



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 11, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- Tamil Nadu Government – digitizes ‘Financial’ operations in 14 districts, including Coimbatore, Erode and Tirupur



மாண்புமிகு தமிழ்நாடு முதலமைச்சர் திரு. எடப்பாடி கே. பழனிசாமி அவர்கள் இன்று (10.12.2019) தலைமைச் செயலகத்தில், நிதித்துறை சார்பில் அரசு அலுவலர்களில் ஒருங்கிணைந்த நிதி மற்றும் மனிதவள மேலாண்மை (Integrated Financial & Human Resources Management System) மேன்பொருள் பயன்பாட்டு திட்டத்தினை துவக்கி வைத்தார்கள். இந்த நிகழ்ச்சியில், மாண்புமிகு துணை முதலமைச்சர் திரு.ஓ.பன்னீர்செல்வம், தலைமைச் செயலாளர் முனைவர் கிரிஜா வைத்தியநாதன் இ.ஆ.ப., நிதித்துறை கூடுதல் தலைமைச் செயலாளர் திரு.க.சண்முகம், இ.ஆ.ப., மற்றும் அரசு உயர் அலுவலர்கள் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

- ✓ Chief minister, Edappadi K Palaniswami - launched the ‘Integrated Financial and Human Resources Management System’ (IFHRMS) software through video conferencing
- ✓ The move aims to provide hassle-free and quick service from the treasuries and accounts department to more than 32,000 government employees and 45,000 pensioners from the districts

- ✓ The state government has digitized their service records and automated the entire transaction procedure
- ✓ The software is expected to be launched in the remaining districts by January 21
- **Tamil Nadu Government – implements extends 100 days of compulsory work to 150 days - under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in the districts affected by the Gaja Cyclone**
- ✓ The extension approved by the Centre for the FY 2018-19 will benefit 133 village unions in 12 districts
- ✓ A Government order to this effect was released on January 5, following which the scheme was implemented first in Thanjavur district on January 9
- **Vallur Thermal Power Station in North Chennai – was shut down over Green violation**



- ✓ The move follows an order by the Madras High Court which banned the discharge of fly ash into the Vallur pond
- ✓ The 3 power plants with a combined capacity of 1500 MW were a part of a joint venture between TANGEDCO and National Thermal Power Corporation limited
- ✓ Fly ash is a residue obtained after burning coal and is a known source of groundwater contamination
- ✓ The thermal power plant at Vallur began operations in 2012

- Justice S Vimala of the Madras high court retired from service on January 10



- ✓ Justice Vimala was the first woman to be appointed as the judge of Chennai Mahila Court in 2002
- ✓ She was the first woman appointed as Director of a state judicial academy in 2006
- ✓ She has written a book titled “Whether Winning a Case Means Success in Life?” which was published by the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women
- ✓ With her retirement, the total number of judges in the high court has come down to 60 as against the sanctioned strength of 75
- **Chennai Corporation – to rename 18 places in the city in Tamil from their current English names**

BACK TO TAMIL ROOTS

Ayanavaram → Ayanpuram	 <p>Alwarpet will not change but a few other 'pets' will be renamed</p>
Egmore → Azhumbur	
Triplicane → Tiruvallikkeni	
T Nagar → Thyagaraya Nagar	
Chindatripet → Chindatripettai	
Jalladianpet → Jalladianpettai	
Saidapet → Saidapettai	
Tondiarpet → Tondiarpettai	

- ✓ The list includes Ayanavaram, Egmore, T Nagar, Triplicane, Chindatripet, Jalladianpet, Saidapet and Tondiarpet
- ✓ The suffix of the last four places ending with 'pet' would be changed to 'pettai'

STATES

- **West Bengal - has decided to exit from the Centre's flagship scheme 'Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana'**
 - ✓ The reasons cited by the State for the exit were –
 - ✓ The Central Government sending the letter to the beneficiaries with PM's picture and a lotus symbol on top, without the knowledge of State Government
 - ✓ The Central Government changing the name of state's established health scheme 'Swasthyasathi' into Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana
 - ✓ Even though the state is bearing 40% of the cost in the scheme, the Union Government was projecting it as a 'Central Scheme'
 - ✓ With the exit, West Bengal joins the other states of Telangana, Kerala, Odisha, and Delhi in opting out from the scheme

- **Chhattisgarh - has withdrawn the general consent given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe the cases in the state**
 - ✓ The general consent was withdrawn by the state by cancelling Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, which makes it 'mandatory'
 - ✓ It has to be recalled that West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have withdrawn the general consent for CBI recently

- **A 111 foot-tall Shivalingam in the Maheswaram Sivaparvathi Temple at Chenkal, Neyyattinkara, Kerala district – enters into the Indian record books as the tallest Shivalingam in the country**



- ✓ The temple, situated near Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, had started the construction of the Shivalingam on May 3, 2012
- ✓ Inside the cylindrical structure are eight floors with six of them representing the six chakras or energy centres in the human body
- ✓ The halls representing the six chakras Muladhara, Swadhishtana, Manipura, Anahata, Vishuddha and Ajna were coloured red, orange, yellow, green, blue and indigo respectively
- ✓ The base floor houses 108 different Shivalingams made from the Krishna stone from Mahabalipuram
- ✓ The Shivalingam is expected to be open to the public by February 2019

NATIONAL

- **Union Cabinet - approves a proposal for \$75-billion Currency swap arrangement between India and Japan**



