

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 28, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Indian Red Cross Society – to celebrate its centenary year on January 28, 2020.



- ✓ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit will be the chief guest and will inaugurate the celebrations at Kalaivanar Arangam in Chennai.
- ✓ On the occasion, the Governor will distribute aid to selected homes for orphans, the aged and mentally ill across Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ Various welfare programmes for the benefit of the poor people in the districts would be organized, as part of the celebrations in the State
- ✓ A commemorative special postal cover will also be released on the occasion.

STATES

- The Andhra Pradesh assembly - passed a statutory resolution to abolish the Legislative council by 133-0 on January 27
- ✓ The Opposition Telugu Desam Party, which has a majority in the Council, had already announced to boycott the proceedings.
- ✓ The move comes after the council refused to pass the YSRC government's bill to have three capitals in the state (AP Capital Region Development Authority Repeal Bill and Decentralization bill) and referred it to the select committee

IT'S OVER TO PARLIAMENT

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andhra Pradesh assembly clears statutory resolution to abolish legislative council with 133-0 majority 	<p>18 out of YSRC's 151 members failed to vote on the resolution in the crucial session</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ As per rules, statutory resolutions should be passed with 2/3 majority 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ TDP abstained from House in protest ➤ Resolution will now be sent to Centre seeking Parliamentary nod
<p>133 votes include the vote of lone Jana Sena member</p>	

- ✓ The council can be abolished only after both houses of Parliament approve the bill under Article 169 and the President gives his final nod.
 - ✓ Former CM of Andhra Pradesh, N T Rama Rao's government had first abolished the upper house in 1985.
 - ✓ It was current chief minister Y S Jaganmohan Reddy's father, Y S Rajasekhara Reddy who had revived it in 2007.
 - ✓ The Legislative Council is the upper house in the state legislature.
 - ✓ It is a permanent house, which means that it cannot be dissolved.
 - ✓ The Parliament is the sole authority that can provide for the abolishment/creation of a state legislative council
 - ✓ Assam was the first state to abolish its state legislative council in 1947
 - ✓ After Assam, West Bengal had abolished its legislative council in 1969 and Punjab abolished it in 1970
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu abolished it in 1986 followed by Jammu and Kashmir in 2019
 - ✓ Currently, five states viz., Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana have the bicameral legislature.
 - ✓ Article 169 of the constitution defines Legislative Council.
- **West Bengal - passed a resolution against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on January 27 to become the fourth non-BJP state to take the legislative route against the Act**
- ✓ As per the State Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, the law is "against the Constitution and humanity" and interrelated with NRC and NPR
 - ✓ West Bengal became the fourth state after Kerala, Punjab and Rajasthan to move the resolution against the CAA
 - ✓ The West Bengal state assembly had previously passed a similar resolution against NRC in September 2019.
 - ✓ Kerala was the first state to pass a resolution demanding the withdrawal of the CAA law on December 31, 2019.
 - ✓ Punjab became the second state to pass an anti-CAA resolution on January 17, 2020.
 - ✓ Rajasthan became the third state to oppose the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) on January 25, 2020
 - ✓ The Citizenship Amendment Act allows non-Muslim illegal migrants who came to India on or before December 31, 2014 to escape religious persecution in Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan to gain Indian citizenship
 - ✓ NPR is National Population Register, which was last updated in 2010 and the details were collected along with the Census of India, 2011.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre – signed a tripartite agreement with Assam government and Bodo representatives, including all factions of National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the All Bodo Students Union (ABSU)**
- ✓ The 'historic' pact provides for setting up of a commission to reconstitute the Bodo Territorial Areas District (BTAD)
- ✓ The new areas will include Bodo-dominated villages in the existing BTAD area and excluding villages with a predominantly non-tribal population
- ✓ BTAD in Assam is currently spread over the four districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri.



(L to R) Amit Shah, Assam CM Sonowal, minister H Biswa Sarma & BTC chief H Mohilary at signing of the agreement

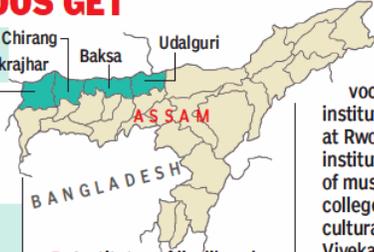
SALIENT POINTS

- Bodos to get ₹1,500 crore development package in 3 years
- General amnesty for cadres with non-heinous crimes
- Bodo to be Assam's associate official language

