

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 30, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched various projects in the State via video-conferencing from the secretariat on January 29



- ✓ The Chief Minister flagged off 240 buses for state transport corporations and inaugurated the flyovers in various parts of the state, developed at a cost of ₹ 211.66 crore
- ✓ During the event, a much-awaited flyover at Vandalur near Chennai connecting the Outer Ring Road and the 2.65km-long Vandalur-Mannivakkam main road were opened for the public by the Chief Minister.
- ✓ The chief minister also opened 14 fire and rescue services' stations, which were announced by him during the 2019-20 debate in the assembly.
- ✓ The stations are located at Chennai (at Marina), Coimbatore, Namakkal, Salem, Erode, Virudhunagar, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Nagapattinam, Trichy, Kallakurichi and Chengalpeta, constructed at a budget of ₹ 15.89 crore.
- ✓ Of these, the Marina station will have 50 commandos to ensure the safety of tourists and prevent them from accidents.
- ✓ The sanctioned strength of the new stations will be 162 personnel.
- ✓ To strengthen the power transmission infrastructure in the State, the CM inaugurated 91 substations built in 27 districts at a cost of ₹ 1,023 crore
- ✓ The Chief Minister also launched a mobile application to book seats for long distance buses of the State Express Transport Corporation (SETC).

- ✓ Of the 240 new buses, the SETC has been allotted 103 buses, the Metropolitan Transport Corporation 37 buses, Kumbakonam 35, Villupuram 25, Coimbatore 20 buses, Salem 10 buses, Madurai 5 buses and Tirunelveli 5 buses.
- ✓ The 240 buses cost Rs 83.83 crore.
- **The Directorate of government examinations - has announced that Questions in Class X board exam will not follow any fixed format and they can be asked from anywhere in the textbook**
- ✓ For the last two years, the School Education Department has also avoided giving a blueprint to students of Classes XI and XII taking public exams.
- ✓ The syllabus for Class X was changed this year, and board exam will be held under the new syllabus for the first time
- ✓ The move was directed at preparing students for entrance exams and competitive exams
- ✓ A blueprint generally gives the students an idea of the marks allotted to various questions asked from each chapter in their textbooks
- **The State – has launched a rescue services station with a special force of 50 commandos to rescue people washed away by tidal waves in Marina beach, on Wednesday.**
- ✓ The commandos have been specially trained to handle emergencies in tackling the incidents of people getting drowned in the beach.
- ✓ This is a first-of-its-kind facility in the entire State
- ✓ The unit has come up on Besant Road near the Marina.
- ✓ The safety training has been provided to the commandos-turned-lifeguards as they have to be well-versed in lifesaving procedures and need to familiarise themselves with the safety equipment they use.
- ✓ The safety equipment is equipped with emergency oxygen cylinders for victims who have trouble breathing, rescue tubes, spineboards, life jackets made of polyester fabric and stuffed with foam that are used to keep a person buoyant in water and ring buoys, a safety equipment for lifeguards, for deep sea rescue effort.
- ✓ A rescue tube, made of high-density foam, can be used in multiple ways to protect the victim from drowning.
- ✓ A backboard, also known as a spineboard, can be used to rescue victims who have suffered injuries in the water or are unconscious and unable to support themselves.

STATES

- **The Madhya Pradesh government – to launch a ramped up version of Yuva Swabhiman Yojana, a scheme for the unemployed on February 1**

- ✓ The scheme aims to increase the monthly stipend to ₹5,000 apart from increasing the number of working (hence payable) days to 365.
- ✓ The decision follows the recent visit of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath to the WEF meet at Davos, where he emphasised the need to mobilise the economy by generating more jobs.
- ✓ Yuva Swabhiman Yojana — a Congress manifesto promise and a flagship programme of the Nath government — was launched on January 31, 2019
- ✓ It guarantees 100 days of work and pay to unemployed youth who have registered themselves with the MP government.
- ✓ CM Nath will launch its 2.0 version on February 1
- ✓ The relaunch aims to generate 25,000 new jobs at a cost of ₹200 crore

