

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 31, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced various schemes on January 30 to promote industrial growth in the state.



- ✓ The new schemes include a single-window clearance for land use reclassification in non-plan areas within 50 days from the date of submission of applications online and a new 'Direct CTO Scheme' (consent to operate) for green industries
- ✓ About 90% of land in the state falls under the 'non-plan' category
- ✓ Under reclassification, non-industrial lands are 'reclassified' for industrial use by the Government
- ✓ Under the proposed scheme, the agricultural department will provide the certification within 30 days and reclassification of land will be completed within 50 days
- ✓ If the approval is not received within the said time limit, industries can consider them as 'deemed approval' and can commence their project immediately.
- ✓ The process normally takes six months to two years to be completed.
- ✓ In general, planned areas are non-CMDA areas for which the Department of Town and Country Planning prepare a master plan, duly approved by the government.
- ✓ However, non-planned areas do not have such 'approved' master plan.
- ✓ In the case of green industries, they can directly pay and apply for 'consent to establish' without the requirement of any formal approval and can go ahead with building construction with self-certification.
- ✓ With the announcement, 63 types of industries coming under the green category, will benefit from the initiative.

- ✓ This will largely benefit industrial units, especially from the micro, small and medium scale segments.
- ✓ The Chief Minister made the announcements while speaking at the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) 125 years of service to the nation

## STATES

- **India's first of its kind 'Fruit train' - was flagged off from Tadipatri Railway Station in A.P.'s Anantapur district on January 30**



- ✓ The train was carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai, from where the consignment will be exported to Iran.
- ✓ This is the first time in India that an entire train with the commodities is being sent to the gateway port (JNPT) for export.
- ✓ The arrangement helps save both time and fuel as 150 trucks would have been required to send such a heavy consignment by road to the port.
- ✓ The bananas are being exported under the brand name 'Happy Bananas'.

## NATIONAL

- **The first case of the new strain of a coronavirus (nCoV) in the country - was identified from Thrissur, Kerala, on January 30**
- ✓ A woman student, studying medicine at a university in the Chinese city of Wuhan, and had travelled to India has tested positive for the virus
- ✓ Wuhan is the epicentre of the nCoV outbreak, which has killed 170 people in China as on date
- ✓ It has spread to 15 other countries, including the US, with a total of 7,711 confirmed cases worldwide as on date

<b>1,053 UNDER SCANNER IN STATE</b>	
<b>IN INDIA</b>	<b>GLOBAL SCENARIO</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Woman from Kerala who tested positive for coronavirus was admitted to a hospital in Thrissur after returning from Chinese city of Wuhan</li> <li>➤ She developed symptoms of fever and a sore throat and was quarantined along with four others in an isolation ward</li> <li>➤ 1,053 under surveillance in Kerala. In Hyderabad, 2 suspected cases reported</li> <li>➤ Sensex sheds 284 points as virus scare spreads across the globe</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ China counts 170 virus deaths, infection spreads to Philippines and South Korea. 7,711 people infected globally</li> <li>➤ Russia to shut border with China</li> <li>➤ New coronavirus study places incubation period at around 5 days</li> </ul>

- ✓ She was quarantined, along with four other students, in the isolation ward of the general hospital in Thrissur.
  - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, Passengers from Wuhan arriving at Chennai and other TN airports will have to give blood samples for mandatory screening and would be put on home quarantine for 28 days
  - ✓ The screening protocol, recommended by the Union health ministry, will begin by in the state from January 31
  - ✓ The samples will be dispatched for further tests to King Institute of Preventive Medicine in Guindy.
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu will categorise the passengers as those from Wuhan, those from other parts of China and those from Southeast Asian countries and take action accordingly.
  - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the health department has arranged a special unit with ten beds for the treatment at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai
  - ✓ Meanwhile, at a high-level review meeting in Delhi, cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba decided that all those who have come from China after January 15, 2020 will be tested as the virus has an incubation period of about 14 days.
- **Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan – announced that One Nation One Ration Card Scheme will be implemented across India from June 1, 2020**
- ✓ The all-India launch of the scheme has been preponed from its original date of 30th June to 1st June.
  - ✓ At present, the scheme is operational in 12 states across the country from January 1, 2020 onwards
  - ✓ These include Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tripura, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Telangana.
  - ✓ Under this scheme, a beneficiary will be able to avail benefits across the country using the same ration card.
- **The Ministry of Tribal Affairs - has recommended the Central Government to declare Ladakh as a 'Tribal area' under the 6th Schedule of Indian constitution**
- ✓ Fifth and Sixth Schedules were discussed and passed by Constituent Assembly between September 5-7, 1949.
  - ✓ The Sixth Schedule of the constitution provides special provisions for the administration of the tribal areas in 4 north eastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram
  - ✓ It provides the power to create autonomous district councils (ADCs) to protect the rights of tribal populations
  - ✓ Part X of Indian constitution deals with the scheduled and Tribal areas and it consist of Article 244 and 244 A

✓ As per Article 244, the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram

