

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 27, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On January 26, Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi - unfurled the national flag at the Marina Beach front, in the presence of Chief Minister M K Stalin in Chennai



- ✓ The Republic Day Parade on Marina was a low key affair this year lasting for about 28 minutes, owing to the pandemic situation
- ✓ Wing Commander Anuj Gupta was the overall Parade Commander of the Republic Day parade.
- ✓ The celebrations were subdued for the second continuous year, with the public requested to skip it.
- ✓ There were no cultural performances by school and college students either.
- ✓ The celebrations were witnessed only by government officials, ministers, dignitaries from consulates and their families.
- ✓ The focus of the celebrations this year was on the tableaux of freedom fighters that was rejected by the Union government.



- ✓ The tableaux featured V O Chidambaram, Subramania Bharati and Velu Nachiyar, the first queen to have fought the British riding a horse with a sword.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin later flagged off the tableau that was to be taken to important cities in the state after the event in Chennai.
- ✓ After the unfurling of the National Flag, a helicopter of the Indian Air Force showered flower petals and kickstarted the ceremonial march past
 - ✓ The march past featured various uniformed contingents including the Armed forces, CRPF, Tamil Nadu Special police and Chennai city police among others.
- ✓ Later, the CM presented several awards including Anna Medal for Gallantry, notably to Chennai inspector E Rajeswari and Thiruvottiyur ward councillor Thaniyarasu.
 - ✓ E Rajeswari rescued a cemetery worker by lifting him on her shoulders to rush him to a hospital and Thaniyarasu told residents to vacate their dilapidated building minutes before it came crashing down.
 - ✓ The award carries a cheque of ₹1 lakh, a medal and a certificate.
- ✓ The Kottai Ameer award for Communal Harmony was given to J Mohammed Rafi of Coimbatore and C Narayanasamy Naidu award for highest yield in the state went to C Ramasamy of Salem.
 - ✓ The award carries a cash prize of ₹5 lakh and a citation
- ✓ Gandhi Adigal Police medals to personnel informed in curbing illicit liquor was given to five officers and the CM's trophy for the best police station went to Tirupur (south).
- ✓ Forest veterinary assistant surgeon Dr K Asokan was awarded the Anna medal for bravery
 - ✓ He was part of a team to secure wild elephant Chinnathambi in Chinnathadam forest area in 2019
- **On January 26, state election commissioner V Palanikumar - announced the poll schedule for the urban local body polls in Tamil Nadu.**
- ✓ The polling for all local bodies will be on February 19 and the counting of votes will be on February 22

- ✓ The election would be held for 21 corporations, 138 municipalities and 490 town panchayats in a single phase
- ✓ The 21 municipal corporations consist 1,064 wards, 138 municipalities consist 3,468 and 489 town panchayats consist 8,288 wards

ELECTION AFTER MORE THAN 10 YEARS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Nominations from Jan 28 Last date: Feb 4 Withdrawal: Feb 7 > Swearing in of new members March 2 > Corporations 21 > Municipalities 138 > Town panchayats 490 	<p>Number of voters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Urban local bodies 2.7 cr > Male 1.3 cr > Female 1.4 cr > Third gender 4,324 	<p>Chennai corpn</p> <p>61.1 lakh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Male 30.2 lakh > Female 30.9 lakh > Third gender 1,576
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- ✓ The polling would commence at 7am and conclude at 6pm on February 19.
- ✓ Voters with Covid-19 or Covid-19-like symptoms can exercise their franchise in the last hour of polling.
- ✓ The model code of conduct would come into force immediately.
- ✓ The commission will take up the counting of votes from 8am on February 22 and declare the results the same day.
- ✓ Filing of nomination would begin at 10am on January 28.
- ✓ The nominations would close on February 4 and scrutiny would be taken up on February 5.
- ✓ Candidates can withdraw the nomination on or before February 7.
- ✓ The poll process would be completed by February 24 and the newly-elected members would assume charge and hold their maiden meetings on March 2.
- ✓ Councillors in corporations, municipalities and town panchayats would be elected directly while mayors and deputy mayors in corporations and chairman and vice-chairman in municipalities and town panchayats would be elected indirectly.
- ✓ The commission would hold the indirect elections on March 4.
- ✓ In September 2016, the state election commission announced the notification for poll schedule for local bodies, but the polls were held in 2020 only for rural local bodies
- ✓ Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Vellore, Tiruchy, Salem and other cities in Tamil Nadu will soon have elected Mayors after a span of six years.

