

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 23, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami – inaugurated two horticulture parks in Chennai on January 22
- ✓ The two parks are the Heritage Garden in Washermenpet and Senganthal Poonga in Gopalapuram



- ✓ The 3.8-acre site where the Heritage Garden has come up was not in use for long
- ✓ The newly developed Heritage Park was set up by the Horticulture Department.
- ✓ It displays century-old agricultural tools and an imported borewell equipment, which was used to cater to the city's water requirement in olden times
- ✓ The borewell was used in the 1920s and has been restored to its original condition.
- ✓ The open garden has around thousand varieties of ornamental and flowering plants, and palm trees.
- ✓ The Senganthal Poonga has around 34,000 varieties of palms, ornamental plants and trees
- ✓ The facility has indoor and outdoor play areas for children, an open gymnasium, audio-visual hall with a seating capacity of 104, display of hydroponic cultivation and a lawn spread over 6,000sqm.
- ✓ Senganthal Poonga has been created over an area of 6.83 acres inside the horticultural society premises.



- ✓ This park will act as a recreation centre as well as an educational centre for students and botanists
- ✓ Some of the rare and endangered plants and medicinal herbs have been planted and raised in this park.
- ✓ The park has a parking area of 20,000sqft, children play area, open gym, solar hut with space for practicing yoga, wide pathways for walkers, lawns, to allow the growth of creepers.
- ✓ The park has a self-sustaining water management system that comprises borewells, reservoirs and water harvesting structures.

- **The University of Madras - has set up Dr. MGR Social Research Centre to mark the birth anniversary of the former Chief Minister.**
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated it through video conference.
- ✓ The centre has been set up with a grant of ₹5 crore

- **The state - has appointed a new chairperson, Saraswathi Rangaswamy, to the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNSCPCR).**
- ✓ The appointment was made a year after the previous heads' tenure ended in January 2020.
- ✓ Five new members have also taken charge and will address cases concerning child safety.
- ✓ This will be Saraswathi's second stint at the commission
- ✓ She had previously served in the same post between 2013-15.
- ✓ This time, she took charge from MP Nirmala who headed the commission for more than two years since May, 2017.

- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - will formally dedicate Veda Nilayam, former chief minister J Jayalalithaa's residence in Poes Garden, to the public, at 10.30am on January 28.**
- ✓ The three-storey building on a ten ground plot has 32,721 movable items, including 8,376 books and 394 mementos.

- ✓ Fourteen items of gold weighing 4.372kgs and 867 items of silver weighing 601.424kgs and 162 silver utensils are part of the valuation done by the Revenue department.



- ✓ The state government enacted a law setting up a Foundation led by the chief minister to maintain the property in good condition.
 - ✓ The public works department and the information department are working to display selective items for the public.
 - ✓ The items that reflect the personality of the leader, including books, mementoes and other personal belongings will be displayed for general public.
- **The Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and Deputy Chief Minister O Panneerselvam – are to unveil the memorial of former Chief Minister, J Jayalalithaa on January 27**



- ✓ The inauguration will be attended by the assembly speaker P Dhanapal, deputy speaker V Jayaraman, Ministers, MLAs, MPs and other dignitaries.
- ✓ The leader’s gravestone was inscribed with her popular slogans that steered the party and government -- “Amaithi, Valam, Valarchi” (peace, progress and

prosperity) and “Makkalai Naan, Makkalukkaga Naan” (By the People, For the people) in Tamil and English.

- ✓ The names of both the leaders, along with Speaker P Dhanapal, were etched on the plaque installed at the memorial site
 - ✓ The iconic ₹80 crore memorial complex has been constructed resembling a phoenix shape with two granite lion statues at the entrance and would be surrounded by lush gardens and small ponds
 - ✓ A statue of Jayalalithaa and MGR along with an artificial waterfall will welcome guests at the entrance to the memorial.
 - ✓ The memorial complex also includes the memorial of AIADMK founder and former CM MG Ramachandran MGR on the nine-acre land
 - ✓ The foundation stone of the project was laid back in May 2018
 - ✓ At the party's general council meeting recently, the CM invited the partymen to attend the opening ceremony at the Marina, along with families, as a sign of gratitude to the departed leader.
- **The Pallava era monuments at Mamallapuram - will be among the highlights at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi.**



- ✓ The replicas of the Shore Temple, Arjuna's Penance and Nakula Sahadeva Ratha will form part of Tamil Nadu's tableau
- ✓ This was finalised after eight rounds of selection by the Defence Ministry.
- ✓ Four Bharatanatyam dancers will perform to Subramania Bharathi's song 'Parukulle Nalla Nadu', to be played on the nagaswaram.
- ✓ There will be four musicians — two on nagaswaram and two on thavil — on both sides of the tableau.
- ✓ Mamallapuram hosted the informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in October 2019,
- ✓ Of the 32 tableaux that will be paraded on the Rajpath, 16 belong to various States.

