

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 29, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit - inaugurated a new 'Red cross museum' as part of centenary celebrations of Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) on January 28**



- ✓ The governor announced that the museum would have a historical photo gallery along with a short film on Red Cross movement
  - ✓ The IRCS headquarters in New Delhi had proposed to fund 80% for any new initiatives proposed by the branches across the country.
  - ✓ The state branches have to bear the remaining 20% of the total requirement.
  - ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who is also the president, Indian Red Cross Society, Tamil Nadu branch, released a postal cover during the centenary celebrations of the branch
  - ✓ He handed over artificial limbs to differently-abled persons, and welfare aid worth ₹15 lakh to orphan/old age and physically-challenged homes across the State
  - ✓ District Collectors are the presidents of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) in districts
- **Tamil Nadu government - will conduct a survey on bonded labours in the state after a gap of 24 years**
  - ✓ In 1996, the state government had conducted a similar survey and identified around 25,000 bonded labourers across the state.
  - ✓ Hiring bonded labours has been banned after the enactment of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 by the Parliament.

- ✓ The survey would be carried out in 11 'specific' districts, where there is a prevalence of the bonded labour system, at a total budget of ₹49.5 lakh
  - ✓ Until December 17, 2018, more than 3.13 lakh bonded labourers have been identified and rescued in the country.
  - ✓ Of these, 65,573 were from Tamil Nadu, as per the data provided by the Union government.
  - ✓ The new survey would be taken up under the Union government's Central Sector scheme.
  - ✓ As per the scheme, ₹4.5 lakh would be allocated to conduct survey in each district to identify the bonded labours
  - ✓ The state will contribute the remaining amount and later seek reimbursement of the same, once the exercise has been completed
- **The Tamil Nadu government - told the Madras high court on January 28 that the consecration of the Brihadeeswara Temple (Big Temple) in Thanjavur would be done in both Tamil and Sanskrit as per agama dictum**
  - ✓ As per the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department, the Yagasalai poojas and the Mahaabishekam include the practice of rendition of Thirumurai parayanam (panniru thirumurai, abhirami anthathi, thirupugal) which is done in Tamil.
  - ✓ Yagasalai poojas will be performed from February 1 to 5 and the Mahaabishekam will be performed on February 5, 2020.
- **The Tamil Nadu and Centre - have jointly taken up repair, renovation and restoration of 89 water bodies in drought-hit Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Coimbatore and Tirupur districts in 2018-19 to augment groundwater table.**
  - ✓ Under the Pradhan Mantri Sinchayi Yojana, the government will spend ₹49 crore to restore these water bodies following approval by the state technical advisory committee and sanctioning committee in 2018.
  - ✓ The tanks have been categorised under drought prone area programme.
  - ✓ The main objective of the initiative is to repair or reconstruct the sluices, strengthen the tank bund, repair or reconstruct the weirs and desilt the supply channels to increase the capacity.
  - ✓ The memorandum of understanding for the initiative was signed by the Tamil Nadu government and Union Jal Shakti ministry with the target date of completion of the scheme kept at March 2021
  - ✓ The severely drought-hit Sivaganga and Ramanthapuram in 2018-2019 received the largest share of allocation with 24 and 23 tanks being identified for restoration, followed by Dharmapuri (15) and Virudhunagar (10).
  - ✓ The objective of PMKSY is to provide investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation and improve on-farm water use

efficiency to reduce wastage of water, besides enhancing the adoption of precision-irrigation and recharge of aquifers.

- **The Union government - has sanctioned two more medical colleges to Tamil Nadu in Ariyalur and Kallakurichi districts**
- ✓ This increases the total number of new medical colleges allotted to the State within a year to 11.
- ✓ The Centre had approved 6 medical colleges to the State in October last year and 3 more in November the same year.

## NATIONAL

- **10 Indian wetland sites - have been announced to receive the tag of International importance under the Ramsar Convention**