NATIONAL

- ✓ **The Union Cabinet, under the chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi - approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, which intends to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971- on January 29**



- ✓ It intends to make MTP or abortion easier for some 'special' category of women
- ✓ It includes the survivors of rape, victims of incest, single women (unmarried/divorced/widowed to be established on the basis of self-certification of woman), and other vulnerable women (differently-abled women).
- ✓ The Bill will be introduced in the coming budget session of Parliament, which will begin on February 1, 2020.
- ✓ The proposed changes also suggest an increase in the upper gestational limit for termination of pregnancy for survivors of rape to 24 weeks from the 20 weeks limit, which is 'in vogue' at present.
- ✓ For pregnancies diagnosed with substantial fetal abnormalities, no upper gestation limit has been proposed to apply for termination.
- ✓ If the pregnancy has to be terminated within 20 weeks, the opinion of one doctor is required.
- ✓ But beyond that, opinion of two doctors would be needed and one of them has to be a government physician
- ✓ The amendments were proposed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ✓ In India, the Shah Committee was appointed to review the socio-cultural and medical aspects of abortion.
- ✓ The Shah Committee had recommended legalization of abortion for the first time.

- **The Beating Retreat ceremony – was conducted on January 29, which marked the end of the four-day Republic Day celebrations.**



- ✓ In the end, the 19th-century music popularised by Mahatma Gandhi 'Abide with Me' was played as the last tune by the band while much-speculated 'Vande Mataram' was dropped at the last minute this year
 - ✓ The rehearsal lineup had 27 songs – the final one had 26.
 - ✓ The ceremony, that was started in 1950, began with 'Abhiyan', composed by havildar Jiwan Rasaily, in keeping with a recent trend of playing tunes composed indigenously
 - ✓ Indian tunes were first introduced to the lineup in 2016 – which featured 20 of the 26 compositions.
 - ✓ In 2017, 'Saare Jahaan Se Achchha' became the tune to mark the end of the ceremony.
 - ✓ Subsequently, tunes of western origin were gradually phased out.
 - ✓ This time, only 2 of the 26 compositions were western tunes in a lineup which featured prominent patriotic songs from Bollywood
- **In a first, the Road transport ministry - will notify henceforth the third-party insurance premium for motor vehicles in consultation with the insurance regulator, IRDA**
 - ✓ The change was introduced in the Motor Vehicle Act to ensure that consumer interest is protected and to have a control on insurance firms in increasing the premium for mandatory third party insurance
 - ✓ As per the amended Act, for the purposes of third party insurance related to either death of a person or grievous hurt, the central government shall prescribe a base premium and the liability of an insurer in relation to such premium for an insurance policy
 - ✓ Currently, IRDA is the authority which notifies the premium amount for different categories of vehicles.
 - ✓ The transport ministry will soon specify the rules about fixing the premium amount for each category of vehicle.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, to ensure the quick settlement by the Insurance agencies, the Centre is planning to extend the mandatory submission of Detailed Accident Report (DAR) by police to motor accident tribunals within one month of accident to all states, which is now being followed in Delhi and Tamil Nadu.
 - ✓ This will provide quick relief to the victims and their kin as the compensation payment will get expedited.

- **The Tri services (Army, Navy and Airforce) - have decided to issue a common Toll tax exemption Identity card to their personnel.**
- ✓ It means the services personnel need not pay toll at toll plazas, upon the possession of the valid Identity card.
- ✓ Exemption under the Indian Toll (Army and Air Force) Act, 1901 is available to the service persons who are 'on duty' and does not pertain to retired personnel
- ✓ Also, no exemption is available on use of personal vehicle if it is not used for discharging official duty, as per the Act.