- **Tamil Nadu - has barred UAE's flydubai from flying in passengers to the state till January end**

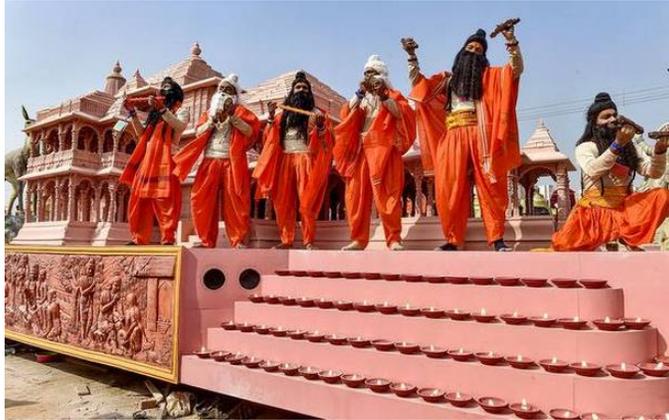


- ✓ The government's decision was announced after the budget carrier brought a Covid positive passenger to Chennai on January 17.
- ✓ The state government has also written to the Union aviation ministry to examine how its' entry norms for those flying in from abroad was violated.
- ✓ This is perhaps the first instance of an Indian state barring a foreign airline from flying in people for violating its Covid rules.
- ✓ The UAE requires people flying in from several countries including India to undergo a Covid test 96 hours ahead of the flight departure time and only those with negative reports are allowed to board flights for UAE.
- ✓ Additionally, there is testing on arrival in Dubai for those flying from India and many other countries.
- ✓ Chennai has a similar rule that is followed by the UAE
- ✓ The flydubai airlines operate about 100 weekly flights between Dubai and 10 Indian cities including all the metros.

STATES

- **The Bihar government under CM Nitish Kumar – has decided to use the cyber crime law to act against those making 'offensive comments' about the government machinery**
- ✓ It had issued an order to initiate proceedings against any individual or organisation making "objectionable, inappropriate or misleading" comments on social media against the state government, its ministers or government officers.
- ✓ The directive was released by the state police's economic offences unit on January 21
- ✓ The EOU had issued a circular to all departments, asking them to report "cyber crime" as defined in the order so that necessary legal action could be taken against such people or entities.

- ✓ According to the circular, derogatory and misleading comments on social media was being put up by some organisations and people against the government, ministers, MPs, MLAs and officers.
- ✓ The state EOU will act as the nodal agency for such cyber crime related acts
- **The Uttar Pradesh tableau in this year's Republic Day parade - will showcase Ayodhya's cultural heritage and include a model of the Ram temple being built in the ancient city.**



- ✓ The tableau is conceived to mirror “Ayodhya’s ancient cultural heritage, values and beauty”.
- ✓ In the first part of the tableau, Maharishi Valmiki has been shown composing the Ramayana.
- ✓ In the middle part, Shri Ram Mandir, the epitome of Ayodhya’s cultural identity, has been shown.
- ✓ The mural shows important socio-religious episodes from the Ramayana
- ✓ It includes the embracing of Nishadraj and eating of Shabri’s berry by Lord Ram; the salvation of Ahilya; ‘Kewat Samvad’; Hanuman bringing the sanjivani buti; Jatayu-Ram Samvad; Ashok Vatika, and other scenes.
- ✓ The forepart of the middle tableau shows Deepotsava of Ayodhya, in which millions of earthen lamps are lit.
- ✓ Sadhvis and sants (holy men and women) would walk on both sides of the tableau.

NATIONAL

- **The government – has decided that the budget documents will not be printed this time and will instead be uploaded on the website**
- ✓ The lawmakers and government officers can access them through ‘online’ mode.
- ✓ On January 23, the pre-budget traditional halwa ceremony will be conducted
- ✓ Typically, the budget printing process starts with the halwa ceremony attended by the finance minister, secretaries in the ministry, officers of the budget division and the two tax wings

- ✓ This year, only about 35%- 40% of the usual staff members will be locked up inside the budget press due to Covid-19 restrictions.
- ✓ As a result, those who handle the numbers and ready the pages will be locked inside the press, without access even to their family members
- ✓ Only key officials of the budget team are allowed to enter the press during this period.

