



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 7, 2021

### STATES

- **Madhya Pradesh - banned import of poultry from south India for the next 10 days**
- ✓ Meanwhile, culling of chickens and ducks continued in Kerala for the second consecutive day on January 6 following the reports of presence of H5N8 virus
- ✓ The government has issued directions to enforce culling of sick birds as per the government's 2015 National Avian Influenza Plan
- ✓ So far, bird flu or avian influenza has been confirmed in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala after bird samples from various spots in these four states tested positive for the virus.
- ✓ Further, the centre alerted local authorities to mount surveillance on 12 epicentres in these four States
- ✓ Kerala has the maximum of four epicentres, where thousands of birds died in the past few days
- ✓ It had asked the states concerned to launch containment measures through multiple coordinated actions.
- ✓ However, there are no reported human cases of avian influenza in India till date
- ✓ Still, the health ministry asked states to take all precautionary measures to prevent the spread saying the infection is highly pathogenic and can transmit to humans.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Department of Animal Husbandry had set up control rooms in all the four affected states to monitor the situation on a daily basis and take control measures
- ✓ India notified the first outbreak of avian influenza in 2006
- ✓ In India, the disease spread mainly from migratory birds coming into the country during the winter months from September-October to February-March
- ✓ In 2005, the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, had prepared an action plan for the guidance of State governments in the prevention, control and containment of avian influenza.

- ✓ It was further revised in 2006, 2012, 2015 and 2021
- **On January 6, Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa - laid the foundation stone for the 'New Anubhava Mantapa' in Basavakalyan**



- ✓ Basavakalyan is the place where 12th century poet-philosopher Basaveshwara lived for most of his lifetime.
- ✓ The CM promised the completion of the project within two years and said it would be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The ₹500 crore project will highlight the teachings of Basaveshwara (an icon of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community)
- ✓ It was first proposed back in 2016 when Siddaramaiah was the Chief Minister
- ✓ Later, a committee led by Go. Ru. Channabasappa was set up to plan the project.
- ✓ Basavakalyan is an important pilgrim centre for Lingayat community
- ✓ The New Anubhava Mantapa will be a six-floor structure in the midst of the 7.5 acre plot and represent various principles of Basaveshwara's philosophy.
- ✓ It will showcase the 12th Century Anubhava Mantapa (often referred to as the "first Parliament of the world") established by Basaveshwara in Basavakalyan, where philosophers and social reformers held debates.
- ✓ The building will adopt the Kalyana Chalukya style of architecture.

## NATIONAL

- **The Government – plans to launch Co-WIN App soon to allow the registering of general public for Covid-19 vaccination drive**
- ✓ It plans to roll out the Covid-19 vaccine next week across the country simultaneously, targetting around 30 crore 'priority' population
- ✓ Later, the health ministry is planning to launch Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network (Co-WIN) in the form of an application platform
- ✓ Co-WIN is a cloud-based IT solution for planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Covid-19 vaccination
- ✓ The government has automatically registered healthcare and frontline workers on Co-WIN platform

- ✓ Once the App is launched for general public, others in the priority population groups will be able to register themselves with required identification documents for vaccination
  - ✓ Co-WIN will enable all beneficiaries to receive a message on their mobile phones about their inclusion and the date and time of vaccination.
  - ✓ The App was rigorously tested during the two rounds of vaccination mock drills conducted by the government to ensure operational feasibility in large-scale use
  - ✓ Besides, Co-WIN — which can accept inputs in 12 different languages — will also be instrumental in reporting and tracking adverse events after immunisation.
  - ✓ Co-WIN is an enhancement of the already existing Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (eVIN) that has been in use for India's Universal Immunisation Programme for several years
  - ✓ It enables real-time management of vaccine stocks, power outages, temperature fluctuations etc.
- **The government – is planning to conduct another countrywide dry run for vaccination on January 8 in all districts, including Tamil Nadu**
- ✓ The only exception will be districts in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana that had a dry run on January 5 and will have one more on January 7.
  - ✓ Health minister Dr Harsh Vardhan will hold a meeting with state health ministers on January 7 to brief them about the exercise.
  - ✓ A dry run was earlier conducted at 17 sites in five districts across Tamil Nadu on January 2.
  - ✓ On January 3, India granted emergency use approval to two Covid-19 vaccines — Covishield, manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) and Covaxin by Bharat Biotech.
  - ✓ Earlier, health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the vaccine rollout will happen within 10 days from the date of approval.
  - ✓ Each district will identify three types of session sites, similar to the previous dry run including a public health facility like district hospital or medical college, private health facility and rural or urban outreach sites.
  - ✓ The dry run is aimed at familiarising the state, district, block and hospital level officers on all aspects of Covid-19 rollout.
- **The government – is planning to launch the country's first national aero-sports policy soon**
- ✓ Under the policy, the government is planning to allow aero-sports like skydiving in India.
  - ✓ Among the other activities being considered are gliding, ballooning, hang gliding, paragliding, para-motoring and aero modelling
  - ✓ The aviation ministry is working on India's first national aero-sports policy (NASP) in the country.



