members
- ✓ The committee is expected to examine issues related to the enforcement of legal framework in preventing tax evasion on lottery and suggest appropriate tax rate to address the problem

### ◆ **The Ministry of Finance - constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) for boosting the Real Estate Sector under the GST regime.**

- ✓ The GoM was formed after the decision made at the 32<sup>nd</sup> GST council meet held on January 10, 2019 at New Delhi
- ✓ The Secretary of the GoM will be Manish Sinha, Joint Secretary (TRU-II), Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- ✓ Nitin Patel, the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat will be the convener of 6-member ministerial panel



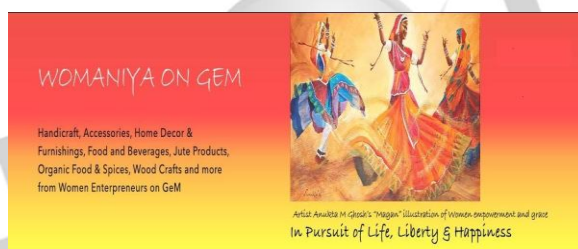
- ✓ The panel will analyze the challenges for boosting the real estate sector under GST regime

◆ **Government – launches 2 new science channels - DD Science and India Science**

- ✓ It was launched by The Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with Doordarshan (DD) and Prasar Bharati

DD Science	India Science
The programme will have a one-hour time slot on the Doordarshan National channel.	It will be a 24x7 internet-based channel, which will be made available on any internet-enabled device.
It will be telecasted from Monday to Saturday from 5 pm to 6 pm	It will offer live, scheduled play and video-on-demand services.

◆ **The Union Government - launched the ‘Womaniya on Government e Marketplace (GeM)’ on January 14, 2019**



- ✓ It is an initiative to enable women entrepreneurs and Women Self-Help Groups (WSHGs) to sell handicrafts, handloom, accessories, and other products directly to Government departments and institutions
- ✓ Artist Anukta M Ghosh’s artwork “Magan”, an illustration of women empowerment and grace, is the face of Womaniya on GeM
- ✓ It can be accessed at ‘gem.gov.in/womaniya’
- ✓ Government e Marketplace (GeM) is a fully government-owned company setup under the aegis of Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry for procurement of common use goods and services by Government ministries and departments
- ✓ It was set up in 2016 to enhance transparency and efficiency in the public procurement of goods and services

◆ **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting – to increase advertisement rates by 11% to Private TV Channels**

- ✓ The revised rates were announced on the basis of a Review Committee constituted by the Ministry which submitted its report on January 1, 2019

# CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

## ◆ **1<sup>st</sup> ever India-Central Asia Dialogue – concluded in Uzbekistan on January 12-13, 2019**

- ✓ It saw the participation of five Central Asia nations, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan



- ✓ The Indian side was represented by Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj
- ✓ Sushma Swaraj reiterated India's support and commitment to security and stability of Afghanistan along with an inclusive peace process

## ◆ **9th International Micro irrigation conference – concluded in Aurangabad, Maharashtra**

- ✓ Theme 2019 - "Micro Irrigation and Modern Agriculture"



- ✓ The conference aimed to create awareness about the use of Micro Irrigation on a large scale



## ◆ **Global Aviation Summit 2019 – concludes in Mumbai, Maharashtra**

- ✓ Theme 2019 - 'Flying for all-especially the next 6 Billion'



- ✓ Inauguration - Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Civil Aviation
- ✓ Organisers - Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airport Authority of India (AAI) in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)
- ✓ Partner organisations - The Union Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Civil Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), Airports Council International (ACI), International Air Transport Association (IATA)
- ✓ The 2-day summit, began on January 15, discussed about the various issues faced by the Aviation Industry

## **PERSONALITIES**

### ◆ **S P Gupta, a retired IAS officer – quits as the Chairman of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)**



- ✓ He cited the reason as his non-availability on a full-time scale for the discharge of his responsibilities
- ✓ Earlier, several objections were raised against his functioning by the Union Minister Maneka Gandhi and several animal rights activities
- ✓ He was against the centre's recent draft notification to ban animals in circuses and wrote to the ministry asking it not to take such steps without taking all stakeholders, including the AWBI, on board
- ✓ He has been at loggerheads with Maneka-led non-governmental animal rights organization, People for Animals (PFA) and other groups ever since he joined the board as its chairman in December 2017
- ✓ The AWBI is the centre's apex body to ensure that animal welfare laws (Prevention of cruelty to Animal Act, 1960) in the country are followed

## DEFENCE

### ◆ Ministry of Defence - launched a mobile app 'RDP India 2019' on the Republic Day

- ✓ It was launched to provide the highlights of the Republic Day event to the general public all over the world
- ✓ The app contained information about the Parade on Rajpath, New Delhi with provision for the 'live streaming'
- ✓ It also includes the details of Order of the March, details of the tableaux presented by different States and Ministries, children cultural performances, fly past and names of recipients of Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2019