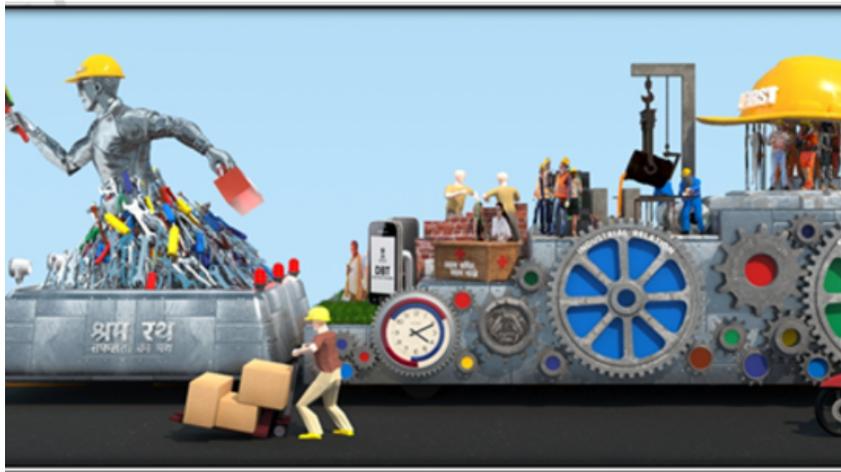
ONLY ONLINE ACCESS

➤ This time, around 40 people will be inside the budget press, instead of the more than 100 during last few years



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- ✓ This year, only around 40 people will be inside the press, instead of the more than 100 during the last few years.
- ✓ The halwa ceremony marks the final stage of the budget process
- ✓ Officers in the finance ministry dealing with the annual financial exercise are quarantined since December, when the annual drill kicks off.
- **The Union Labour and Employment Ministry's tableau for the Republic Day parade - will depict the recent labour reforms brought by the government**



- ✓ The theme of the tableau is “respect for hard work and equal rights for all
- ✓ The tableau art portrays the transformation that will come into the life of organised and unorganised workers after the implementation of the recent labour codes

- ✓ Passed by Parliament in 2020 and 2019, the four labour codes have integrated 29 Central labour laws

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Covaxin – has become the first Covid-19 vaccine from India to have its data published in Lancet, the reputed international medical journal**
- ✓ On January 22, the Lancet Infectious Disease said that the vaccine produced tolerable safety outcomes and enhanced immune responses in its phase one trials
- ✓ The country's first indigenous Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin, is developed by Bharat Biotech, in association with Indian Council for Medical Research and National Institute of Virology, Pune
- ✓ BBV152 (codename for Covaxin) is the first inactivated SARS-CoV-2 vaccine that has been reported to induce a Th1-biased response, said the journal
- ✓ Covaxin was well tolerated with no serious adverse events, the journal said.
- ✓ Every vaccine may cause some discomfort like pain or fever but it is said to be tolerable when it is resolved without any treatment and is considered safe.
- ✓ A serious adverse side effect is one which takes a lot of time and effort to treat and causes partial damage to the subject.
- ✓ As per Bharat Biotech, 13,000 volunteers (out of 25,800) have been successfully administered the second dose of Covaxin in the phase III trials.
- ✓ All adverse events observed in the phase I trials of the vaccine were mild or moderate and were more frequent after the first dose than the second.
- ✓ The healthy volunteers, in the 18-55 years age group that were enrolled in the trials conducted in July-August 2020, were administered the two doses 14 days apart.

DEFENCE

- **The Navy's tableau at the Republic Day parade– to portray the 1971 Indo-Pak war**



- ✓ The Navy proved its mettle as a credible force to reckon with in the 1971 Indo-Pak war
- ✓ This coincides with the golden jubilee celebrations of the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh being observed as 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.
- ✓ Coinciding with the celebrations, a tri-service contingent of the Bangladesh armed forces is taking part in the parade on Rajpath this year.
- ✓ The forward part of the tableau showcases the attack on the Karachi harbour by missile boats.
- ✓ The attacks were undertaken as part of Operation Trident on December 3 and 4 night and Operation Python on December 8 and 9 night
- ✓ The tableau depicts a missile boat firing the missile and also the route taken by the attacking units during both the operations as track charts on its sides.

