



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 24, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **The functioning of a bench of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) in Chennai – will begin on January 25 in the ‘virtual ‘mode**
- ✓ The Centre has notified the constitution of the bench ten months before
- ✓ The Chennai bench will hear the fresh appeals against the orders of the benches of NCLAT having jurisdiction in respect of states of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Union territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry
- ✓ Moreover, filing of interlocutory applications/reply/ rejoinder etc in respect of such appeals will also be made before the bench.
- ✓ Earlier, in 2019, a Supreme Court order had recommended that the authorities concerned were obliged to set up circuit benches of the NCLAT within six months
- ✓ Further, in March 2020, the government notified the constitution of the NCLAT, Chennai bench.
- ✓ There are more than 30 tribunals, headquartered in Delhi.

NATIONAL

- **On January 23, Road transport and highways minister Nitin Gadkari – said that his ministry will allow use of “synthetic fibre” and “composite fibre” bars in place of steel products for building roads and bridges**
- ✓ The move is attributed to a reduction in cost, considering an ‘artificial” hike in price of Steel, the key construction raw material.
- ✓ Gadkari termed the increase in prices of steel as “not justified”, even though there has been no escalation in labour, raw material and power costs.
- ✓ Nearly 40% of the steel and cement are used in highway construction
- ✓ Of late, there have been several innovations and use of synthetic fibre, composite fibre bars and fibre-reinforced concrete is catching up.

- **On January 23, Union home minister Amit Shah - announced extension of the Ayushman Bharat health scheme to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF)**
 - ✓ The move is expected to benefit 50 lakh people, including CAPF personnel and their families.
 - ✓ Shah announced this, while launching the scheme at CRPF group centre at Amerigog, Ninth Mile in Guwahati
 - ✓ Already, over 2 crore people have benefited from Ayushman Bharat scheme and this will encompass 60 crore poor people of this country.
 - ✓ While 10 lakh CAPF will benefit from this scheme together with their families, it will encompass 50 lakh people.

- **In a first, Bangladesh armed forces – to march on Rajpath during the country’s 72nd Republic day parade**
 - ✓ A Bangladeshi tri-service contingent will lead the annual Republic Day parade in New Delhi, commemorating 50 years of the country's 1971 Liberation War
 - ✓ It would be a first for the 122-strong contingent of Bangladesh armed forces, when it marches alongside Indian troops
 - ✓ The move is to express “gratitude to all those Indian military personnel who sacrificed their lives for the liberation of the country” in the 1971 war.
 - ✓ Colonel Mohtashim Hyder Chowdhury of Bangladesh Army is heading the contingent
 - ✓ Bangladesh is celebrating the birth centenary of the country’s father of nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and also the 50th year of Bangladesh’s independence.
 - ✓ There will be two contingents, one marching contingent and one military band.
 - ✓ The military contingent will comprise personnel from three services and will be led by a flight lieutenant, navy lieutenant, one Major and 3 Lt Colonels and there are a few reserves.
 - ✓ This will be the third time India will be hosting a foreign contingent to participate in the parade after the French troops in 2016 and the UAE personnel in 2017.

- **The 72nd Republic Day parade – will witness several unique features, amidst several ‘misses’ this year due to pandemic.**
 - ✓ The various ‘unique’ firsts to be witnessed this year at Rajpath includes - the participation of troops deployed in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, India’s first woman fighter pilot and a tableau of newly formed UT of Ladakh to the flypast by the country’s newly acquired multi-role Rafale fighters
 - ✓ However, the event will also be marked by several “misses”.
 - ✓ The 72nd Republic Day parade will have no chief guest for the first time in more than five decades, no participation of military veterans and even no stunts by motorcycle-borne daredevils.

