

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 23, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin - will launch a real-time state-of-the-art “CM Dashboard Tamil Nadu 360” to track, analyse and increase efficiency in the decision-making process of various government departments

ONE-STOP MONITORING SYSTEM

How chief minister M K Stalin will coordinate all departments and programmes with the new 'dashboard'

- A 180sq ft screen has been installed in the CM's conference room.

- The CM, the chief secretary and the secretaries to the CM get access to all dashboards



- Each secretary helming the department and his subordinates decided by him get access to the departmental dashboard

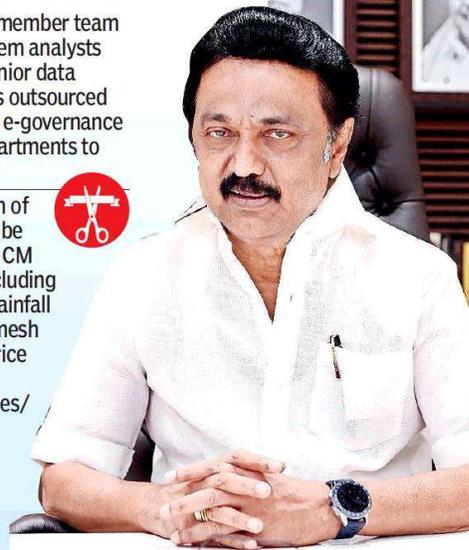
- Access is also given to heads of public sector undertakings and boards to log in with registered mobile numbers and one-time password



- A 50-member team of system analysts and senior data analysts outsourced help Tamil Nadu e-governance agency and departments to provide insights



- The first batch of dashboards will be launched by the CM on Thursday, including water storage, rainfall patterns, price mesh that monitors price stability of food grains/vegetables/fruits, employment trends and health



- ✓ CM Dashboard was developed by the Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA)
- ✓ It aims at integrating data from all government departments, district administrations, government agencies, and police force to ensure easy monitoring of projects being implemented in the state
- ✓ The first batch of 15 dashboards will be launched by the Chief Minister on December 23
- ✓ The aim of setting up the dashboard is to assist the chief minister in providing relevant information, so as to enable taking quick decisions on the

implementation, delays and statistics of various government schemes announced in the Budget and during various occasions

- ✓ Further, reports of crimes in districts and poor performers in maintaining law and order will be monitored on a real-time basis from the dashboard
- ✓ A 180sqft screen on the wall of the chief minister's conference room will provide insights to assess the performance of each department
- ✓ The price mesh monitors the price stability of over 25 foodgrains/vegetables/ fruits
- ✓ It tracks the market price changes with the support of state and central government agencies and predictive analytics will help in timely intervention.



- ✓ The first batch of dashboards kept ready for launch include, water storage levels of all key reservoirs maintained by the public works department, rainfall patterns sourced from the meteorology department and the off-take of foodgrain from civil supplies.
- ✓ Public grievance redressal system and the status of petitions received through chief minister's helpline and 'CM in your constituency' department will be monitored at all times.
- ✓ Implementation of housing schemes for the urban and rural poor and the water supply schemes, especially tap connections to households, may also be tracked in the districts.
- ✓ There are 171 key performance indicators in the health department alone
- ✓ Information about the State public sector undertakings, including State-run companies, statutory boards, etc. would also be made available
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has used advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics for the preparation of the dashboard
- ✓ In the next phase of this project, the dashboard information will be available to the public through a web portal
- ✓ Across the country, the Chief Ministers of a few States, including Orissa, Punjab, Haryana have dashboards which provide only available information, without offering any projections

- **On December 23, Chief Minister MK Stalin - will launch 'Meendum Manjappai' campaign organised by the state pollution control board.**



- ✓ The campaign aims at reducing single-use plastic, which causes irreparable damage to the environment and natural resources.
 - ✓ It seeks to create awareness on the usage of cloth bags for buying vegetables, or groceries instead of using single-use plastic bags.
 - ✓ A plastic bag, which is used by a person for about 20 minutes, takes hundreds of years to get degraded after usage
 - ✓ Taking this into account, the state had banned 14 types of materials.
 - ✓ The board will also organize an exhibition of items alternative to single-use plastics.
- **Chengalpattu SP, Aravindhan - has introduced an initiative, 'hello police', where members of the public can now report about illegal activities in their locality over phone.**
 - ✓ In this regard, a separate complaint number has been created for the public usage
 - ✓ Public are advised to send WhatsApp messages or call on 72001 02104 to report about incidents like ganja sale, sand mining, or gambling.
 - ✓ The anonymity of complainant will be maintained

STATES

- **On December 22, Punjab government - announced that state government employees will not get their salary if they don't give their vaccination certificate.**
- ✓ Those vaccinated with a single dose or fully vaccinated will have to upload the certificates on the state government's IHRMS website (Integrated Human Resource Management System) to get their salary
- ✓ The state finance department asked the departments to link the vaccination particulars with the salary module.
- ✓ The order is likely to come into effect from January 1, 2022 and is applicable to the entire government staff, including officers.

