

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On January 7, Chief minister M K Stalin - announced that ₹1,000 crore would initially be allotted to government departments to take up schemes to mitigate floods in Chennai and suburbs.



- ✓ This is based on the recommendations of the flood mitigation panel headed by retired bureaucrat V Thirupugazh.
  - ✓ This was announced by the Chief Minister while replying to the debate on motion of thanks to the governor's address in the assembly
  - ✓ The grant would be allotted to related departments including municipal administration, water resources and highways
  - ✓ The state government released Rs. 801 crore from the SDRF to take up relief and restoration works after the heavy rainfall in recent months.
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- On January 7, the state government – passed an amendment Bill to reduce the term of office of the board of directors of cooperative societies from 5 to 3 years
  - ✓ Minister for Cooperation, I Periyasamy introduced the Bill to amend Tamil Nadu Cooperative Societies Act, 1983

- ✓ Nearly two lakh members elected to 18,805 societies in 2018 will cease to hold the office when the Act comes into force.
- ✓ In the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, the Minister said there were several complaints received from the public and members of cooperative societies alleging financial irregularities and frauds in cooperative societies.
- ✓ A review of the functioning of the societies revealed large-scale misappropriation of funds, issue of loans on fake jewels and issue of bogus loans of several crore of rupees.
- ✓ The Bill was passed to protect the interest of the cooperative societies, to streamline their administration, ensure proper governance and to increase the efficacy of the functioning of societies
- ✓ The Bill also seeks to allow visually impaired persons and those unable to write due to any physical disability eligible for being elected or nominated as a member of a board of any registered cooperative society.
- ✓ With the Supreme Court striking down provisions of 97th Amendment to the Constitution relating to cooperative societies, the government sought to make several amendments to the Act
  - ✓ The amendments include powers to the Registrar to supersede the board for two consecutive years, and audit the accounts of every society once in a year.
  - ✓ Any member of the society will be punishable with imprisonment of one year or with fine not exceeding ₹10,000 or with both for misuse of properties of the society.
- ✓ Elections to cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu were held in 2018 during the AIADMK regime and the DMK, then principal opposition party, had alleged irregularities in the polls.
- **On January 7, the Tamil Nadu assembly – passed 14 bills, before the Speaker M Appavu adjourning the House ‘sine die’**
- ✓ One of the bills passed entrust TNPSC the task of recruitment of personnel in various government agencies like state corporations, statutory boards and state-owned public sector undertakings
  - ✓ The Bill, that seeks to amend the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission (Additional Functions) Act 2022, was introduced by Minister for Finance, Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
  - ✓ The Objects to the Bill aim to bring in uniformity in the process of selection of candidates and increase opportunity for youth in various government agencies and state-owned PSUs
- ✓ Further, the assembly also passed a bill to amend the Municipal and Panchayat laws
  - ✓ This bill seeks to extend the tenure of special officers of town panchayats, municipalities and corporations till June 30, 2022 or until the first meeting of

the elected council is held after the next ordinary elections to the urban local bodies.

- ✓ Their tenure had ended on December 31, 2021.
  - ✓ Moved by Chief Minister M K Stalin, the Chennai City Police (Extension to the cities of Avadi and Tambaram) Bill, 2022 extending the provisions of the Chennai City Police Act, 1888 to the two suburban regions - commissionerates of Avadi and Tambaram - was passed.
  - ✓ Subsequently, Bills providing for establishment of municipal corporations in Kancheepuram, Kumbakonam, Cuddalore, Sivakasi, Karur, and Tambaram were passed
  - ✓ The TN Assembly's first session for 2022 began on January 5 with Governor R N Ravi's address to the House.
- **Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi - inaugurated International Thirukkural Conference 2022 in Coimbatore on January 7**
- ✓ The event was organised by Sri Krishna Institutions and Kural Malai Sangam in Sri Krishna Arts and Science College, Kuniyamuthur
  - ✓ During his address, the Governor said that Tirukkural couplets are sharp and carry deep meaning which cannot be understood without spirituality
  - ✓ Kural Malai Sangam is an organization working for the promotion of the Tirukkural.



- ✓ To achieve the status of world classic, Tirukkural should be viewed in totality by including spiritual perspective, the governor said.
- ✓ Thirukkural not only referred to devotion, but also had couplets on renunciation and the cycle of birth and death, said the Governor
- ✓ The governor sought more commentaries with a spiritual perspective on Tirukural and not just translations to make it more popular across the world.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Justice (retd.) Kirubakaran urged Tamil Nadu Governor Ravi to insist the Centre to declare Thirukural as a world classic.