- ✓ A currency swap agreement is a foreign exchange agreement between two parties to exchange one currency for another and giving back the original amount swapped after a specified period of time
- ✓ The agreement addresses the country's liquidity conditions apart from avoiding multiple currency transactions
- ✓ The deal for the proposal was concluded in October 2018 during the summit level meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at Yamanashi, Japan
- **The Cabinet also approved - setting up of 3 new AIIMS at Vijayanagar in Samba in Jammu and Awantipur in Pulwara in Kashmir and Rajkot in Gujarat**

- ✓ All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are the autonomous institutions set up under the AIIMS act, 1956
- ✓ Besides the AIIMS in Delhi, the country has 8 other AIIMS in various states with 13 more approved or proposed including the new 3 institutes
- **World Economic Forum - has recognised Tata Steel's plant at IJmuiden in Netherlands as 'Manufacturing Lighthouse'**



- ✓ The plant employs various innovative solutions to optimize the production in the facility
- ✓ The recognition by WEF addresses the needs and strategies for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and to be recognized as the 'Factories of the Future'
- **32nd Meeting of the GST Council – January 10**



- ✓ Key decisions
- ✓ The threshold limit for the tax relaxation has been doubled to Rs 40 lakh from Rs 20 lakh
- ✓ The tax exemption limit for small states has also been increased to Rs 20 lakh from Rs 10 lakh
- ✓ The GST council also raised the turnover limit under composition scheme from current Rs 1 crore to Rs 1.5 crore with effect from April 1, 2019
- ✓ Service providers who render mixed supplies of goods and services with a turnover up to Rs 50 lakh in the informal sector will be entitled to the 'Composition scheme' under the GST regime and pay a tax of 6%

NOW EASIER TO COMPLY	
<p>FOR GOODS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GST exemption limit for manufacturers and traders of goods raised from ₹20 lakh to ₹40 lakh annual turnover ➤ Up to 20 lakh GST assesseees may go out of the tax net ➤ States can fix a threshold lower than ₹40 lakh ➤ But large companies may insist on exempted firms staying within GST – to ensure input credit ➤ Even now, 11 lakh units with under ₹20 lakh turnover are registered for GST 	<p>FOR SERVICES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Registration limit stays unchanged at ₹20 lakh (₹ 10 lakh for hill states and North East) ➤ New window allows beauty parlours, automobile service centres, others with annual turnover of Rs 50 lakh to pay flat 6% GST and only file annual returns ➤ Similarly, small manufacturers, traders with a turnover of up to ₹1.5 crore can pay a flat 1% tax and file only annual return

- ✓ The GST Council decided to allow Kerala to levy a 1% cess on intra-state sales for a period of 2 years - to deal with the natural calamities faced in 2018
- ✓ A seven-member Group of Ministers (GoM) has been created to look into the GST on real estate
- ✓ Another GoM with representation from lottery developing and selling states will be formed for uniformity of taxation on lottery or other issues arising out of lottery
- ✓ Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) to make available free of cost accounting and billing software to small taxpayers
- ✓ Rationalising the 28% tax slab, the council had reduced the GST rates on 6 items to 18% slab and 1 item to 5% slab
- ✓ The exemption limit is the maximum annual turnover above which companies have to mandatorily pay GST
- ✓ A dual threshold system is under practice with a lower cap for North-eastern and hilly states designated under special category and a higher one for the rest of India

- ✓ The move to raise the threshold for GST registration is considered as a big boost and relief to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs)

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **Supreme Court of India - schedules the hearing in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid land title dispute case on January 29, 2019**
- ✓ The decision follows after Justice UU Lalit recused himself from the case and a new constitution bench needs to be set up



- ✓ Other members of the bench comprised Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justices SA Bobde, NV Ramana, and DY Chandrachud.
- ✓ The decision of Justice UU Lalit follows the appearance of Justice Lalit in the case of former Uttar Pradesh chief minister Kalyan Singh in 1994, who is known for his role in the Babri Masjid demolition

COMMITTEES

- **Supreme Court - has suggested setting up of a 3-member panel to suggest reforms for holding competitive examinations fairly by government agencies**
- ✓ It had suggested the names of Nandan Nilekani, a co-founder of Infosys and renowned computer scientist, Vijay P Bhatkar for the committee



- ✓ The 3rd member of the council to be suggested by advocate Prashant Bhushan, who appeared for the petitioner

PERSONALITIES

- **Alok Verma, Former Director of CBI – resigns from service refusing to assume charge of Director General (DG) of Fire Services on January 11**



- ✓ Earlier, he was sacked as CBI Director by a high-powered committee on charges of corruption and dereliction of duty with a 2-1 verdict on January 10
- ✓ The committee was headed by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and consists of Leader of Opposition, Mallikarjun Kharge and Justice A K Sikri, nominee of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi
- ✓ There were 8 counts of charges against him in the CVC report presented before the Committee
- ✓ This makes him the first chief in the history of CBI to be ousted from the post
- ✓ Based on the recommendation of panel, the PM-headed Appointments Committee of the Cabinet immediately issued transfer orders to Verma as Director General- Fire services
- ✓ M Nageswara Rao was again appointed as the Interim Director of the agency
- ✓ The tenure of Alok Verma was supposed to end on January 31, 2019 when he retires

SPORTS

➤ **67th Senior National Volleyball Championship**

- ✓ Karnataka men and Kerala women emerged winners at Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai



- ✓ In the Finals, Kerala women defeated the defending champions Railways in a five set thriller
- ✓ In the men's final, Karnataka defeated the home team, Tamil Nadu by 3-1 sets