

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 8, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced that foundation stone will be laid soon for the 'Cauvery-Gundar interlinking scheme' to divert surplus water down south
- ✓ The chief minister announced the estimated project cost at ₹20,000 crore.
- ✓ The State Government is preparing a detailed project report to execute the scheme jointly with the assistance of Centre.
- ✓ The public works department (PWD) has planned to initiate the project with a link canal near Mayanur barrage in Karur district.

FIRST PHASE TO COST ₹7,677 CRORE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The new link canal will be 256-km long ➤ The project will benefit Karur, Trichy, Pudukottai, Sivaganga, Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar districts ➤ The 1st phase of the 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-phase project will link Mayanur barrage in Karur and South Vellar in Pudukottai district ➤ The proposed link will benefit a total culturable command area of 20,249.27 hectares
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- ✓ The Phase I of the project is estimated to cost ₹7,677 crore
- ✓ A concept paper for construction of the canal to transfer the surplus water has already been submitted to the Union government.
- ✓ The government is in the process of surveying and identifying land required for the scheme
- ✓ The project would pass through Trichy, Pudukkottai and Sivaganga before finishing at Gundar, thereby benefitting the irrigation needs of these districts.
- ✓ The Chief Minister also announced that the government had requested the support of the Centre for modernisation of Grand Anicut scheme that would benefit 35,000km long canals.

STATES

- **The Mizoram Government - is organising 'Zo Kutpui' festival across 10 states in the country and also in countries such as Myanmar, US and Bangladesh**



- ✓ The first edition of the festival is scheduled to begin in the city of Vanghmun in Tripura
- ✓ By making arrangements to conduct such a festival, the Mizoram Government is trying to get together the Mizo population in the country and also across the world.
- ✓ In India, the Mizo population is found in Manipur, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ✓ The Mizos are tribal people spread between Myanmar in the east to Bangladesh in the west.
- ✓ After the Independence, the Mizo people were governed by the Assamese Government
- ✓ Later, the Mizo National Front (MNF) was created in 1961 to achieve independence of Mizoram
- ✓ After several negotiations of peace, in 1987, the Rajiv Gandhi Government finally signed the Mizoram Peace Accord, thereby establishing peace in the region.

NATIONAL

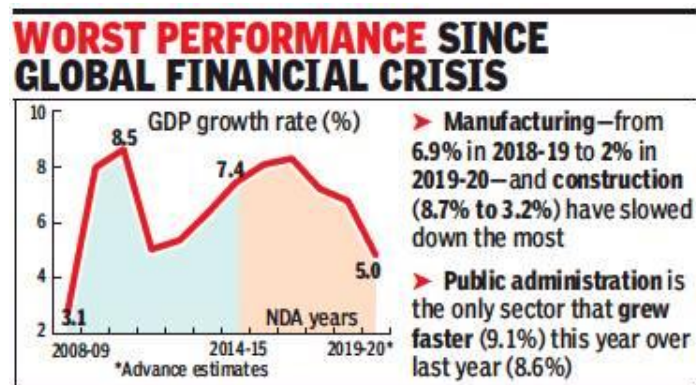
- **A Delhi court - ordered the hanging of the 4 convicts in 2012 Nirbhaya rape and murder case at 7am on January 22 inside Tihar Jail**

COUNTDOWN TO THE END

<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ With the death warrant being issued, the mandatory 14-day period before the execution has begun➤ Now, convicts will be shifted to solitary confinement cell➤ Will be handed death warrant in red envelope➤ They will be allowed to meet their families a few times in order to prepare a	<p>will and hand over all their personal belongings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Will be kept under suicide watch and their health will be monitored daily by the jail doctor <p>OPTIONS BEFORE CONVICTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ The four can file curative petition in Supreme Court and/or a mercy plea before the President
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- ✓ The order to execute the death sentence of the convicts comes six years after another trial court had sentenced them to death


