

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 12, 2021

### TAMIL NADU

- Police inspector E Rajeshwari - has been selected as the star performer of the month for November after she carried a man lying unconscious near a crematorium during the recent floods at TP Chathiram.



- ✓ Rajeshwari was appreciated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the IPS officers conference held in Delhi
- ✓ Police commissioner Shankar Jiwal gave a cash reward of ₹5,000 and a certificate to Rajeshwari at his office in Vepery on December 10.
- ✓ The woman police officer helped crematorium worker Udhaya, who was lying unconscious on a platform near the crematorium in her TP Chathiram jurisdiction on November 11
- ✓ She lifted him on her shoulder and assigned a policeman to take him to the government hospital for his treatment.
- ✓ Chief minister MK Stalin invited Rajeshwari to the Secretariat and appreciated her noble act.
- ✓ Madras high court Justice N Anand Venkatesh gave an appreciation letter to the inspector.

## NATIONAL

- **On December 11, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – inaugurated the Saryu Canal scheme in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh**



- ✓ The Saryu Canal National Project is designed to provide assured water for irrigation to over 14 lakh hectares of land and benefit about 29 lakh farmers of more than 6,200 villages in eastern Uttar Pradesh.
  - ✓ Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya were among those present at the project inauguration programme
  - ✓ The Saryu canal project also involves interlinking of five rivers -- Ghaghara, Saryu, Rapti, Banganga and Rohini -- to ensure optimum usage of water resources of the region.
  - ✓ The project has been completed at a cost of over ₹9,800 crore, out of which more than ₹4,600 crore was provisioned in the last four years.
  - ✓ The work on the project started in 1978 but due to lack of continuity of budgetary support, interdepartmental coordination and adequate monitoring, it got delayed
  - ✓ Consequently in 2016, the project was brought under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana with the target to complete it in a time-bound manner
  - ✓ During the event, the PM invited farmers across the country to watch a mega programme on natural farming on December 16, saying it would prove beneficial for them.
- **National Commission for Women (NCW) – has launched a pan-India capacity building programme, ‘She is a Changemaker’**



- ✓ The programme was launched exclusively for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties
- ✓ The capacity building programme will be undertaken in association with region-wise training institutes
- ✓ It seeks to improve the decision making and communication skills including, oration, writing, etc., of women political leaders
- ✓ Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Commission for Women, launched various programmes under the initiative
- ✓ The three-day capacity building programme for 'Women in Municipal Corporation' concluded recently on December 9, 2021

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **The Saudi government - has banned Tablighi Jamaat, a transnational Sunni Islamic movement, calling it "one of the gates of terrorism" and a "danger to society"**
- ✓ The Saudi Ministry of Islamic Affairs directed the mosques to warn people against associating with them during the Friday sermon.
- ✓ The Saudi government also asked mosques to inform people about the danger that Tablighi Jamaat poses to society.
- ✓ The Tablighi Jamaat - which means 'Society for spreading faith', was founded in India by Mohammed Ilyas Kandhlawi in 1926.
- ✓ It urges Muslims to return to a pure form of Sunni Islam and be religiously observant, especially with respect to dressing, personal behaviour, and rituals.
- ✓ The followers of the movement collectively claim that their focus is only on religion and strictly avoid political activities and debates.
- ✓ The organisation is estimated to have around 400 million members across the world
- ✓ According to Pew Research Centre, Tablighi Jamaat operates roughly in 150 countries around the world, including Western Europe, Africa, and South Asia.
- ✓ In South Asia, the Tablighi Jamaat has a great following, especially in Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Thailand
- ✓ In 2016, Abd-al-Aziz ibn Baz, former grand mufti of Saudi Arabia, issued a fatwa against Tablighi Jamaat
- ✓ With the Saudi ban, the group may become 'extinct' in many parts of the world because Saudi Arabia's charities have been the chief source of funds for the movement, which was launched to "purify" Islam.
- ✓ In March last year, the group came to prominence during the start of the first wave of Covid-19 pandemic in India.
- ✓ The group members were accused of holding an illegal gathering in Delhi's Nizamuddin area, which was being linked to the spread of the pandemic

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The fifth edition of the India Mobile Congress – concluded on December 10, 2021**
- ✓ The 3-day event was conducted in 'online' mode this year with the theme 'Connectivity for the Next Decade'



- ✓ The Congress is the biggest telecom industry event of the country
- ✓ It was organised by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI)
- ✓ The event witnessed some of the biggest names in the Indian telecom industry as speakers
- ✓ This includes Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, Airtel chief Sunil Mittal, Vodafone Idea co-promoter Kumar Mangalam Birla and telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a message at the start of the inaugural session on December 8.
- ✓ Union Minister Vaishnaw spoke about the need to improve the quality of services for mobile consumers.

