

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 13, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On January 12, Prime Minister Narendra Modi – announced an assistance of ₹3,000 crore to Tamil Nadu in the next five years under the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission



- ✓ The Centre's assistance would be used to address critical gaps in health infrastructure and health research, especially at the district level.
- ✓ The PM was speaking through video conferencing at the inauguration of 11 new medical colleges in Tamil Nadu and a new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) in Perumbakkam.
- ✓ Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M.K.Stalin alongwith Union Ministers Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, Dr L Murugan and Dr Bharati Pawar were present on the occasion.
- ✓ The new medical colleges have been established at an estimated cost of about Rs 4,000 crore
- ✓ Out of the estimated cost, Rs 2,145 crore has been provided by the Union government and the rest by the Tamil Nadu government.

- ✓ The districts in which the new Medical Colleges are being established are Virudhunagar, Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram and Krishnagiri.
  - ✓ The new medical colleges, with cumulative capacity of 1450 seats, are being established under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospital'.
    - ✓ Under the scheme, medical colleges are established in districts, which do not have either a government or private medical college
  - ✓ The new campus of CICT is fully funded by the Union Government and is built at a cost of Rs 24 crore
  - ✓ The institute library has a rich collection of over 45,000 ancient Tamil books
  - ✓ An autonomous organization under the Union Ministry of Education, CICT is contributing to the promotion of classical Tamil by doing research activities so as to establish the ancientness and uniqueness of Tamil language.
  - ✓ According to the PM, the Ayushman Bharat Mission will help in establishing urban health and wellness centres, district public health labs and critical care blocks across the state.
  - ✓ He commenced his 16-minute speech by extending Pongal greetings to the people of Tamil Nadu
  - ✓ During his speech, the PM informed that the country had 387 medical colleges in 2014, which has increased now to 596 medical colleges
  - ✓ In 2014, India had around 82 thousand medical Undergraduate and Postgraduate seats and this number has gone up to around 1 lakh 48 thousand seats now.
  - ✓ Similarly, in 2014, there were only seven AIIMS in the country and now the country has 22 AIIMS, as per the PM
  - ✓ The Prime Minister pointed out that by inaugurating 11 medical colleges in one go in Tamil Nadu, he, in a way, broke his own record when he recently inaugurated 9 medical colleges in Uttar Pradesh
  - ✓ He expressed happiness that by establishing colleges in two aspirational districts of Ramanathapuram and Virudhunagar along with one in hilly district of the Nilgiris, regional imbalance is being addressed
  - ✓ Further, the PM said that his Government also had the honour of setting up 'Subramania Bharati Chair' on Tamil Studies at Banaras Hindu University.
- **The state government - has formed a new department, Natural Resources, by separating the subjects relating to mines and minerals from the industries department.**
- ✓ This was announced by chief secretary V Irai Anbu in an order
  - ✓ As per the order, the heads of the departments, directorate of geology and mining, Tamil Nadu Minerals and Tamil Nadu Magnesite will be brought under the control of the newly formed department.
  - ✓ The new department would be headed by Water Resources Minister, Durai Murugan.

- ✓ Recently, during his maiden address to the Assembly, Governor RN Ravi announced that a Natural Resources Management Plan would be formulated to carry out mining in an ecologically sustainable manner in Tamilnadu and mobilise revenue for the government.
- ✓ Further, based on a recommendation from Chief Minister M K Stalin, Tamilnadu Governor RN Ravi has reallocated certain portfolios of three Ministers
- ✓ The subject 'sugars', dealt with by Industries Minister Thangam Thennarasu, has been allocated to Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam
- ✓ The subject 'Overseas Manpower Corporation Limited' would be handled by the Minister for Minorities' Welfare and Non Resident Tamils' Welfare instead of the Labour Welfare and Skill Development Minister.
- ✓ The subject 'Airports' would henceforth be handled by the Industries Minister instead of the Transport Minister.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On January 12, the Supreme Court - set up a five-member committee headed by former judge of SC, Justice Indu Malhotra, to inquire into security lapses during PM Modi's visit to Punjab on January 5**



- ✓ According to the apex court, the panel will inquire into the causes of the security breach, persons responsible for it and the measures to be taken in future for preventing such security breaches of VVIPs.
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice N V Ramana and Justices Surya Kant and Hima Kohli stayed the inquiry committees set up by Punjab and the Union government
- ✓ The top court directed the Registrar General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court to submit all records and documents seized by him to the probe panel chairperson in three days
- ✓ On January 5, the prime minister's convoy was stranded on a flyover due to a blockade by protesters in Ferozepur after which he returned from Punjab without attending any event, including a rally.
- ✓ Union Home Ministry has sought a report from the Punjab Government on the security breach during the Prime Minister's visit to Punjab calling it a major lapse in his security