- ✓ Mukesh Singh, Vinay Sharma, Pawan Gupta and Akshay Thakur are the four convicts to be executed.
 - ✓ Earlier, Nirbhaya's mother had filed a plea in Delhi's Patiala House courts on December 13, 2018,, seeking death warrants against the four men
 - ✓ In his order, additional sessions judge Satish Kumar Arora noted that the convicts had either exhausted their remedies or hadn't exercised some of them despite being given sufficient time and opportunity
- **The National Statistical Office – forecasts a GDP growth of 5% in 2019-20, lesser than the previous year's growth of 6.8% and in line with the RBI estimate**



- ✓ If realised, this GDP growth rate would be the slowest since 3.1% posted in 2008-09 following the global financial crisis.
- ✓ The economy is forecast to grow at its slowest pace in 11 years in 2019-20, due to a reduction in manufacturing, slowing services sector growth, as well as sluggish investment and consumption
- ✓ The Nominal GDP is estimated to grow at a 42-year low of 7.5%.
- ✓ It is the market value of goods and services produced in the economy but not adjusted for inflation
- ✓ Manufacturing is estimated to slow to 2% in 2019-20 from 6.9% during the previous year.
- ✓ The services sector, accounting for nearly 60% of the economy, is predicted to grow by 6.9%, slower than 7.5% registered last year.
- ✓ Similarly, the growth in the construction sector for this fiscal is expected to see a sharp decline to 3.2% as against a growth of 8.7% in the previous year.
- ✓ The overall economic growth had also slowed to a six-year low of 5% in the first quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal, while dropping further to 4.5% growth in the second quarter (July-September).
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India had reduced the GDP growth to 5% for 2019-20 from 6.1% during its October policy.
- ✓ There are eight core industries in India, which includes crude oil, electricity, refineries, coal, cement, natural gas, electricity and fertilizers.

- **A high-level panel - has granted the permission for rolling out nearly 150 private trains on 100 routes, including Mumbai-Delhi and Howrah-Delhi sectors, which will compete with Rajdhani Express**

IDENTIFIED ROUTES		
From	To	Frequency
Mumbai Central	New Delhi	Daily
Howrah	Anand Vihar, Delhi	Daily
New Delhi	Haridwar	Daily
New Delhi	Chandigarh	6 days
New Delhi	Patna	Daily
Howrah	Chennai	Daily
Bandra, Mumbai	Jaipur	Weekly
Okhla, Delhi	TCTB (Bangalore)	Daily
Guwahati	Tilak Bridge, Delhi	Tri-weekly
Allahabad	Ahmedabad	Weekly
Chennai	Coimbatore	Daily



PERFORMANCE PARAMETERS	
➤	Min 16 coach trains
➤	Flexibility in class composition, halts
➤	Max 15 mins delay allowed, damages to be paid beyond this
➤	160 kmph max permitted speed

Source: Govt

- ✓ Currently, 2 Tejas trains have been handed over for running by Railways-controlled IRCTC on the Delhi-Lucknow and Mumbai-Ahmedabad routes as an experiment with the “private sector”
 - ✓ The committee’s report is expected to initiate a massive competition to the services currently being offered by the Railways.
 - ✓ The panel was constituted by Railway minister Piyush Goyal after Railway Board chairman VK Yadav flagged private trains in the government’s 100 days’ agenda.
 - ✓ The recommendations have proposed that Indian as well as global players, with experience in railway or travel and tourism sectors be permitted, provided they have a minimum net worth of ₹450 crore.
 - ✓ Similarly, other performance parameters, such as a maximum permissible 15-minute delay beyond which passengers will have to be compensated, have been proposed.
 - ✓ Currently, a similar facility has been offered on the IRCTC operated Tejas trains
 - ✓ The routes have been divided into 7 clusters with a plan to develop infrastructure in less-utilised stations for running long-distance trains.
 - ✓ The train routes have been primarily identified on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata routes
 - ✓ These routes gets freed up by December 2021, when both Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors will become fully operational to handle goods traffic.
 - ✓ The railways has also approved the plan to improve the existing tracks on these two routes to allow trains to run at 160 kmph, which has been proposed as the maximum speed limit for private trains.
- **Railway Police Force (RPF) - has maximum share of women among all the central paramilitary forces with 1 in every 10 of its personnel being a woman**



