

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 12, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On January 11, Chief minister M K Stalin - laid the foundation stone for the Kalaignar memorial library in Madurai through videoconferencing.



- ✓ Public Works Minister E V Velu, Commercial Taxes and Registration Minister P Murthy, Finance Minister Palanivel Thiyagarajan, School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozi, Chief Secretary V Irai Anbu, were among those who participated
- ✓ The ₹114 crore project will come up on a land of 2.7 acres belonging to the Public Works Department and will be completed within a year.
- ✓ Considered as the biggest in the southern districts, the eight-storey library would be constructed on 2,13,288 square feet at a cost of ₹99 crore.
- ✓ A fund allocation of ₹10 crore has been made for the purchase of books for the library which would include hard copies, soft copies and online magazines.
- ✓ Another ₹5 crore has been set aside for purchase of technical equipment.
- ✓ On June 3, 2021, the CM announced plans to set up the library on the 97th birth anniversary of the late leader.

- ✓ The 3D image of the library released indicated that it would have eight floors, elevators, reading areas and audiovisual rooms for visually challenged and hearing impaired readers.
- ✓ Natural lighting for daylight reading within the building would be an added advantage.
- ✓ The library would be easily accessed by differently-abled along with separate sections for children, literature, science, e-books and rare book in addition to Tamil, English, and reference sections.
- ✓ The library, expected to house 2.5 lakh books, would be ideal to serve academicians, students, children and those preparing for competitive examinations.

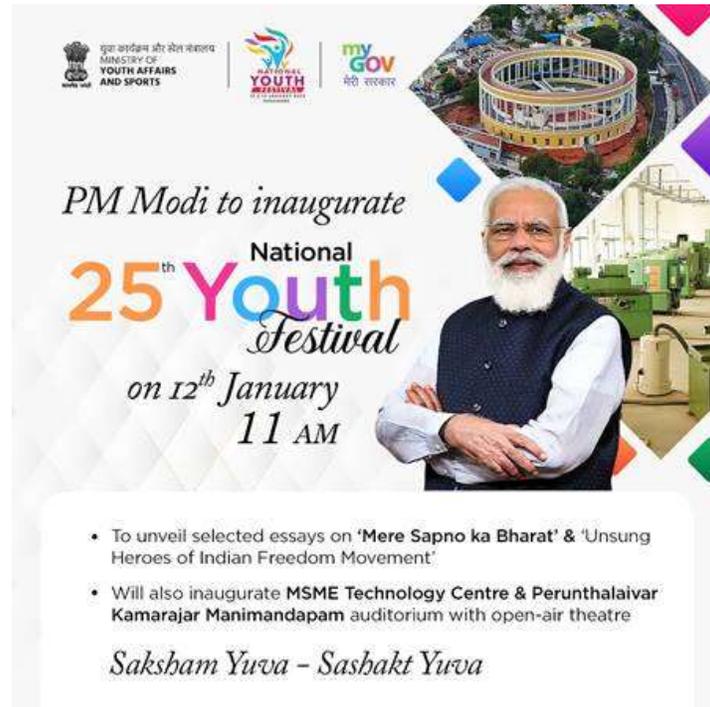
STATES

- **The Manipur government - has extended the “disturbed area” provision of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the state for one more year, except for the municipal areas of capital city Imphal.**
- ✓ It was extended with retrospective effect from December 1, 2021.
- ✓ In this regard, the state home department had issued a notification
- ✓ According to the notification, the Governor of Manipur, L Ganesan, is of the opinion that the areas within the State of Manipur be declared as a “Disturbed Area” under the provisions of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958, as amended from time to time.
- ✓ The governor issued the notification exercising the powers conferred by Section 3 of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (Act No.28 of 1958).
- ✓ The extension of AFSPA is attributed to “violent activities of various extremist/ insurgent groups”
- ✓ AFSPA gives Army personnel sweeping powers to search, arrest, and to open fire if they deem it necessary for “the maintenance of public order”.
- ✓ In the North East, the law is currently in force in Assam, Nagaland and three districts of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ On December 30, the Centre extended AFSPA in Nagaland for six months after calling it a state in a “disturbed, dangerous condition”

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - will inaugurate the National Youth Festival at 11am on January 12 virtually.**
- ✓ Union youth affairs, sports and information and broadcasting minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Puducherry lieutenant governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, chief minister N Ranganasamy and home minister A Namassivayam will participate in the virtual programme.

- ✓ The Union youth affairs and sports ministry decided to cancel the physical event scheduled in Puducherry this year and hold it in virtual mode on January 12 and 13 due to rising Covid-19 cases in the Union territory.