- ✓ Meanwhile, Haryana Health Minister announced that those who are not fully vaccinated will not be allowed at public places after 1 January including marriage halls, hotels, banks, malls, government offices, buses, among others.

NATIONAL

- **The winter session of Parliament - was adjourned sine die on December 22, a day ahead of schedule.**

'BELOW POTENTIAL'

- Productivity dipped to 82% in Lok Sabha
- 48% productivity in Rajya Sabha 5th lowest among 12 sessions presided over by VP Venkaiah Naidu in 4 years
- LS sat for 83 hours 20 min; Upper House discharged business for 45 hours 34 min
- Speaker calls disruptions cause for concern; RS Chair Naidu says House functioned 'below potential'

- ✓ Lok Sabha lost 18 hours due to disruptions and productivity dipped to 82% — far less than in the previous sessions.
- ✓ Rajya Sabha lost nearly 50 hours to disruptions and had just 48% productivity.
- ✓ The two Houses, however, cleared several bills, including the election laws amendments that allow voluntary linking of Aadhaar with voter IDs, during this session.
- ✓ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which seeks to raise the age of legal marriage for women from 18 to 21, was sent to a parliamentary committee.
- ✓ According to Speaker Om Birla, a total of 18 sittings were held and the Lok Sabha sat for 83 hours and 20 minutes.
- ✓ As many as 12 bills were introduced and nine were passed, including the Agricultural Laws Repeal Bill, 2021; Central Vigilance Commission Bill (Amendment), 2021; Delhi Special Police Establishment Bill (Amendment), 2021; and the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2021.
- ✓ This LS session was more productive than the preceding monsoon session in August, which had functioned only 21 hours and 14 minutes against the stipulated 96 hours.
- ✓ The most productive in the current year was the budget session in Lok Sabha, which recorded 114% productivity.
- ✓ With respect to the Rajya Sabha, the winter session's productivity of 48% during its 18 sittings is the fifth lowest among the 12 sessions presided over by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu over the past four years.

- ✓ Out of the total scheduled sitting time of 95 hours and 6 minutes, the House could discharge business only for 45 hours 34 minutes.
- **India - has imposed a penalty for delay in fulfilling offsets commitments for the first applicable year from September 2019-September 2020 in the €7.8 billion deal for 36 French Rafale fighters**

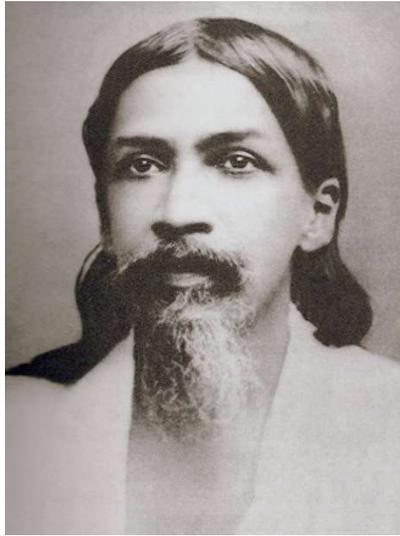
1M EURO FINE

- Fine imposed on MBDA after it **slips in discharging offsets obligations** for first year from **Sept 2019-2020**
- **MBDA has paid penalty**, which is less than **euro 1 m**
- MoD has inked **56 offsets contracts till now, with \$13bn to be discharged** from '08 to '27. But only \$3.7bn discharged by vendors till April 2021

