



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 22, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Chennai – to get a new aquatic quarantine facility exclusively for freshwater organisms at Padappai**
- ✓ The new facility will also have a disease diagnosing laboratory and will be ready by January next year.
- ✓ On January 21, Union minister of fisheries, animal husbandry and dairying Giriraj Singh laid the foundation stone for the facility.
- ✓ The state fisheries department has allocated 3 acres of land for the facility, while the Centre has sanctioned ₹19 crore for the construction works
- ✓ The project also includes disinfection unit, water recirculation system, temperature control (heating and chilling) and aeration facilities.
- ✓ The main objective behind the setting up of the new facility is to promote ornamental fish trade.
- ✓ As per the government, there is tremendous scope for development in terms of ornamental fish sector and marine fish varieties.
- ✓ Importing ornamental fish is not possible in Chennai now as there is no quarantine facility available.
- ✓ Similarly, there is no scope for diagnosing diseases in ornamental fish due to which they die, resulting in huge loss for traders

### NATIONAL

- **On January 23, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will distribute land 'pattas' (allotment certificates) to 1.06 lakh 'indigenous' landless people in Assam**
- ✓ The PM will formally hand over ownership of up to seven bighas of farmland and smaller plots to the beneficiaries at the historic Jerenga Pathar in Sivasagar district
- ✓ Jerenga Pathar is a historical place connected with Assam's erstwhile Ahom kingdom, where the great Sati Jaimati showed her grit and patriotism

- ✓ This is for the first time since independence that such a large number of people will be given 'pattas' in Assam under a single ceremony
  - ✓ The granting of pattas follows the recent new Land Policy of the state, which provides renewed emphasis on protecting the land rights of the indigenous people.
  - ✓ The present government has distributed 2.28 lakhs land pattas/allotment certificates since May 2016
  - ✓ Assam had 5.75 lakh, landless families, in 2016.
  - ✓ Each rural beneficiary will get 1.08 lakh sq ft of land for agriculture — one Assam bigha equals 14,400 sq ft — and another one-bigha plot to build a house.
  - ✓ Those living in towns will get a 1.1-cottah plot each — a cottah is 2,880 sq ft — while a beneficiary based in Guwahati will be entitled to 1.5 cottah.
- **On January 21, Farmers' unions - rejected the government's proposal to put 'on hold' the implementation of the three controversial agri-laws to facilitate a resolution of the deadlock**
- ✓ The unions opposed to the three central agricultural laws announced their decision of sticking to the repeal of laws as a condition to call off their protests after lengthy discussions
  - ✓ The decision was taken after a five-hour meeting of the full general body of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha, a joint front representing about 500 protesting groups, at the Singhu protest site on the Delhi-Haryana border
  - ✓ During the meeting, around 17 unions rejected the Centre's proposal and wanted the farm laws to be repealed.
  - ✓ However, 15 unions were willing to accept the proposal and get the Centre to meet more of their demands
  - ✓ During the 10th round of talks on January 20, the government had proposed to suspend implementation of the farm laws for up to 18 months
  - ✓ The suspension will remain in force till a joint committee could offer solutions through discussions on all demands, including repeal of laws and legal guarantee to minimum support price.
  - ✓ The next round of talks were scheduled on January 22, 2021
  - ✓ Meanwhile, farmer unions confirmed the proposed tractor rally on January 26.
- **On January 20, the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee – approved 1.68 lakh new houses under the PM Awas Yojna scheme**
- ✓ With this, the total number of houses sanctioned under the centre's flagship scheme touched 1.1 crore in urban areas
  - ✓ The houses sanctioned by the panel are proposed to be constructed in verticals like beneficiary-led construction, affordable housing in partnership and in-situ slum redevelopment under the PMAY (Urban).
  - ✓ So far 41 lakh houses have been completed while construction is in various stages in more than 70 lakh houses.