- ✓ The Union ministry has developed the web portal 'nyf2022.org' with a capacity to host about five lakh users after due registration process.
- ✓ The festival includes a series of conferences on a wide range of topics like environment, climate and nation building.
- ✓ It will also include recorded capsules on Puducherry, Auroville, an international township in the making, indigenous sports games, a virtual yoga session, folk dances and live music performances.
- ✓ It will conclude with sessions with Olympians and Paralympians from across the country.
- ✓ Further, the PM will dedicate a Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises technology centre in Puducherry to the nation virtually in the presence of Union MSME minister Narayan Rane, minister of state for MSME Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma and others.
 - ✓ The Centre aims to contribute towards skilling youth by providing training to 6,400 people every year
 - ✓ The technology centre has been built at a cost of nearly ₹122 crore with a focus on the electronic system design and manufacturing (ESDM) sector
- ✓ Apart from this, the Prime Minister will also inaugurate the ₹23 crore 'Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Manimandapam' auditorium established by the Puducherry government.

- ✓ This auditorium is equipped with open air theatre and would be primarily used for educational purposes, and can accommodate more than 1000 people.
 - ✓ During the event, the Prime Minister will unveil selected essays on “Mere Sapno ka Bharat” and “Unsung Heroes of Indian Freedom Movement”.
 - ✓ These essays have been selected from submissions by over 1 lakh youth on the two themes.
 - ✓ The National Youth Summit will take place this year with panel discussions on four themes -
 - ✓ Environment, climate and sustainable development goals (SDG) led growth;
 - ✓ Technology, entrepreneurship and innovation;
 - ✓ Indigeneous and ancient wisdom; and
 - ✓ National character, nation building and home grown
 - ✓ Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary is observed as National Youth Day
- **In a rare development, the Centre - to receive stake in two private telecom companies – the debt-laden Vodafone Idea and Tata group’s Tata Teleservices (TTL)**
- ✓ The government is set to own 35.8% in Vodafone Idea and 9.5% in Tata Teleservices after the two telecom operators decided to offer equity stake against their interest dues related to spectrum auction installments and AGR payments.
 - ✓ Following the decision by the companies, the government will become the single largest shareholder in Vodafone Idea
 - ✓ The country’s third-largest telecom company Vodafone group will see its holding drop from 44% to 28.5%, while the Aditya Birla group will see its stake drop to 17.8% from 27.7%.
 - ✓ The government will also get stakes in two companies under Tata Teleservices (TTL).
 - ✓ Tata Teleservices primarily offers fixed-line broadband services in Maharashtra
 - ✓ In the case of TTL, the Net Present Value (NPV) of the interest payable is expected to be Rs 850 crore and in the case of Vodafone Idea, the NPV of the interest payable is expected to be about Rs 16,000 crore
 - ✓ In September 2021, the government offered various measures as part of a relief package to the ailing telecom firms
 - ✓ Among the measures, the moratorium period for payment of AGR dues was extended to four years
 - ✓ Also, the companies were given an option to pay the interest by converting the amount into equity shares and transferring it to the government.

HIGH COURT VERDICT

- **On January 11, the Madras high court – has set aside a government order providing over and above 50% reservation for women in elections in the Greater Chennai Corporation.**

- ✓ The first bench of acting Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice P D Audikesavalu passed the order on a petition challenging the validity of a 2019 order from the state government.
- ✓ According to the bench, the state election commission is to restrict reservation of seats for women in the urban local bodies to 50% as mandated in law.
- ✓ In 2016, the government made amendments to the municipal laws, including the Chennai City Corporation Act, to provide 50% reservation to women in local body elections
- ✓ Later, in 2019, a G.O. was issued in this regard reserving 16 seats of the Chennai Corporation for Scheduled Castes, 16 for Scheduled Caste women and 89 for women in general category.
- ✓ Accordingly, of the total 200 wards in the form of 15 zones under Chennai Corporation, 105 seats had been reserved for women both in SC and general category
- ✓ As per the 50% reservation for women policy, only 84 seats should have been allotted in general category.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **For the first time ever, surgeons in America - have successfully transplanted the genetically modified heart of a pig into a human patient.**
- ✓ The "historic" procedure took place recently on January 7 and took about eight hours
- ✓ Doctors at the University of Maryland School of Medicine outside Washington DC in the US have transplanted a genetically-modified pig heart into a 57 year-patient with terminal illness
- ✓ The patient, Maryland resident David Bennett, is doing well three days after the surgery, as per the university's medical center statement on January 10
- ✓ As per the Doctors, the transplanted heart was working normally without any signs of rejection, creating the pulse and pressure associated with the human heart.
- ✓ Dr Bartley Griffith is the lead surgeon in the breakthrough achievement, which could offer a solution to organ shortage crisis in the long run.
- ✓ While some pig organs and cells, notably its heart valve and skin, have been used in humans before, a full porcine heart transplantation into a human is rare.
- ✓ Bennett's donor pig belonged to a herd that had undergone genetic editing procedures.
- ✓ The pig's heart was subjected to 10 unique gene edits, with 6 human genes responsible for human acceptance inserted into the genome and 3 genes that would have led to rejection of pig organs by humans were removed
- ✓ The gene editing was performed by Virginia-based biotech firm, Revivicor
- ✓ Doctors had to go in for a porcine heart transplant rather than a conventional one because Bennett's condition did not allow him to qualify for a human transplant.