- ✓ Due to Covid restrictions, the route of the parade has been curtailed till National Stadium (India Gate C-Hexagon) unlike previous years when it was till Red Fort.
 - ✓ Also, the size of marching contingents has been reduced from the regular 144 to 96 so that marching personnel can maintain social distancing.
 - ✓ Even the number of spectators has been cut down to 25,000 from 1.5 lakh
 - ✓ Masks will be mandatory for all personnel marching in rows.
 - ✓ **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, who became one of the first three women fighter pilots on May 22, 2019, will be part of the IAF's tableau**
 - ✓ The IAF will showcase mock-ups of an LCA, a light combat helicopter and a Sukhoi jet loaded with made-in-India missiles
 - ✓ Kanth, who hails from Bihar's Begusarai, is currently posted at an airbase in Rajasthan where she flies MiG-21Bison jets.
- **President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi - led the nation in paying tribute to country's "beloved national hero", Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on his 125th birth anniversary on January 23, 2021**
- ✓ Earlier, the government had announced that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birthday on January 23 every year will be celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas' (Day of Valour)
 - ✓ An 85-member high-level committee helmed by PM Narendra Modi has been formed to plan year-round programmes to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Bose.
 - ✓ The PM was in West Bengal to address "Parakram Diwas" celebrations in Kolkata to commemorate Bose's birth anniversary



- ✓ A permanent exhibition and a projection mapping show on Netaji were inaugurated on the occasion.
- ✓ A commemorative coin and postage stamp were released by the Prime Minister, while a cultural programme "Amra Nuton Jouboneri Doot", based on the theme of Netaji, was also launched
- ✓ PM Modi, after landing in Kolkata, visited Netaji Bhawan, the ancestral house of the legendary freedom fighter in south Kolkata, which also serves as the Netaji Research Bureau

- ✓ He also attended two programs at the National Library and Victoria Memorial to commemorate the occasion
 - ✓ At the National Library, an International Conference "Re-visiting the legacy of Netaji Subhas in the 21st century" and an 'Artists' Camp' were organized.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, PM Modi released a book 'Letters of Netaji (1926-1936)' during an event in Kolkata
 - ✓ A special programme was also being held at Haripura in Gujarat, where Netaji took up the Presidentship of the Congress Party at a historic session in 1938
 - ✓ The West Bengal administration, under CM Mamata Banerjee, has declared that it would celebrate the day as Deshnayak Divas.
 - ✓ The state government has appealed to people through televised advertisements to blow conch shells at 12.15 pm, the time of Bose's birth in Odisha's Cuttack in 1897.
- **On January 23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and senior officials of the Finance Ministry - participated in the symbolic 'Halwa Ceremony' that marks the final stage of completion of budget documents.**



- ✓ The ceremony used to mark the launch of the printing exercise for the Union Budget 2021-22
- ✓ This will be the first time since independent India's first Budget on November 26, 1947, that the documents will not be physically printed.
- ✓ **The Finance Minister also launched the 'Union Budget Mobile App' for access of Budget documents by Members of Parliament and the general public.**
- ✓ The app facilitates hassle-free access to 14 Budget documents, including the Annual Financial Statement (referred as 'Budget'), Demand for Grants (DG), Finance Bill etc., as prescribed by the Constitution.

AWARDS

- **Indian mathematician Nikhil Srivastava - has been named winner of the prestigious 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize along with two other mathematicians**



- ✓ Srivastava from the University of California, Berkeley, Adam Marcus, from the Ecole polytechnique federale de Lausanne (EPFL) and Daniel Alan Spielman from Yale University will receive the 2021 Michael and Sheila Held Prize
- ✓ This was announced by the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.
- ✓ The prize consists of a medal and \$100,000.
- ✓ The three mathematicians will be awarded for solving long-standing questions on the Kadison–Singer problem and on Ramanujan graphs.
- ✓ During their research, they have also discovered a deep new connection between linear algebra, geometry of polynomials and graph theory
- ✓ Their groundbreaking papers on the questions, both published in 2015, solved problems that mathematicians had been working on for several decades
- ✓ Srivastava is currently Associate Professor of Mathematics at the University of California
- ✓ The Michael and Sheila Held Prize is presented annually
- ✓ It honours outstanding, innovative, creative, and influential research in the areas of combinatorial and discrete optimisation, or related parts of computer science, such as the design and analysis of algorithms and complexity theory.
- ✓ The prize was established in 2017 by the bequest of Michael And Sheila Held.