- ✓ The PMAY(U), launched in June 2015, aims to ensure “Housing for all by 2022”.
- ✓ The government has set a target of 1.12 crore houses to be constructed in urban areas in the country over a period of seven years from 2015 to 2022.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **Newly sworn-in US President, Joe Biden – signed 17 executive orders, memorandums and proclamations on Day 1 of his term to dump the policies of former President Donald Trump**
- ✓ The new orders include the US rejoining the Paris climate accord, measures to contain the pandemic and a pause on border wall construction and anti-immigration policies, among other steps.
- ✓ Biden’s first executive order, however, was about Covid-19
- ✓ It mandated the wearing of face-masks on federal government property and encouraged people to wear masks for 100 days, as part of a \$1.9 trillion plan to tackle the pandemic at home.
- ✓ Biden had also repealed Trump’s near-ban on travel to the U.S. from 13 Muslim-majority countries, which has been in place since January 2017
- ✓ He signed a memo asking the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to “preserve and fortify” the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a programme allowing individuals brought illegally to the U.S. as children, reprieve from deportation.
- ✓ Biden also stopped the construction of the wall with Mexico — a pet project of former President Trump, which had included the redirection of some \$10 billion from Defence accounts
- ✓ With regard to domestic climate policy, Biden cancelled the permit for Keystone XL, an almost 1,931-km pipeline that brings crude into the U.S. from Canada.
- ✓ The permit was first denied in 2015 by former President Barack Obama and granted in 2017 by Trump.
- ✓ The major environmental concern raised against the project is that the pipeline spill will threaten Ogallala aquifer, which is one of the largest freshwater reserves in the world.
- ✓ Biden also issued a moratorium on oil and natural gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and brought back the Obama-era vehicle emission rules.
- ✓ He also dismantled Trump’s eighteen-member “1776 Commission” that was set up to promote “patriotic education” to children
- ✓ The commission has identified racism, progressivism and identity politics as the challenges to the United States of America.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the White House has asked federal agencies to pause the regulatory process for 60 days to enable the Biden administration to review the proposed rules of the previous government.
- ✓ These include the rule to replace the annual H-1B cap random selection process and the final wage rule.

- ✓ Biden also re-established an Obama-era National Security Council unit that deals with world health security and biodefence.
- ✓ The US under President Joe Biden intends to join the Covax vaccine facility that aims to deliver coronavirus vaccines to poor countries

## TRAVEL CURBS END, WORK ON THE WALL STOPS

**Immigration:** President Joe Biden signs order to bolster DACA, which protects immigrants brought as children from deportation. Order also calls on Congress to enact legislation providing permanent status and a path to citizenship. Ends travel restrictions for people from several predominantly Muslim and African countries, halts construction of border wall with Mexico. Overturns Trump order that pushed aggressive efforts to find and deport unauthorised immigrants. H-1B changes paused for 60 days while new administration reviews them

**Climate Change:** Signs letter to re-enter US in the Paris climate agreement, which it will



President Joe Biden at the US Capitol with vice-president Kamala Harris (right) and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

officially rejoin 30 days from now. Trump withdrew in 2019

**Pandemic:** Signs order requiring masks to be worn in federal buildings, urges all Americans to follow precautions

for 100 days. Reinstates ties with the WHO after Trump pulled out and cut funding last year. Anthony S Fauci will lead the US delegation to WHO's executive board

- ✓ It would remain a member of the UN agency and would work multilaterally on issues from the Covid-19 to HIV/AIDS.
- ✓ Donald Trump had halted funding to the WHO, where the US is the largest donor, and announced a process to withdraw in July.
- ✓ Three former presidents cutting across party lines — Barack Obama, George Bush, and Bill Clinton — attended the inauguration event together and released a video to greet the new administration.
- ✓ Taiwan was invited to inauguration for the first time since Washington switched recognition to Beijing in 1979
- ✓ President Biden and wife Jill, Vice-President Kamala Harris and husband Doug Emhoff participated remotely in a virtual Presidential Inaugural Prayer Service from the White House on January 21
- ✓ The first lady, Jill Biden, who has a doctorate in educational leadership, will continue teaching writing at Northern Virginia Community College.
- **In a first for Europe, US tech giant Google and a French publishers' lobby – have mutually agreed to a copyright framework under which Google will pay news publishers for content online.**
- ✓ The move paves the way for individual licensing agreements for French publications.
- ✓ The deal aimed at paying the publishers is likely to be closely watched by other platforms such as Facebook

- ✓ Alphabet-owned Google and the Alliance de la presse d'information generale (APIG) said the framework included criteria such as the daily volume of publications, monthly internet traffic and contribution to political and general information
- ✓ Google has so far only signed licensing agreements with a few publications in France, including Le Monde and Le Figaro.
- ✓ Google's vehicle for paying news publishers, called Google News Showcase, is another new product it has developed which allows publishers to curate their own content online.
- ✓ It is so far only available in Brazil and Germany.
- ✓ The deal follows months of bargaining between Google, French publishers and news agencies over how to apply revamped EU copyright rules
- ✓ The EU rules allow publishers to demand a fee from online platforms showing extracts of their news.
- ✓ The world's biggest search engine initially fought against the idea of paying publishers for content, saying their sites benefited from greater traffic brought by Google