Accord ends 34 yrs armed & democratic campaign that killed 4,000 people

WHAT THE BODOS GET

- 1 A national sports university
- 2 A central university named after Upendra Nath Brahma, former president of All Bodo Students' Union
- 3 A railway coach factory
- 4 Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres at Udalguri, Baksa and Chirang
- 5 A cancer hospital and medical college at Tamulpur
- 6 A veterinary college at Kumarikata
- 7 A central university and RIIMS
- 8 Institutes of livelihood management and hotel management
- 9 A regional campus of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University
- 10 A Bodo memorial museum
- 11 A National Institute of Technology campus in Udalguri
- 12 Bodoland institute of rural development, polytechnic and vocational training institute, organic university at Rwota, paramedical institute, provincialisation of music and fine arts colleges, Birsa Munda cultural centre, Swami Vivekananda youth centre, Gorkha memorial, Bhupen Hazarika memorial multi-utility auditorium and a Mother Dairy plant
- 13 Centre to expedite the process of granting ST Hills status to Bodos living in the hill areas



*The Bodoland Territorial Area District will now be known as Bodoland Territorial Region

- ✓ It will be renamed as Bodo Territorial Region.
- ✓ Bodo language will be notified as an associate official language in Assam.
- ✓ As per the agreement, more than 1,500 NDFB cadres will surrender arms coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary on January 30 and disperse their armed outfits within the next one month.
- ✓ The Government will provide ₹5-lakh compensation to the kin of Bodo rebels, who were killed in their violent struggle.
- ✓ The surrendered Bodo cadres too will get a rehabilitation package
- ✓ This is the third Bodo agreement signed with the Bodo tribes so far in the last 27 years
- ✓ The Assam government will withdraw cases involving minor crimes against NDFB cadres, while cases involving more serious offences will be reviewed on a case-to-case basis.
- ✓ It has been agreed that a ₹1,500-crore economic package shall be released over the next 3 years for Bodo areas, with the Centre and the Assam government contributing equal measure
- ✓ Signatories to the accord — signed in the presence of home minister Amit Shah, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Assam minister Himanta Biswa

Sarma — included Bodo Territorial Council (BTC) chief executive member Hagrama Mohilary, representatives of All Bodo Students' Union (ABSU), United Boro People Organisation (UBPO) and other leaders of NDFB factions

- ✓ The violent struggle for the separate state of Bodoland, commenced in 1972, has claimed over 4,000 lives.
 - ✓ The first accord with All Bodo Students' Union was signed in 1993 leading to the creation of Bodoland Autonomous Council with limited political powers, which however, failed.
 - ✓ The second Bodo accord was signed in 2003 between Government of India and extremist group Bodo Liberation Tigers (BLT).
 - ✓ It resulted in the formation of Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) with four districts – Udalguri, Chirang, Baska and Kokrajhar, which are commonly called Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD).
 - ✓ The Bodo people are the largest tribe of Assam settled in the northern part of the Brahmaputra river valley, contributing around 28% of Assam's population
- **The Centre - offered for sale its 100% stake in Air India and AI Express — instead of 76% in the first attempt — and the entire 50% it owns in ground handling company AISATS, which is a joint venture with the Singapore-based ground handling company SATS Limited.**
- ✓ It targets to complete the selling process in the next five to six months.
 - ✓ This is the second attempt in the last two years by the government at privatising Air India.
 - ✓ On May 31, 2018, when the deadline for bids closed, not even a single private player had shown interest.
 - ✓ The buyer will get a total of 146 aircraft, 56% of which belongs to Air India, while the remaining are on lease

WHAT'S ON OFFER

- Air India+Air India Express and ground handling firm AI-SATS
- 146 aircraft, of which 82 are owned
- 56 Indian, 42 international destinations in network
 - 30,000 employees, with around 14,000 in Air India
 - ₹8,556cr losses in FY19
 - ₹88,781cr liabilities, including loans, losses and payments to vendors
 - ₹32,447cr debt and current liabilities to be taken over by acquirer
 - ₹56,334cr to be retained by government



New deal

In its new announcement, the government has eased the conditions for prospective buyers compared to its proposal in 2018. A look at what the national carrier has to offer:

- Air India's fleet consists of 146 aircraft, 56% of which are owned by it while the others are leased

- It holds 50% of the market share of international operations served by Indian carriers
- There are 4,400 airport slots in India and 3,300 in 42 foreign countries for at least 6 months
- The brand has three logos – Maharaja, Flying Swan and Sun

Air India has 9,617 permanent employees

Waiver of liabilities of ₹40,000 crore

2018	2020
76% stake sale in Air India	100% stake sale in Air India
Waiver of debt of ₹15,000 cr.	Waiver of debt of ₹40,000 crore
Lack of clarity on employee entitlements	Employee perks like free travel and medical facilities specified, along with annual estimate of the expenses incurred on them
Data room to be opened during financial bids	Data room and draft share purchase agreement can be accessed in the first round itself



- ✓ But the private player keen to buy Air India will also have to take on liabilities of ₹32,474 crore, which includes the airline's debt of ₹23,286 crore.
- ✓ The government will absorb ₹56,334 crore in liabilities, including ₹36,670 crore of debt.

