

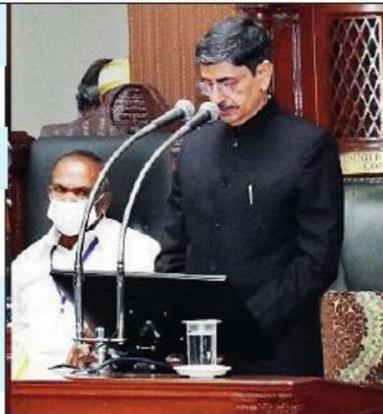
EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 6, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On January 5, Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi - made his maiden address to the Tamil Nadu Assembly on the first day of the first session of 2022
- ✓ During his speech, the governor urged the Centre to release ₹6,230 crore assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund immediately to undertake relief and restoration work to mitigate the effects of damage caused by the floods

KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR

- Smart classrooms will be set up in 24,345 govt primary schools
- Launch of first phase of furniture park on a 1,000-acre area in Tuticorin this month
- The agro-industrial corridor will begin next year
- Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam scheme (health services at the doorstep) benefits 42.99 lakh
- A publication division of HR&CE with state-of-art facilities will bring out books on the history and architecture of temples, and the rich literature, including Bhakti literature
- 7,760 specialised veterinary health care and awareness camps will be held
- Tourism policy with components to promote adventure tourism will be released this year



ATTENTION PLEASE: Governor R N Ravi addresses the first assembly session of 2022 on Wednesday

- ✓ Pointing out that the GST compensation regime is coming to an end on June 30, the Governor urged the GST Council and the Union Finance Ministry to extend the compensation period at least by two years till June 20, 2024
- ✓ He also urged the external affairs ministry to take steps to resume direct talks between Indian and Sri Lankan fishermen
- ✓ The Governor said that 1. 7 lakh children dropped out of schools, were identified and successfully enrolled in age-appropriate classes

- ✓ This is attributed to a massive grassroots level exercise was undertaken by the state government using a GPS-enabled mobile app and with 80,000 surveyors drawn from various departments.

Highlights of the 45-minute Governor's address

- ✓ The governor asserted that entrance exams like National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) create an unequal platform against rural students and it is unnecessary
 - ✓ The Undergraduate Medical Degree Courses Bill, 2021 was passed by the DMK-led state government in the state assembly with the support of all parties except the BJP in September 2021
 - ✓ The bill seeks to restore Tamil Nadu's process of medical admissions by considering only class XII marks
 - ✓ The AIADMK in 2017 passed a similar bill seeking exemption from NEET but it was rejected by the president
- ✓ The government to prepare a detailed action plan towards one trillion-dollar economy to realize the vision by 2030
- ✓ A natural resources management plan is to be prepared to carry out mining in an ecologically sustainable manner and mobilize revenue for the government.
- ✓ The government to formulate a strategy to revitalize the tourism-based economy in Tamil Nadu highlighting the glorious history, cultural heritage, and natural beauty of the state
- ✓ A new tourism policy including components to promote adventure tourism would be released this year
- ✓ Through the 'Engum Tamizh Edhilum Tamizh' scheme, the usage of the Tamil language would be popularised in all government institutions, private schools, shops, and commercial establishments
 - ✓ In this regard, necessary guidelines would be framed under the Tamil Nadu Official Language Act, 1956 to implement this scheme
- ✓ To encourage students to study in Tamil medium, 100 textbooks in various subjects in professional courses would be translated into Tamil.
- ✓ Implementation of the 'Data Purity' project to analyze data across various departments and to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the deserving
- ✓ Implementation of the e-office system to enable speedy disposal and efficient management of files while improving transparency and accountability.
- ✓ A drive to be launched to preserve the rare palm-leaf manuscripts available in temples and mutts.
- ✓ Major temples will be encouraged to have bookstalls wherein books about the history of temples, heritage, culture, and the Tamil language will be displayed
- ✓ The Governor also announced that a publication division of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (HR and CE) would be established with

state-of-art facilities to bring out books on the history and architecture of temples, and the rich Tamil literature including Bhakti literature.