- ✓ The Prime Minister was to visit Ferozpur and lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth more than Rs 42,750 crore.
- ✓ Other members of the inquiry committee are director general of National Investigation Agency or his nominee not below the rank of inspector general of police; director general of police, Union territory of Chandigarh and additional director general of police (Security) of Punjab.
- ✓ The Register General of the Punjab and Haryana High Court would serve as a member-cum-coordinator for the inquiry committee.
- ✓ Justice Indu Malhotra was the second woman to have been designated as a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court in 2007 and the first woman lawyer to directly enter the top judiciary as a judge on April 27, 2018.
  - ✓ The first woman to be appointed as a judge of the apex court was Justice M Fathima Beevi in 1989, 39 years after the Supreme Court was set up in 1950.
- ✓ Justice Indu Malhotra retired from the top court on March 13, 2021
- ✓ She penned several important verdicts, including her dissenting judgement in the historic Sabarimala Temple case

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On January 12, the European Commission - proposed a suspension of a visa-free travel agreement with the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu because of its scheme offering passports to rich foreigners.**



- ✓ If the proposal is backed by EU states, it would be the first time that the EU imposes sanctions on a country for running “golden passport” schemes
- ✓ According to EU, such schemes could pose security and money laundering risks.
- ✓ The Commission has concluded that Vanuatu’s investor citizenship schemes present serious deficiencies and security failures
- ✓ Under the scheme, foreigners can obtain Vanuatu citizenship and passport in exchange for a minimum investment of \$1,30,000.
- ✓ That in turn gives them visa-free access to the EU, under a visa waiver agreement the country has with the 27-nation bloc.

- ✓ The Commission has proposed to suspend visa-free travel for all holders of Vanuatu passports released since May 2015 when the investor programme started.
- ✓ According to EU, the scheme was risky because it essentially accepted all applicants and did not sufficiently screen them, despite some appearing in Interpol's security databases.
- ✓ Most EU states have their own schemes for wealthy foreigners, but the Commission considers most of them in line with EU rules, with the exception of programmes set up by Cyprus and Malta.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Nasa – to launch Indian Sat, an experimental satellite built by Indian students, in June 2022**



- ✓ Indian Sat, one of the smallest and lightest, was built with 3D reinforced graphene polymer
- ✓ Weighing just 30 gram, the satellite was developed by Tospace Private Limited, a space startup based in Tamil Nadu, over a period of two years
- ✓ The satellite, a cube of 3 cm, will be a technology demonstrator carrying 11 sensors to measure 20 parameters in the space.
- ✓ Tospace Private Limited, the startup, has been created by three people, including two students from Karur.
- ✓ The satellite was built as part of the 'Cubes in Space' programme of Idoodledu Inc in association with Nasa.
- ✓ It is scheduled to be launched at an altitude of 120km by Nasa's suborbital sounding rocket in June 2022 from its flight facility.
- ✓ Data measured by equipment such as ultraviolet sensor, luminosity sensor, RGB sensor and gas sensor onboard the satellite will be transmitted to the ground station.
- ✓ The satellite has its own RF (Radio Frequency) communication to transmit and receive signals from outer space to Earth and is powered by solar cells

- ✓ The start-up is also working on Indian Sat V2, a communication pico-satellite weighing 375gm, which will be launched by SpaceX towards the end of 2022 or early 2023, apart from the Indian Sat V3 multispectral imaging satellite, weighing 350gm.
  - ✓ The start-up aims to provide various services including satellite building and launch and ground station support while also focusing on R&D and promoting STEM subjects among students.
  - ✓ Team 'Indian Sat' was inspired by the launch of student satellite Kalam Sat, which was launched in early 2019 by the Indian Space Research Organization
  - ✓ The 'Cube in Space' programme encourages students to use their imagination and critical thinking skills to design experiments that can be applied in space.
  - ✓ Since 2014, they have flown 900 experiments representing 2200 education and over 21,000 students from 73 countries.
- **On January 12, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - successfully conducted the qualification test of the cryogenic engine — CE-20 — to be used for Gaganyaan programme.**



- ✓ The test was conducted for a duration of 720 seconds at the Isro Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The performance of the engine met the test objectives and the engine parameters were closely matching with predictions during the entire duration of the test, according to Isro
- ✓ Further, the CE-20 will undergo four more tests for a cumulative duration of 1,810 seconds.
- ✓ Subsequently, one more engine will undergo two short-duration tests & one long-duration test to complete the cryogenic engine qualification for Gaganyaan Programme.
- ✓ Meanwhile, tests are in progress for human-rated L-ILO Vikas engine, cryogenic stage, crew escape system motors and service module propulsion system.
- ✓ The S200 motor has been realised for ground testing too.

