



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 27, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - handed over the Anna Medal for Gallantry to recipients at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26**
- ✓ Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and other dignitaries were present during the event.



- ✓ The Anna Medal for Gallantry (given to government servants and the general public) carries a cheque of ₹1 lakh, a medal worth ₹9,000 and a certificate.
- ✓ The winners of the award includes
 - ✓ P. Mullai, a schoolteacher who risked her life to save her 26 students from an explosion at the Pulivalam Government High School in Sholinghur, Ranipet district
 - ✓ Prakash, a forest veterinary surgeon who rescued an elephant that plunged into a 60-ft-deep well
 - ✓ J. Suresh, a loco pilot of Vaigai Express who noticed boulders on railway tracks and saved over 1,500 passengers
 - ✓ R. Pugazendiran, a cab driver from the Nilgiris, who acted swiftly to save the life of an injured policeman
- ✓ Inspector T. Magudeeswari of the Prohibition Enforcement Wing, St. Thomas Mount, sub-inspector N. Selvaraju of the Central Investigation Unit in Salem, head

constable S. Shunmuganathan of the Srivilliputhur Taluk police station in Virudhunagar district and head constable S. Rajasekaran of the Kilkodungalur police station in Tiruvannamalai district received the Gandhi Adigal Police Medal.

- ✓ The medal is given to personnel attached to the Tamil Nadu police, who have done outstanding work in curtailing illicit liquor.
- ✓ The award carries a cash prize of ₹40,000.
- ✓ Police stations in Salem town, Tiruvannamalai town and Kotturpuram in Chennai were named the top three stations in the state
- ✓ K.A. Abdul Jabbar received the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award.
- ✓ From this year, the State has started awarding the best-performing farmer producer organisations to recognise their good work in governance and business performance.
- ✓ The award consists of a medal and a certificate.
- ✓ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami handed over the medals to the recipients.
- ✓ Erode Precision Farm Producer Company and Velliangiri Uzhavan Producer Company Limited received the Best Performing Farmer Producer Company-Governance Award.

NATIONAL

- **The 72nd Republic Day parade at Rajpath in New Delhi – showcased several ‘firsts’ for over 25,000 spectators gathered to witness the event**
- ✓ The ceremony marked the first-ever participation of Ladakh as a Union territory, troops deployed in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, thundering acrobatics by newly inducted multi-role Rafale fighter jets and India’s first woman fighter pilot, Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, taking part in the flypast.
- ✓ Also, there was no participation of military veterans and motorcycle-borne daredevils who used to be one of the parade’s main attractions in past years.
- ✓ The annual show of pageantry and military might was scaled down due to the Covid-19 pandemic this year.
- ✓ The spectators were asked to observe strict social distancing and other safety norms.
- ✓ This was the first time since 1966 that the parade didn’t have a foreign dignitary as a chief guest.
- ✓ Earlier, British PM Boris Johnson cancelled his visit due to the Covid situation in his country
- ✓ Two IAF women officers, belonging to different villages in Bihar and Rajasthan, became the first women pilots to participate in the Republic Day parade—one at Rajpath and the other over Rajpath.
- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth, 28, became the first woman fighter pilot to take part in the R-Day parade
- ✓ She was part of an IAF tableau that showcased mock-ups of an LCA, light combat helicopter and a Sukhoi-30 fighter

- ✓ She took a salute in front of President Ram Nath Kovind when her IAF tableau passed by the VVIP enclosure



- ✓ Flight Lieutenant Swati Rathore, 28, became the first woman to be part of the flypast over Rajpath as she flew an Mi-17 V5 helicopter in a formation.
- ✓ Currently posted at an IAF airbase in Rajasthan, Ft Lt Bhawana Kanth flies MiG-21 Bison fighter jets
- ✓ It has to be recalled that the same MiG-21 Bison fighter jets were used by Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman to bring down an F-16 of Pakistan in 2019.
- ✓ Along with Avani Chaturvedi and Mohana Singh, Bhawana was inducted into the IAF as the first woman fighter pilot in 2016.
- ✓ On May 22, 2019, Ft Lt Bhawana Kanth became one of the first three pilots to qualify for day-time combat missions on a fighter aircraft.
- ✓ She was honoured with Nari Shakti Puraskar 2020 by President Ram Nath Kovind
- ✓ Bhawana's family belongs to Baur village of Ghanshyampur block of Darbhanga district and grew up in Begusarai
- ✓ She did her BE (Medical Electronics) from Bengaluru's BMS College of Engineering in 2014 and later joined Tata Consultancy Services before applying to the IAF.
- ✓ Indian Navy had a dedicated tableau depicting the attack on the Karachi harbour in 1971 while old Dakota planes used in the 1971 Indo-Pak war featured in the fly-past.
- ✓ India and Bangladesh celebrate 50 years of their ties since the latter's liberation war against Pakistan in 1971
- ✓ The contingent was led by Lt. Col. Abu Mohammed Shahnur Shawon and his deputies, Lieutenant Farhan Ishraq and Flight Lieutenant Sibat Rahman
- ✓ Murals also depicted the surrender of Pakistan Army, a Petya-class ship and Operation X undertaken by divers of Indian Navy and Bangladesh' Mukti Bahini, and some other ships that had taken part in the war.
- ✓ A 122-member tri-service contingent from Bangladesh also participated in the parade for the first time.
- ✓ The Bangladesh military personnel marched in two groups— one marching contingent and a military band.
- ✓ The marching contingent comprised personnel from three services and was led by a flight lieutenant, navy lieutenant, one Major and 3 Lt Colonels.



