

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JAN 9, 2020**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam– announced in the Assembly on January 8 that the state government extends the Health insurance for its pensioners and family pensioners by another four years up to 2022**
- ✓ With a premium of ₹350 each, the scheme covers 7.30 lakh pensioners and family pensioners with a network of 988 hospitals.
- ✓ The scheme provides a health cover upto Rs 4 lakh to the Pensioners and family pensioners
- ✓ The limit has been further enhanced to Rs 7.5 lakh for specified approved treatment such as chemotherapy, radiotherapy, transplantation of liver, kidney, open heart surgeries and implants, besides accident and trauma cases
- **The Tamil Nadu government - introduced three bills in the assembly on January 8**



- ✓ The first bill was to extend the tenure of special officers appointed to agriculture market committees.
- ✓ The second bill intends to change the name of TN Fisheries University to TN Dr J Jayalithaa Fisheries University apart from aiming to provide more powers to government in appointing the Vice-Chancellor to the University.
- ✓ The new bill also seeks to empower the Government to monitor the usage of government funds by the university and also provides power of inspection and inquiry to the Government
- ✓ The third bill provides power to the Government to place a president or vice-president of a registered cooperative society under suspension

- ✓ At present, the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act, 1983, has no provision to place the president or vice-president of a registered cooperative society under suspension following misappropriation of funds or breach of trust or gross mismanagement of the affairs of the society
- ✓ Cooperation Minister Sellur K. Raju introduced the Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2020
- ✓ Fisheries Minister D. Jayakumar introduced the Tamil Nadu Fisheries University (Amendment) Bill, 2020
- ✓ Agriculture Minister R. Doraikkannu was introducing the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020

## STATES

- **A.P. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy - will launch the Jagananna Amma Vodi programme in Chittoor on January 9.**



- ✓ Under the scheme, a financial assistance of ₹ 15,000 will be provided to nearly 43 lakh mothers or guardians who send their children to school.
- ✓ Student enrolment in the schools has increased by 30% after the announcement of the scheme.
- **Gujarat Government – to set up Vikram Sarabhai Children Innovation Center soon**
- ✓ This was announced by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani while speaking during the felicitation ceremony of Children’s Innovation Festival (CIF) in Gandhinagar
- ✓ The Gujarat University also exchanged a letter of intent with the UNICEF on the occasion for setting up the Center
- ✓ The Center will be set up as a Joint Venture between UNICEF and the Government of Gujarat
- ✓ The Center will help to identify, nurture and promote innovation by children in the state
- ✓ Father of Indian Space program, Vikram Sarabhai, a noted Indian physicist and astronomer, originally hailed from Gujarat.

## NATIONAL

- **The Government - lifts restrictions for coal mines to put an end to the captive mining regime, enabling foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector.**

- ✓ The relaxation paves way for increased private sector participation in the auction of coal blocks for commercial mining
  - ✓ On January 8, the Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi cleared an ordinance to introduce the amendments needed to relax conditions in the two Acts -- Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act of 1957 and the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015.
  - ✓ The ordinance will be ratified by Parliament within the next 6 months.
  - ✓ The move is aimed at enabling the government to achieve its goal of production of 1 billion tonnes of coal by 2023-2024
  - ✓ The government has decided to withdraw the nationalisation of the mining sector by opening up commercial coal mining to private sector in February 2018
  - ✓ A total 334 non-captive mining leases are expiring on March 31.
  - ✓ Out of these, 288 are non-producing mines and 46, including 36 iron-ore blocks, are producing mines.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs - approved viability gap funding (VGF) of Rs 5,559 crore for a gas pipeline network proposed to be built in the northeast region**
- ✓ This the second instance in which a public funding was approved by the Government for a gas pipeline.
  - ✓ The VGF amount sanctioned by the Cabinet's panel on economic affairs will be able to cover 60% of the Rs 9,265-crore project.
  - ✓ The proposed 1,656-km pipeline will connect Guwahati in Assam to major cities in the region such as Itanagar, Dimapur, Kohima, Imphal, Aizawl, Agartala, Shillong, Silchar, Numaligarh and Gangtok.
  - ✓ The pipeline will enable to transmit cooking gas to households and supply CNG (compressed natural gas) for automobiles in the northeast as well as to fuel industry.
  - ✓ The system is already in place in the UT of Delhi
  - ✓ The government had sanctioned a capital grant of Rs 5,176 crore, or 40% of the cost, for Urja Ganga Project in 2016
  - ✓ It is the 2,655-km Jagdishpur-Haldia and Bokaro-Dhamra (JHBDPL) gas pipeline being built by state-run GAIL.
  - ✓ The north-east pipeline grid is to be implemented by Indradhanush Gas Grid, which was set up in 2018

**CAPITAL GRANT TO  
INDRADHANUSH GAS GRID LTD**  
For setting up of North-East Natural Gas Pipeline Grid

In line with PM Modi's vision of Purvodaya

**IGGL**

**1656 KMs**  
Total length of pipeline

**₹9265 Crores**  
Tentative project cost

**60%**  
Cabinet Approved Viability Gap Funding for IGGL, at 60% of the estimated cost of ₹9265 Crores (including interest during construction) for North East Natural Gas Grid

#CabinetDecision

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**INDRADHANUSH GAS GRID LTD**  
Connecting NE region to National Gas Grid ecosystem

Prosperous North-East, For Prosperous India

- Gas pipeline grid to be developed in 8 states of the North-Eastern region i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.
- A step towards leveraging the hydrocarbon potential in the region.
- VGF will lead to development of industrial climate in the North East region without impacting the environment.
- The pipeline grid will ensure reliable and uninterrupted supply of natural gas to various types of consumers, Industrial, Domestic (PNG) & transport (CNG).
- Expansion of NE Natural Gas grid through IGGL will promote employment opportunities in the region, facilitate economic development and connect common people to economic growth.
- Improve quality of life, help usher a gas-based economy and increase the share of natural gas in our energy mix.