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **The Supreme Court - held on January 29 that the discretionary power of courts to grant anticipatory bail cannot be curtailed and such 'anticipatory bails' can be provided even till the end of trial, as arbitrary arrests are still continuing in the Country**

CITIZENS' RIGHTS ARE FUNDAMENTAL, NOT RESTRICTIONS, SAYS TOP COURT

“ The spectre of arbitrary and heavy-handed arrests, too often to harass and humiliate citizens, and often times at the interest of powerful individuals (and not to further any meaningful investigation into offences) led to the enactment of Section 438 (anticipatory bail)

As denial of bail amounts to deprivation of personal liberty, the court should lean against the imposition of unnecessary restrictions on the scope of Section 438, especially when not imposed by the legislature

It would be useful to remind oneself that the rights which the citizens cherish deeply, are fundamental, it is not the restrictions that are fundamental
— SUPREME COURT

The back story of advance bail

- The old Cr.PC of 1898 did not contain any specific provision corresponding to the present Section 438. There was a difference of opinion among various HCs whether court had an inherent power to grant pre-arrest bail

- Clause 447 of the Draft Bill of 1970 was enacted with some modifications and became Section 438 of the Cr.PC, 1973

A five-judge Supreme Court Bench in the 1980 case of Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia vs. State of Punjab interpreted that the power to grant anticipatory bail is

"cast in wide terms and should not be hedged in through narrow judicial interpretation". It held that courts could impose conditions which were appropriate

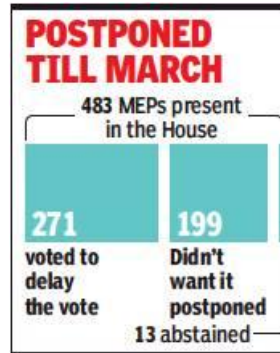
- The Law Commission of India on September 24, 1969, highlighted the need for introducing a provision in the Code enabling courts to grant "anticipatory bail" as an antidote to detention in false cases



- ✓ A five-judge Constitution bench led by Justice Arun Mishra, comprising of Indira Banerjee, Vineet Saran, M R Shah and S Ravindra Bhat, unanimously announced that there should not ordinarily be a limited or a fixed period for providing anticipatory bail to the accused.
- ✓ The provision of anticipatory bail under Section 438 was introduced when CrPC was amended in 1973
- ✓ As per the bench, such anticipatory bail does not end when the accused is summoned by court, or after framing of charges, but can continue till the end of trial.
- ✓ It held that anticipatory bail application could be moved by a person even before filing of an FIR and thereafter the court can examine the seriousness and gravity of the offence to impose any condition on the petitioner, if necessary.

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **The European Parliament - decided to postpone voting on a critical anti-CAA resolution to March even after a debate on January 29**
- ✓ The resolution was jointly introduced by five major groups.
- ✓ The groups — from centre-right to far-left — account for more than 500 Member in European Parliament (MEPs) in the 751-member house.



- ✓ But when the resolution was taken up, of the 483 MEPs present, 271 voted to delay the vote on resolution, while 199 didn't want it postponed and 13 abstained
- ✓ The joint resolution “deeply regrets” the adoption and implementation of CAA, which was discriminatory in nature and dangerously divisive.
- ✓ As per the joint resolution, CAA violates India's international obligations and warns against increasing nationalism, which has fuelled religious intolerance and discrimination against Muslims.
- ✓ The resolution was never going to be binding on the European Council, which is responsible for setting the political agenda
- ✓ Later this year on March 13, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is due to visit Brussels for the EU-India summit

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A team of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Isro researchers - have developed “Space Bricks” using lunar soil simulant (LSS) to assist the construction of future settlements on Moon**



- ✓ The team led by Alope Kumar, an assistant professor from the mechanical engineering department at IISc, performed the research on manufacturing bricks using LSS for proposed habitat projects on Moon
- ✓ They used LSS developed by Isro for the purpose
- ✓ Isro has perfected the process of creating LSS whose properties match 99.6% with the samples brought back from Moon by the Apollo missions.

- ✓ Also, a futuristic project of building 'Igloos' on Moon is already underway in Isro
- ✓ Currently, Isro has more than 60 tonnes of LSS lying with it.
- ✓ The team had used "bacterial growth-induced biocementation technology" to manufacture bricks.
- ✓ They wanted to organically grow bricks and therefore chose bacteria and tried a process called "microbial induced calcite precipitation", wherein, in the right conditions, the bacteria can precipitate calcium carbonate.