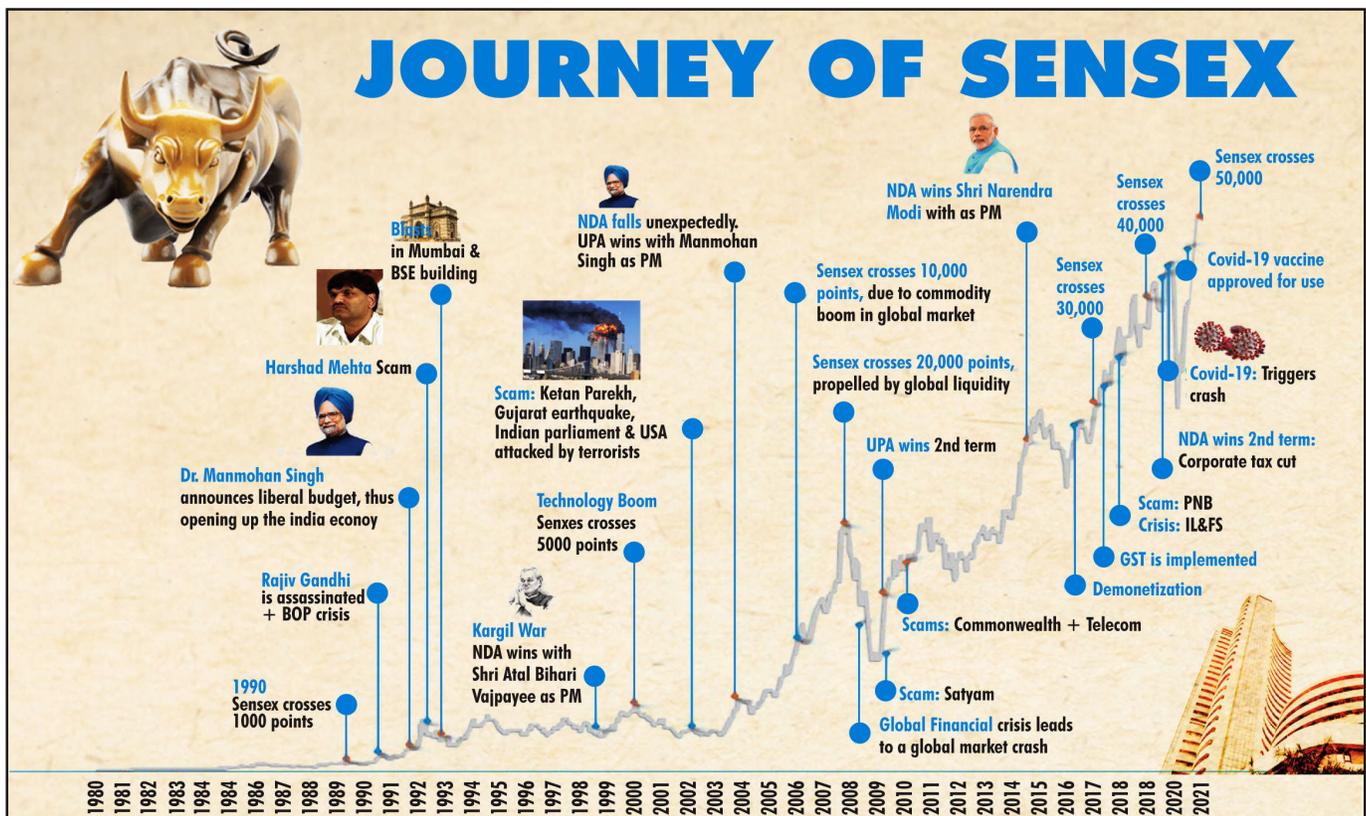
## DEFENCE

- **The Indian Army – has proposed to conduct a large scale joint military exercise 'Kavach' in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.**
- ✓ The exercise is to be held under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command next week.
- ✓ It will involve Indian Navy, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard, alongwith the participation and deployment of Army's Amphibious Brigade
- ✓ The exercise will focus on high-voltage offensive and defence measures in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ It will also involve coordinated air and maritime strikes, synergized application of maritime surveillance assets, air defence and landing operations.
- ✓ The tri-services exercise aims to fine-tune joint war-fighting capabilities and SOPs towards enhancing operational synergy.
- ✓ **Along with Kavach Exercise, the Joint Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) Exercise will also be held.**
- ✓ This exercise involves various technical, electronic and human intelligence gathered from tri-services
- ✓ The ISR will validate capabilities of intelligence gathering and information sharing from space, land, air and sea.
- ✓ The Heron Unmanned Vehicle of the Indian Air Force, bought from Israel, has been assigned the task of intelligence and surveillance.
- ✓ The ground based ISR capabilities of India includes Daksh, which is a remote ground-based sensor.
- ✓ Other intelligence tools used by the services includes SATA and Black Hornet

- ✓ The regiment of artillery is using Israeli assisted SATA, which refers to Searcher for Surveillance and Target Acquisition.
- ✓ The Black Hornet UAV is used by the National Security Guards for reconnaissance purpose.

## BSE-SENSEX REACHES HISTORIC 50,000 MARK – A REPORT

- On January 21, the 30-scrip benchmark BSE index, sensex crossed the historic 50000-mark for the first time ever to reach a lifetime high at 50,181 points
- ✓ The index doubled after reaching a multi-year low of 25,639 points on March 24 last year due to the coronavirus pandemic