#CabinetDecision

- ✓ It is a joint venture of GAIL, Indian Oil, ONGC, Oil India Ltd and Numaligarh Refinery Ltd.
- ✓ GAIL is also laying a 750-km line from Barauni to Guwahati as part of the Rs 12,940 crore JHBDPL project, which is also known as the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga' project.
- ✓ The Indradhanush Grid is critical for implementing the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for the north-east
- ✓ It improves the region's hydrocarbon capacity by providing access to clean fuel and accelerating economic growth.
- ✓ The Natural Gas Pipeline Grid will be developed in the eight states of the north east including Sikkim and the seven sisters- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
- ✓ The project will be monitored by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **European scientists - have confirmed that 2019 was a very hot year, with global average temperatures registering the 'second' highest on record.**
- ✓ Compared with 2019, only 2016 was hotter by less than one-tenth of a degree Fahrenheit.
- ✓ In the year 2019, several months had record 'average' temperatures, with July being the hottest month ever, averaging 0.07° Fahrenheit (0.04° Celsius) higher than July 2016
- ✓ Also, the year 2019 recorded more than 1° Fahrenheit (about 0.6° Celsius) above the average for the period between 1981 and 2010
- ✓ The finding, by the Copernicus Climate Change Service, indicates an increasing trend in temperatures as emissions of greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere and change the climate

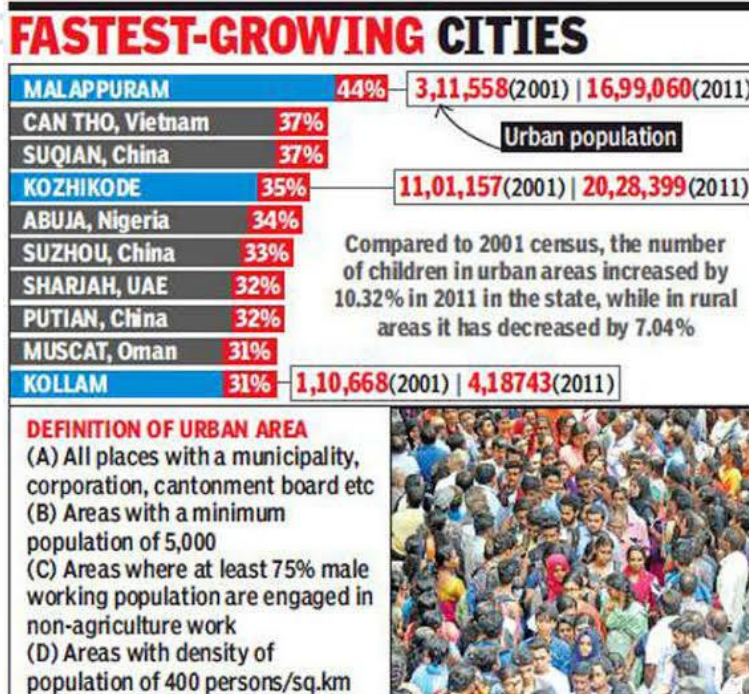
- ✓ **Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - is planning to set up its own satellite communication system for constant monitoring and contacting Indian astronauts in space**
- ✓ A constellation of two geo-satellites in the Indian Data Relay Satellite System (IDRSS) will establish the space communication system to help the Gaganyaan space crew talk to the ground station.
- ✓ The first geo satellite will be launched this year before the first unmanned test flight of Gaganyaan, which is likely to be launched in December or first half of 2021.
- ✓ The second satellite will be launched before the second unmanned testflight next year.
- ✓ Both these testflights will carry a humanoid to space
- ✓ Isro is planning to launch the Gaganyaan or manned mission by 2022.

## SPORTS

- **India's P. Iniyan - finishes second in the Stauffer Open chess tournament held in Germany recently.**
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu player registered 6 wins, 2 draws and suffered a loss to finish with 7 points in the event.

## RANKINGS

- **Three of the world's 10 fastest-growing urban areas - are located in Kerala, as per a survey published by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), a sister company of The Economist.**



- ✓ Malappuram tops the list followed by Kozhikode ranked at fourth and Kollam in the 10th position.
- ✓ However, no other Indian city has made it to the top 10 on the list, based on the United Nation's population data.
- ✓ Malappuram recorded a 44.1% rise in population between 2015-2020, while Can Tho in Vietnam, ranking second on the list, saw its population increase by 36.7%
- ✓ Suqian in China, which ranks third, recorded a 36.6 % growth in population and Kozhikode recorded a 34.5% rise in population.
- ✓ Kollam registered a 31.1 % growth in population during the same period.
- ✓ With a population growth rate of 30.2%, Kerala's cultural capital Thrissur features at number 13.
- ✓ The two other Indian cities that figure on the list of 30 are Surat (26.7%) and Tirupur (26.1%).

## NATIONAL DAY

### ➤ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas – January 9



- ✓ The celebration of the day intends to recognize the overseas Indians who have contributed to the development of India
- ✓ It was first observed in 2003
- ✓ On this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned India from South Africa and hence the day is observed as 'Pravasi Bharatiya Divas', considering Mahatma Gandhi as the greatest migrant
- ✓ In 2019, it was celebrated by the Government of India at Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ In 2018, it was observed in Singapore.
- ✓ Pravasi Bharatiya Samman (PBSA) is conferred every year on this day
- ✓ It is conferred to NRIs or, PIOs (Person of Indian Origin) or an organization established by NRIs or PIOs, who have made a significant contribution in supporting, promoting and building Indian links at overseas.

