

## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 19, 2021**

### **TAMIL NADU**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister M K Stalin - will share the stage in Virudhunagar on January 12 for the opening of 11 new medical colleges in the state.**
- ✓ Union health and family welfare minister Mansukh Mandaviya will also take part in the event.
- ✓ This is the PM's first visit to Tamil Nadu after the Stalin-led DMK government assumed office.
- ✓ The state government is ready to open the colleges as approval has been obtained for admission of 1,450 seats in these colleges.
- ✓ The erstwhile AIADMK government managed to get the colleges allotted for Tamil Nadu under the Centre's scheme to establish medical colleges attached to existing district and referral hospitals.
- ✓ The Union and state governments shared the cost of ₹325 crore in a 60:40 ratio to set up each medical college.
- ✓ Ariyalur, Dindigul, Nagapattinam, Krishnagiri, Virudhunagar, Kallakurichi and Ooty colleges have been sanctioned 150 seats each
- ✓ Namakkal, Tiruvallur, Tiruppur and Ramanathapuram colleges have been allotted 100 seats each.
- ✓ The AIADMK government had proposed colleges in Cuddalore and Kancheepuram too but due to the presence of Annamalai University in Chidambaram and a private medical college in Kancheepuram, the state government could not get central approval.
- ✓ With the additional seats, the state will have the maximum number of MBBS seats in the country from the next academic year
  
- **The state government – has proposed to rename the integrated complex of finance department at Nandanam after former finance minister and late**

## **Dravidian leader K Anbazhagan to mark his birth centenary celebration on December 19.**

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin will also unveil a statue of Anbazhagan, a close associate of former CM and DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, on the premises of the integrated complex.
- ✓ Anbagazhan, popularly known as Perasiriyar, was born in Tiruvarur's Kattoor village on December 19, 1922.
- ✓ Aside from his active participation in politics, Perasiriyar Anbazhagan authored more than 40 books on various topics.
- ✓ He passed away at the age of 98 on March 7, 2020.

## **STATES**

- **On December 18, the Nagaland government - announced the formation of three more districts, bringing the total number to 15.**
  - ✓ The newly created districts are Tseminyu, Niuland and Chumukedima.
  - ✓ While Tseminyu has been formed by bifurcating Kohima district, Niuland and Chumukedima districts were carved out of Dimapur.
  - ✓ Till now, Nagaland had 12 districts — Dimapur, Kiphire, Kohima, Longleng, Mokokchung, Mon, Phek, Tuensang Wokha, Zunheboto, and Noklak.
  - ✓ Noklak, formerly a sub-division of Tuensang district, was the youngest district among them.
  - ✓ It was created on December 21, 2017, by the Naga People's Front government led by former chief minister T R Zeliang
- **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal - launched the 'Dilli Ki Yogshala' initiative at an event organised by Delhi Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research University (DPSRU) in Delhi Secretariat**



- ✓ The aim of the initiative is to provide free yoga services under the guidance of 400 trained teachers by the DPSRU
- ✓ Under the initiative, the residents of Delhi above 25 years of age can avail yoga services without any cost.
- ✓ This initiative will start from January next year.

- ✓ A helpline number and a website - dillikiyogshala.com - has also been launched on the occasion, wherein people can get information regarding the initiative
- ✓ The Delhi government has allocated Rs 25 crore for the initiative in the 2021-22 budget
- ✓ The first International Day of Yoga was celebrated on June 21, 2015 after its inception at the United Nations General Assembly
- ✓ During the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, CM Kejriwal, then Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung and dignitaries from 84 nations, performed 21 asanas for 35 minutes at Delhi's Rajpath.
- ✓ The International Day of Yoga created two records, a Guinness World Record for the largest yoga classes at a single venue and the other for the highest number of nationalities to have participated in such a programme

## NATIONAL

- **On December 18, Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and Telangana CM K Chandrasekhar Rao – jointly inaugurated the country's first International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (IAMC) in Hyderabad**



- ✓ The centre will initially start functioning in 25,000 sq ft temporary accommodation at Madhapur while a permanent building will be constructed at Puppalaguda, Hyderabad, Telangana
- ✓ Life trustee of the centre, Justice R.V. Raveendran, Supreme Court judges L. Nageswara Rao, Hima Kohli and judges from the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh high courts attended the event.
- ✓ The centre will not only deal with cases from India but also from other Asian countries
- ✓ Those who empanel the centre include internationally acclaimed arbitrators and mediators from countries such as Singapore and the UK.
- ✓ The CJI termed the creation of the centre as a tribute to former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who favoured alternative dispute resolution