## PERSONALITIES

- **Former chief election commissioner (CEC) Sunil Arora - has been invited to join the board of advisers at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA)**



- ✓ Established in 1995, International IDEA is an intergovernmental organisation based in Stockholm, Sweden and has a mission to support sustainable democracy worldwide.
- ✓ The institute is assisted by a 15-member board of advisers who are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds
- ✓ International IDEA currently has 34 member countries from all continents.
- ✓ India has been one of the founding members of International IDEA.
- ✓ Arora was the 23rd CEC from December 2018 to April 2021, when the commission conducted the general elections to the 17th Lok Sabha in 2019 apart from several assembly and bye-elections.
- ✓ A 1980 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, Arora earlier headed various key departments in the Central government and the Rajasthan government.
- ✓ Under the leadership of Arora, the EC provided a big push to its digital programme by creating a unified database of more than 930 million electors and launched a nationwide helpline '1950' among other innovations
- ✓ Another tech innovation – 'Citizens Vigil – a CVigil App' has been developed as a tool which enables citizens in poll bound areas to report cases of Model Code of Conduct violation
- ✓ Earlier, Arora has served as the Chairman of the Association of World Election Bodies (AWEB) and Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia (FEMBoSA)

## DEFENCE

- **On December 11, the Indian Army - conducted an airdrop in Agra as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of India's victory over Pakistan that led to the creation of Bangladesh in 1971.**



- ✓ The parachute jump was also dedicated to India's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, his wife Madhulika Rawat and 11 other armed forces personnel who lost their lives in a military chopper crash near Connor in Tamil Nadu on December 8.
- ✓ On December 11, 1971, a successful airdrop of the Indian Army's 2nd Parachute Battalion was carried out at Tangail, in erstwhile East Pakistan

- ✓ The battalion group was led by Lt Col Kulwant Singh Pannu with an Artillery Battery of 17 Parachute Field Regiment
- ✓ The battalion was tasked to cut off the retreat of the Pakistani troops from the north towards Dhaka.
- ✓ The veterans who had participated in the Tangail airdrop and subsequent operations in Bangladesh gathered at Agra to witness the commemoration of the landmark event
- **The DRDO and Army - conducted a series of performance evaluation trials of the Pinaka-ER rockets produced by private industry at field firing ranges.**



- ✓ According to DRDO, 24 rockets were fired for different ranges and various warhead capabilities to meet the objectives of accuracy and consistency
- ✓ With this, the initial phase of technology absorption of the Pinaka-ER by the industry partner has been successfully completed, paving the way for series production of the rocket system.
- ✓ At present, the indigenous Pinaka multi-launch artillery rocket system was tested with an extended strike range of 45-48 km
- ✓ Further, the helicopter-launched stand-off anti-tank (SANT) missile with a 10-km range has also been successfully tested by the DRDO and IAF at different ranges in Pokhran.
  - ✓ The SANT missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance.
  - ✓ This is the third in the series of indigenous stand-off weapons to be tested in recent times after the long-range bomb and smart anti-airfield weapon for strengthening the IAF's arsenal
- ✓ The 38-km range Pinaka Mark-I systems were already deployed along the Line of Actual Control with China amidst the continuing 19-month-old military confrontation in eastern Ladakh
- ✓ The defence ministry in August last year had signed contracts worth Rs 2,580 crore for six new regiments of the Pinaka rocket systems with defence PSU

Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. (BEML) and private sector companies, Tata Power Company Ltd. (TPCL) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T).

## APPOINTMENTS

- **US President Joe Biden - has elevated Indian-American political adviser Gautam Raghavan as the head of the White House office of presidential personnel (PPO).**



- ✓ PPO is one of the offices responsible for assessing candidates to work at or for the White House.
- ✓ Raghavan was currently posted as the PPO deputy director
- ✓ He will replace the current head of the PPO, Cathy Russell, who is to be appointed as the next executive director of Unicef
- ✓ A first-generation immigrant, Raghavan was born in India, raised in Seattle and graduated from Stanford University.

## SPORTS

- **Indian rowers Arjun Lal Jat and Ravi - won the gold medal in men's double sculls event at the Asian Rowing Championships on December 11**



- ✓ Parminder Singh bagged a silver in men's single sculls competition at the Championships held in Thailand
- ✓ Tokyo Olympian Arjun and Ravi defeated Chinese duo of Qing Li and Lutong Zhang and Uzbekistan's Davrjon Davronov and Abdullo Mukhammadiev to win the gold medal at the Royal Thai Navy Rowing Center in Rayong.

- ✓ This is India's second straight podium finish in men's doubles sculls event at the continental event, having won a bronze at the 2019 Asian Rowing Championship.
- ✓ Arjun had earlier clinched a silver in the men's lightweight double sculls event at the previous continental meet.