<b>CONSERVING WETLANDS</b>			<b>PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES WITHIN WETLANDS</b>
<b>WHAT ARE THEY</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Land area covered by water, either temporarily/seasonally or permanently (Marsh, fen and peatland come under this category)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It has characteristics of a distinct ecosystem</li> </ul>		
<b>WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Play a key role in hydro-logical cycle and flood control, water supply, providing food, fibre and raw materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wetlands support lakhs of migratory birds from colder regions of the world in summers, apart from mangroves that protect coastlines and filter pollutants</li> </ul>		
<b>WETLANDS IN NUMBERS</b>			
It mapped <b>2,01,503</b> wetlands	ISRO had in 2011 prepared a national wetlands atlas on the basis of satellite image  They comprise around <b>4.63%</b> of the geographic area of India	No. of wetland sites in India under Ramsar Convention   <b>37</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Any kind of encroachment</li> <li>➤ setting up of any industry</li> <li>➤ Expansion of existing industries</li> <li>➤ Solid waste dumping</li> <li>➤ Discharge of untreated wastes and effluents from industries, cities, towns, villages and other human settlements</li> <li>➤ Poaching</li> <li>➤ Any construction of a permanent nature except for boat jetties within <b>50 metres</b> from the mean high flood level observed in the past <b>10 years</b></li> </ul>
<b>INDIA'S PROMINENT WETLANDS</b>		Chilika lake areas (Odisha)   Wular lake (J&K)   Renuka (Himachal Pradesh)   Sambhar lake (Rajasthan)   Deepor Beel (Assam)   East Kolkata wetlands (West Bengal)   Nal Sarovar (Gujarat)   Harika (Punjab)   Rudra Sagar (Tripura) and Bhoj wetland (Madhya Pradesh)	

- ✓ Of these 10 sites, one was identified for the very first time in Maharashtra, three were in Punjab and six in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ With this addition, the list of wetlands in India covered under the Convention has increased to 37 with surface area of over 10,679 sq km
- ✓ The new Indian sites include –
  - ✓ Nandur Madhameshwar bird sanctuary (Maharashtra)
  - ✓ Beas conservation reserve (Punjab)
  - ✓ Keshopur-Miani community reserve (Punjab)
  - ✓ Nangal wildlife sanctuary (Punjab)
  - ✓ Nawabganj bird sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh).
  - ✓ Parvati Arga bird sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh).
  - ✓ Saman bird sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh).
  - ✓ Sarsai Nawar lake (Uttar Pradesh).
  - ✓ Samaspur bird sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh).

- ✓ Sandi bird sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh).
- ✓ The other Ramsar sites are already present in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.
- ✓ Ramsar Convention (or Convention on Wetlands) is an intergovernmental global treaty intended to preserve ecological character of selected wetlands across the world.
- ✓ Under the Ramsar (a city situated in Iran) Convention of 1971, the member countries identify those sites which are recognised as being of significant value not only for the country or the countries in which they are located, but for humanity as a whole.

➤ **Oxford University Press (OUP) - named 'Samvidhaan' (Constitution) as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019**

- ✓ The word was chosen as the values of democracy, secularism, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity being tested on the touchstone of the Constitution or 'Samvidhaan' in the year 2019
- ✓ The Oxford Hindi Word of the Year is a word or expression that has generated a great deal of attention and reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.
- ✓ As per OUP, 'Samvidhaan' means a "body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organisation is acknowledged to be governed"

➤ **Assam's tableau - was adjudged the best among those of the 16 States and the Union Territories that took part in the Republic Day parade this year**



- ✓ The floats of Uttar Pradesh and Odisha were jointly named as the winners of second best tableaux.
- ✓ Odisha's tableau displayed the visuals of Lord Lingaraja's famous Rukuna Ratha Yatra.
- ✓ Lord Lingaraja was worshipped as both Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu in the 6th-century temple called 'Lingaraj Temple' at Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- ✓ The theme of the tableau was 'Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture'
- ✓ The Ministry of Jal Shakti and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were named as the winners of the joint best tableaux award from among 6 Ministries and Departments.
- ✓ The Central Public Works Department's tableau won a special prize for displaying different parts of the country decorated with colourful and fragrant flowers.
- ✓ The awards were given away by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on January 28.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - lifted its seven-year old stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into a 'suitable' Indian habitat on an experimental basis**
- ✓ The verdict is intended to revive the Indian cheetah population, which is deemed extinct.
- ✓ In May 2012, the apex court had stopped the plan to put the foreign cheetahs into the Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, stating that it is not a natural habitat for the African Cheetah.
- ✓ A Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde, comprising of Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, made it clear that a proper survey should be done to identify the best possible habitat for the cheetahs, so that they adapt to the Indian conditions.
- ✓ The Court had also set up a three-member committee, comprising former Director of Wildlife Institute of India Ranjit Singh, DG of Wildlife Institute of India Dhananjay Mohan, and DIG, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forests, to 'guide' the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on the plan.
- ✓ Asiatic cheetah is classified as a "critically endangered" species by the IUCN Red List
- ✓ The species is only believed to survive in Iran.
- ✓ India's last known cheetah was killed by Maharaja Ramanuj Pratap Singh of Deogarh, Chhattisgarh in 1947.
- ✓ The animal was declared extinct in India in 1952.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **US President Donald Trump - unveiled his Middle East peace plan aimed at solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on January 28**