NATIONAL

- **On January 26, India - celebrated its 73rd Republic Day as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav commemorating 75 years of independence with the**

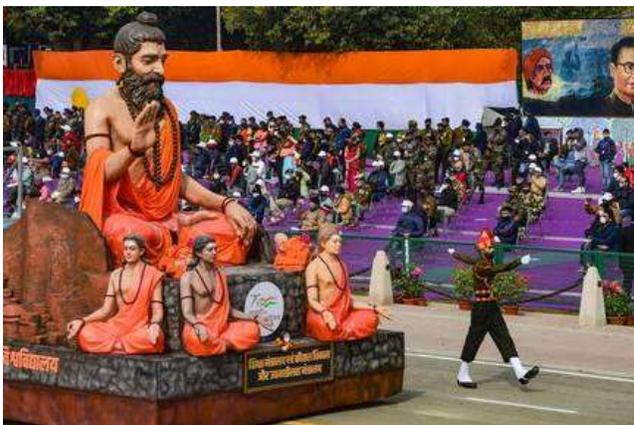
iconic parade at Delhi's Rajpath showcasing its military prowess and cultural pageantry.

- ✓ As per tradition, the national flag was unfurled by President Ram Nath Kovind followed by the National Anthem with a booming 21-gun salute, presented by Ceremonial Battery of 871 Field Regiment



- ✓ A flypast by 75 aircraft and helicopters of Indian Air Force was the highlight of this year's parade, led by Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Mishra, Ati Vishisth Seva Medal, a second-generation Army officer.
 - ✓ Major General Alok Kacker, Chief of Staff, Delhi Area was the Parade Second-in-Command.
- ✓ The grand flypast began with the 'Dhwaj' formation with four Mi-17 aircraft and concluded with 17 Jaguar fighter aircraft flying in the 'Amrit' formation to commemorate 75 years of Independence.
- ✓ The parade commenced with President Ram Nath Kovind taking the salute
- ✓ The first contingent is of the 61 Cavalry, which is the only serving active Horse Cavalry Regiment in the world
- ✓ For the first time in its history, the parade began half an hour later than usual, due to low visibility and fog
- ✓ The parade, held under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence every year, also had the active participation of the Ministry of Culture this time.
- ✓ As the nodal ministry for Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Ministry of Culture organised Vande Bharatam in collaboration with the MoD as a countrywide dance competition
 - ✓ The Vande Bharatam Nritya Utsav saw participation in four categories - classical, folk, tribal and fusion/contemporary.
 - ✓ A total of 480 dancers were selected from 3,870 in the all-India dance competition.

- ✓ The musical piece for the 12-minute performance was composed by Grammy Award-winning musician Ricky Kej, in collaboration with Oscar contender tabla player Bickram Ghosh
- ✓ The winners of the country's highest gallantry awards, Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra, led the contingents in saluting the President, the Supreme Commander of armed forces.
- ✓ The marching contingent displayed the evolution of uniforms and weapons of Indian Army over the last 75 years.
 - ✓ The Jammu & Kashmir Light Regiment was in the uniform worn in 1971 and carried 7.62mm self loading rifles.
 - ✓ The Assam Regiment was in uniform from 1962 and carried .303 rifles.
- ✓ The country's first woman Rafale fighter jet pilot Shivangi Singh was part of the Indian Air Force tableau at the Republic Day parade.
 - ✓ She is only the second woman fighter jet pilot to be part of the IAF tableau.
 - ✓ Shivangi, who is from Varanasi, joined the IAF in 2017 and was commissioned in the IAF's second batch of women fighter pilots.
 - ✓ She had been flying MiG-21 Bison aircraft before flying the Rafale.
 - ✓ Shivangi is part of the IAF's Golden Arrows squadron based out of Ambala in Punjab.
 - ✓ IAF is the first force of the three wings to have allowed women officers in combat and has the highest percentage of women officers.
- ✓ Last year, Flt Lt Bhawna Kanth became the first woman fighter pilot to be part of the parade.
- ✓ Detachments of Centurion Tank, PT-76, MBT Arjun MK-I, and APC Topaz participate in the Republic Day parade at the Rajpath in Delhi
- ✓ The contingents of security forces were followed by tableaux from states that showcased India's cultural diversity, with themes ranging from the freedom struggle to biodiversity.
- ✓ There were 25 tableaux, including 12 from states and nine from different ministries or departments, two from DRDO and one each from Indian Air Force and Indian Navy
- ✓ They were followed by a display by Seema Bhawani Motorcycle Team of BSF and Himveers of Indo-Tibetan Border Police.