- ✓ The move is attributed to the overall new policy to tighten the screws on defaulting armament majors.
- ✓ The fine has been “imposed and collected” from missile-maker MBDA, which is the weapons package supplier for the Rafale jets manufactured by Dassault Aviation
- ✓ India, apart from the inter-governmental agreement with France and supply protocols for jets and weapons, had also signed a major offsets contract with Dassault and smaller one with MBDA.
- ✓ Under the mega contract deal signed in 2016, 50% of the contract value (around ₹30,000 crore) has to be brought back to India as offsets or re-investments.
- ✓ The offsets in the Rafale deal are spread over seven years from the date of signing the contract, with no discharge in the first three years.
- ✓ A CAG report, incidentally, had criticised the fact that the maximum discharge of offsets in the Rafale deal — 57% by MBDA and 58% by Dassault — is slated only for the seventh year (2023).
- ✓ With 5% of the shortfall in the discharge of offsets in a particular year being collected as penalty, the fine imposed on MBDA is reportedly less than €1 million.
- ✓ Though MBDA has paid the penalty, it has also lodged a protest with the defence ministry (MoD).

COMMITTEES

- **The Ministry of Culture – has constituted a 53-member committee to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter-turned-philosopher Sri Aurobindo.**



- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chairman of the committee
- ✓ Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin, actor Rajinikanth and musician Ilayaraaja have been included as part of the committee
- ✓ The committee includes Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla, Puducherry chief minister N Rangasamy, Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel, West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee and some former prime ministers and Union ministers, besides spiritual leaders like Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.
- ✓ The panel also includes Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi, West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar, Puducherry lieutenant governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, Sri Aurobindo Ashram secretary Matri Prasad and Auroville Foundation secretary Jayanti Ravi.
- ✓ The committee will provide policy direction and guidelines for the formulation of programmes for the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo at the national and international levels
- ✓ Sri Aurobindo was born on August 15, 1872, in Kolkata.
- ✓ He had begun the practice of Yoga in 1905 in Baroda.
- ✓ In 1908, he had the first of several fundamental spiritual realisations.
- ✓ In 1910, he withdrew from politics and reached Puducherry to devote himself to his inner spiritual life and work.
- ✓ During his 40 years in Puducherry, he evolved a new method of spiritual practice, which he called 'integral yoga' for a spiritual realisation that liberates consciousness and transforms people.
- ✓ In 1926 he founded the Sri Aurobindo Ashram along with Mirra Alfassa, who is revered as the Mother.

DEFENCE

- **On December 22, India - tested a new short-range ballistic missile called Pralay, with a strike range of 150 to 500 km, from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.**

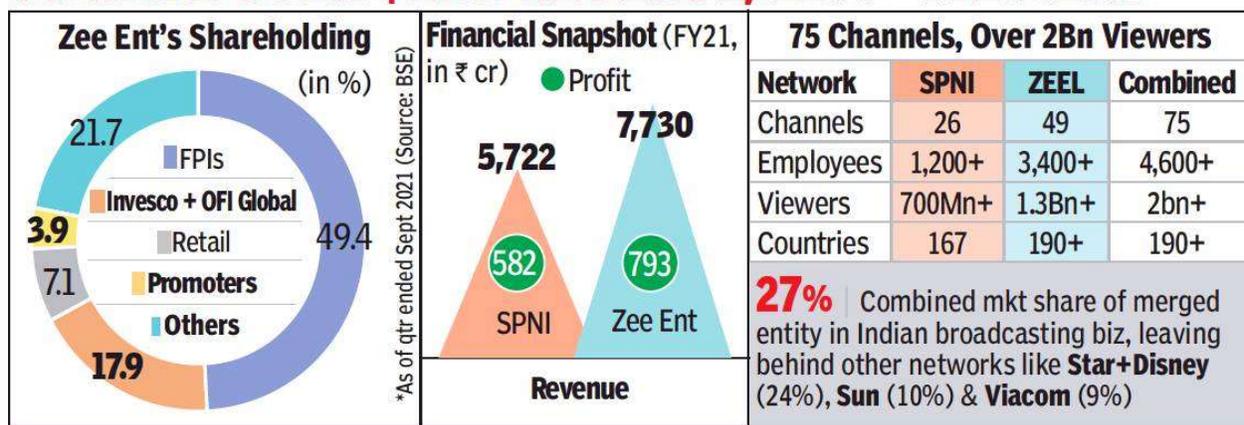


- ✓ The maiden test of the surface-to-surface missile, which can carry a payload of 1,000 kg and is powered with a solid propellant rocket motor, met all objectives.
- ✓ The guidance system of the missile, which can be launched from a mobile launcher, includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.
- ✓ Pralay is meant to be a short-range tactical missile with a huge payload to hit enemy targets.
- ✓ Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulated for the fast track development and successful maiden launch of the new-generation surface-to-surface Pralay missile equipped with modern technologies for the armed forces.

