



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 13, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and his deputy O Panneerselvam – to unveil former chief minister J Jayalalithaa’s memorial on the Marina Beach front on January 27**
  - ✓ The ₹79.75 crore Jayalalithaa memorial resembles the phoenix, with lions standing guard on either side
  - ✓ It is situated in the same complex that has former CM MGR’s memorial as well, on a nine acre of land.
  - ✓ The cabinet gave its nod for the construction of the memorial days after Jayalalithaa’s death in December 2016.
  - ✓ The project was originally scheduled to be completed within a year of laying the foundation stone in May 2018
  - ✓ The phoenix-like structure with a polyurethane coat of paint is 15m high, 30m long and 43m wide.
  - ✓ The foundation has been strengthened by 500 tonnes of steel and 1,068 cubic metres of concrete and the superstructure with 300 tonnes of steel and 800 cubic metres of cement concrete.
  
- **On January 12, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – announced that schools across the state can reopen on January 19, 2021**
  - ✓ About 20 lakh Class X and XII students will return to the school campus, with strict adherence to the standard operating procedures announced by the government
  - ✓ When reopened, schools should not accommodate more than 25 students per classroom
  - ✓ Temperature checks, ban on sharing food, half-empty school vans and no canteens are among the new rules to be followed
  - ✓ Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) will also provide 4 crore doses of multivitamins and zinc tablets to help boost students’ immunity.
  - ✓ Students will also have staggered lunch breaks to help maintain social distancing.

- ✓ Teachers will monitor students to ensure staggered entry and exit times are followed and break up any gatherings on campus.

| CHALLENGES AHEAD   | PLAN OF ACTION  |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Training students to return to blackboard-based learning</li> <li>➤ Working on their attention span</li> <li>➤ Maintaining social distancing in classrooms</li> <li>➤ Psychological impact of Covid lockdown on students</li> <li>➤ Lack of writing practice</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Initially, only one session a day</li> <li>➤ Orientation for students and teachers on Covid protocols</li> <li>➤ 50% occupancy in school vans</li> <li>➤ Only 25 students per classroom</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Names of students allotted in each classroom to be on display to avoid confusion and prevent them from mingling</li> <li>➤ Preparing timetables for each class so as to complete portions</li> <li>➤ Teachers have been asked to return prior reopening</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No canteens</li> <li>➤ Counselling for students in the first two or three weeks</li> <li>➤ No assemblies or physical education periods</li> <li>➤ Some schools prefer a mix of offline and online classes</li> </ul> |
|  | <b>STILL UNCLEAR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ School timings</li> <li>➤ Details of the 40%</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>omitted lessons</li> <li>➤ Exam schedule for Classes X and XII</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Whether board exams will be conducted for Class XI students</li> </ul>   |

- ✓ This is the third time that the State government has announced the reopening of schools for Classes 10 and 12 since the Covid-19 lockdown was imposed in March last year.
- ✓ In September last year, the government decided to reopen schools for students of Classes 10, 11 and 12, “on a voluntary basis”, to seek guidance from their teachers from October 1.
- ✓ The decision was eventually postponed until a second decision in October to reopen schools for Classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 from November 16, which was put off indefinitely later
- **Autoliv Inc., a fortune 500 company headquartered in Sweden - is setting up its manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu at an investment of ₹100 crore.**
  - ✓ The new company will manufacture air-bags at Cheyyar
  - ✓ The project is expected to create jobs for over 400 people.
  - ✓ Autoliv Inc. develops, manufactures and markets air-bags, seat belts and steering wheels.
  - ✓ During the last decade, more than three air-bags or seat belts from Autoliv have been delivered to every vehicle produced globally.
  - ✓ The company was initially planning to set up this plant in Vietnam, but decided to go for Cheyyar after several rounds of discussions with officials of the State government.
  - ✓ Last year, the State government signed several memoranda of understanding for investments worth over \$2 billion in the automotive industry alone.
  - ✓ In 2020, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles said it would expand with an investment of ₹2,277 crore and generate jobs for 400 people in the state
  - ✓ Netherlands-based Dinex proposed a project to manufacture auto components at Mahindra World City, bringing in ₹100 crore in investment.