➤ **India's first submerged metro rail - is under construction in Kolkata, under the Hooghly river**



- ✓ The construction work of this project is expected to be completed by March 2020.
- ✓ It will form a part of the East-West project of the Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation
- ✓ The new line is expected to carry about 900,000 people daily, — roughly 20% of the city's population — and will take less than a minute to cross a 520-meter underwater tunnel, which takes around 20 minutes across the Hooghly River in a ferry
- ✓ Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), a Japanese company, is helping West Bengal to complete the project by funding 48.5% of the project
- ✓ India's oldest metro, which started in 1984 with a North-South service, was due to expand by 2014, but it was eventually delayed and costs doubled now
- ✓ The East-West metro project is 74% owned by India's Railway Ministry and 26% by the nation's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **The Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari - recently launched online Web Portal 'GATI', that can be accessed via NHAI website**
- ✓ It has been prepared by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) based on the prototype of PMO's PRAGATI portal.
- ✓ Through this portal, people can raise issues regarding the projects or construction-related subjects.
- ✓ The problem raised will be monitored daily by a team of officers in NHAI, until suitable action has been taken on the issue.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ **Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar and Nigerien President Mahamadou Issoufou - jointly inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Center in Niger**



✓ It is the first convention center that was established in Africa with the assistance of India to honour the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th Birth Anniversary was observed in 2019

- ✓ S Jaishankar is the first foreign minister of India to visit Niger.
- ✓ Beginning with Niger, India started its 'mission' mode to set up a convention centre at its Capital, Niamey, to host the African Union Summit on 7-8 July, 2019.
- ✓ Apart from Niger, convention centres will be set up by India on a priority basis in 8 other African nations -- Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Togo, Gabon and Liberia upon request of these countries
- ✓ Earlier, India has provided Lines of Credit worth \$96.54 million to Niger for projects in transport, electrification, solar energy and potable drinking water.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) – was held at Davos, Switzerland from January 21-24**
  - ✓ The event witnessed the participation from over 50 heads of state from 117 nations across the world.
  - ✓ US President Donald Trump, young environmental activist Greta Thunberg and the European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen spoke at the inaugural day of the event
  - ✓ Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal led the Indian delegation
  - ✓ The US will join One Trillion Trees initiative, launched at the World Economic Forum
  - ✓ The initiative aims to grow, restore and conserve 1 trillion trees across the world by 2030 to restore biodiversity and fight climate change
  - ✓ The main purpose of planting one trillion trees is to slow down climate change by removing large amounts of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
  - ✓ The WEF launched the one trillion trees initiative based on the inspiration from a presentation by Swiss ecologist Thomas Crowther at its meeting in 2019.
  - ✓ The World Economic Forum is a non-governmental organization, which was established in 1971
  - ✓ It holds its annual meeting in January every year at Davos

- **Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot - inaugurated Jaipur Literature Festival 2020 on January 23, 2019**



- ✓ It is the 13th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival.
- ✓ The five day festival will witness over 250 speakers from different parts of the country and the world

- ✓ The speakers include the likes of Pulitzer winners Forrest Gander and Stephen Greenblatt, 2010 Man Booker Prize winner Howard Jacobson, Nobel laureate Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Booker International winner Jokha Alharthi, renowned author Elizabeth Gilbert, novelists Roshan Ali and Manoranjan Byapari.
  - ✓ The youngest author to launch his book is 9-years-old from Jaipur.
  - ✓ The world's largest literary festival will feature speakers of 15 Indian and 35 international languages participating in debates on a wide range of topics including artificial intelligence, environment, art, culture, history, cinema, and music.
- **The Ganga-Volga Dialogue - was held in New Delhi between Russia and India recently.**



- ✓ It was organized by the Ministry of External Affairs of India in association with Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Research Foundation
- ✓ The theme of this dialogue was – ‘Connectivity’.
- ✓ Apart from the dialogue, the methods of implementation of the decisions taken at the India-Russia summit held in Vladivostok in 2019 were also discussed by the officials of both the countries.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **India - has successfully ‘phased-out’ one of the most dangerous ozone-depleting chemical - Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) -141 b as on January 1, 2020.**



**India Phases out Ozone depleting HCFC-141 b**

- ✓ The (HCFC)-141 b chemical is one of the hazardous ozone-depleting substance, after Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs)
- ✓ It is generally used by foam manufacturers as a blowing agent in the production of rigid polyurethane (PU) foams.
- ✓ The use of the chemical by the foam manufacturing industry was prohibited from January 1, 2020, under the Ozone Depleting Substances (Regulation and Control) Amendment Rules, 2014 issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

# DEFENCE

- The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of DefExpo-2020 – will commence at Lucknow from February 5-9 with the theme of 'Digital transformation of defence'



- ✓ Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is the lead organiser and national exhibitor at the event
- ✓ It would showcase models of its products — the Light Combat Aircraft or LCA 'Tejas', the Light Combat Helicopter LCH, the multi-purpose Advanced Light Helicopter, the Dornier-228 civil plane and the advanced jet trainer Hawk during the event
- ✓ A Sukhoi-30 MKI cockpit simulator upgraded by HAL will also be unveiled during the event.
- ✓ Flying displays are part of a DefExpo for the second time this year — a trend started with the previous edition of 2018.
- ✓ DefExpo is being held for the first time in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Delhi was the venue of the event right from its first edition
- ✓ In 2016, the event was taken out of Delhi for the first time, to Goa.
- ✓ The next edition of 2018 was shifted to Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the Defence ministry has identified Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh as locations of two planned defence corridors.