- ✓ Several government ministries and departments also took out tableaux, highlighting flagship initiatives such as Jal Jeevan Mission.
- ✓ The Central Public Works Development tableau paid tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his 125th birth anniversary.
- ✓ For the first time, the defence ministry presented videos from the cockpit as the helicopters and aircraft flew over Rajpath
 - ✓ IAF coordinated with the public broadcaster Doordarshan to show the recorded in-flight videos.
 - ✓ During the show, the vintage as well as modern aircraft, such as Rafale, Sukhoi, Jaguar, Mi-17, Sarang, Apache and Dakota, displayed different formations, including Rahat, Meghna, Eklavya, Trishul, Tiranga, Vijay and Amrit, over Central Vista
- ✓ The Army displayed the Centurion and PT-76 tanks, 75/24 PackHowitzer and OT-62 Topaz armoured personnel carrier, which played a major role in defeating Pakistan in the 1971 war.
- ✓ The mechanised columns also showcased two MBT Arjun MK-I tanks, one BMP-I and two BMP-II infantry fighting vehicles
- ✓ The guest list was cut short this year to ensure necessary Covid protocols and only 5,000 people attended the celebrations
- ✓ It was the second consecutive year when Republic Day was celebrated in the shadow of a pandemic with no foreign dignitary as the chief guest.
- ✓ Though there was no chief guest, special invitees included autorickshaw drivers, construction workers, sanitation and frontline health workers
- ✓ Ahead of the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute to India's fallen soldiers at the National War Memorial.
- ✓ Continuing the trend of wearing headgear, PM Modi sported a cap from Uttarakhand and was draped in a stole from Manipur.
- ✓ The Rashtrapati Bhavan was decorated with colourful lights and a laser show was on display on the occasion



- ✓ The route of the marching contingent ended at the National Stadium instead of the Red Fort this year

- ✓ As Republic Day celebrations came to an end at Delhi's Rajpath, one of the President's Bodyguards (PBG) was the centre of attention.
 - ✓ The guard was none other than an elite dark-bay coloured horse named Virat, who retired soon after the parade.
 - ✓ President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh bid farewell to the horse
 - ✓ Virat has attended 13 Republic Day parades, and has been at the top of the PBG team, considered the most senior regiment of the Indian Army.
- ✓ The day saw many firsts, which included the launch of the "Shaheedon Ko Shat Shat Naman" programme by National Cadet Corps, display of 10 scrolls each of 75 metres prepared during the "Kala Kumbh" event and installation of 10 large LED screens for a better viewing experience of spectators.

➤ **The Union Cabinet - extended the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis for three more years recently**

- ✓ The current tenure of the commission ends in March 2022 and the extension takes effect from April 1, 2022
- ✓ The extension is being given at a cost of Rs 43.68 crore.
- ✓ Safai karamcharis or manual scavengers clean drainages and sewer with direct hands, without any protection or equipment.
- ✓ The commission was established as an advisory body in 1993 as per the provisions of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Act, 1993 initially for the period up to March 31, 1997.
- ✓ The validity of the Act was initially extended up to March 31, 2002 and thereafter up to February 29, 2004.
- ✓ The NCSK Act ceased to have effect from February 29, 2004 and after that, the tenure of the NCSK has been extended as a non-statutory body from time to time through resolutions.
- ✓ The commission is responsible for giving recommendations to the government regarding specific programmes for welfare of Safai Karamcharis, study and evaluate the existing welfare programmes for Safai Karamcharis, investigate cases of specific grievances etc
- ✓ According to the government data, there were 58,098 manual scavengers identified in the country as on December 31, 2021.

➤ **On January 20, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the launch of 'Azadi Ke Amrit Mahotsav se Swarnim Bharat Ki Ore' through video conferencing and delivered the keynote address**

- ✓ The program unveiled year-long initiatives dedicated to Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav by the Brahma Kumaris, which include more than 30 campaigns and over 15000 programs and events.
- ✓ During the event, Prime Minister flagged off seven initiatives of Brahma Kumaris.