- ✓ According to one of the MoUs signed last year, BYD India Private Limited has proposed to establish a project for manufacture of electric vehicles in the SIPCOT Industrial Park at Sriperumpudur.
- ✓ In December last, the State government signed a deal with Ola Electric Mobility for establishing an electric two-wheeler manufacturing unit at Hosur at an investment of ₹2,354 crore.
- **The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) - is planning to launch private conservancy operations in north Chennai in the third week of February.**
- ✓ A special purpose vehicle, created by the GCC and Ramky Enviro Engineers Limited, will carry out the operations in the Tiruvottiyur, Manali, Madhavaram and Ambattur zones.
- ✓ A total of 825 battery-operated vehicles, 12 compactors and 12 mechanical sweepers would be used for the operations.
- ✓ The private operator would start the work in Tiruvottiyur in the third week of February.
- ✓ The operations would begin in Manali in the second phase of the launch, before being expanded to Madhavaram and Ambattur
- ✓ A total of 2.5 lakh households in the four zones generate 2,800 tonnes of solid waste every day.
- ✓ The GCC has already launched private conservancy operations in seven zones of south and central Chennai.

## NATIONAL

- **The Pune-based Serum Institute of India – has shipped out 55 lakh of the total 1.1 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine ‘Covishield’ from its premises to other parts of India on January 12**
- ✓ This kickstarts the biggest rollout of a vaccine in the country’s history
- ✓ Every box is printed with a slogan ‘May all be free from disease’
- ✓ Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad will serve as the four major regional depots for Covid-19 vaccines
- ✓ Among the states that received the vaccine, Bengal topped the list with 10 lakh doses, followed by Karnataka (6.68 lakh doses), Bihar (5.49 lakh doses) and Tamil Nadu (5.36 lakh doses).
- ✓ As many as 9.63 lakh doses of Covishield will be shipped out from Pune to other parts of Maharashtra on January 13.
- ✓ The Centre has placed orders to procure 1.1 crore doses of Covishield and 55 lakh doses of Covaxin, which is being produced by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech.
- ✓ On January 11, the government placed firm orders in advanced commitments for over six crore doses of Covid vaccines from SII and Bharat Biotech for inoculating three crore healthcare and frontline workers in the first phase at a cost of Rs 1,300 crore



- ✓ Covishield is priced at ₹200 per dose, while the arrangement with Bharat Biotech is to charge ₹295 per dose for 38.5 lakh doses and provide the remaining 16.5 lakh doses free of cost.

## THE MAMMOTH COVID-19 VACCINE ROLLOUT

### LONG WAIT ENDED ON TUESDAY

**Uttar Pradesh:** 1.6 lakh doses of Covishield arrive at Lucknow airport; the consignment for several western UP districts, including those in NCR and Agra landed at Delhi airport and transported by road

**Delhi:** 2.6 lakh doses of Covishield arrive for the NCT of Delhi

**Bengal:** 10 lakh doses of Covishield arrive at Kolkata airport

**Odisha:** 4.1 lakh doses of Covishield arrive in Bhubaneswar; 20,000 doses of Covaxin awaited

**Bihar:** 5.5 lakh doses of Covishield arrive at Patna airport

**Punjab:** 2 lakh doses of Covishield arrive at Chandigarh airport

**Gujarat:** 2.8 lakh doses of Covishield arrive at Ahmedabad airport, another 2.6 lakh doses



will land on Wednesday, taking the total to 5.4 lakh in the first phase

**Tamil Nadu:** Of the total 5.6 lakh vaccine doses sanctioned, 5.4 lakh doses of Covishield arrived at Chennai airport;

20,000 doses of Covaxin to arrive later

**Telangana:** 3.7 lakh doses of Covishield arrive in Hyderabad

**Andhra Pradesh:** 5 lakh doses of Covishield arrive in Vijayawada

**Karnataka:** 6.7 lakh doses of Covishield

arrive at Bengaluru airport; another 1.4 lakh doses will reach Belagavi from Pune on Wednesday.

**Northeast:** 2.4 lakh doses of Covishield arrive – 2 lakh for Assam, rest for Meghalaya

**Chandigarh:** 12,000 doses of Covishield arrive for the UT

### ...AND THE WAIT CONTINUES

**Maharashtra:** 9.6 lakh doses of Covishield from SII, Pune to be rolled out in next 48 hours; 20,000 doses of Covaxin also awaited