- ✓ This was the third time India hosted a foreign contingent to participate in the parade after the French troops in 2016 and UAE personnel in 2017.
- ✓ The 172 Madras contingent from the Andamans also participated in the parade for the first time.
- ✓ A total of 28 tableaux from different states and departments rolled down Rajpath.
- ✓ Among them was the tableau of Ladakh that made its debut in the parade by highlighting “Vision for Ladakh”



- ✓ It depicted the iconic Thikse Monastery, the region’s rich cultural heritage and the vision of Ladakh to be carbon-neutral.
- ✓ The centre of attraction of the 90-minute parade was IAF’s display of the country’s air prowess.
- ✓ A vintage Dakota aircraft which had flown troops to ‘save’ Srinagar from attack by tribal militia backed by the Pakistan Army in 1947 and also played a key role in Bangladesh’s liberation war, also flew over Rajpath.
- ✓ A total of 42 aircraft flew in different formations but major attraction was on a single Rafale fighter when it performed a “vertical charlie” at a speed of 900 kmph
- ✓ At the end of the fly past, the Rafale, piloted by Group Captain Harkirat Singh, Commanding Officer of 17 Squadron, with Squadron Leader Kislaykant, did the “Vertical Charlie” manoeuvre.

- ✓ During the formation, the aircraft flying horizontally from the Rashtrapati Bhavan side went vertical, while carrying out a series of rolls, and disappeared in the blue skies.



- ✓ In the past, the manoeuvre was performed by an SU-30MKI aircraft.
 - ✓ Another interesting aspect of the fly past was the flying together of Russian and American origin equipment in various formations.
 - ✓ For instance, the Rakshak attack helicopter formation consisted of one Russian Mi-35 helicopter and four AH-64 Apache helicopters from the U.S. in “Vic” formation.
 - ✓ Similarly, the “Sudarshan” formation consisted of one U.S.- origin Chinook heavy lift helicopter and two Russian Mi-17 IV helicopters.
 - ✓ In another, the “Garuda” formation comprised one C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft with two MiG-29s and two Su-30 MKI aircraft Russian fighter jets.
 - ✓ Unlike previous years, the shorter-duration parade ended at National Stadium instead of going till the Red Fort.
- **The construction work of Ayodhya mosque – launched on India’s 72nd Republic day with the unfurling of the tricolor and tree plantation at Dhannipur village, 25km off Ramjanmabhoomi**