- ✓ If the deal gets done, as early by July or August, Air India may have a new owner, who will need to retain the brand name AI.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The UK - unveiled an “unlimited” fast-track visa offer to attract top scientists, researchers and mathematicians from across the world**
- ✓ The “Global Talent” route, set to kick in from February 20, will have no bar on the number of people able to come to the UK from around the world, providing an accelerated path to settlement for scientists and researchers.
- ✓ It will double the number of eligible fellowships and will also ensure dependents of the visa holders to have full access to the local job market.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) - have developed a through-the-wall radar (TWR) built on a chip smaller than a grain of rice.**
- ✓ The team was led by Gaurab Banerjee, associate professor in the department of electrical communication engineering.
- ✓ The radar has a single transmitter, three receivers and an advanced frequency synthesiser.
- ✓ It was developed using Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) technology
- ✓ These kind of radars have wide-ranging applications in the defence sector, as well as in other areas such as healthcare, transportation and agriculture
- ✓ TWR helps to not only sense the presence of individuals behind a wall but also classify their actions and postures, in sharp contrast to conventional radars,.
- ✓ Hence, these types of radars can be employed for surveillance and detection of humans and objects in urban environments, and also for search and rescue operations in military situations or natural disasters.
- ✓ Although the chip was originally developed for airport security applications, the scientists are exploring applications in healthcare segment too, to monitor the health of elderly people.
- ✓ The research was funded by the IMPRINT programme of the government of India, with additional financial aid from the ministry of human resource development and the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ✓ Bharat Electronics Limited, a defence PSU, has been an active partner in this project.

SPORTS

- **Former Karnataka captain Vinay Kumar - reached the rare milestone of 500 first-class wickets in a match for Puducherry against Chandigarh in the Plate Group Ranji Trophy match at Chandigarh on January 27**
- ✓ Kumar played 31 ODIs, 9 T20I and 1 Test for Team India.
- ✓ Kumar led Karnataka to successive Ranji Trophy wins in 2013-14 and 2014-15
- ✓ The team had also won the Vijay Hazare Trophy and Irani Cup during the period.

- ✓ After playing 15 long years for Karnataka, the 35-year-old switched recently to Puducherry to make way for youngsters
- **Tamil Nadu's Nethra Kumanan - became the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Sailing World Cup after clinching a bronze medal in round 2 of the Hempel World Series which concluded in Miami, United States on January 25**



- ✓ Nethra finished behind Erika Reineke of the US and Greece's Vasileia Karachaliou who bagged gold and silver respectively in the laser radial category
- ✓ Nethra had represented India in 2014 and 2018 editions of the Asian Games
- ✓ She finished 4th in the laser radial category at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ Nethra will next play to qualify for the Olympics at the Asian sailing championships, which will be held in Abu Dhabi from March 15-22.
- **Five-time champion Viswanathan Anand - finished tied sixth in the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament at Wijk Aan Zee**



- ✓ Anand scored 6.5 points from 13 rounds and shared the sixth spot with three others.
- ✓ Fabiano Caruana of United States won the title and matched the record winning score of 10 points from 13 rounds.
- ✓ Since 1980, when the event became a 13-round competition, only Garry Kasparov (1999) and Magnus Carlsen (2013) have won by scoring 10 points.
- ✓ In the Challengers category, Spain's David Anton Guijarro won the title
- ✓ India's Surya Shekhar Ganguly finished fifth while Nihal Sarin shared the sixth spot