## AWARDS

### ◆ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi - was conferred with the first-ever Philip Kotler Presidential Award on January 14, 2019



- ✓ The Award focuses on the triple bottom-line of 3Ps - 'People, Profit and Planet'
- ✓ The Philip Kotler Presidential Award has been named after Professor Philip Kotler, a world renowned Professor of Marketing at Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management
- ✓ Professor Kotler is hailed as "the world's foremost expert on the strategic practice of marketing"

# SPORTS

## ◆ **Novak Djokovic, World No 1 (Serbia) – wins a record 7<sup>th</sup> Australian Open Tennis Championships**



- ✓ In the final played in Melbourne, he defeated World No 2, Rafael Nadal (Spain) in straight sets to win his 3<sup>rd</sup> slam title in a row
- ✓ Djokovic now has 15 Grand slam wins, just behind Nadal (17) and Roger Federer (20)
- ✓ He has more Australia open titles than any male player now, ahead of Federer and Roy Emerson (6)

## ◆ **India's Saina Nehwal – wins the Indonesia Masters Badminton Championships**



- ✓ She won her 1<sup>st</sup> BWF title in 2 years after injured opponent, Carolina Marin conceded the final
- ✓ The eighth-seeded player had won the last title in Malaysia in 2017
- ✓ Last year, Saina had lost to Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei in the final
- ✓ In the Men's singles final, Denmark's Anders Antonsen defeated the top seed Kento Momota of Japan to emerge as the champion

◆ **Magnus Carlsen – won his 7<sup>th</sup> Tata Steel Chess title at Wijk Aan Zee, Netherlands**



- ✓ Anish Giri of Netherlands finished second and Viswanathan Anand finished in the third spot followed by Vidit Gujrathi at the fourth spot
- ✓ Carlsen had successfully defended his world title against Fabiano Caruana in November 2018 and went on to win the World blitz crown last year

◆ **Indian national cricket team's captain Virat Kohli and coach Ravi Shastri - received the honorary membership of the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) for their contribution to the sport of cricket**



- ✓ Recently, the Indian team had defeated Australia 2-1 in the four-match Test series after 1947
- ✓ The only other international cricketers to be granted the honorary membership of the SCG were the iconic Sachin Tendulkar and Brian Lara of West Indies

◆ **Malaysia - was stripped of the right to host the 2019 World Para Swimming Championships - for refusing to allow Israeli athletes to take part in the event**

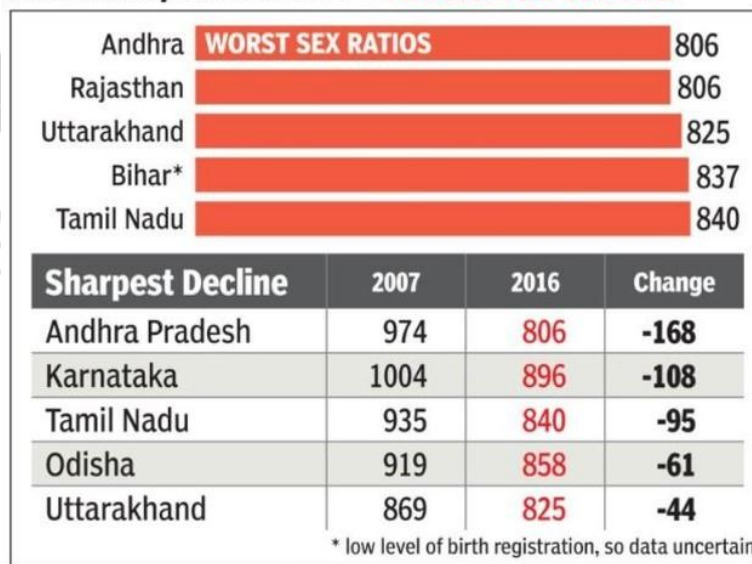
- ✓ The championships were the qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics
- ✓ They were due to take place in Kuching, Malaysia during July 29-August 4, 2019

## REPORT

◆ **Sex ratio at birth– Data released by the Registrar General of India from the Civil Registration System (CRS) between the years 2007 to 2016 (10 years)**

- ✓ In India, Chhattisgarh was the only large state to record a higher SRB of 980, while Kerala - which has always fared well on this chart - followed with 954 in 2016
- ✓ Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan had the worst sex ratio at birth (SRB) of 806 in 2016
- ✓ It was followed by Uttarakhand at 825, Bihar at 837 and Tamil Nadu at 840
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was 6<sup>th</sup> from the bottom with its ratio falling from 935 to 840 between 2007 and 2016

### ANDHRA, K'TAKA SEE BIGGEST FALLS



- ✓ The All-India SRB remains at 877
- ✓ Telangana has a SRB of 881 from the earlier 954 in 2013 when the state was formed
- ✓ In Karnataka, it fell from 1004 to 896
- ✓ SRB is the number of girls born every 1,000 boys