- ✓ Aerosports create significant opportunities for growth of tourism, employment generation, interest in aviation activities and more investments in latest aero-sports technology, infrastructure and best practices.
- ✓ To prepare the draft NASP 2021, the government has decided to constitute a committee
- ✓ The panel has Aviation Ministry joint secretary Amber Dubey, DGCA joint DG Bir Singh Rai and representatives of ministries of tourism and youth affairs and sports, aero-sports industry and Aero Club of India as members.
- ✓ The panel will submit draft NASP 2021 on which public comments will be solicited before finalisation

## COMMITTEES

- **On January 6, the home ministry - set up a committee to find an “appropriate solution” to issues related to language, culture and conservation of land in Ladakh.**



- ✓ The committee is to be led by Union minister of state for home G Kishan Reddy
- ✓ The announcement of the panel came after a 10-member delegation from Ladakh met home minister Amit Shah to express concern with respect to various issues
- ✓ The issues included conservation of language, culture and land of Ladakh, participation of Ladakhi people in development, protection of employment and protection against changes in demography of Ladakh region.
- ✓ The concerns were highlighted considering difficult geographical conditions and strategic importance of Ladakh region.

- ✓ The committee would comprise members of the delegation that met the Home Minister, elected members from Ladakh, members of the LAHDC and ex-officio members representing the Government of India and the Ladakh administration.
- ✓ Earlier, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes had recommended the inclusion of UT of Ladakh under the sixth schedule
- ✓ The Sixth Schedule provides for the administration of tribal areas in the states of Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ✓ It was constituted under Article 244 and was passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1949
- ✓ The Sixth Schedule has provisions for constitution of autonomous district councils to frame laws to protect interests of the tribal communities

## PERSONALITIES

- **Air India's longest nonstop flight between Bengaluru and San Francisco – to have all-women cockpit crew**



- ✓ The inaugural flight is scheduled on January 9
- ✓ The airline has rostered four of its highly-experienced women pilots — Captains Zoya Agrawal, Thanmai Papagari, Sonwane Akanksha and Shivani Manhas
- ✓ The four women pilots will fly a Boeing 777-200 (long-range or LR) over the North Pole for the inaugural direct scheduled flight between South India and the US.
- ✓ The four had earlier operated the Delhi-SFO on January 6 with AI's executive director of flight safety, Captain Nivedita Bhasin, on board
- ✓ The Bengaluru-SFO shortest flight distance is over 14,000 km, about 1,000 km more than Delhi-SFO.
- ✓ The inaugural flight to Bengaluru will take the Atlantic route over North Pole — getting tailwinds on both sectors.

## DEFENCE

- **India – has prepared a list of nations for whom the missiles will be exported in the coming years**