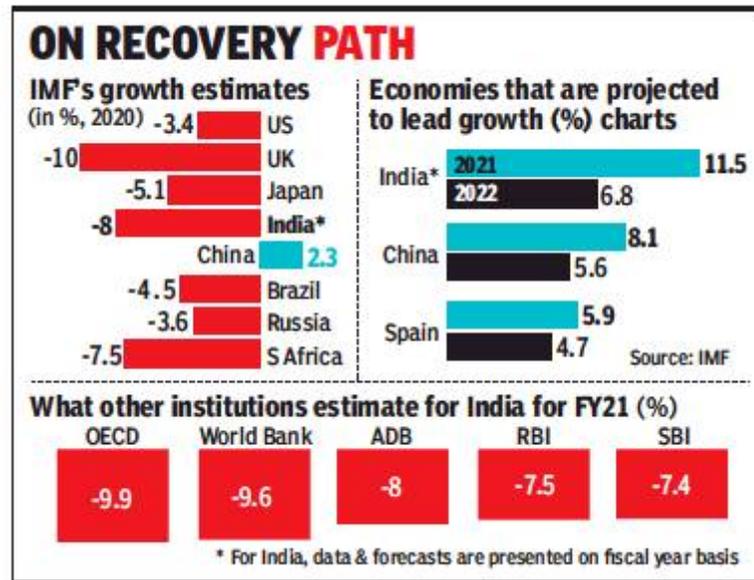


- ✓ The project was monitored by the mosque trust, Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation, which was constituted by the Sunni Waqf Board six months ago following the 2019 Supreme Court verdict
- ✓ The verdict mandated construction of a temple at Ramjanmabhoomi and a mosque in the district in lieu of the Babri Masjid
- ✓ The Tricolour was hoisted by trust chairman Zufar Ahmad Farooqui and nine saplings were planted at the site by its members
- ✓ The mosque will come up on a five-acre plot adjacent to a century-old Sufi shrine at Dhannipur
- ✓ The plot was allotted by the Uttar Pradesh government on the directions of the Supreme Court in the Babri Masjid Ram Janmabhoomi title suit.
- ✓ The Trust chose January 26, 2021, for laying the foundation of the Ayodhya mosque as on this day India's constitution came into effect more than seven decades ago.
- ✓ The new mosque will be bigger than Babri masjid, but won't resemble the old structure.
- ✓ The project would take around 30 months to be completed and consists of three parts - a mosque based on a modern design, a multi-speciality 200-bed hospital and community kitchen and an Indo-Islamic Cultural Research Centre
- **On January 26, the Union Home Ministry - issued orders to suspend Internet in some areas in Delhi under a rarely used provision of a British-era Act.**
- ✓ The ban was imposed after the farmer's tractor rally turned violent in Delhi on January 26
- ✓ The order was issued under the Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety Rules 2017) of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
- ✓ It had been issued only twice before — in Delhi on December 19 and 20, 2019, at the peak of the protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.
- ✓ The rules framed in 2017 empower the Union Home Secretary and a State's Home Secretary to pass directions to suspend the telecom services, including the Internet, "due to public emergency or public safety."

ECONOMY

- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) – released its update to the World Economic Outlook report on January 26**
- ✓ As per the report, Indian economy will grow by 11.5% in 2021-22 and 6.8% in 2022-23 and will displace China (5.6% growth projected in 2022-23) as the fastest growing major economy
- ✓ This makes India the only major economy to register double-digit growth this year amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The agency had forecasted a decline of 10.3% for the Indian economy in 2020-21 in its previous report

- ✓ China is next with 8.1% growth in 2021 followed by Spain (5.9%) and France (5.5%).



- ✓ China is estimated to grow by 2.3% in the current fiscal year, thereby becoming the only major economy to post expansion.
- ✓ Earlier, the National Statistics Office had predicted a decline of 7.7% for the FY 2020-21, while RBI forecasted a fall of 7.5%
- ✓ Indian economy is estimated to post the sharpest contraction since data began to be published in 1952, due to the Covid-induced lockdown.

AWARDS

- **Coast Guard Director-General K Natarajan - has become the first Coast Guard officer to be awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal.**



- ✓ He is the second direct entry Coast Guard officer to head the force, taking over as its 23rd Director General in 2019.
- ✓ Natarajan, who hails from Chennai, holds a Masters' Degree in Defence & Strategic Studies from the University of Madras.

- ✓ He has held various important command and staff appointments, both afloat and ashore, with distinction.
- ✓ Earlier, he served as the Commander, Coast Guard District No.5 (Tamil Nadu) and the Commanding Officer, ICGS Mandapam.
- ✓ As the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station at Mandapam in 1991-92, he handled cases of smuggling of contraband to Sri Lanka.
- ✓ In June 2006, his methodical planning as Chief of Staff Headquarters Region (West) resulted in securing 200kg Cocaine off Mumbai.

RANKINGS

- **India - was ranked as the seventh worst-hit country due to extreme weather events in 2019**
- ✓ This was revealed by the global Climate Risk Index (CRI) released on January 25 by Germany-based think tank Germanwatch
- ✓ The Index ranked countries according to their vulnerability both in terms of fatalities and economic losses.
- ✓ The top six most vulnerable countries in the CRI 2021 ranking are Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Bahamas, Japan, Malawi and Afghanistan.
- ✓ India, however, improved its ranking from fifth in 2020 which was based on the 2018 risk index.
- ✓ India topped the list in terms of having highest number of fatalities (2,267) and the biggest economic losses (\$68,812 million) in 2019
- ✓ However, the country was ranked seventh due to low fatalities per one lakh of inhabitants and losses per unit of GDP due to climate change-induced extreme weather events such as storms, floods, heat waves and cyclones.
- ✓ As per the report, over 475,000 people had lost lives as a direct result of more than 11,000 extreme weather events and lost around \$2.56 trillion (in purchasing power parities) in past 20 years between 2000 and 2019.
- ✓ Puerto Rico, Myanmar and Haiti were the top three most affected countries during the 20-year period with India figuring at number 20 in the long-term CRI.

