



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 25, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu’s mentoring concept of antenatal mothers - has been selected as a best practice in the entire country by the National Health Mission (NHM)**
- ✓ The mentoring concept was titled “Management of high-risk antenatal (AN) mothers during COVID-19 pandemic”
- ✓ The concept was presented with the award at the 7th National Summit on Good Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Care Systems in India.
- ✓ Under the concept, obstetricians and gynaecologists (OGs) were entrusted with the management of antenatal mothers
- ✓ Through the initiative, over 2.8 lakh high-risk pregnant women were identified during the pandemic.
- ✓ The concept was launched in November-December 2019 by NHM-Tamil Nadu
- ✓ Heads of the department of obstetrics and gynaecology in government medical college hospitals/district headquarters hospitals were designated as chief district obstetricians.
- ✓ Each OG mentored a block covering both low and high-risk antenatal women, with all 385 blocks having one mentor OG each.
- ✓ Under this, a line list of all antenatal mothers was obtained from the Pregnancy and Infant Cohort Monitoring and Evaluation (PICME).
- ✓ They were then categorised as low, moderate and high-risk antenatal care women.
- ✓ District-wise line lists of 7.29 lakh mothers, with their expected dates of delivery (EDD) for the period March 24-December 31, 2020, was obtained from the PICME software
- ✓ The list was then shared to districts/chief district obstetricians for ready reference.
- ✓ Further, microplans were worked out at all levels for tracking the women.
- ✓ The outcome of the exercise was that a total of 2,81,966 women with high-risk factors were identified and followed up.

- ✓ Of these, 1,49,442 delivered babies normally and 1,32,525 through caesarean sections.
  - ✓ The village health nurses shared the health parameters of the women with the OGs.
  - ✓ As part of real-time mentoring, they randomly inspected an antenatal clinic in a block every month.
- **Indian cricket allrounder Washington Sundar - was named Chennai district election icon by Greater Chennai Corporation.**



- ✓ Sundar is a resident of Chennai and his allround performance played a crucial role in India's historic victory over Australia in Brisbane.
  - ✓ Corporation deputy commissioner (revenue and finance) and additional district election officer Meghanatha Reddy announced the decision on social media on January 24
  - ✓ After the completion of his quarantine, Sundar will participate in events to be conducted in colleges as part of the OPEN (online participation of electoral network) campaign by the Corporation.
  - ✓ The move is aimed at creating more awareness among young voters and ensuring that they vote in the upcoming assembly election.
  - ✓ Sundar's awareness videos will be used to take forward the message of participatory and ethical voting.
- **Greater Chennai Corporation – has appointed Azhagu Pandian Raja M P as its innovation officer, a first of its kind in the country**



- ✓ 31-year-old Azhagu, a Smart Cities Mission Fellow, developed the Madras Waste Exchange and the Greater Chennai Corporation corona monitoring mobile app
  - ✓ He will be responsible for giving shape to the 'innovative' solutions provided by the general public
  - ✓ The innovation hub will support researchers, college students and even journalists and thinkers to brainstorm on solutions.
  - ✓ The innovation hub will have space even for small companies to work on IT-enabled solutions.
  - ✓ The Madras Waste Exchange, developed as a pilot project, was now part of the corporation's governance process and been picked up nationally as well.
  - ✓ Further, the Corporation has appointed a data officer, who will meaningfully interpret the available data in the command and control centre.
- **J Suresh, a loco pilot from Madurai - to receive the Tamil Nadu government's Anna Medal for gallantry this year.**



- ✓ He will receive the honour from chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami at the Republic Day celebrations at the Marina on January 26.
  - ✓ The timely action of Suresh in stopping the Vaigai Express before it hit boulders on the track in November saved the lives of 1,500 passengers
  - ✓ The 49-year-old loco pilot started from the Madurai Junction on November 18 and was heading to Chennai when he noticed the boulders ahead of Kodai Road railway station.
- **Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU) professor and head of the department of Tamilology, Dr B Sathiyamoorthy - has been selected for the 'Tamil Chemmal' award**
- ✓ The award is given annually to eminent scholars for their contributions in the field of Tamil literature by the state government.
  - ✓ The award also carries a cash prize of ₹25,000.
  - ✓ Dr Sathiyamoorthy has 98 research publications to his name and has organised around 70 conferences in the last 10 years.
  - ✓ He has also published an English-Tamil-Chinese dictionary and 35 books on various Tamil scholars.

