

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 29, 2021**

**TAMIL NADU**

- On January 28, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - inaugurated the memorial at former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa’s residence ‘Veda Nilayam’ at Poes Garden in Chennai.



- ✓ He also unveiled a life-size bronze statue of the former CM Jayalalithaa on the campus of the Tamil Nadu State Council for Higher Education
- ✓ Unveiling her statue, the CM said Jayalalithaa’s birth anniversary on February 24 would be observed as a government function every year.
- ✓ He also renamed the campus after the former Chief Minister.
- ✓ Speaker P. Dhanapal, Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, members of the Cabinet, Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam and senior officials participated in the event.
- ✓ Earlier, on January 27, the Madras High Court restrained the state government from throwing the memorial open to the public.

- ✓ The court order said that once the function is over, the key of the premises of 'Veda Nilayam' should be handed over to the Court Registrar by authorities as the valuable movables of the late Chief Minister have to be valued.
  - ✓ In August 2017, the government announced that the residence of Jayalalithaa will be converted into a memorial and be opened to the public
  - ✓ On July 25, 2020, the state government paid Rs.67.9 crore in the city civil court to acquire the Poes Garden residence.
  - ✓ The assets of the former CM includes around 4kg gold, 610 kg silver, 8,376 books, 38 air conditioners, 10,348 dress materials, 11 television sets, 10 refrigerators, 29 telephones, and mobile phones, 394 mementos, 65 suitcases, 108 cosmetic items, and six clocks as listed by the Tamil Nadu government
  - ✓ The residence was brought by Jayalalithaa's mother and film actor Sandhya in 1967.
  - ✓ Since then, Jayalalithaa lived in that house till September 22, 2016, when she was shifted to Apollo Hospital after her health condition deteriorated
  - ✓ The former Chief Minister passed away on December 5, 2016.
- **On January 28, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - launched e-bikes and next gen bikes to facilitate non-motorised transport along Marina Beach and in various parts of the city.**



- ✓ The bicycle sharing system was proposed to be implemented at a cost of ₹9.5 crore under the Chennai Smart City mission, covering 378 stations and 5,000 smart bikes.
- ✓ E-bike users have to pay ₹10 for the first 10 minutes and ₹1 for every subsequent minute.
- ✓ The charges for the next gen bike and the eco-bike are ₹5.5 for the first hour and ₹9.9 for the subsequent half an hour.
- ✓ At present, 500 e-bikes and 500 next gen bikes are ready for launch in various parts of the city within the next two weeks
- ✓ The bicycle sharing system has been implemented at 78 locations with 500 smart bikes in areas such as T. Nagar, Rajiv Gandhi Salai and Marina Beach.
- ✓ There are three types of bikes — eco-bike, e-bike and next gen bike — in the bicycle sharing system in Chennai.

- ✓ The bicycles can be hired by smartphone users as only digital payment is accepted through the SmartBike App.

**POWERING NEW INTEREST** Pic: B A Raju

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| <p>Number of vehicles available<br/><b>1,000</b></p> <p>Locations <b>100</b></p> <p><b>TYPES OF RIDES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Smart bikes</li> <li>➤ Next generation e-bikes</li> </ul> | <p><b>HOW TO USE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Download Smart Bike app</li> <li>➤ Register using personal details</li> <li>➤ Pay through the app</li> </ul> |  <p><b>GEARED UP:</b> People ride smart bikes at Marina on Thursday</p> | <p><b>SMART BIKE FEATURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Smart bikes are battery-operated</li> <li>➤ Can reach 25km/hr speed, run for 45km with full charge</li> <li>➤ Aimed at aiding last-mile connectivity, long-distance travel</li> </ul> |
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**CHARGES** Smart bike | ₹1 /minute | Next gen bike | ₹5.50 for 30 minute & ₹990 for every extra hour

- ✓ The bicycles will be available between 5 a.m. and 10 p.m. every day.
- ✓ The bicycle sharing system had been launched in 14 Metro Rail stations in the city.
- ✓ The chainless bikes are light and maintenance-free, because of the magnesium alloy wheels and punctures will not happen due to the presence of tubeless tyres.
- **The Higher Education Department - has issued an order transferring the Rajah Muthiah Medical College and Hospital, the Rani Meyyammai College of Nursing and the Rajah Muthiah Dental College and Hospital to the Health Department under the State Government**
- ✓ The order follows an announcement by Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam in his 2020-2021 Budget speech that the medical college would function, henceforth, as the Government Medical College, Cuddalore.
- ✓ Since the buildings functioned as one unit and could not be segregated, the university was handing over 113.21 acres, including land, building, assets, equipment and furniture, estimated at ₹249.99 crore.
- ✓ With this change, the college will henceforth be managed and affiliated to the Dr MGR Medical University, Tamil Nadu
- ✓ As of November 30, 2020, the institutions had 332 teachers and 1,426 non-teaching staff, besides 287 pensioners.
- ✓ It also had a liability of ₹840.93 crore.
- ✓ The total number of students in the college during the current academic year is 2,293.
- ✓ The Health and Family Welfare Department will issue a separate order on the status of the staff, the filling up of seats and fee structure
- **On January 28, Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami - launched the Namma Chennai Selfie Point on Marina beach.**