# APPOINTMENTS

- **Eminent rocket scientist S Somanath - has been appointed as the tenth chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) and secretary, department of space (DoS).**
- ✓ He will replace K Sivan, who will complete his term, which included a one-year extension, on January 14, 2022.
- ✓ Sivan was appointed as the ISRO chief, Secretary of the Department of Space and Chairman Space Commission in January 2018
- ✓ In December 2020, he was given a one-year extension till January 14, 2022.
- ✓ Somanath's appointment as the Space Secretary and the Space Commission Chairman is for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post
- ✓ The post of the ISRO chairman, the Space Secretary and the Space Commission chief is usually held by one person only



- ✓ Somanath, at present serving as director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, has a Masters in aerospace engineering from Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, with a gold medal.
- ✓ Before becoming VSSC director, he had a two-and-a-half-year stint as director, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), Valiamala, Thiruvananthapuram
- ✓ Previously, he served as the Associate Director (Projects) of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and also as the Project Director of GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle
- ✓ Hailing from Kerala, Somanath joined VSSC in 1985 and was a team leader for the integration of PSLV during the early phases
- ✓ During his initial years, he worked on projects dealing with the integration of the Polar Space Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and served as the PSLV's project manager between 1995 and 2002
- ✓ Under his leadership, the first experimental flight of LVM3-X/CARE mission was successfully accomplished on December 18, 2014
- ✓ S Somanath is an expert in launch vehicle structural systems, structural dynamics, mechanisms, pyro systems and launch vehicle integration

- ✓ His achievements include Space Gold Medal from the Astronautical Society of India (ASI) and ISRO has recognised his work with honours like Performance Excellence Award-2014 and Team Excellence Award-2014 for GSLV Mk-III.
- ✓ The previous ISRO chiefs from Kerala who held the top posts are MGK Menon (1972 to 1972), K. Kasturirangan (1994 to 2003), G. Madhavan Nair (2003 to 2009), and K. Radhakrishnan (2009 to 2014).

## SPORTS

- **16-year old Gujarat girl, Tasnim Mir – created history by becoming the world No. 1 in the girls badminton singles category.**



- ✓ As per the Badminton World Federation (BWF) U-19 rankings released on January 12, Tasnim has 10,810 points.
- ✓ Tasnim was world No. 1 in the junior category too.
- ✓ Tasnim's feat has never been achieved by any Indian girl, including two-time Olympic medallist P V Sindhu and London bronze winner Saina Nehwal
- ✓ While Saina did not make the cut as BWF introduced the junior rankings in 2011, Sindhu's highest ranking in the junior category was world No. 2.
- ✓ Another Indian, Samiya Imad Farooqui of Telangana came close but could only reached the second spot in the BWF junior rankings.
- ✓ In Boys singles, Lakshya Sen, Siril Verma and Aditya Joshi had become the world no 1.
- ✓ Tasnim was part of India's campaign at the Thomas and Uber Cup held late last year in Denmark
- ✓ Tasnim, who started training at Pullela Gopichand Academy in 2017, shifted base to Assam Badminton Academy in Guwahati in 2020 as her mixed doubles partner Ayan Rashid trains there.
- ✓ Tasnim is being coached by Edwin Iriawan of Indonesia.
- ✓ Tasnim is ranked at No. 602 in the senior rankings.
- ✓ She won the national junior champion (U-19) at the age of 14 and also claimed the national crown in the under-13, under-15 and under-19 girls' singles categories
- ✓ Tasnim also won U-15 singles and doubles titles at the All-India Sub-Junior ranking tournaments in Hyderabad and Nagpur in 2018.

- ✓ In 2019, she won the title at the Asian U-17 & U-15 Junior Championships in Indonesia.
- ✓ She also emerged victorious at the President Cup Nepal Junior International Series 2020 in Kathmandu.
- ✓ Of her four junior international titles, three came last year in Dubai, Bulgaria and Nepal International