ECONOMY

- Zee Entertainment's board of directors - approved the merger between Sony Pictures Networks India and Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited to create the country's second largest entertainment network

TO HAVE OVER \$2BN REVENUE, 2BN+ VIEWERS



- ✓ According to the deal, Sony, which will invest \$1.5 billion, will hold 50.86% stake in the merged entity and Zee the remaining 45.15%.
- ✓ Zee MD and CEO Punit Goenka will lead the combined company as its Managing Director & CEO.

- ✓ The majority of the board of directors of the combined company will be nominated by the Sony Group and will include NP Singh, the current Managing Director and CEO of Sony Pictures Networks India Private Limited.
- ✓ The combined entity will own over 70 TV channels, 2 video streaming services (ZEE5 and Sony LIV) and two film studios (Zee Studios and Sony Pictures Films India)
- ✓ The merger between the two entities was announced on September 22

SPORTS

- **India - defeated arch-rivals Pakistan 4-3 to clinch the bronze medal at the Asian Champions Trophy men's hockey tournament on December 22 at Dhaka, Bangladesh**



- ✓ The Indian team took the lead in the very first minute through vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh before Sumit (45th), Varun Kumar (53rd) and Akashdeep Singh (57th) struck a goal each.
- ✓ It was India's second win over Pakistan in the tournament after having beaten them 3-1 in the round-robin stages.
- ✓ South Korea emerged as the champions after beating Japan 4-2 in the penalty shootout following a 3-3 deadlock at the end of the regulation 60 minutes of the title clash.

RANKINGS

- **India – has been ranked in the third place among the world's biggest violators in dope-related activities in the year 2019**

- ✓ This was revealed in the latest report published by the World Anti-Doping Agency (Wada)
- ✓ Indian athletes have been involved in a record 152 cases (17% of the world's total) of dope-related activities in the year 2019, behind Russia (167) and Italy (157).
- ✓ The maximum dope offenders belong to the disciplines of bodybuilding (57), followed by weightlifting (25), athletics (20), wrestling (10), boxing and judo (four each).
- ✓ Brazil (78) and Iran (70) completed the list of top-five nations with the highest number of anti-doping related violations (ADRVs)
- ✓ In the previous Wada report published in 2018, India was placed fourth with 107 ADRVs, behind Russia (144), Italy (132) and France (114).
- ✓ As per the latest report, a total of 278,047 samples were collected by anti-doping organisations worldwide in 2019, and subsequently, analysed by Wada-accredited laboratories.
- ✓ Of these samples, 2,701 (1%) were reported as Adverse Analytical Findings (AAFs).
- ✓ Among Olympic sports worldwide, athletics led the number of dope cheats with 227 (18 percent) sanctions, followed by weightlifting with 160, while bodybuilding led overall with 272.

NATIONAL DAY

➤ Kisan Diwas – December 23



- ✓ Kisan Diwas, or National Farmers' Day, is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister and farmer leader Chaudhary Charan Singh
- ✓ The day seeks to express gratitude to farmers who form the backbone of the country's economy.
- ✓ In 2001, the Government of India declared that December 23 will be celebrated across the country as Kisan Diwas.
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh was born on 23 December, 1902 to a middle-class peasant family at Noorpur village in Meerut district of Uttar Pradesh
- ✓ Charan Singh entered politics as part of the Independence movement motivated by Mahatma Gandhi.

- ✓ He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of the United Provinces in 1937
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh served as the Prime Minister of India between July 28, 1979 and January 14, 1980
- ✓ As the country's fifth Prime Minister, Chaudhary Charan Singh had worked to improve the state of farmers and introduced welfare schemes for them, earning praise from historians and people as the "champion of farmers".
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh had enacted land reforms that transformed agriculture in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh followed the famous slogan - "JAI JAWAN JAI KISAN", which was given to the farmers by Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India.
- ✓ He introduced the Debt Redemption Bill 1939, which liberated farmers from the clutches of money-lenders.
- ✓ From 1962-63, he also served as the Minister for Agriculture and Forests in Sucheta Kripalani's Ministry.
- ✓ He also became the first non-Congress Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in 1967 and later in 1970.
- ✓ During his lifetime, Singh wrote many books, which includes- Co-operative Farming X-rayed, Abolition of Zamindari, India's Poverty and its Solution among others.
- ✓ Chaudhary Charan Singh's memorial in New Delhi was named Kishan Ghat.