- ✓ The artwork has been modelled on the structures at Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.
- ✓ The structure, estimated to have a budget of ₹24 lakh, has been designed to withstand any cyclone and weighs 2.5 tonnes.
- ✓ The project has been funded by the Smart City mission.
- ✓ Namma Chennai is part of the development of an art district in the city.
- ✓ The structure is 28 feet in width, 10 feet in height and has a thickness of 2 feet.
- ✓ The selfie point is the first one in Tamil Nadu and the fourth in the country

## STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh - was adjudged the best tableau among those which have participated in the Republic Day parade**



- ✓ It was selected the best among the 32 tableaux, 17 from States and Union Territories (UTs), nine from various Ministries, departments and paramilitary forces and six from Defence Ministry

- ✓ The tableau of Uttar Pradesh was based on the theme - Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports and MoS, Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju distributed the awards to the participants on January 28.
- ✓ Tableau of Tripura and Uttarakhand were adjudged the second and third best respectively.

## NATIONAL

- **The Union Cabinet - has cleared the policy on the privatization of public sector undertakings (PSUs).**
- ✓ The details regarding the policy will be announced in the upcoming Union Budget that will be presented on February 1, 2021.
- ✓ The policy will present a road map for establishing government-owned entities in strategic and non-strategic sectors
- ✓ It was part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package that was announced by the Finance Minister in May 2020.
- ✓ Under the policy, all the sectors would be opened for private sector participation with a limit of one to four PSUs in strategic sectors.
- ✓ The government has proposed to privatize, merge or bring the remaining companies under a holding company.
- ✓ After this policy will come into force, the government will completely exit from the companies in non-strategic sectors.
- ✓ The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management had classified 18 sectors as strategic sectors, which includes fertilisers, telecom, power, banking, defense, and insurance.
- ✓ Till the year 1951, there were just 5 enterprises in the public sector, which has increased to 348 as on March 2019

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The fifth joint meeting of the India-Japan Act East Forum - was held between India and Japan on January 28, 2021.**
- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla and the Ambassador of Japan to India, Suzuki Satoshi.
- ✓ During the meeting, India and Japan reviewed the progress of ongoing projects in the North Eastern Region of India.
- ✓ These projects were launched in various areas ranging from the hydropower, connectivity, harnessing of water resource, sustainable development, and skill development.
- ✓ Both the countries also discussed several ongoing new projects under India-Japan bilateral cooperation.

- ✓ The Act East Forum also provides a platform for India-Japan collaboration in the North Eastern Region in accordance with the India's Act East Policy and Japan's vision for a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific".



- ✓ The agreement to establish the Act East forum was signed in September 2017 during the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to India.
- ✓ The Act East policy was launched in November 2014 at the East Asia Summit in Myanmar.

## RANKINGS

- **New Zealand and Vietnam - were ranked the best performing countries in their response to the Covid-19 pandemic**
- ✓ This was according to a Covid-19 "performance index" compiled by the Lowy Institute, an Australian think tank
- ✓ The assessment was based on the impact of geography, political systems and economic development in identifying outcomes.
- ✓ The index was based on six different indicators, including confirmed cases and deaths per million people and the scale of testing
- ✓ It sought "to measure the relative performance of countries", assessing 98 countries in the 36 weeks that followed their hundredth case.
- ✓ **India ranked 86 out of 98 countries**, while the U.S. stood at 94 and Brazil at the bottom of the index.
- ✓ Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus were in the top five.
- ✓ Sri Lanka was the best faring nation in South Asia, ranking 10, while the Maldives was at 25, Pakistan at 69, Nepal at 70, and Bangladesh at 84.
- ✓ China was not included "due to a lack of publicly available data on testing".
- ✓ Although the outbreak began in China, the Asia-Pacific region fared the best, while Europe and the U.S. were initially overwhelmed.
- ✓ Europe, however, "registered the greatest improvement over time of any region" before succumbing to a second wave, which it attributed to more open borders.