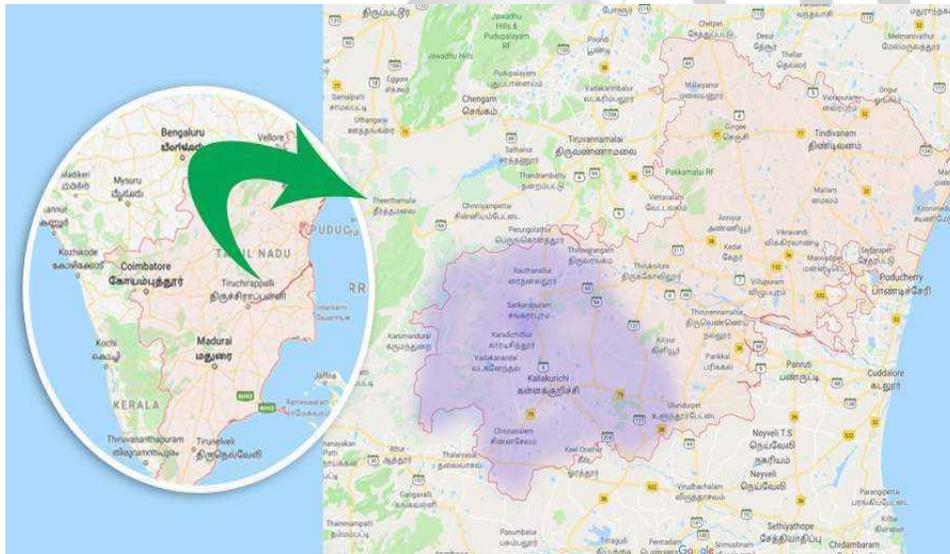


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 9, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- ◆ **Kallakurichi – becomes Tamil Nadu's 33rd district from January 8, 2019**



- ✓ It was created from the State's largest district, Villupuram, which has 1,099 village panchayats
- ✓ The last district created in the state was on February 22, 2009 when Tiruppur was created out of Coimbatore and Erode districts
- ✓ Villupuram was created on September 30, 1993 out of South Arcot district, along with Cuddalore, which was the overall headquarters of the composite South Arcot district
- ✓ The Villupuram district has an area of 7,217 sqkm with the population of 34.58 lakh, next only to Vellore district
- ✓ The 5 assembly segments of Ulundurpet, Tirukollur, Rshivandiyam, Sankarapuram and Kallakurichi are likely to form part of the new district with Kallakurichi as the headquarters

◆ Tamil Nadu Government – to start Kindergarten classes in Government schools from January 21



- ✓ The Government had earlier announced that LKG and UKG classes would start in 2300 Government middle schools with Anganwadi centres located on the school premises
- ✓ The students will be put in Montessori-education based KG classes in English medium
- ✓ A budget of Rs 7 crore has been released for the scheme by the State Government

NATIONAL

◆ Supreme Court – forms a 5-judge bench to hear the Ayodhya case from January 10, 2019

- ✓ The bench will be headed by the CJI, Ranjan Gogoi
- ✓ It comprises of 4 other judges, who are slated to become the future CJIs, in that order -- S A Bobde, N V Ramana, UU Lalit and DY Chandrachud
- ✓ Significantly, no Muslim judge features in the five-judge bench for the very first time, as all the benches hearing the Ayodhya appeal always had a judge belonging to the Muslim community

All the 4 judges on the Ayodhya case bench with the CJI are slated to become CJIs in future. If all goes well, they will ascend to the post on the following dates

 S A Bobde Nov 18, 2019	 N V Ramana April 24, 2021
 U U Lalit Aug 27, 2022	 D Y Chandrachud Nov 9, 2022



- ✓ The first order in the appeals against the 2010 Ayodhya judgement of the Allahabad High court was passed in May 2011 by a bench of Justices Aftab Alam and R M Lodha
- ✓ It had stayed the HC verdict dividing the 2.77 acre disputed land equally between the 3 parties – Ram Lalla, Nirmohi Akhara and Sunni Waqf Board
- ✓ On September 29, 2018, a bench of the then CJI ,Dipak Misra and Justices Ashok Bhushan and S Abdul Nazeer had held the appeals against the Allahabad HC's verdict on Ayodhya land dispute will be heard by a 3-member bench – in a 2-1 verdict with only Justice S Abdul Nazeer favouring a 5-member bench

◆ **India – allows Iranian private bank ‘Pasargod’ to open a branch in Mumbai**



- ✓ The new branch will handle transactions related to India’s oil purchases in view of American sanctions on Iran and is expected to begin operations in March
- ✓ UCO Bank of India and Bank Pasargod are the payment partners in the India-Iran relations from both the countries
- ✓ India will pay for crude imports in rupees to UCO Bank and Iran will use the funds for importing Indian goods
- ✓ Chabahar port, on Iran’s southern coast along the Gulf of Oman, is being developed by India as a transportation corridor for landlocked Afghanistan and West Asia bypassing Pakistan

◆ **India and Norway – signs a MoU on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue**



- ✓ The dialogue aims to establish a joint task force on Blue economy to promote multi-sectoral cooperation in various aspects of Blue economy
- ✓ Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway, is on an official state visit to India from January 7-9, 2019
- ✓ During the visit, Prime Minister Solberg called on the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, held detailed talks with PM Modi and also met India’s External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj
- ✓ She had also delivered the Inaugural Address at the Raisina Dialogue and inaugurated the India-Norway Business Summit.

◆ **Lok Sabha - passed the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, 2019 on January 8, 2019**

- ✓ The bill aims to regulate the use and application of DNA technology for the purpose of establishing the identity of certain category of persons including the victims, offenders, suspects, under trials, missing persons and others
- ✓ It also seeks to establish a National DNA Data Bank and Regional DNA Data Banks
- ✓ It provides for mandatory accreditation and regulation of DNA laboratories

COMMITTEES

- ◆ **Reserve Bank of India – constitutes a panel under Nandan Nilekani to promote digital payments**



- ✓ The new norms issued by RBI allows third-party service providers like Google Pay and Apple Pay to store payment card data and allow customers to make cardless payments in shops using their phones
- ✓ An earlier panel appointed by the Government headed by Ratan Wattal had recommended Aadhaar for eKYC and extensive use of Aadhaar-enabled payment system
- ✓ Besides Nilekani, the panel consists of H R Khan, former RBI deputy governor, Kishore Sansi, former Vijay Bank CEO, Aruna Sharma, former IT ministry secretary and Sanjay Jain, chief innovation officer at IIM-Ahmedabad's centre for innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship
- ✓ Nilekani was considered as the brain behind the development of Aadhaar

SPORTS

- ◆ **World's largest Cricket stadium – is coming up in Ahmedabad, Gujarat**



- ✓ The Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad is currently being revamped to be bigger than the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), which is the current largest cricket stadium in the world with a seating capacity of 90,000
- ✓ The Motera stadium was first constructed in the year 1982 with a seating capacity of 49,000 and hosted 23 One day internationals till 2011
- ✓ The new stadium is being constructed at an area of 63 acres with a budget of Rs 700 crores
- ✓ The stadium witnessed several historic events like Sunil Gavaskar scoring his 10,000th run and Sachin Tendulkar scored first test match double hundred
- ✓ The current largest cricket stadium in the country is Eden gardens, with a capacity of 68000 spectators
- ✓ The new stadium will bear the name of Sardar Vallabhai patel, Iron Man of India

