



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–FEBRUARY 5, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- **On February 4, Tamil Nadu government - introduced a bill, replacing an ordinance, to amend Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws**
- ✓ It seeks to ban online games involving wagering or betting in cyberspace.
- ✓ The state had promulgated an ordinance in November following series of suicides and complaints from the public about online games and cyber betting.
- ✓ Deputy CM O Panneerselvam introduced the bill that seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Gaming Act, 1930, and other relevant Acts
- ✓ The bill bans using any communication device or any other instrument of gaming to play rummy, poker or any other game or facilitating or organising such wager
- ✓ The penalty for violation will be two years in jail or with fine not exceeding ₹10,000.
- ✓ **Further, the government has tabled another Bill to reduce the time limit for completing an inquiry, inspection or investigation in connection with cases of fraud or misappropriation at cooperative societies.**
- ✓ It was introduced by Cooperation Minister Sellur K. Raju
- ✓ It seeks to amend Sections 81, 82 and 87 of the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983
- ✓ The Bill seeks to reduce the time lines of completion of an inquiry, inspection or investigation and any extension of time, as may be permitted by the next high authority, to one month and three months respectively.
- ✓ Currently these timelines are at three and six months respectively.
- ✓ The Bill also seeks to refer the disputes between the society and the liquidator of another registered society or between the liquidators of two registered societies to the Registrar.
- ✓ Earlier, only disputes between the society and any other registered society could be referred to the Registrar.
- ✓ The Bill is on the lines of Section 84 of the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002.

- ✓ Later, bills were also introduced replacing ordinances to amend municipal laws, extending the term of the special officers in rural local bodies for another six months, upto June 30
- **On February 4, Governor Banwarilal Purohit - appointed Professor M Selvam as the vice-chancellor of Bharathidasan University, Trichy.**



- ✓ His tenure will last three years from the date of assuming office.
- ✓ Professor Selvam has 36 years of teaching experience and was previously the head of the department of international business and commerce at Alagappa University.
- ✓ He has published 12 research articles in listed journals and presented papers in international and national conferences.
- ✓ He has so far guided 12 research scholars.
- ✓ At present, he is the accreditation ambassador under the UGC's Paramarsh Scheme.
- ✓ He has also served as dean of research, dean of students affairs and dean of management in Alagappa University and functioned as a member of senate, syndicate, finance committees.
- ✓ Other academicians in the fray included S Ganesan, former registrar of Anna University and N Thajuddin of Bharathidasan University
- ✓ The incumbent VC P Manisankar's tenure ended last month, but his term was extended till the appointment of the next VC.
- **Senior IPS officer Karuna Sagar - was felicitated with the 'Pride of India' award by the World Book of Records and the Indo-UK Cultural forum for his contributions to public service.**
- ✓ Sagar, a 1991 batch officer of the TN cadre, had extended his support to the poor and returning guest workers of Bihar during the lockdown
- ✓ He has provided Covid-19 kits, dry rations and other necessary amenities to the natives of Bihar
- ✓ The felicitation was headed by Union minister Ramdas Athawale and was attended by several dignitaries.



- ✓ Karuna Sagar, who is currently posted with the central government, had spent 27 years in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ He has served in various capacities including heading the police commissionerate in Tirunelveli and Trichy and the Additional Commissioner of Police, Traffic and North Chennai, and the CID wing of the TN Police.

