

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 11, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On January 10, Tamil Nadu government - announced that it will offer 2GB free data per day to more than nine lakh college students in the state**
- ✓ The free data will be provided from January to April 2021 to help the students take part in online classes.
- ✓ This was announced by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami in a statement
- ✓ All colleges in Tamil Nadu have been conducting 'virtual' mode online classes in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Though physical classes were being offered to final-year UG and PG students, most of the students still prefer to study through online classes.
- ✓ The announcement will benefit the students studying in government and aided arts and science, polytechnic, and engineering colleges and students receiving scholarships in private colleges
- ✓ The data cards will be distributed through Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd (ELCOT).
- ✓ The state government has been issuing free laptops to government and aided college students.
- **Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and deputy chief minister O Panneerselvam - will inaugurate the Alanganallur Jallikattu on January 16.**



- ✓ This year, the best bull and bull tamer will win cars as the prize.
 - ✓ Minister for revenue, disaster management and IT R B Udhayakumar participated in the ceremony to launch the Alanganallur jallikattu with the ceremonial 'muhurthakkal'.
 - ✓ The game, in which 655 bull tamers are expected to participate, will be inaugurated at 8am on January 16, 2021
 - ✓ The entire event will be conducted by following the standard operating procedures as prescribed by the government
 - ✓ The administration of the Alanaganallur town panchayat, revenue department and PWD officials would ensure that all the arrangements are in place for the event.
 - ✓ Barricades will be erected at the venue to ensure safety.
 - ✓ The entire event would be recorded using CCTV cameras installed at key places in the town.
 - ✓ The spectators' gallery would be built in such a manner that physical distancing was ensured
- **The Public Works Department - has submitted the final draft of the M-sand policy to the government, after incorporating changes sought by various stakeholders.**



- ✓ The policy is expected to come into force by March or April, 2021
- ✓ As per the draft policy, the department has recommended a reduction in the imprisonment period for violations, to one year, instead of the earlier two years.
- ✓ This follows representations from stakeholders, including associations for M-sand manufacturing units and lorry owners, during the second round of meeting.
- ✓ However, the fine levied would vary depending on the case of violations.
- ✓ If quarry operators or crusher units are found guilty of issuing forged certificates to M-sand manufacturing units, they will also attract a year of imprisonment.
- ✓ The Department has also extended the period to renew PWD licences, from three to five years.
- ✓ There are nearly 1,200 M-sand manufacturing units functioning across the State.
- ✓ Out of these, only about 270 have been approved by the PWD for product quality.

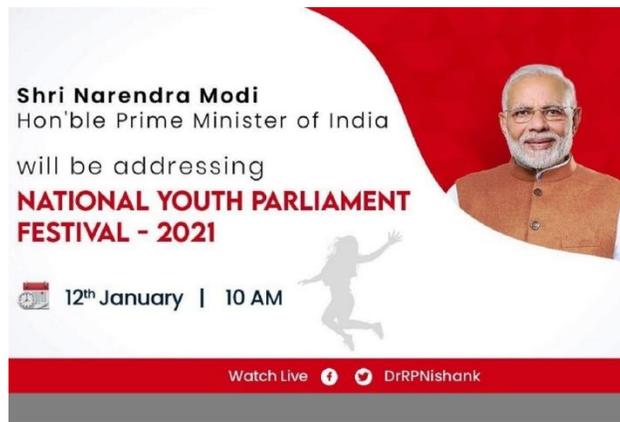
- ✓ While 67 applications are under scrutiny, about 400 have been identified as operating without approval.

STATES

- **Arunachal Pradesh - to become India's prime producer of vanadium, a high-value metal used in strengthening steel and titanium**
- ✓ The eastern Himalayan state, considered a sleeping hydropower giant, is all set to be placed on the vanadium map of the country
- ✓ Explorations are being carried out by the Geological Survey of India (GSI) in the state and geologists are confident of identifying a deposit soon.
- ✓ India is a significant consumer of vanadium, but is not a primary producer of the strategic metal.
- ✓ It is recovered as a by-product from the slag collected from the processing of vanadiferous magnetite ores (iron ore).
- ✓ According to data provided by the GSI, India consumed 4% of about 84,000 tonnes of vanadium produced across the globe in 2017.
- ✓ China, which produces 57% of the world's vanadium, consumes 44% of the metal.
- ✓ The first ever report of a primary deposit of vanadium in India was found in the rocks in the Depo and Tamang areas of Papum Pare district in Arunachal Pradesh
- ✓ The vanadium is noticed to be in concentrations of an average grade of 0.76% V₂O₅ [vanadium pentoxide]
- ✓ The Vanadium Pentoxide is used as a catalyst in the production of Sulphuric acid.
- ✓ In its pure form, Vanadium is soft, ductile and grey in colour.
- ✓ It improves tensile strength of steel and reinforce steel bars used for tunnels, buildings and bridges
- ✓ According to Indian Bureau of Mines, the total estimated reserves of Vanadium in India is around 24.63 million tonnes
- ✓ Vanadium mineralisation in Arunachal Pradesh is geologically similar to the "stone coal" vanadium deposits of China
- ✓ Globally, the largest vanadium deposits are in China, followed by Russia and South Africa