- ✓ Trump proposed a "realistic" two-state solution that will freeze Israeli settlement activity for 4 years and double Palestinian territory.
- ✓ Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu stood next to the US President in the White House during the announcement.
- ✓ The proposal gives Israel most of what it has sought over decades of conflict while creating what the US President called a 'Palestinian state' with limited sovereignty.
- ✓ As per the US President, Eastern Jerusalem "will remain Israel's undivided capital"
- ✓ He promised to grant \$50 billion in international financing to build the new Palestinian entity and open an embassy in its new state

- ✓ The plan took nearly 3 years in the making and overseen by Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner
- ✓ It is the latest of numerous American efforts to settle the seventy-plus year conflict between Israel and the Palestinians
- ✓ The plan makes only modest adjustments to Israeli borders drawn in a 1967 armistice and discards the longtime goal of granting the Palestinians a full-fledged state.
- ✓ Palestinians have already rejected the leaked proposals

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **US President Donald Trump - is scheduled to visit India between February 24-26, even though the dates are yet to be formally announced.**

**TRADE DEAL SET TO BE CONCLUDED**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Dates of US President Donald Trump's visit yet to be formally announced</li> <li>➤ The visit, which will be his first as US President, will see the two sides <b>arriving at a trade deal</b> that has been months in negotiation</li> <li>➤ Trump's visit comes close on</li> </ul>	<p>the heels of an impeachment process and virtually days before <b>election campaign season</b> begins in the US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>New envoy to US</b> Taranjit S Sandhu will hit the ground running, as he takes charge of the Washington DC mission from early Feb</li> </ul>
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- ✓ This will be the first visit of US President, Trump to India
  - ✓ During the visit, both sides are expected to conclude a trade deal that has been in negotiation for long.
  - ✓ Earlier, Indian PM Narendra Modi had hosted the former US President Barack Obama as the chief guest on Republic Day in 2015
- **India and France - will work together in the field of museums, cultural spaces and research**
  - ✓ For the initiative, a joint working group will be established to collaborate in the field of exhibition, research and festivals
  - ✓ The working group would explore partnership between the National Museum in Delhi and a French counterpart to be designated by the French government.
  - ✓ This was announced after Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel met his French counterpart Franck Riester in New Delhi
  - ✓ The Ministers have also opened an exhibition of works by French artist Gerard Garouste at the National Gallery of Modern Art.

## PERSONALITIES

- **45 year old Manisha Mhaske - will be the first woman to pilot an AC train in Central Railway from January 30, when she drives an AC train in Central Railway's trans-harbour corridor in Thane-Panvel route.**



- ✓ Mhaske, who joined CR as an assistant driver in January 11, 2002, has been driving electrical multiple unit (EMU) services since September 2019
- ✓ After joining in 2002, she worked as an assistant driver in goods trains and later became a driver for a decade, before being promoted as motorwoman.
- ✓ She is the only motorwoman to pilot a suburban train in the Central Railways.

## DEFENCE

- **India - is considering inviting Australia to take part in its trilateral 24<sup>th</sup> Malabar naval exercise with the US and Japan scheduled to take place this year**
- ✓ If it happens, this will be the first time the “Quad” countries will be participating together in the high-voltage combat manoeuvres on the high seas after a gap of 13 years.
- ✓ Currently, an Australian warship, Anzac-class frigate HMAS Toowoomba, is in Mumbai on a four-day visit.
- ✓ Earlier, China had strongly objected to the India-US Malabar exercise in the Bay of Bengal in 2007 when it included Japan, Australia and Singapore as well
- **The Navy - launched Operation Vanilla in support of the national disaster in Madagascar on January 28 and diverted a large amphibious ship to provide assistance in the Southern Indian Ocean.**
- ✓ INS Airavat, which was mission deployed, has been diverted for the same
- ✓ Madagascar has been hit by cyclone Diane, due to which heavy flooding and landslips were reported since last week, causing loss of lives.
- ✓ More than 92,000 have been affected due to the natural calamity.
- ✓ Madagascar, an island country in the Indian Ocean, is the fourth largest island in the world.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Senior diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu - will be the next Indian Ambassador to the United States.**



- ✓ He replaces Harsh Shringla, who will take over as foreign secretary from January 29
- ✓ Sandhu is the current Indian envoy to Sri Lanka

## SPORTS

- **Pankaj Advani - claims 10<sup>th</sup> National billiards championship title in Pune**



- ✓ For the title, the 23-time world champion defeated Sourav Kothari with a 5-2 margin in the final.
- ✓ This is Advani's 33rd National title in total and 10th in the senior category.

APPLO  
STUDY CENTRE