World first pig heart transplant into a human

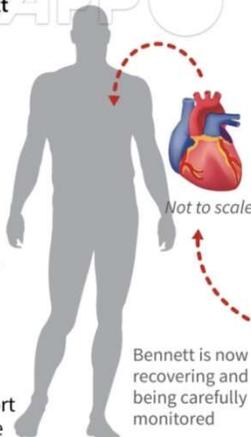
"Historic" procedure at the University of Maryland Medical School on January 7, 2022

David Bennett
57-years-old

Ineligible for human transplant

Decision commonly taken when patient has poor underlying health

Use of a pig heart was considered a last-ditch effort to save his life



Genetically modified pig
10 genes edited

- ▶ 3 genes that would have led to rejection by humans knocked out
- ▶ 1 gene switched off to prevent excessive growth
- ▶ 6 genes added to allow human acceptance

Bennett is now recovering and being carefully monitored

Editing by Virginia-based biotech firm Revivicor

Source: University of Maryland School of Medicine

AFP



- ✓ Further, Bennett was also deemed ineligible for an artificial heart pump.
- ✓ The FDA granted emergency authorisation for the surgery through its expanded access (compassionate use) provision.
- ✓ The provision is used when an experimental medical product, in this case the genetically-modified pig's heart, is the only option available for a patient faced with a serious or life-threatening condition.
- ✓ The authorisation to proceed was granted in the hope of saving patient's life.
- ✓ While the US doctors claimed it was milestone in xenotransplantation or cross species organ donation, the fusing of an animal heart in humans, a similar surgery, conducted by Dr Dhani Ram Baruah, was reported in Assam in January 1997.
- ✓ The patient in that instance survived for a week only.
- ✓ Dr Baruah was arrested for procedural irregularities, insufficient research, lack of permission from authorities before taking up the surgery and for violating the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, passed in 1994

DEFENCE

- **On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully test-fired the naval variant of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile**
- ✓ The missile was launched from the Indian Navy's indigenously-built stealth guided-missile destroyer INS Vishakhapatnam off the Western coast.
- ✓ The sea to sea variant of the missile was testfired at the maximum range and hit the target ship with pinpoint accuracy.
- ✓ The naval variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile has an extended range of 350 to 400 km from the original 290km

- ✓ The latest missile can be launched either in a horizontal or vertical mode from a moving or stationary area and it can target sea or land objects.



- ✓ BrahMos Aerospace, an India-Russian joint venture, produces the supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or from land platforms.
 - ✓ BrahMos missile flies at a speed of 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
 - ✓ The Navy had deployed the BrahMos missile for the first time on its warships in 2005.
 - ✓ The naval variant was originally tested in October and December 2020 from the Navy's indigenously-built stealth destroyer INS Chennai and Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, respectively.
 - ✓ In November 2020, the DRDO tested a land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - ✓ Meanwhile, in December last year, the air version of the BrahMos missile was tested when it was fired by supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I.
 - ✓ The test was carried out from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha
 - ✓ BrahMos is capable of carrying a warhead of 300 kilograms (both conventional as well as nuclear) and has a strike accuracy rate of 99.99%
 - ✓ BrahMos missiles are designed and developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company set up by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Mashinostroyeniya of Russia
- **On January 11, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - successfully flight tested the final deliverable configuration of the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).**
- ✓ The indigenously developed MPATGM is a low weight, "fire and forget" missile, having a range of 2.5 km
 - ✓ During the test, which was conducted at a range in Southern India, the missile impacted the designated target with precision and destroyed it



- ✓ The purpose of this particular test was to prove the consistent performance for the missile system at its minimum range.
- ✓ The indigenously developed MPATGM, ATGM Nag and Helicopter launched ATGM Nag or Helina have been successfully tested in the recent past under various conditions

ECONOMY

- **On January 11, the government - extended till March 15 the deadline for corporates to file income tax returns for assessment year 2021-22 (FY21).**
- ✓ The deadline to file tax audit report and transfer pricing audit report for FY21 too has been extended till February 15.
- ✓ This is the third extension given to corporates for filing the I-T returns for FY21.
- ✓ The original deadline for filing ITR for corporates was October 31, and those with transfer pricing transactions was November 30.

SPORTS

- **The Tata Group - has replaced Chinese mobile maker Vivo as the title sponsor of the Indian Premier League (IPL) for the next two years.**
- ✓ Vivo has terminated its contract with two editions still left in the deal.
- ✓ Vivo had a deal of Rs 2200 crore for title sponsorship rights from 2018-2022
- ✓ While the original deal was to end in 2022, it was extended till 2023 as Dream11 replaced Vivo in 2020.
 - ✓ Dream11 had been an associate sponsor of the IPL since 2018 and had outbid Tata Sons, Unacademy and Byju's in 2020
- ✓ With the new deal, the board is expected to earn around Rs 130 crore more from the deal than the one it had with Vivo.
- ✓ The relationship between BCCI and Vivo deteriorated in 2020 when the latter decided to opt out of sponsoring the 2020 IPL season in UAE.
- ✓ BCCI is supposed to invite fresh tenders for the title sponsorship for the 2024-28 cycle.