- ✓ The governor asserted the state's stand on sharing of river water with neighbouring states by opposing Karnataka's Mekedatu reservoir project on the Cauvery river
 - ✓ He further declared the government's intention to take necessary steps to restore the full reservoir level (FRL) of 152 ft in Mullaperiyar Dam located in Kerala.
 - ✓ The Government is to establish a 150-acre medical devices park at Oragadam to promote the sector
 - ✓ TN SIDCO has taken up the project of developing five industrial parks at a cost of Rs 241 crore
 - ✓ Government to set up smart classrooms in all 24,345 government primary schools in the state
 - ✓ Following the governor's speech, the Assembly Speaker M Appavu informed that the first session of the assembly this year will go on until January 7
 - ✓ R N Ravi took over as governor of the state on September 18 after the then Governor Banwarilal Purohit was transferred to Punjab.
- **On January 5, the Tamil Nadu government - announced that it will impose a complete lockdown every Sunday to curb the rising number of Covid-19 cases**
- ✓ Moreover, a night curfew has been imposed from January 6 between 10 pm and 5 am
 - ✓ All commercial complexes, establishments, shops, hotels will not be allowed to function during the night curfew time
 - ✓ The Sunday lockdown will begin from January 9 and all non-essential activities will be completely banned

COLLEGES CLOSED TILL JANUARY 20

- **No devotees at places of worship on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays**
- **Restaurants, eateries & commercial establishments closed during night curfew and Sundays**
- **No metro rail or other public transport on Sundays**
- **Pongal celebrations organised by state postponed**

- ✓ All restaurants, eateries and commercial establishments must remain closed during night curfew and on Sundays.

- ✓ The decision was taken after a high-level meeting chaired by chief minister MK Stalin with state health minister Ma Subramanian and other senior health officials.
 - ✓ Devotees will not be permitted in places of worship on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
 - ✓ Offline classes would not be allowed for Classes I-IX and all colleges will remain closed till January 20, except medical and paramedical colleges
 - ✓ Training and coaching centres, crèches and nurseries are not allowed to function.
 - ✓ Staff of IT companies has been advised to work from home.
 - ✓ There will be no metro rail services or other public transport on Sundays.
 - ✓ On weekdays, inter-state public and private transport is allowed with standard protocols.
 - ✓ All Pongal celebrations and functions organised by the state will be postponed, along with exhibitions and book fairs.
 - ✓ The beaches will be open only for walkers.
 - ✓ Exemption has been granted to trucks carrying essential goods, petrol, diesel and LPG vehicles.
 - ✓ ATMs, Medical services, ambulances, newspapers, medical shops and hospitals are allowed to function.
 - ✓ Entertainment/amusement parks will be closed.
 - ✓ Clubs, gyms, theatres, multiplexes, beauty parlours, salons can have only 50% occupancy.
 - ✓ Sporting events will be permitted on open grounds with adequate precautions, while in closed stadiums only 50% occupancy is allowed.
 - ✓ Staff of all government and local administrations, employees of service centres such as shops, private organisations, banks, commercial establishments and theatres, drivers and conductors must be double vaccinated.
- **On January 5, the Akshaya Patra Foundation - has set up its 60th kitchen in the country and the first in the Union territory of Puducherry to implement the government's flagship midday meal scheme.**
- ✓ Lieutenant governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and chief minister N Rangasamy formally inaugurated the facility.
 - ✓ Supported by The New India Assurance and General Insurance Corporation of India, the centralised kitchen will serve midday meals to 50,800 children in 291 schools.

NATIONAL

- **On December 5, the government – clarified that the ‘precaution dose’ (booster) for Covid will be the same vaccine as the first and second dose**
- ✓ The jab is to be administered from January 10 to health and frontline workers, and those above 60 with comorbidities

- ✓ As per the government's projections, nearly 3 crore health and frontline workers are expected to be eligible for the booster or "precaution dose" of Covid vaccine
 - ✓ The vaccine will be administered with a gap of nine months after the second dose.
 - ✓ Besides, 2.8 crore people in the 60-plus age group with comorbidities are projected to be eligible across the country.
 - ✓ UP, Maharashtra, WB and Tamil Nadu have the highest population in this category.
- **On January 5, PM Narendra Modi's convey - was stuck on a flyover for 20 minutes after the road was blocked by protesting farmers in Punjab's Ferozepur**