- ✓ These include My India Healthy India, Aatmanirbhar Bharat: Self Reliant Farmers, Women: Flag Bearers of India, Power of Peace Bus Campaign, Andekha Bharat Cycle Rally, United India Motor Bike Campaign and green initiatives under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
- ✓ During the event, Ricky rez, the Grammy award winner dedicated a song to the event.
- ✓ Brahma Kumaris is a worldwide spiritual movement dedicated to personal transformation and world renewal.
- ✓ Founded in India in 1937, Brahma Kumaris has spread to over 130 countries with its headquarters at Mount Abu
- ✓ The event is being held on the occasion of the 53rd Ascension Anniversary of Pitashree Prajapita Brahma, Founding Father of Brahma Kumaris.
- **The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – has recently announced the results of “Streets for People Challenge Award” and “Nurturing Neighbourhood challenge” award**
- ✓ The Streets for People Challenge is an online event organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ✓ The Streets for People challenge along with the India Cycles4 challenge brought in changes to make the roads cycle friendly, walking friendly and child friendly.
- ✓ Around eleven cities have won the “Streets for People Challenge Award”.
 - ✓ They are Aurangabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram, Kochi, Nagpur, Pimri chinchwad, Pune, Udaipur, Kohima, Ujjain, and Vijayawada.
- ✓ The Nurturing neighbourhood challenge focuses on creating a childhood friendly neighbourhood.
 - ✓ Ten cities have won the “Nurturing Neighbourhood challenge” award. They are Bengaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Indore, Jabalpur, Kakinada, Kochi, Kohima, Rourkela, Vadodara, Warangal.
- ✓ These cities will now enter into the next level.
- ✓ While announcing the results, the ministry also launched the second season of streets for people challenge and India cycles4change.

- ✓ Also a book titled “Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge: Stories from the field” was launched.
- ✓ The challenges were anchored by the Smart City Mission in line with the National Urban Transport Policy 2006.
- **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) - observed the Open Data Week to encourage adoption of open data and promote innovation across India’s urban ecosystem**
- ✓ It was conducted during the third week of January, i.e., from 17th January 2022 to 21st January 2022.
- ✓ The Open Data Week is part of a series of pre-event initiatives being undertaken by MoHUA to promote awareness and use of open data
- ✓ It is observed as a lead-up to the ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Smart Cities: Smart Urbanization’ conference scheduled to be held in Surat, during February 2022
- ✓ The Open Data Week saw the participation from all 100 Smart Cities that publish high quality datasets and data blogs on the Smart Cities Open Data Portal.
- ✓ It aims to show the benefits of open data such as increased efficiency, transparency, a spur in innovation, and economic growth
- ✓ As part of the Open Data Week, the Data Day will be observed on 21st January 2022
- ✓ Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an initiative of the Government of India to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.
- ✓ The official journey of “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” commenced on 12th March 2021 which starts a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of Independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2022.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Indonesia's parliament - has passed a bill to relocate the nation's capital from Jakarta to East Kalimantan, a jungled area on Borneo island**
- ✓ The new capital city of the country will be called Nusantara, a Java name meaning ‘archipelago’.



- ✓ Indonesian President Joko Widodo had first announced the plan to move the capital city from Jakarta in 2019.
 - ✓ Widodo had cited increasing environmental issues like pollution that Jakarta has been facing along with financial inequality
 - ✓ Along with this, Jakarta has also been sinking and it has been said that if nothing was done, many parts of the city would submerge underwater by 2050
- ✓ East Kalimantan is 2,300 kilometres from Jakarta on the eastern side of Borneo island, shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei.
- ✓ It is situated in the centre of Indonesia, in one of the areas least prone to the natural disasters that regularly hit the vast archipelago of 17,000 islands.
- ✓ The transfer of the status of Jakarta as Indonesia's capital to Nusantara, where 256,142 hectares of land has been set aside for the project, will take place in the "first semester" of 2024
- ✓ With the new capital, all of Indonesia's government institutions would also move to East Kalimantan along with the offices and homes of civil servants and ministers
- ✓ The presidential palace will also move to the new capital
- ✓ Jakarta has been Indonesia's capital since the country became independent in 1949.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The first BRICS Sherpas meeting of 2022 - was held virtually recently on January 18-19 under the chairmanship of China**



- ✓ The two day meeting witnessed the leaders of BRICS partnership discussing the agenda, programs, priorities and calendar for the year 2022
- ✓ The countries decided to conduct 25 events in 2022, with five are to be hosted by India.
- ✓ Further, China is to host BRICS Young Scientist Conclave, focusing on modern agriculture, material science, artificial intelligence, bio-medicine, carbon peak neutralization.

- ✓ China will also host the tenth BRICS Science and Technology ministerial – level meet showcasing the achievements of BRICS Framework Programme, which was implemented between 2015 and 2022.
- ✓ The current BRICS Sherpa of India is Sanjay Bhattacharya.
- ✓ BRICS is a grouping of five major emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- ✓ India was the chairman of BRICS grouping in 2021

PERSONALITIES

- **Actor, content creator and YouTuber Prajakta Koli - become India's first UN Development Programme (UNDP) Youth Climate Champion.**