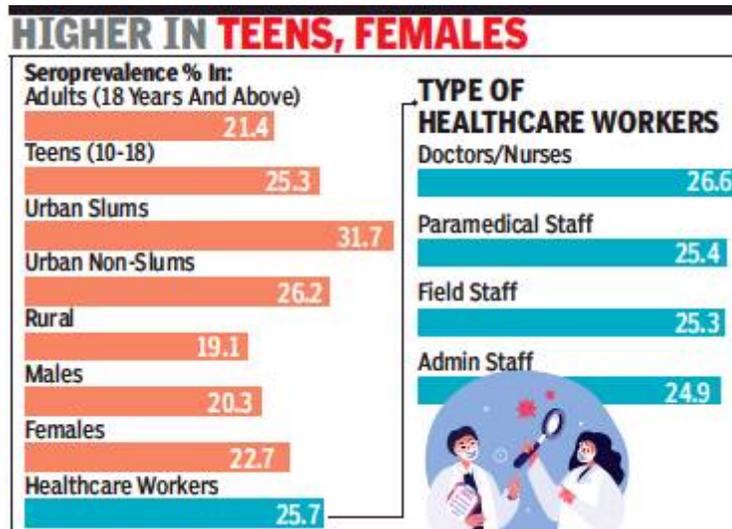
## STATES

- **Uttar Pradesh - became the first state in the country to have vaccinated over 5.5 lakh people against Covid-19.**
- ✓ Around 5.89 lakh health workers have received the anti-covid vaccine so far against a cumulative target of 8.44 lakh.
- ✓ Less than 100 episodes of adverse events following immunisation (AEFI) were reported and one was hospitalized, till now.
- ✓ All the 1,607 planned sessions were held and both Covishield and Covaxin were administered to health workers.

## NATIONAL

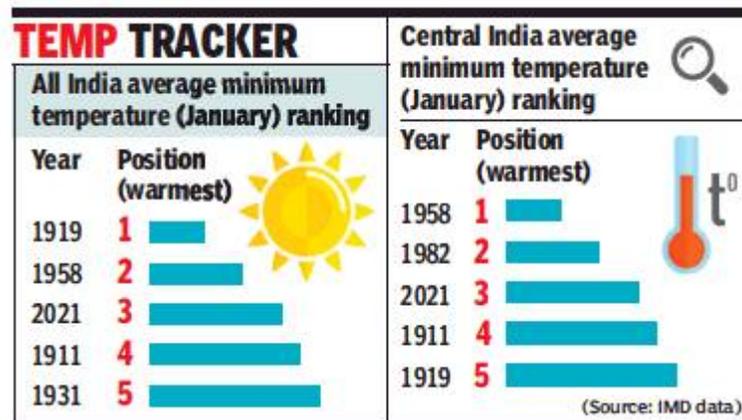
- **The results of third serological survey – was released by the Indian Council of Medical Research**
- ✓ As per the findings, almost one-fifth or 21.4% of the country's adult population (18 years and above) had at some point been infected by Covid-19 by mid-December
- ✓ It has also shown the presence of 25.3% sero-prevalence among those aged 10-18 years
- ✓ The data released reflect the prevalence of anti-bodies, indicating that the person has had Covid-19 at some point of time earlier.
- ✓ Vaccination of frontline workers started from February 3 and the Centre may soon start inoculating people above 50 years.
- ✓ The second serological survey conducted in August has shown only 7.1% sero-prevalence among adults
- ✓ In the first survey conducted in April, only 0.73% prevalence was detected.
- ✓ The latest survey was conducted between December 17 and January 8

- ✓ It was conducted in the same 700 villages in 70 districts across 21 states where the first and second rounds of the survey were conducted
- ✓ Among healthcare workers, sero-prevalence was 25.7% with 26.6% among doctors and nurses.



- ✓ A seroprevalence survey detects the presence of antibodies developed after the infection to assess how many people have been exposed to it.
  - ✓ The survey covered 28,589 people aged over 10, and 7,171 healthcare workers.
  - ✓ The prevalence in urban slums was found to be the highest at 31.7%, followed by 26.2% in other urban areas and 19% in rural areas.
  - ✓ The prevalence was slightly higher among women at 22.7%, as against 20.3% in men.
- **The Centre - is planning to set up virtual universities to offer online courses.**
- ✓ In this regard, the ministry of education has commenced consultations to frame regulations for these universities.
  - ✓ According to Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal, the proposal was presented to PM Modi during a review meeting recently on the implementation of the National Education Policy, 2020.
  - ✓ The plan is part of the vision laid down in NEP 2020 which envisages achieving Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of 50% by 2030 in higher education from the present 26%.
  - ✓ As per University Grants Commission's directive of September, institutions accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) are allowed to start full-fledged online programmes without prior approval
  - ✓ They must have obtained a minimum score of 3.26 on a 4-point scale and ranked in the Top-100 in overall category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for at least twice in three preceding cycles
  - ✓ A maximum of three undergraduate programmes and ten postgraduate programmes are allowed to be started by these institutions