## STATES

- **Haridwar's Shristi Goswami, a 20-year-old student pursuing B.Sc Agriculture - became Uttarakhand's chief minister for a single day on January 24**



- ✓ During her one-day stint, Shristi reviewed the status of several state departments and issued directions to make the state safer for women.
- ✓ Shristi was announced as the CM on the occasion of 'National Girl Child Day'
- ✓ Thus, Uttarakhand became the first state to give 'Children's Assembly' an opportunity to witness workings of the government from a closer perspective.
- ✓ In the Cabinet session held on January 24, Shristi interacted with members of 'Children's Assembly' and 'Children's Opposition'.
- ✓ On the day, Shristi also visited a government girls' shelter, as part of a pre-decided schedule.

## NATIONAL

- **The mosque to be built in Ayodhya – to be dedicated to Ahmadullah Shah, a mutineer who took part in the first war of independence against the British in 1857**



- ✓ The mosque in Ayodhya district will be built on the land in lieu of Babri Masjid as mandated by the Supreme Court

- ✓ Ahmadullah Shah had earned the epithet of 'Awadh's Lighthouse of Rebellion' for his role during the first war of independence in 1857.
- ✓ Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF) is the trust constituted by UP Sunni Waqf Board to build the mosque.
- ✓ The final decision on the dedication of the mosque to the great freedom fighter Ahmadullah Shah, who was fondly called Maulvi Faizabadi, will be announced by the IICF soon
- ✓ Earlier, the trust had taken an in principle decision not to attach the name of any Mughal emperor with the mosque.
- ✓ IICF is entrusted with the task of building the mosque on five acres of land at Dhannipur village in the district
- ✓ The blueprint of the mosque project was unveiled in December last year
- ✓ Ahmadullah Shah, believed to be born in 1787, was killed on June 5, 1858, after spearheading an armed rebellion against the English army.

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The Indian Sunderbans - is home to 428 species of birds, as per a recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).**
- ✓ The publication, Birds of the Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, was released recently by the ZSI
- ✓ It documents the Sunderbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, with a detailed distribution and locality data for all the species from the region.
- ✓ The book contains photographs of the males and females of various species
- ✓ The Indian Sunderbans, which covers 4,200 sq. km, also includes the Sunderban Tiger Reserve of 2,585 sq. km — home to about 96 royal Bengal tigers (as per the last census in 2020).
- ✓ It is a world heritage site and a Ramsar site (a wetland site designated to be of international importance).
- ✓ The publication has been compiled by three scientists — Kaliash Chandra, Director, ZSI, Gopinathan Maheshwaran, head of the bird section of the ZSI, and Amitava Majumdar.
- ✓ Out of the 428 birds listed, some, like the masked finfoot and the Buffy fish owl, are recorded only from the Sunderbans.
- ✓ The area is home to nine out of 12 species of kingfishers found in the country as well rare species such as the Goliath heron and the spoon-billed sandpiper.
- ✓ India has over 1,300 species of birds, out of which, 428 species of birds are from the Sunderbans
- ✓ The publication highlights the ecological and conservation aspect of the Sunderbans
- ✓ The nature lovers are observing the 125th birth anniversary year of Salim Ali, the Birdman of India

- ✓ The Sunderbans are the most diverse of natural landscapes and accounts for 60% of all mangrove forests in the country.
- ✓ It is a mangrove area in the Delta formed by the rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna in the Bay of Bengal
- ✓ Indian Sundarbans were classified as endangered under the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems framework in 2020.