- ✓ She has been conferred the title for her contribution towards mental health, women’s rights and girl child education through various global social campaigns.
- ✓ As a part of her responsibilities, Prajakta will create awareness on issues like global warming, climate crisis, biodiversity loss and their impacts
- ✓ Prajakta Koli is an Indian YouTuber, known by her YouTube Channel “Mostlysane”.
- ✓ She prepares comedy videos, focusing mostly on observational comedy related to daily life situations.
- ✓ In the past, Prajakta has focused on issues like body shaming and online bullying with 'Shameless' as part of her campaign #iPledgeToBeMe which came into force on World Mental Health Day in 2016.
- ✓ As a global ambassador for YouTube's 'Creators For Change' initiative, Prajakta highlighted trolling, female subjugation and homophobia through her campaign 'No Offence' which was showcased at the UN headquarters in New York on International Tolerance Day.
- ✓ In 2018, Prajakta launched three initiatives and social cause partnerships, first with YouTube for Social Impact Girl's Education campaign, second with Instagram on their Safer Internet Week campaign and third with One.org for their Girl Education campaign.
- ✓ In 2019 she received an invite from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for their annual Goalkeepers Summit.

- ✓ Last year, she joined Google's Impact Challenge to aid grants to non-profits addressing economic inequities faced by women and girls.

DEFENCE

- **The Border Security Force – launches ‘Operation Sard Hawa’ to increase surveillance along the Pakistan border in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan from January 23 to 28.**



- ✓ Due to fog and haze on the border during winter, the force remains on "high alert" to deal with infiltration and other nefarious activities from across the border.
- ✓ The enhanced security to prevent any intrusion comes ahead of Republic Day.
- ✓ All personnel and officers of the headquarters will remain on the border during this period and will monitor the situation 24 hours
- ✓ The BSF conducts "Operation Garam Hawa" in summer and "Operation Sard Hawa" in winter every year.
- ✓ BSF is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ With the objective to ensure the security of the borders of India, the Border Security Force (BSF) was established on 1st December 1965, after the Indo-Pak and Indo-China wars.
- ✓ With 186 battalions and over 2.4 lakh military personnel, the BSF is the largest border security unit in the world
- ✓ BSF is the only paramilitary force in India that has its own marine, air and artillery regiments.
- ✓ It also has a unique Camel wing, specifically trained for desert combat.

ECONOMY

- **Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) - launched “Saaṛthi” – a mobile app on investor education in Mumbai**
- ✓ The new app aims to create awareness among investors about the basic concepts of the securities market.
- ✓ Additionally, the app will also explain about KYC process, trading and settlement, mutual funds (MF), recent market developments, investor grievances redressal mechanism, etc.

- ✓ SEBI chairman Ajay Tyagi launched the new mobile App on January 19, 2022
- ✓ The SEBI Saa᳚thi mobile app is available in Hindi and English.
- ✓ The Android and iOS versions of the App can be downloaded from Play Store and App Store respectively.

REPORT

- **Aircraft manufacturer Boeing - recently issued airline-specific bulletins alerting pilots to a long list of possible problems associated with the interference of 5G signals at lower altitudes with Altimeter, an instrument that measures the plane's height over ground**
- ✓ Air India, the only Indian carrier that flies to the US, operates the route with Boeing wide-body aircraft.
- ✓ With 5G rollout in the US, at height below 2,500ft, pilots will now need to be alert for possible 5G interference.
- ✓ Boeing instructs them to monitor and cross-check between two different altimeter readings.

RADIO ALTIMETER & 5G DISRUPTION ROW



➤ Radio altimeter, a sensor affixed to aircraft base, transmits radio waves to Earth's surface and receives a portion of reflected wave. By computing round-trip propagation time, it measures accurate height of

the aircraft over ground/sea

➤ Altimeter waves lie in the frequency between 4.2 and 4.4GHz. In the US, 5G communications have been rolled out. The '5G C-band spectrum' fundamental emissions lie between 3.7 and 3.98 GHz. But certain 'spurious emissions' could be found in 4.2-4.4GHz frequency band

➤ In worst-case scenario, fundamental emissions or spurious emissions from 5G tower could cause interference with radio

waves affecting performance of radio altimeter, says an Oct 2020 paper published by Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics, a US-based non-profit. But resilient altimeters could withstand interference

➤ 5G is live in over 40 countries with no serious impact on aviation so far. But 5G environment in the US differs from other countries



- ✓ Above 2,500ft, a barometric servo altimeter gives altitude information by reading atmospheric pressure differences, which is not affected by 5G waves.
- ✓ Below 2,500ft, aircraft systems and pilots rely on the more accurate radio altimeter readings.
- ✓ But if 5G interference happens, the radio altimeter could fail or give erroneous readings,
- ✓ Hence, the 'autopilot' functions that help carry out low-visibility landings could fail