- ✓ He also quoted from Narasimha Rao's speech at the inauguration of ICADR in New Delhi 26 years ago.
- **India – has invited the heads of five central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as the chief guests at next year's Republic Day celebrations**
- ✓ This is for the first time representatives of all five Central Asian countries would be present as guests.
- ✓ The last time the leaders attended an event together was in 2018 during ASEAN Summit
- ✓ India is also hosting the Central Asian, India Foreign Minister's meet on December 18 and 19, the third of its kind.
- ✓ The first meeting was held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, in January 2019, where former External Affairs Minister Late Sushma Swaraj represented India.
- ✓ The second meeting was held virtually amidst Covid restrictions.
- ✓ India has offered a \$1-billion line of credit to the five Central Asian states for projects in connectivity, energy, IT, agriculture, healthcare and education.
- ✓ The national security advisors of all the five Central Asian countries, Iran and Russia attended an India-hosted regional dialogue on Afghanistan on November 10
  - ✓ The Delhi Declaration of Afghanistan, issued after the meeting, said all eight countries were committed to combat terrorism to ensure that Afghanistan would never become a safe haven for global terrorism
- ✓ Since PM Modi took charge in 2014, India had invited then-US President Barack Obama in 2015, then-French President Francois Hollande in 2016, UAE's Md Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in 2017, all 10 ASEAN countries in 2018, Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa in 2019 and Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil in 2020 for Republic Day.
- ✓ In 2021, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was expected to attend Republic Day celebrations, but he cancelled the visit due to Covid pandemic concerns
- ✓ In 2009, the Kazakhstan president was the chief guest at the Republic Day.
- ✓ In India's history, there have been three occasions when the Republic Day parade had no chief guest -- 1952, 1953 and 1966.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the valedictory session of the National Summit on Agro and Food Processing on December 16, 2021**
- ✓ The Summit was organised as part of a pre-event Vibrant Gujarat Summit to be held in Anand, Gujarat from December 14-16.
- ✓ This conference will be attended by 5000 farmers who will be present in the Summit, apart from 80 central institutes of ICAR, Krishi Vigyan Kendras and ATMA network in the States

- ✓ The Summit with focus on Natural Farming, discussed various benefits and practices of Natural Farming
- ✓ An exhibition comprising more than 300 exhibitors from all over the country was also held
- ✓ Eminent speakers have been invited to share their thoughts on theme of Natural Farming
- ✓ Zero Budget Natural Farming has also been identified as a promising tool by relying on traditional field based technologies which lead to improved soil health
- ✓ This method minimizes the dependence of farmers on purchased inputs and reduces the cost of agriculture
- ✓ Desi cow, its dung and urine play an important role from which various inputs such as Beejamrit, Jivamrit and Ghanjivamrit are made on the farm
- ✓ These inputs serve as the source of nutrients and provide life to soil for good agricultural production

## DEFENCE

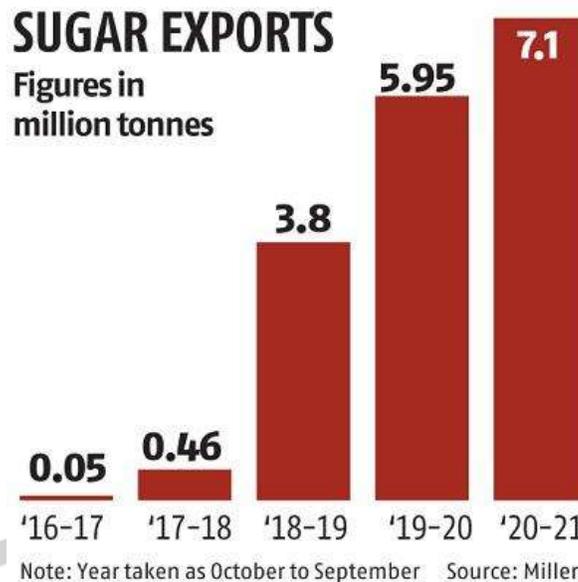
- **India - successfully tested the new generation nuclear-capable Agni-Prime ballistic missile from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on December 18.**



- ✓ This was the second test of the two-stage solid propellant Agni-P missile, which has a dual redundant navigation and guidance system, after the first one on June 28.
- ✓ The Agni-P missile is the smallest and lightest among the entire Agni series of ballistic missiles, having a strike range from 1,000km to 2,000km
- ✓ The missile will further bolster India's strategic deterrence capabilities once it is fully operational after a series of "developmental and user trials".