ECONOMY

- **The Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) - has decided to nominate Janak Raj as its third internal member of the monetary policy committee (MPC).**
- ✓ Janak Raj is the current executive director in-charge of the monetary policy department
- ✓ The Committee, which sets the interest rate, has 6 members, of which 3 are from the RBI.
- ✓ As per law, two of RBI's internal members are the Governor and the Deputy Governor in-charge of monetary policy.

AWARDS

- **Senior journalist from Jammu and Kashmir Yusuf Jameel - has been selected for the 2019-2020 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for democratic idealism**
- The award has been instituted by PEN South India and PEN Delhi "to cherish the idealism and commitment of Gauri Lankesh," the editor-activist murdered in 2017.
- The award carries a purse of ₹1 lakh.
- ✓ Jameel has been an acclaimed journalist in Jammu and Kashmir who has worked in Urdu and English and in print and radio since early 1980s.
- ✓ He has worked with various international publications starting from Urdu daily Aftab and later with The Telegraph, BBC, Reuters, Time and The Asian Age.
- ✓ He was conferred with the International Press Freedom Award from Committee to Protect Journalists in 1996.

SPORTS

- **Bala Devi, Manipuri striker - made history by becoming the first Indian woman footballer to bag a professional contract from a foreign club.**



- ✓ The 29-year-old Bala Devi, a former India captain who earlier played in Maldives for Glasgow-based New Radiant sports club, is among 14 new players signed by the Scottish giants Rangers FC
 - ✓ The two-time AIFF player of the year will proudly wore the No. 10 jersey of Scottish giants Rangers FC in an 18 month deal
 - ✓ For the Indian team too bala played in the No. 10 jersey
 - ✓ She will also become Rangers' first-ever Asian international footballer.
 - ✓ The move, facilitated by Bengaluru FC which entered into a two-year collaboration with Rangers last September, was announced at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru
 - ✓ Bala joined Manipur Police in 2010.
 - ✓ She has been the Indian team's main player for several years, having scored 52 goals in 58 matches.
- **The Indian cricket board's (BCCI) grand project to build a new Centre of Excellence (CoE) - is likely to cost around ₹ 500 crores**
- ✓ It will replace the National Cricket Academy (NCA) with the active involvement of NCA Director, Rahul Dravid.
 - ✓ The project is likely to be completed in the next two years.
 - ✓ The CoE will also have four full grounds with pitches which will try to replicate the famous pitches around the cricketing world
 - ✓ The grounds can also be used for matches outside the domestic competitions and also for the domestic tournaments if grounds across the country are not available at any point.
- **Star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra - achieved the Tokyo Olympics qualification mark (85m), throwing the javelin to an impressive distance of 87.86m, at a low-key Athletics Central North East (ACNE) meet in Potchefstroom, South Africa**



- ✓ The 22-year old Neeraj was returning after a 16-month long injury layoff
- ✓ The throw was his career's second best, behind the sensational 88.06m achieved during his gold medal-winning effort at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
- ✓ This was Neeraj's first competitive international outing after suffering an elbow injury in his throwing arm in September 2018
- ✓ During his recovery period, Neeraj missed participating in the IAAF World championships, the Diamond League and Asian Championships

RANKINGS

- **Bengaluru - has become the topmost city in the country with the highest traffic congestion and emerged on top of the list globally.**
- ✓ Drivers in Bengaluru spent an average of 71% extra time on the road due to congestion in 2019, while in Mumbai, drivers spent 65% more time in vehicles thanks to the city's traffic snarls.
- ✓ Mumbai has been ranked at fourth place among 416 cities in the 2019 ranking.
- ✓ Mumbai was ranked at the topmost spot in 2017 and 2018 rankings
- ✓ These rankings were released as part of the ninth edition of Netherlands-based Tom-Tom Traffic Index
- ✓ Pune was ranked at fifth spot this year.
- ✓ Indian cities were included in the global ranking for the first time in 2017.
- ✓ Greensboro-High Point of USA has the least traffic congestion in the world.
- ✓ The vehicle navigation company, TomTom's, said in its annual traffic index that it has surveyed in 416 cities, in 57 countries and 6 continents