<p>10.25-11.05am: PM lands at Bhisiana airbase in Bathinda. Bad weather forces him to abandon copter ride. Instead, he takes road route to Hussainiwala village on Pak border to pay respect at National Martyrs' Memorial</p>	
<p>1.05pm: Convoy gets stuck for 15-20 mins on a flyover on Moga-Ferozepur highway due to farmers protesting against his visit. Convoy returns to Bhisiana. At 3.20pm, Modi takes off for Delhi from airbase</p>	<p>1.30-2.40pm: In PM's absence, BJP MP Hans Raj Hans, ex-CM Amarinder Singh address BJP rally in Ferozepur</p> 

- ✓ The PM's cavalcade got stuck on a flyover on the Moga-Ferozepur highway, nearly 20 km before Ferozepur.
- ✓ After the incident, the PM returned from poll-bound Punjab without attending any event, including a rally in Ferozepur
- ✓ This is the single biggest lapse in security of any Indian Prime Minister in recent years
- ✓ The Prime Minister was on his way to Ferozepur from Bathinda in Punjab to address a poll rally and lay the foundation stone of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra expressway among other developmental projects
- ✓ Prime Minister's route was changed at the last minute as he couldn't take the helicopter to Ferozpur due to poor weather
- ✓ This area, just 30 km from the India-Pakistan border, has always been on high alert due to detection of drones and tiffin bombs in the past.
- ✓ The Home Ministry has sought a detailed report from the Punjab government on the matter.

- **India - recorded the first death linked to the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in Rajasthan**
- ✓ A 74-year-old man who died in Udaipur, Rajasthan was declared as the country's first death with the Omicron variant
- ✓ An elderly person, who had diabetes, hypertension and comorbid conditions, had already died by the time the Omicron positive results came
- ✓ The genome sequencing results came in on December 25 and he was found to carry the Omicron variant.
- ✓ He died six days later on December 31 after tested negative for the infection twice
- ✓ The man was doubly vaccinated and had no significant contact and travel history.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - chose Puducherry to hold the 25th National Youth Festival.**
- ✓ Union minister of information & broadcasting and youth affairs & sports Anurag Thakur unveiled the logo and mascot of the youth festival on January 5



- ✓ The Prime Minister is expected to inaugurate the festival and address the youth.
- ✓ The festival will be held under the theme, 'Shaksham Yuva Shashakth Yuva' meaning 'Capable Youth, Strong Youth' from January 12 to 16, 2022.
- ✓ Lieutenant governor Tamilisai Soundararajan, chief minister N Rangasamy, speaker of the Puducherry legislative assembly R Selvam and home minister A Namasivayam were among those who attended the event.
- ✓ National Youth Festival is organized by the Government of India every year in collaboration with one of the States from January 12th to 16th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on 12th January
- ✓ The basic objective of the NYF is to bring the youth of the country together in an attempt to showcase their talents in various activities to cover almost all socio-cultural aspects of life, providing an opportunity to amateur young artists to

express themselves and interact with fellow artists and to further learn the new art forms from experts of various disciplines

ECONOMY

- **On January 5, the Delhi high court - stayed the Amazon-Future arbitration before a Singapore tribunal, until further orders**
- ✓ A bench of Chief Justice D N Patel and Justice Jyoti Singh took note of some of the findings of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) on “suppression of material facts” against Amazon
- ✓ As per the Judges, there is a prima facie case in favour of Future Retail (FRL) and Future Coupons (FCPL) and if a stay is not granted, it will cause an irreparable loss to them.
- ✓ The arbitration is going on before a three-member arbitral tribunal over the Future group’s ₹24,500-crore deal with Reliance.
- ✓ Amazon argued that Future Retail Ltd violated their contract by entering into a deal for the sale of its assets to billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail
- ✓ In December last year, the Competition Commission of India suspended its over-two-year-old approval for Amazon's deal to acquire a 49% stake in Future Coupons Pvt Ltd and Future Retail Ltd's promoter, and also slapped a penalty of Rs 202 crore on the e-commerce major
- ✓ Several issues arising from the Amazon-Future legal battle are pending before the Supreme Court.