- ✓ Also as of now, institutions in existence for at least three years with minimum score of 3.01 on a 4-point scale or in the Top-100 in university category in NIRF for at least once in the last two preceding cycles are eligible to apply.
  - ✓ Institutions are allowed to offer only those degree programmes which it has already been offering in conventional mode of classroom teaching and without any practical or laboratory requirements.
  - ✓ The model in place is a hybrid one, which means a conventional or an open university can offer only around 40% of its courses on an online platform.
  - ✓ The Centre, state or private players can set up virtual universities, once approved.
- **India - experienced its warmest January in 2021 since 1958 and third warmest in 120 years in terms of night temperatures recorded during the month**
- ✓ This was revealed by the data released by India Meteorological Department (IMD)
  - ✓ Accordingly, south peninsular India had its warmest-ever January this year.
  - ✓ The northwest India witnessed a colder than normal winter in January with below normal average minimum and maximum temperatures last month.
  - ✓ All other regions and the country as a whole recorded warmer than normal winter temperatures in January



- ✓ For central India, which includes Maharashtra, the average minimum temperature in January 2021 was the third highest in its recorded history, clocking 1.25° C above normal.
- ✓ The average minimum temperature for the country in January this year was 1.09° C higher than the month's normal.
- ✓ The mean temperature in south peninsular India was 1.07° C higher than normal, making January the warmest for the region since 1901.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Sea turtle conservationist and founder of TREE Foundation, Supraja Dharini – is ranked one among the 50 people to be recognised as part of its inaugural 'The Explorers Club 50: Fifty People Changing the World'**

- ✓ Supraja has been recognised for the work she has been doing for sea turtle conservation along the East Coast of India.
- ✓ She has been working with fishermen and various government agencies in the field since 2002.



- ✓ She is the first woman from South India to receive the honour
- ✓ Supraja established TREE Foundation in 2002.
- ✓ Since its inception, the Foundation has been working to protect both nesting sea turtles along the east coast and turtles in or migrating through offshore areas.
- ✓ Chosen by Explorers Club, the list honours 50 explorers who are changing the world.
- ✓ The 117-year-old club is an international multidisciplinary professional society dedicated to the advancement of field research
- ✓ Established in 1904, the members of the club have been people who made in mark in the world
- ✓ It includes Teddy Roosevelt, Neil Armstrong, Jane Goodall, Edmund Hillary, John Glenn, Sally Ride and Bob Ballard.
- ✓ This year, the club nominated 400-plus explorers from more than 50 countries.
- ✓ Twenty-one women, including Supraja, are part of the honorees.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Praveen Sinha, a 1988-batch Gujarat cadre IPS officer - took over the charge of interim CBI director on February 4**



- ✓ He replaces former chief Rishi Shukla, who superannuated from service on February 3

- ✓ Sinha, an additional director at the agency, has had a fairly long association with the CBI wherein he served in various positions over two stints from 2000-2021.
- ✓ He has served in the ranks ranging from a superintendent of police (SP) and a deputy inspector general (DIG) to a joint director and the additional director at the agency.
- ✓ Sinha will hold the post till a full-time director is appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, leader of opposition and the CJI.
- ✓ Sinha was instrumental in unearthing major examination paper leakages including those of CAT and AIPMT
- ✓ He had the unique distinction of having drafted the manual of both the apex integrity institutions — Vigilance Manual 2017 of Central Vigilance Commission and CBI (Crime) Manual, 2020.
- ✓ Sinha had also served as an additional secretary in the CVC during 2015-2018.
- ✓ He has also worked as deputy director, ACB, Ahmedabad in 1996.
- ✓ He has been associated with the investigation of various Supreme Court/high courts entrusted/monitored scams, major bank frauds and financial crimes and serial bomb blasts