## ECONOMY

- **A World Trade Organization panel - ruled that India violated international trade rules when it offered excessive subsidies for the production and export of sugar and sugarcane**
- ✓ Under WTO rules, India's sugar subsidies are capped at a limit of 10% of the value of production.



- ✓ However, for the five consecutive sugar seasons, in between 2014-15 to 2018-19, India had provided subsidies to sugarcane producers in excess of permitted 10% level of total value of sugarcane production
- ✓ The WTO said India must remove its illegal subsidies within 120 days of the adoption of the report.
- ✓ India can appeal the ruling at any point in the next 60 days
- ✓ The dispute dates back to 2019 when Brazil, Australia and Guatemala filed parallel WTO complaints on increased subsidies and reintroduction of a minimum price for sugar
- ✓ As per the complainants, this has led to increased production of sugar more than the domestic demand, thereby affecting the world prices
- ✓ Meanwhile, Indian Ministry of Commerce said the findings of the WTO panel are “completely unacceptable”
- ✓ India — the world's largest sugar producer after Brazil — has already agreed to avoid subsidizing sugar exports this year due to high global prices
- ✓ The government previously approved a subsidy of \$475 million for the 2020-2021 growing season.

## OBITUARY

- **Justice (retd) G T Navati, a former Supreme Court judge who probed the 2002 and the 1984 riots - passed away in Ahmedabad on December 18.**

- ✓ Nanavati was born in 1935 and enrolled as an advocate at the Bombay high court in February 1958.
- ✓ He was elevated as a judge of the Gujarat high court in 1979.
- ✓ In 1993, he was transferred to the Orissa high court, where he served as its chief justice too.



- ✓ A year later, he was transferred to the Karnataka high court as its chief justice.
- ✓ In 1995, he was promoted to the Supreme Court and retired in 2000.
- ✓ Immediately after his retirement, the NDA government at the Centre tasked Justice Nanavati with investigating the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, nearly 16 years after the violent eruptions.
- ✓ He tendered his report in two volumes in 2005 and by then the Congress-led UPA government was in power.
- ✓ Following the submission of the report, Jagdish Tytler stepped down from his position of a Union minister.
- ✓ In March 2002, the Narendra Modi government in Gujarat appointed Justice Nanavati as the chairman of a commission which was probing the burning of the S-6 coach of the Sabarmati Express.
- ✓ Before Justice Nanavati joined the commission, it had only a single member, Justice (retd) K G Shah.
- ✓ In the fire, 59 kar sevaks had been charred to death near the Godhra railway station on February 27, 2002.
- ✓ With his appointment as the chairman of the commission, the Gujarat government widened the scope of the inquiry to the post-Godhra riots.
- ✓ Justice Shah passed away some time later and Justice (retd) Akshay Mehta became a member of the commission.
- ✓ The Nanavati-Mehta commission submitted the final report on the riots in 2014 to the Gujarat chief minister at the time, Anandiben Patel.
- ✓ The commission's observation was that the post-Godhra riots were a reaction to the burning of the coach.

## SPORTS

- **On December 18, Kidambi Srikanth - made history by entering the final of the World championships in Huelva in Spain**



- ✓ In the Semi finals, Srikanth prevailed over compatriot Lakshya Sen in a three-set thriller
- ✓ The 28-year-old former world No.1 will be the first Indian to play the men's singles final.
- ✓ Prakash Padukone in 1983 and Sai Praneeth in 2019 had lost in the semifinals of the Worlds.
- ✓ After winning four Super Series titles in 2017, Srikanth had to play supreme game against the 20-year-old Lakshya to reach the finals
- ✓ Had Lakshya won the game, he would have become the youngest ever to achieve that feat.
- ✓ Meanwhile, World No.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei reached her first final at Worlds victory against He Bing Jiao of China.
- ✓ She will face Japan's Akane Yamaguchi, who defeated Zhang Yi Man of China in straight sets.