- ✓ For several days, the Sensex had been on the verge of crossing the 50,000-mark and Joe Biden's inauguration as the US President on January 20 provided the much needed push in achieving the peak.
- ✓ On the National Stock Exchange (NSE) as well, the Nifty50 touched a new record high of 14,736.65 points.

### MOST POPULAR 30-SHARE GAUGE ON A RECORD-SETTING SPREE

#### BOARDING THE BULLET TRAIN

In its 42-year-ride from zero to 50k, the first 10k took the longest time, the last 10k the shortest

#### FASTEST 1K RALLIES

43.4%

Milestone

No. Of Sessions

Market Cap At Each Milestone

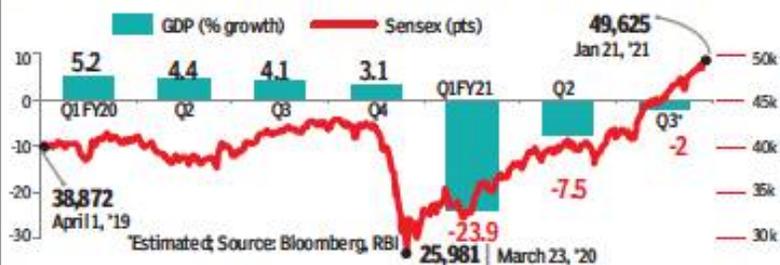
1 session  
45-46k



Photo: Sanjay Kulkarni

## DISCONNECT BETWEEN ECO & SENSEX?

The sensex has been hitting new life-highs consistently after recovering from the March crash even as the economy lagged with the Q2 FY21 GDP growth rate at -7.5%, export de-growth and retail inflation over RBI's limit at 7%...



### HOW ECONOMIC INDICATORS STACK UP AGAINST THE SENSEX

Year	Sensex (in pts)	GDP growth (in %)	Forex (\$ bn)	FII flow (\$ bn)	Per capita income (\$)	Rupee (vs \$)
1990	982	6.1	<1	0.01	1,160	17.32
1995	3,110	7.3	25	1.2	1,540	31.49
2000	3,972	7.6	38	1.5	2,061	46.67
2005	9,398	7	141	9.5	2,963	45.05
2010	20,509	8.6	277	39.5	4,554	44.71
2015	26,118	6.9	334	3.7	5,412	66.15
2020	47,751	-7.5	579	23	6,284	73.07

Sensex & ₹ values are as on Dec 31 (except for ₹ values in 1990 and 1995); per capita income is PPP-based

## AND THEN THERE WERE JUST FOUR OF 30

₹10,000 Invested In These

The Sensex has seen a lot of churn since it was first published in 1986. Several financial and IT giants, born in the 1990s, toppled legacy commodity cos and PSUs. **Here are the original 30 sensex stocks, and the four constants...**

**Original Sensex Cos At The Turn Of The Century Is Now Worth**

- ✓ The top gainers on the Sensex were Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv and HCL Technologies.
- ✓ Further, rise in the shares of index-heavyweight Reliance Industries also lifted the Sensex
- ✓ On January 20, Reliance Industries's ₹ 24,713-crore deal to buy Future Group's retail assets was cleared by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