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - is scheduled to address the valedictory function of the second National Youth Parliament on January 12 through video conferencing**
- ✓ The top three winners of the National Youth Parliament will express their views before the Prime Minister.
- ✓ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju will also be present on the occasion



- ✓ The National Youth Parliament is organised to provide a platform to the youth between the age of 18 and 25 years to express themselves on public issues.
- ✓ It is held on January 12 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ✓ Also, the Government of India celebrates the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda as National Youth Day.
- ✓ The National Youth Festival is celebrated every year from January 12 to 16.
- ✓ The National Youth Parliament is held at three levels - district youth parliament at district level, state youth parliament at state level, National youth parliament at National level.
- ✓ The National Youth Parliament is based on the idea given by the prime minister in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on December 31, 2017
- ✓ The first National Youth Parliament was held in 2019 under the theme “be the voice of new India and find solutions and contribute to policy”.
- ✓ The second National Youth Parliament was launched on December 23 last year through virtual mode, and over 2.34 lakh youths from across the country participated in the first stage
- ✓ It was followed by State Youth Parliaments through virtual mode from January 1 to 5 this year.
- ✓ The finals, comprising of 29 national winners, will be held in the Central Hall of Parliament on January 11.
- ✓ They will speak before a national jury comprising MPs Roopa Ganguly and Parvesh Verma and journalist Prafulla Ketkar, the editor of Hindutva weekly Organiser.
- ✓ The National Service Scheme operating under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organises the National Youth parliament.
- ✓ The National Service Scheme (NSS) is a central government scheme.
- ✓ It provides opportunity to students of class 11 and 12, graduate and postgraduate students at colleges and Universities to participate in various government alert community services.
- ✓ The main objective of the scheme, launched in 1969, is to provide hands on experience to young students in delivering community service.

- **The government - to generate unique health identity (UHID) for those giving Aadhaar as an identity proof for vaccination**
- ✓ Once a UHID is generated, a person's health records are digitally maintained in hospitals and become a part of government records.
- ✓ Notably, providing Aadhaar is not mandatory to receive the vaccine— any government-issued ID will be accepted
- ✓ Also, the government has explicitly stated that using Aadhaar as photo ID proof could have “legal implications” and hence the option is not listed in the Photo ID drop down menu

- **On January 10, the Centre – has confirmed that the bird-flu outbreak has been confirmed in seven states, even as fresh avian deaths were reported from various parts of the country.**



- ✓ The outbreak has been confirmed in the states of Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Further, the test results are awaited for the samples collected from Delhi and Maharashtra.
- ✓ The samples collected from Chhattisgarh's Balod have tested negative for the avian influenza virus
- ✓ The government has also directed zoo managements to submit daily reports to the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) till their area is declared free from the disease.
- ✓ The CZA, under the environment ministry, issued an office memorandum saying avian influenza is a scheduled disease under the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009
- ✓ Hence, the reporting of such a disease is obligatory for taking appropriate preventive measures against its spread.
- ✓ Carcasses of 215 migratory birds were found in the Pong Dam Wildlife Sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh's Kangra district
- ✓ This takes the total number of such birds suspected to have died of avian influenza to 4,235

- **The government - has removed the condition of submitting a valid visa and medical certificate while applying for International Driving Permit (IDP).**

- ✓ Further, from February 15, the IDP holders can also get the permit renewed online through the Indian embassies, if these expire when they are still abroad.
- ✓ These changes have been made in the Motor Vehicle Rules by the road transport ministry through a notification on January 9.
- ✓ The IDPs issued in India are accepted across 15 countries including the UK, USA, Germany, Australia, Canada, Switzerland and Bhutan.
- ✓ The validity of IDP is one year from the date of its issue or the validity of the domestic license whichever is earlier.
- ✓ This new norm will bring relief to those who face problems in renewing the DLs during their stay in foreign countries.
- ✓ Such persons will need to apply through websites of the Indian embassies or missions abroad and the applications would then be transferred to the Parivahan portal for the respective RTOs to process them.
- ✓ Parivahan portal is the national register of all DLs and RCs.
- ✓ The applicants will be required to pay ₹2,000 as fee for renewal of their IPD.
- ✓ They need to submit the proof of valid driving licence, three copies of passport photographs, proof of nationality and proof of valid passport.
- ✓ They will also need to give the address at which the renewed IDP can be delivered where the person is staying.
- ✓ Further, the conditions of a medical certificate while applying for an IPD has also been removed, since the citizen who has a valid driving licence doesn't need one more medical certificate

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Space Research Organization - recently announced that it is to adopt 100 Atal Tinkering Labs across the country.**
- ✓ The decision of the space agency is to facilitate mentoring and coaching of students in latest technologies, including the space.
- ✓ The students will gain practical and application-based knowledge of the concept of STEM through the programme.
- ✓ There are more than seven thousand Atal Tinkering Labs in India.
- ✓ The scheme helps more than three million students to acquire problem solving, innovative and tinkering mindset.
- ✓ NITI Aayog established Atal Tinkering Labs under Atal Innovation Mission.
- ✓ The Atal Innovation Mission was launched to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the country through the Atal Incubation Centres
- ✓ It has two core functions namely - entrepreneurship through self-employment and innovation promotion.