## AWARDS

- **Denmark's 'Into the Darkness' - took home the coveted Golden Peacock at the 51st International Film Festival of India (Iffi).**



- ✓ The movie portrays dilemmas of the Danish population against the backdrop of World War II
- ✓ Assamese film 'Bridge' was the only Indian film to win an award.
- ✓ The movie by Kripal Kalita portrays the struggles of villagers living across a swelling river.
- ✓ 'Bridge' won the special mention from the jury award for portraying the pain of Assamese villages which face hardships due to the annual flooding.
- ✓ Taiwan's 'The Silent Forest' bagged two Silver Peacocks at Iffi for best director to Chen-Nien Ko and best male actor award to Tzu-Chuan Liu.
- ✓ The film is based on real-life events involving a hearing-impaired boy.
- ✓ Most of the award winners accepted their prizes virtually, as the festival was held in hybrid mode for the first time in Asia
- ✓ More than 60 countries participated in the event.
- ✓ At the closing ceremony, Brazilian film 'Valentina', which portrays the struggles of transgender students won its director, Cassio Pereira dos Santos, the Silver Peacock for best debut film director.

- ✓ Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant felicitated the chief guest, actor Zeenat Aman, during the closing ceremony of the 51st International film festival of India in Taleigao on January 24
- **Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar – to be awarded to 32 children this year**



- ✓ The award recognises their exceptional abilities and outstanding accomplishments, in the diverse fields of innovation, scholastics, sports, arts & culture, social service and bravery.
- ✓ The awardees are from 32 districts of 21 states and Union territories.
- ✓ Seven awards have been given in the field of art and culture, nine for innovation and five for scholastic achievements.
- ✓ Further, seven children have won in sports category, three have been felicitated for bravery and one child has been honoured for her efforts in the field of social service.
- ✓ The award is formerly known as the National Child Award for Exceptional Achievement.
- ✓ The Ministry of Women and Child Development has instituted the purashkar in the 1996
- ✓ The President of India gives away the award in the week preceding the Republic Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- ✓ The individual award comprises of a medal, cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000, citation and a certificate
- ✓ The winners of the award is finalized by a National Selection Committee which is headed by the Minister of Ministry of Women and Child Development.

## NATIONAL DAY

- **National Voters Day - January 25**

We are ...



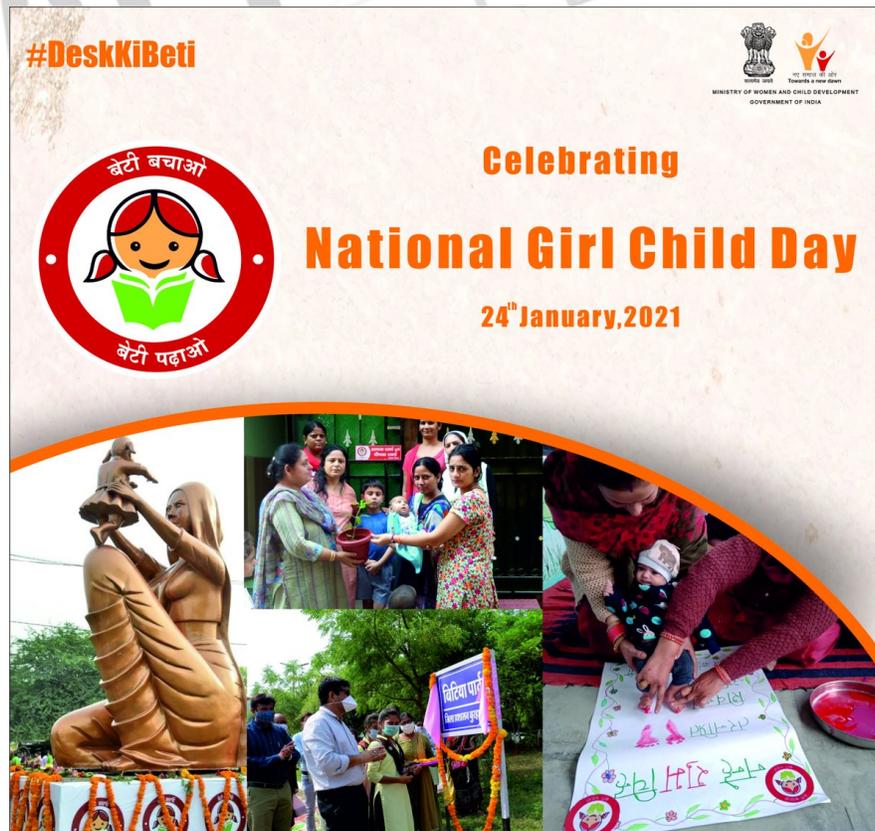
# 11<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY 25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2021

Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed

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- ✓ The country celebrated 11<sup>th</sup> National Voters Day this year
- ✓ The National Voters' Day is celebrated in India to mark the foundation day of the Election Commission of India in 1950.
- ✓ It was celebrated the first time in 2011 across the country
- ✓ The main purpose of the day is to encourage, facilitate and make sure all Indians eligible for voting are enrolled with special attention given to the new voters enrollment
- ✓ Theme 2021 - "Making Our Voters Empowered, Vigilant, Safe and Informed"
- ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind will be the Chief Guest at the Election Commission's event today
- ✓ Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit participated in a function to celebrate National Voters Day and administer National Voters Day pledge in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ **On National Voters' Day, the Election Commission to roll out the 'e-EPIC', a non-editable and secure PDF version of the electoral photo identity card (EPIC)**
- ✓ The PDF version can be downloaded on the mobile phone or in a self-printable form on the computer.
- ✓ The e-EPIC facility is to be launched by law minister Ravi Shankar Prasad, who will be the guest of honour at Election Commission's 2021 National Voters' Day event on January 25
- ✓ He will distribute e-EPICs and EPIC cards to five new voters
- ✓ The e-EPIC can be used till the actual delivery of the physical EPIC card, once it is approved.
- ✓ Now, immediately upon approval EPIC will be downloadable.
- ✓ Electors can print the card, self-laminate it or store it digitally, as per convenience.

- ✓ The e-EPIC comprises of a secured QR code along with the image and demographics including the serial number and part number
  - ✓ The e-EPIC shall be in addition to the plastic voter EPIC card being issued upon fresh registration.
  - ✓ The e-EPIC can be uploaded by the voter on digilocker and stored securely along with other documents.
  - ✓ All new electors registered during special summary revision 2021 —those who applied during November-December 2020 — and whose mobile number provided while applying is unique, will get an SMS and may download e-EPIC between January 25 and 31, 2021.
  - ✓ Thereafter, all other general electors will be able to download their e-EPIC from February 1, 2021, in case they are having unique mobile number in the e-Roll.
  - ✓ Alternatively, they will have to undergo 'know your customer' (KYC) process before downloading the e-EPIC.
  - ✓ The e-EPIC will eliminate the need for a voter to get a new card made each time there is a change in address on account of migration.
  - ✓ A single e-EPIC card would suffice, with only changed address in QR code, which can be downloaded afresh.
  - ✓ Voters who have lost or damaged their EPIC card will be able to download duplicate cards for free.
  - ✓ Currently, this facility can be availed with a payment of ₹25.
- **National Girl Child Day – January 24**



- ✓ The first National Girl Child Day was celebrated in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness among people about inequalities, discrimination, exploitation faced by the girls in society
- ✓ It also aims to highlight the rights of the girl child and to promote the importance of girl education, and their health and nutrition.
- ✓ To mark National Girl Child Day, the government organises awareness campaigns under Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the girl child, Educate the girl child) scheme.
- ✓ National Girl Child day 2021 is being celebrated across the country with the objective of raising awareness on the issue of declining Child Sex Ratio (CSR).
- ✓ The celebrations will also mark the anniversary of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme.
- ✓ Punjab has announced January 2021 to be the "month of the girl child".
- ✓ The scheme Dheeiyen Di Lohri has also been launched this year by the State this year
- ✓ Madhya Pradesh will celebrate National Girl Child Day with the theme of "Aware girl child, Able Madhya Pradesh" under the scheme Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.
- ✓ From January 24 to 30, the state will also observe the National Girl Child week.