- ✓ Currently, they have nearly 8,000 women personnel among its total strength of around 80,000 personnel.
- ✓ According to official data taken in March 2019, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) had the maximum number of women personnel, but their share was barely 5.55% of the total strength.
- ✓ CISF has 1,56,013 personnel, out of which 8,588 were women.
- ✓ Similarly, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has close to 2.96 lakh personnel among which 2.64% (7,824) are women.
- ✓ In case of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), only 2,000 out of its total 80,000 strength are women and the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) has only 1,817 women in its total strength of 98,000 personnel.
- ✓ The Border Security Force (BSF) has 2,45,000 personnel, out of which only 5,129 are women.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **A group of scientists, including from India - has mapped the genome of the Indian cobra**



- ✓ The knowledge of the sequence of genes will be helpful in understanding the chemical constituents of the venom and contribute to development of new anti-venom therapies.
- ✓ Every year, approximately 5 million people are bitten by venomous snakes globally, resulting in about 4,00,000 amputations and more than 1,00,000 deaths.

- ✓ In India, about 46,000 people die and 1,40,000 are disabled annually from snake bites from the 'Big 4' — the Indian cobra, common krait, Russell's viper, and the saw-scaled viper.
- ✓ Indian cobra are among the most poisonous snakes in the world.

DEFENCE

- **The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) - observes 2020 as the “Year of Mobility” for the welfare of the troops.**



- ✓ The force will focus on construction of residential units and implementation of welfare measures for the personnel.
- ✓ The CISF guard civil airports, nuclear power stations, mines, thermal power stations in Government and private domain as well.
- ✓ It was initially established under the CISF act, 1968 and later converted into armed force by an amendment to the act in 1983.
- ✓ It is the largest security system in the world with more than 1,65,000 soldiers

ECONOMY

- **The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) – to train and certify 5 lakh tyre mechanics by 2022, as part of the government's Saamarth skilling project**

SPECIAL ATTENTION

➤ Under the new scheme, the Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) is targeting 5 lakh certified and trained tyre mechanics by 2022

➤ Given that about 13% of total road accidents happen due to faulty tyre fitment, the prime focus is on tyre mechanics

➤ Project is also going to train and reskill two lakh people in tyre and non-tyre manufacturing and three lakh plantation workers



➤ The government has lined up a total spend of around ₹250 crore over 4 years to skill one million workers in the rubber industry

- ✓ The focus on tyre mechanics is based on industry impact studies that have indicated that 12%-13% of road accidents happen due to faulty tyre fitment or puncture treatment.
- ✓ The Government will train not only skill, standardise and certify factory workers in tyre and vendor companies but also other rubber plantation workers and showroom and workshop workers
- ✓ The government has proposed a budget allocation of around ₹250 crore over 4 years to skill and train 1 million workers in the rubber industry
- ✓ The project will train and reskill 2 lakh people in tyre and non-tyre manufacturing and 3 lakh plantation workers.
- ✓ The ministry of Skill development & entrepreneurship, under which this projected is being run, has set a target of one lakh tyre mechanics to be reskilled and certified during the current fiscal
- ✓ The Government had already trained 64,000 people and plans to train another 1.5 lakh by March 31, 2020

SPORTS

- **Indian star, Fouaad Mirza - has officially secured a berth for the country in equestrian at this year's Tokyo Olympics**



- ✓ Mirza secured the maximum number of Olympic qualification points as an individual from the South-East Asia-Oceania Zone
- ✓ The official confirmation of the selection came after the release of the latest International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) ranking along with the results for the period January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019.
- ✓ Mirza will be the third Indian rider after Wing Commander IJ Lamba (1996, Atlanta) and Imtiaz Anees (2000, Sydney) to qualify for the Olympics.
- ✓ He had also won an individual and team silver at the Asian Games in Jakarta
- ✓ Mirza trains with former world champion Sandra Auffarth at Stall Auffarth in Ganderkesee, Germany.
- ✓ Mirza hails from the Embassy International Riding School, Bengaluru