**Haryana:** 2.4 lakh doses of Covishield and 20,000 doses of Covaxin to land on Wednesday

**Kerala:** 4.3 lakh doses of Covishield coming on Wednesday

**Rajasthan:** 5.4 lakh doses of Covishield and 60,000 doses of Covaxin awaited

**Uttarakhand:** 1.1 lakh doses awaited

**Himachal:** 93,000 doses for first phase awaited in the next 48 hours

**Jharkhand:** 1.6 lakh doses of Covishield to land on Wednesday

**Goa:** First instalment awaited. No clarity on doses

## COMPARITIVE PRICES OF COVID VACCINES AVAILABLE ACROSS THE GLOBE

| SNo. | Producer          | Name         | Type            | Price per dose (USD) | Price per dose (INR) | Storage temp |
|------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|
| 1    | Pfizer-BioNTech   | Tozinameran  | MRNA            | 19.5                 | 1431                 | -70°C        |
| 2    | Moderna           | MRNA-1273    | MRNA            | 32-37                | 2348-2715            | 2-8°C        |
| 3    | Sinopharm         | BBIP-CoV     | Inactivated     | <77                  | <5650                | 2-8°C        |
| 4    | Sinovac Biotech   | CoronaVac    | Inactivated     | 14                   | 1027                 | 2-8°C        |
| 5    | Novavax           | NVX-CoV2373  | Protein Subunit | 16                   | 1114                 | 2-8°C        |
| 6    | Gameleya Centre   | Sputnik V    | Viral vector    | <10                  | <734                 | 2-8°C        |
| 7    | Johnson & Johnson | JNJ-78436735 | Viral vector    | 10                   | 734                  | 2-8°C        |

### Vaccines Procurement in India so far

Source: Health ministry

➤ Centre is procuring **110 lakh** doses of Covishield from Serum Institute of India (SII) at **₹200/dose** (excluding taxes)

➤ Centre is procuring total of **55 lakh** doses of Covaxin from Bharat Biotech

➤ Cost of **38.5 lakh** doses of Covaxin is **₹295/dose** (excluding taxes)

➤ **16.5 lakh** doses of Covaxin are provided for free of cost

➤ Together for **55 lakh** doses of Covaxin, cost comes out to **₹206/dose**



- ✓ Hence, the individual cost of Covaxin is coming to ₹206 per dose, as per Union health secretary Rajesh Bhushan.
- **India's biggest online-education startup Byju's - to acquire brick & mortar test prep leader Aakash Educational Services Ltd for \$1 billion**
- ✓ The deal for one of the largest edtech acquisitions in the world should close in the next two or three months
- ✓ However, the details of the deal is yet to be confirmed by both the involved institutes
- ✓ India's second-most valuable startup is funded by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg's Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Tiger Global Management and Bond Capital, co-founded by Silicon Valley investor Mary Meeker.
- ✓ Blackstone Group-backed Delhi-based Aakash Educational Services runs Aakash Institute
- ✓ It has over 200 brick and mortar centres and tutors students to gain entry into the country's elite engineering and medical schools.
- ✓ As per the deal with Byju's, Aakash's founders, the Chaudhry family, will exit completely, while Blackstone will swap a portion of its 37.5% equity in Aakash for Byju's stake
- ✓ Bangalore-headquartered Byju's is valued at \$12 billion
- ✓ Byju's was founded by Byju Raveendran, a former teacher and the son of educators, who conceived the smartphone app in 2011.
- ✓ The app caters to students from kindergarten to the 12th grade, and has been adding over 5 million users a month.
- ✓ It provides lessons in maths and science through video animations and games.
- **On January 8, Electric vehicle company Tesla - officially registered a company in India, named Tesla India Motors and Energy, incorporated in Bengaluru.**
- ✓ The new company will focus on either R&D or sales/manufacturing, which is to be announced later
- ✓ Last year, the founder of Tesla and world's second richest man Elon Musk had announced that Tesla would start selling its cars in India in 2021
- ✓ In December, Union road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari had indicated that the sales of Tesla cars would commence in 2021
- ✓ The US electric car maker is also known to be doing R&D in association with at least one of the auto engineering companies in Bengaluru.
- ✓ The registered company has three directors — Vaibhav Taneja, Venkatram Sreeram, and David Feinstein.
- ✓ Taneja is chief accounting officer at Tesla, while Feinstein is senior director of global trade and new markets — finance at Tesla.
- ✓ Sreeram had co-founded Clear-Quote, an app that assesses damages on vehicles instantly based on smartphone images or videos.



- ✓ Tesla India Motors and Energy has an authorised capital of Rs 15 lakh and has its registered office on Lavelle Road in Bengaluru's central business district.

## SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **On January 12, the Supreme Court - announced setting up of a four-member expert committee to examine the three contentious farm laws and give a report to the court in two months.**
- ✓ Earlier, the apex court had suspended the implementation of three contentious farm laws - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act
- ✓ A bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian pronounced the verdict
- ✓ The expert committee will hear all stakeholders including the government and determine "which provisions of the three farm laws required deletion" in the interest of farmers.

### THE FOUR ON THE PANEL

#### **Bhupinder Singh Mann**

He is president of Punjab-based farm organisation Bhartiya Kisan Union (BKU) and chairman of an umbrella body, All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC), that met agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar on December 14, 2020 and submitted a memorandum in favour of the central farm laws. Mann had also served as a nominated Rajya Sabha member during 1990-96

#### **Ashok Gulati**

He is a well-regarded agriculture economist known for supporting reforms in the farm sector and the newly enacted central farm laws. An Infosys Chair professor at the India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER), Gulati had during 2011-14 chaired the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACAP) which recommends minimum support price (MSP) of different crops to the central government

#### **Pramod Kumar Joshi**

He is a farm and food policy expert and former director of the South Asia International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), New Delhi. He had also been director of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi. He is known for his pro-reform and pro-farm laws views. He had recently written against giving legal guarantee to MSP

#### **Anil Ghanwat**

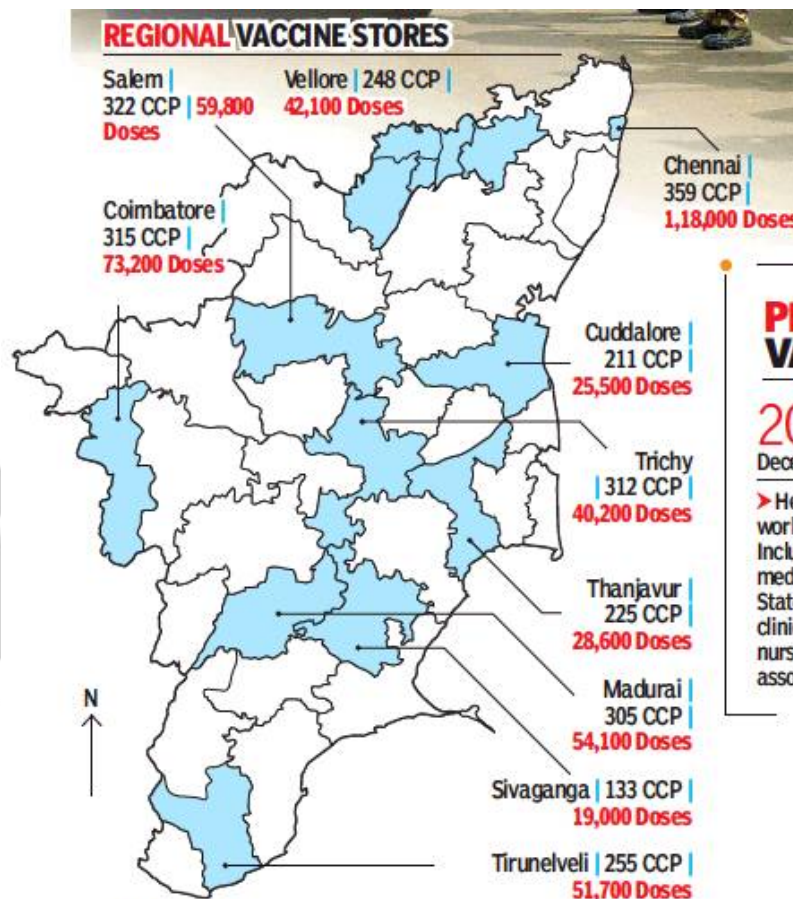
He is president of the Maharashtra-based farmer organisation Shetkari Sanghatan (SS) which was founded by one of the most vocal supporters of farm sector reform in the country, late Sharad Joshi. Ghanwat and SS have publicly supported farm laws. The SS as key constituent of the AIKCC aligned itself with Mann's BKU in submitting memorandum to Tomar in favour of the farm laws

- ✓ The committee comprises agricultural economist Pramod Kumar Joshi (Director of South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute), Anil Ghanwat (head of farmers' outfit Shetkari Sangathan), another agricultural economist Ashok Gulati (who served as Chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and Bhupinder Singh Mann, who heads Bhartiya Kisan Union and is chairman of an umbrella body, All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC).
- ✓ The bench also ordered that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) system in existence before the enactment of the farm laws shall be maintained until further orders.
- ✓ In addition, the farmers' land holdings shall be protected, i.e., no farmer shall be dispossessed or deprived of his title as a result of any action taken under the farm laws
- ✓ This committee shall be provided a place as well as secretarial assistance at Delhi by the government.
- ✓ All expenses for the committee to hold sittings at Delhi or anywhere else shall be borne by the central government.
- ✓ The representatives of all the farmers' bodies, whether they are holding a protest or not and whether they support or oppose the laws shall participate in the deliberations of the committee and put forth their view points.
- ✓ The SC asked the committee to hold its first sitting before January 22