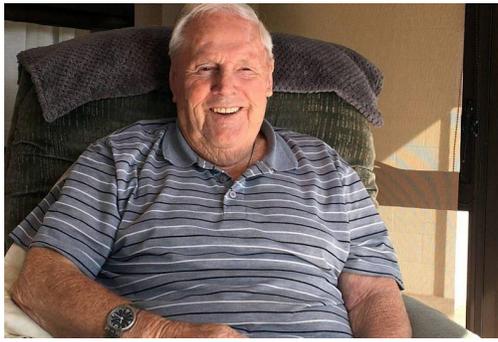
- ✓ India plans to sell Akash surface-to-air missile systems, BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and other weapons to 'friendly' countries and aims to become a major arms exporter in the near future
- ✓ The proposal for exporting Brah-Mos a missile, developed jointly with Russia, to the Philippines is already with the cabinet committee for security for final approval.
- ✓ The second country on the list is Indonesia, while Vietnam, UAE, Saudi Arabia and South Africa have also shown an interest in acquiring the 290-km range BrahMos missile
- ✓ BrahMos has emerged as the "precision-strike weapon of choice" for Indian armed forces.
- ✓ There are nine countries, which have shown interest in the indigenously-developed Akash missile systems
- ✓ Akash missile can intercept hostile aircraft, helicopters, drones and subsonic cruise missiles at a range of 25-km.
- ✓ Though the range of Brah-Mos is now being extended to over 400-km, with India and Russia even planning to test an 800-km variant this year, the export version will be the 290-km one.
- ✓ The Akash export version will also be slightly different from the one inducted by the armed forces.

## SPORTS

- **On January 7, Australia's Claire Polosak - will become the first woman match official in a men's Test match**



- ✓ Claire takes up the fourth umpire's role in the fourth test between India and Australia at Sydney on January 7
- ✓ The 32-year-old from New South Wales was also the first woman on-field umpire in a men's ODI match in ICC's Division 2 league, between Namibia and Oman at Windhoek in 2019.
- **The world's oldest living First-Class cricketer Alan Burgess - passed away aged 100**



- ✓ This was announced by New Zealand cricket on January 6
- ✓ A right-hand batsman and slow left-arm bowler, Alan appeared in 11 First-Class matches for Canterbury from 1940-41 to 1951-52.
- ✓ He took 6/52 on debut against Otago in 1940

## REPORT

- **On January 6, the Union Ministry of Health – released the first part (2017-18) of the world’s largest study on the aged, titled the ‘Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI)’**
- ✓ As per the report, about 75 million people above the age of 60 in India suffer from some chronic disease
- ✓ While 27% of elderly have multi-morbidities, around 40% have one or another disability and 20% have issues related to mental health
- ✓ The report aims to provide a base for national and state level programmes and policies for the elderly population.

### **NO PENSION FOR 78% AGED 60 & ABOVE**

➤ 27% of elderly have multi-morbidities, around 40% have a disability and 20% have issues related to mental health

➤ 3/4ths of those aged 60 and above who were diagnosed with chronic conditions have been treated for **hypertension (77%), chronic heart diseases (74%), diabetes mellitus (83%),**

**chronic lung diseases (72%) and cancer (75%)**

➤ Over 50% of elderly treated for **stroke (58%) and bone or joint diseases (56%)**. Treatment rate for neurological and psychiatric diseases is 41%

➤ 78% of people aged 60 and above neither receiving nor expected to receive pension

“ In 2011 census, the 60+ accounted for 8.6% of India’s population, accounting for 103 million elderly people. Growing at around 3% annually, the number of elderly age population will rise to 319 million in 2050  
—Union health minister **Harsh Vardhan**

- ✓ The survey covered a baseline sample of 72,250 individuals aged 45 and above and their spouses.
- ✓ This included 31,464 people aged 60 and above and 6,749 aged 75 and above from all states and Union territories, excluding Sikkim.
- ✓ In the 2011 census, the 60+ accounted for 8.6% of India’s population, accounting for 103 million elderly people.

- ✓ Growing at around 3% annually, the number of elderly age population will rise to 319 million in 2050
- ✓ The survey used bio-markers based on direct health examinations to estimate the prevalence of chronic health conditions, including hypertension, visual impairment, overweight or obesity or under-nutrition and chronic respiratory diseases.
- ✓ Around three-quarters of those 60 and above who were diagnosed with chronic conditions have been treated for hypertension (77%), chronic heart diseases (74%), diabetes mellitus (83%), chronic lung diseases (72%) and cancer (75%).
- ✓ More than half the elderly have been treated for stroke (58%) and bone or joint diseases (56%) whereas the treatment rate for neurological and psychiatric diseases is 41%.
- ✓ The overall hospitalisation rate was 7% for adults aged 45 and above.