RANKINGS

- **India - is now ranked at second spot after global leader China in terms of smartphone units shipped, as per a recent data from Counterpoint Research.**
- ✓ The aggressive expansion of Chinese smartphone-makers in India was the main reason in overtaking the US to become the second largest smartphone market in the world.
- ✓ India had shipped around 158 million smartphones in 2019 to beat US shipments of 153 million in the same year.
- ✓ A host of Chinese brands — comprising Xiaomi, Vivo, OnePlus and others — together held a record 72% share of the Indian market in 2019 compared to 60% a year ago.
- ✓ With shipments of almost 395 million in 2019, China's smartphone industry is witnessing a decline, while Indian smartphone sector grew 7% year-on-year in 2019.
- ✓ At the current trend, it will take India around four to five years to close the gap with China
- ✓ In 2019, Xiaomi emerged as the market leader with 28% share of the Indian market.
- ✓ Samsung, Vivo and Realme completed the next four slots with 21%, 16% and 10% share, respectively.
- ✓ India is now Xiaomi's biggest market, surpassing even its home market China.
- ✓ Vivo registered the fastest growth in 2019 at 76% YoY, while Samsung shipments declined as the brand goes through a transition with its A and M series.
- ✓ However, Apple was the surprise performer this year in India stimulated by price cuts on the iPhone XR, manufactured in India, and success of iPhone 11 series.
- ✓ iPhone shipments grew 6% in 2019 compared to a 43% decline in 2018.

REPORT

- **NBA Legend Kobe Bryant (US, 41 years) - died in a helicopter crash along with his daughter Gianna and seven others in California on January 26**
- ✓ Bryant, a five-time NBA champion and two-time Olympic gold medallist, is widely regarded as one of the greatest ever basketballers in history
- ✓ Bryant had a glittering 20-year career with the Los Angeles Lakers, the only team for which he played, ever since he arrived in the league at age 17 in the 1996 NBA draft
- ✓ During this period, Bryant earned 18 All-Star selections, a Most Valuable Player award in 2008 and two NBA Finals Most Valuable Player awards to go with his 5 championship rings.
- ✓ By the time he walked away from the NBA in April 2016, Lakers decided to retire both jersey numbers he wore over two 10-season stretches - No. 8 and No 24

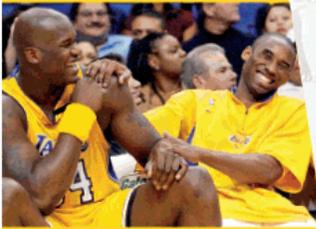
- ✓ Bryant is widely expected to be inducted into the prestigious Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in late August, the first time he is eligible.

On Sunday, Kobe Bryant, 41, and his 13-year-old daughter Gianna died in a helicopter crash in California. Bryant leaves behind a storied legacy – 5-time NBA champion, Olympic gold medalist, and Oscar winner. A look back at his career and impact on the sport

Career-defining moments

1996: Charlotte Hornets draft Bryant but trade him to LA Lakers. Bryant becomes fifth player to join NBA from high school

2000-02: Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal combine



to win Lakers three consecutive NBA titles. Bryant, at 23, youngest to win three NBA crowns

2003-04: Bryant arrested after being accused of sexual assault by a 19-year-old hotel employee in Colorado. Admitted to adultery but denied assault charge. Case settled out of court and with public apology

2006: Bryant scores 81 points, the second highest ever in a single game, against Toronto Raptors

2008 & 2012: Bryant helps US Olympics basketball team win gold in Beijing and London

2009-2010: Bryant wins his 4th and 5th NBA titles

2015: In 2015, Kobe wrote the poem "Dear Basketball", which two years later would form the basis for an animated short film, which won an Oscar

2016: Bryant becomes only player to have two jersey numbers – 24 and 8 – retired by the same team

REMEMBERING

1978 – 2020

KOBE



TEAM Los Angeles Lakers

POSITION Small forward/
shooting guard

HEIGHT 6'6"

DRAFT 13th pick in the first round, 1996

GAMES 1,346

MINUTES PLAYED 48,637
Sixth-most in NBA history

NBA's No.4 Top Scorer

- 1 Kareem Abdul-Jabbar 38,387
- 2 Karl Malone 36,928
- 3 LeBron James 33,655
- 4 **Kobe Bryant 33,643**
- 5 Michael Jordan 32,292

Continuing to move the game forward

@KingJames. Much respect my brother

— KOBE'S LAST TWEET, ON JAN 25 CONGRATULATING LEBRON JAMES ON SURPASSING HIS POINTS RECORD

\$680m

Bryant's total earnings, including endorsements, when he retired in 2016. Of this he earned \$323 million as his salary in his playing career

5x
NBA champion
(2000, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2010)

1x
NBA Most Valuable Player
(2008)

18x
Voted to All-Star team
(1998, 2000-16)

2x
Olympic Gold
(2008, 2012)

Future Hall of Fame induction
In August 2020