- ✓ The timings on the Friday evening (7pm -8pm) was the worst period for commuters in the highly congested cities of Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru
- ✓ According to the report, on average, Delhi residents driving during peak hours spent an extra 190 hours or seven days and 22 hours in traffic during 2019.
- ✓ In the case of drivers in Bengaluru, the extra time spent on roads was 243 hours or 10 days and 3 hours while time wasted in congestion on Mumbai roads was equivalent to 8 days and 17 hours.
- ✓ The commuters in Pune wasted around 8 days and one hour due to idling on roads.

TAMILNADU POLICE EQUIPMENT – A REPORT

- The Tamil Nadu police department - is set to purchase riot gear and equipment to protect its personnel from life threatening injuries sustained during riots.
- ✓ The initiative follows a drastic increase in the number of injuries faced by police personnel in riot-like situations in the State.

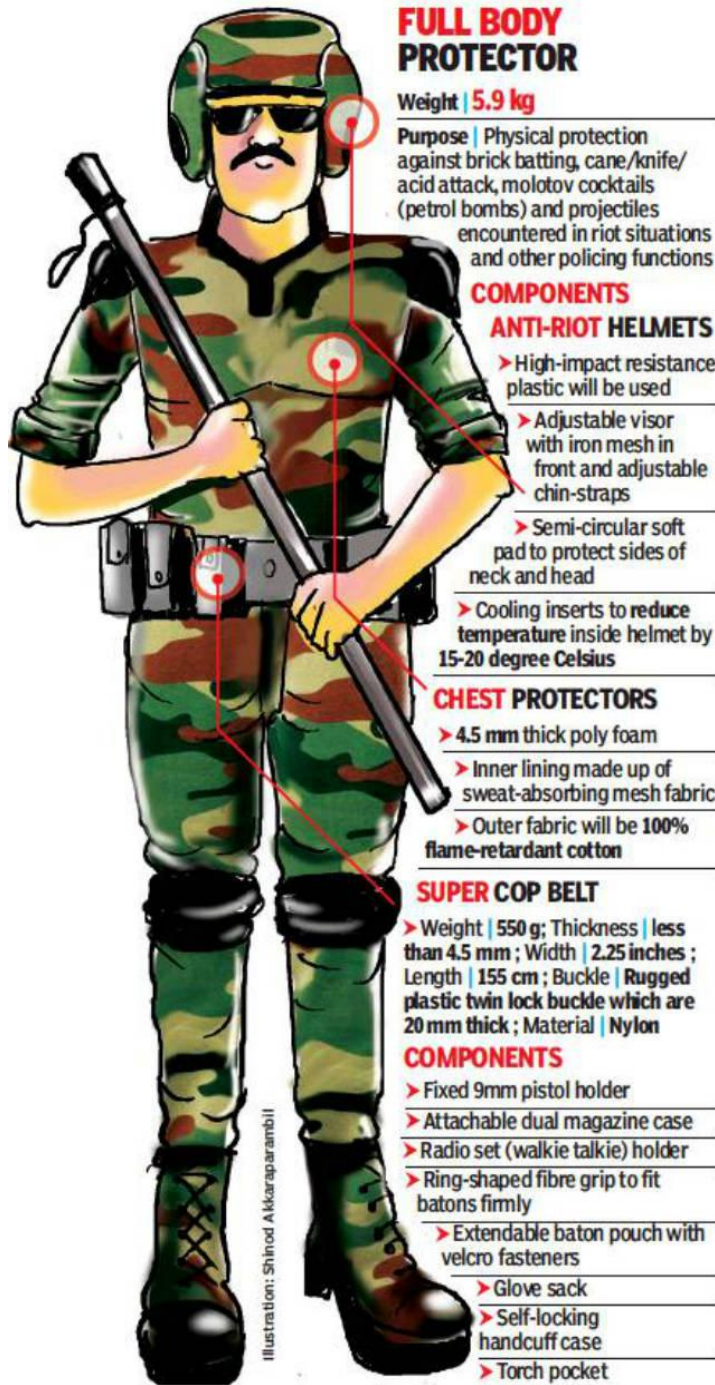


Illustration: Shinod Akkararambill

FULL BODY PROTECTOR

Weight | 5.9 kg

Purpose | Physical protection against brick batting, cane/knife/acid attack, molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) and projectiles encountered in riot situations and other policing functions