## AWARDS

- Sanjana Kapoor, a famous Indian theatre artist – to be conferred with the prestigious French honour of "Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters).



- ✓ Sanjana has acted in various Bollywood movies like Hero Hiralal" (1989), Salaam Bombay (1988) and 36 Chowringhee Lane" (1981).
- ✓ She is the daughter of late Shashi Kapoor and late Jennifer Kendal

- ✓ The other acclaimed Indian recipients of this honour include Shah Rukh Khan, Hariprasad Chaurasia, Aishwarya Rai, Raghu Rai, Habib Tanveer, Arun Vasudev among others.
- **Indian environmental economist Pavan Sukhdev - was awarded the 2020 Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement on January 27, 2020 for his outstanding work in the area of the Green economy.**



- ✓ Sukhdev was the head and special adviser of UNEP's 'Green Economy Initiative'.
- ✓ It was a major initiative launched by the then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
- ✓ Sukhdev received the award jointly alongside conservation biologist Gretchen C Daily.
- ✓ Pavan Sukhdev is a renowned environmental economist and UN Environment Programme Goodwill Ambassador.
- ✓ He had earlier served as a special adviser and head of UNEP's Green Economy Initiative
- ✓ Sukhdev currently serves as the President and Chairman of the board of World Wildlife Fund and as a member of the TEEB Advisory Board
- ✓ The Tyler prize is one of the first international premier environmental awards, considered as the 'Nobel Prize for Environment'.
- ✓ It was instituted in 1973 by the late John and Alice Tyler.

## SPORTS

- **The Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal - became the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year Award.**



- ✓ The World Games announced the winner on January 30



- ✓ Rani, gathering 199,477 votes, emerged as a clear winner of the Athlete of the Year race, where sports fans all over the world have voted for their favourite.
- ✓ Overall, 705,610 votes were cast during the poll
- ✓ Last year, India won the FIH Series Finals, and Rani was named player-of-the-tournament.
- ✓ Rani was the captain of the Indian women's team that qualified for the last Olympics.
- ✓ She has been a member of the national team since she was 15, has more than 240 caps for India.
- ✓ Rani was recently named among the Padma Shri award winners.

## RANKINGS

- **India climbed eight ranks and secured the 72nd rank - in the Global Talent Competitive Index (GTCI) 2020, released at the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) recently**



- ✓ Switzerland is in the first place while the USA and Singapore grabbed the second and third positions respectively.

RANK	COUNTRY	SCORE
1	Switzerland	81.26
2	US	79.09
3	Singapore	78.48
4	Sweden	75.82
5	Denmark	75.18
6	Netherlands	74.99
7	Finland	74.47
8	Luxembourg	73.94
9	Norway	72.91
10	Australia	72.53
72	India	40.42

- ✓ Among the top ten countries, Sweden ranked fourth, Denmark fifth, Netherlands sixth, Finland seventh, Luxembourg eighth, Norway ninth and Australia 10th.
- ✓ The index indicates the ability of countries to make the world progress, retain and attract talent

- **Jharkhand's coal-based industrial town, Jharia - is the most polluted city in the country, according to a Greenpeace India report Airpocalypse IV**
- ✓ Another city in Jharkhand, Dhanbad, is the second most polluted city in India
- ✓ Dhanbad is known for its coal reserves and industry.
- ✓ Jharia's PM 10 levels were recorded at 322 micrograms per cubic metre

- ✓ It is more than six times the safe limits identified by the Central Pollution Control Board under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- ✓ These two cities were followed by Noida and Ghaziabad which forms an integral part of National Capital Region and are geographically located in Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Six of the top 10 polluted cities are from Uttar Pradesh - Noida, Ghaziabad, Bareilly, Allahabad, Moradabad, and Firozabad.
- ✓ Delhi has been ranked at number 10 this year while it was at number 8 last year.
- ✓ The financial capital of India, Mumbai has been ranked as the 37th most polluted city in India, in 2018.
- ✓ The further report names Lunglei in Mizoram as the least polluted city of India followed by Meghalaya's Dowki.
- ✓ These ranks were provided by Greenpeace India based on 287 cities' average annual levels of PM10 in 2018, particulate matter (PM) less than 10 mm in diameter that can enter the lungs and even the bloodstream.
- ✓ As per CPCB's air quality standards, AQI is categorised into six parts.
- ✓ AQI between 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor', and between 401-500 'severe'.

APP  
STUDY CENTRE