## **TAMILNADU'S VACCINATION PLAN – A REPORT**

- **On January 12, Tamil Nadu - received 5.36 lakh doses of Oxford vaccine Covishield manufactured by the Serum Institute of India in Pune, which was approved by the drug authorities for emergency use.**
- ✓ The Centre has also promised to send 20,000 doses of Covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech in the next few days
- ✓ As many as 307 locations have been identified across the state for administering the vaccines to priority groups, including healthcare workers, from January 16.
- ✓ The vaccines were immediately moved to the state vaccine store in Chennai
- ✓ Later, authorities dispatched 5,12,200 doses to 10 regional vaccine stores in Chennai, Cuddalore, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Vellore, Salem and Coimbatore.
- ✓ From here, they will be sent to district vaccine stores and cold chain points in about 45 vehicles that have insulation facilities.
- ✓ The vaccine store in Chennai will hold a buffer stock of 24,300 doses.
- ✓ The State will give two doses (0.5ml) of the vaccine in a gap of 28 days.
- ✓ After healthcare providers, it will be given to health workers and then to people above 50 years of age.
- ✓ More than 45 insulated vehicles will move thousands of vaccine doses from district warehouses to over 2,700 cold chain points in the next couple of days

- ✓ A total of 21,000 workers will gear up to inoculate healthcare providers from January 16 from more than 15,000 vaccination sites readied by the state.
- ✓ While 1.18 lakh doses were reserved for Chennai, 73,200 doses were sent to Coimbatore, and 59,800 doses were sent to Salem.
- ✓ Within Chennai, these would be distributed to the Greater Chennai Corporation (63,700 doses), Poonamallee (5,800), Tiruvallur (13,800), Chengalpattu (23,800) and Kancheepuram (10,900)
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation (TNMSC) had readied facilities to transport the vaccines.
- ✓ The allotment was done based on the number of beneficiaries in each region



CCP | Cold Chain Points

Planned for distribution

**5,12,200 doses**

Vaccines received

**5,36,500 doses**

Buffer stock

**24,300 doses**

**28** lakh syringes distributed

Booster dose given after **28 days**

Vaccine begins to work to full potential **14 days** later

One vial contains 5ml or 10 doses (each dose is 0.5 ml)

Vaccine given using auto-disabling syringe



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## PHASE 1 VACCINATION

**20%** of the population, 1.6 crore, to be vaccinated from January to December

➤ Healthcare providers and associated workers -- government and private. Includes doctors, nurses, paramedics, medical students, daily wages workers. State has information from all registered clinical establishments, medical council, nurses' councils and paramedical associations

➤ Personnel from state and central police department, armed reserved forces, home guard, civil defence organisation. Centre has appointed nodal officials in every state to collect information. State will provide details of police and revenue officials

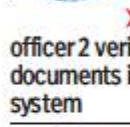
➤ People above 50 and below 50 with associated comorbidities. Directorate of public has asked election commission to provide detailed list of people who turned 50 after January 1. Self-registration portal will be open for people with co-morbidities but state is planning to collect information from its own hospitals

## VACCINATION FLOWCHART

Vaccination to begin on January 16



➤ At entry, vaccination officer 1 checks registration status of beneficiary, verifies photo ID



➤ Vaccination officer 2 verifies documents in the Co-WIN system



➤ In vaccination room, officer 3 administers shot. CoWIN system is updated



➤ Once the app is updated the beneficiary receives a text message saying the vaccination process is completed successfully



➤ Health worker waits in observation room for 30 minutes. Vaccination officers 4 and 5 monitor him/her

- ✓ From the regional vaccine store, vaccines will be sent to districts.
- ✓ At every point, the temperature for the vaccine will be between 2°C and 8°C
- ✓ The state has the capacity to store 2.5 crore vaccines in its cold storage units.
- ✓ Vaccinations will begin from 307 vaccinations centres and may increase to 1,000 centres apart from 2,000 more centres as back up for vaccinating healthcare providers