COMPONENTS

ANTI-RIOT HELMETS

- High-impact resistance plastic will be used
- Adjustable visor with iron mesh in front and adjustable chin-straps
- Semi-circular soft pad to protect sides of neck and head

- Cooling inserts to reduce temperature inside helmet by 15-20 degree Celsius

CHEST PROTECTORS

- 4.5 mm thick poly foam
- Inner lining made up of sweat-absorbing mesh fabric
- Outer fabric will be 100% flame-retardant cotton

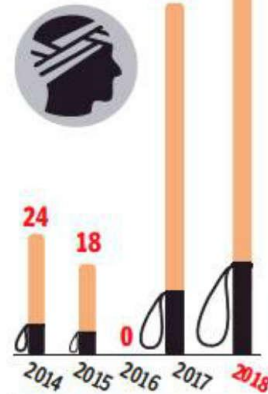
SUPER COP BELT

- Weight | 550 g; Thickness | less than 4.5 mm ; Width | 2.25 inches ; Length | 155 cm ; Buckle | Rugged plastic twin lock buckle which are 20 mm thick ; Material | Nylon

COMPONENTS

- Fixed 9mm pistol holder
- Attachable dual magazine case
- Radio set (walkie talkie) holder
- Ring-shaped fibre grip to fit batons firmly
- Extendable baton pouch with velcro fasteners
- Glove sack
- Self-locking handcuff case
- Torch pocket

NUMBER OF TN POLICEMEN INJURED IN RIOT SITUATION



TENDER DETAILS

Equipment	Quantity	Cost (₹)
Full body protector	525	1,38,60,000
Super cop belts	525	28,88,000
Vehicle stoppers (Tyre delating system)	35	19,25,000
Digital signage	39	78,00,000
Portable emergency lights	35	1,00,10,000

FINDINGS BY BUREAU OF POLICE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Current uniform not apt to handle outdoor law and order situations
- Helmets used in such situations are very heavy
- Helmets are difficult to manage during riots
- Metal belts are too wide and big and the harness pokes the stomach while bending forward
- Belt keeps shifting positions as it is held by only three loops
- Belts have no option of carrying cellphones, baton or keys like other police forces across the world

- ✓ From 24 in 2014, the number of injuries sustained by policemen increased to 100 in 2018, as per a data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

- ✓ This issue was first highlighted by a study funded by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD).
- ✓ Its project team visited Chennai in 2012 to interview police personnel from the armed reserve and other strike force cores which controls an irate mob or riot-like situations in the State.
- ✓ As per the study, the present uniform was found to be unsuitable to handle law and order situations.
- ✓ The helmets were too heavy and kept falling, while the belts didn't have options to carry baton or phones
- ✓ The state had called for tender to procure 525 full body protectors at a budget of ₹1.38cr
- ✓ These protectors provide physical protection against brick batting, cane/knife/acid attacks, Molotov cocktails (petrol bombs) and projectiles that are commonly used in riot situations.
- ✓ It also contains a 1.9 kg, anti-riot helmet to safeguard ears and the skull.
- ✓ The helmet will have a plastic visor (with iron mesh in front) and a semi-circular pad to protect the sides of neck and eyes.
- ✓ The riot gear also comes with a chest protector, elbow pad, shin guard and shoulder pads.
- ✓ The inner lining of the riot gear will be made of sweat-absorbing and high impact-resistant fabric, while the outer portion consists of 100% flame retardant cotton.
- ✓ Along with this, 525 'super cop belts' are also set to be procured.
- ✓ These black-coloured nylon belts have cases to accommodate pistols, handcuffs, batons, torches, gloves and radio sets (walkie-talkies).