- ✓ He also recalled the works of former Madras Collector Francis Whyte Eliss to recognise the value of Thirukural and for translating the work into English.
- **The Coimbatore city police - have received a certificate of appreciation for effective implementation of e-governance in the last two months.**
- ✓ The city police filed more than 11,000 files through the e-Office application in December to secure the number one position.
- ✓ The commissioner of police handed over the appreciation certificate on January 7

## NATIONAL

- **On January 7, India - has reached the historic milestone of administering 150 crore vaccine doses to its citizens in its vaccination programme**

Vaccination milestone	Since last milestone	
	Days	Daily avg
<b>Start</b> Jan 16, '21	NA	NA
<b>50cr</b> Aug 6, '21	<b>203</b>	24.6L
<b>100cr</b> Oct 21, '21	<b>76</b>	66.4L
<b>150cr</b> Jan 7, '22	<b>78</b>	64.1L
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>	42.4L

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the feat, while underlining its significance following a surge in Omicron infected Covid-19 cases.
- ✓ According to health ministry, over 91% of the adult population has received at least one dose, while over 66% have been fully vaccinated.
- ✓ The nationwide vaccination drive began on January 16 with healthcare workers getting inoculated in the first phase and the vaccination of frontline workers starting from February 2
- ✓ The next phase of vaccination commenced from March 1 for people over 60 years of age and those aged 45 and above with specified co-morbid conditions.
- ✓ Later, the vaccination was extended for all people aged more than 45 years from April 1.
- ✓ The government then decided to expand its vaccination drive by allowing everyone above 18 to be vaccinated from May 1
- ✓ On October 21, the country crossed the mark of administering more than 1 billion (100 crore) doses of Covid-19 vaccines
- ✓ With this, India surpassed China as the second country to administer over 1 billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine to its citizens

- ✓ On January 3 this year, adolescents in the 15-18 age group became eligible for inoculation, the first age group below 18 and above for whom vaccination was opened.
  - ✓ From January 10, meanwhile, health care workers, people aged 60 and above with comorbidities, will be given a 'precautionary' dose.
  - ✓ Both decisions were announced by PM Modi in an address to the nation on December 25
  - ✓ India accounts for the second highest number of doses administered in the world so far, after China which has given 288 crore doses till January 6.
  - ✓ Further, the United States has vaccinated 51.5 crore, Brazil 33.4 crore, Indonesia 28.5 crore and Japan 20.1 crore, while the EU nations have administered 75.7 crore doses collectively.
- **On January 7, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - inaugurated the second campus of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (CNCI) in Kolkata via video conferencing.**



- ✓ The inauguration event was also attended by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
  - ✓ The new campus of the institute has been built at a cost of more than ₹530 crore
  - ✓ Out of this, nearly ₹400 crore has been provided by the Centre while the remaining by the West Bengal government, in a ratio of 75:25
  - ✓ The new campus is a 400-bed comprehensive cancer centre unit for cancer diagnosis, staging, treatment and care.
  - ✓ The unit consists of modern facilities such as nuclear medicine (PET), 3.0 Tesla MRI, endoscopy suite and radionuclide therapy unit, among others
  - ✓ Located in Kolkata's Rajarhat New Town area, the new campus will also work as an advanced cancer research facility and provide comprehensive care to cancer patients, especially those from eastern and northeastern parts of the country
- **TCS - has been selected for the second phase of the Passport Seva Programme implementation for the ministry of external affairs (MEA).**
- ✓ The contract, spread over nine-and-a-half years, is estimated at nearly \$1 billion.

- ✓ The contract also allows for another two-year extension.
- ✓ TCS had won the first passport seva contract in 2008 worth Rs 1,000 crore.
- ✓ In the second phase, TCS said it will refresh existing facilities and systems, and develop innovative new solutions to enable the issuance of e-passports.
- ✓ It will also further enhance the citizen experience using technologies such as biometrics, artificial intelligence, advanced data analytics, chatbots, auto-response, natural language processing, and cloud.
- ✓ As part of the first phase of the project, TCS was instrumental in the delivery of passport-related services, by allowing for online filing of applications, and setting global benchmarks in timeliness, transparency, and reliability.
- ✓ The experience delivered at the TCS-run Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) across the country made the service popular.

## **SUPREME COURT VERDICT**

- **On January 7, the Supreme Court – approved the 27% quota for other backward class (OBC) in MBBS and MD courses under all India quota (AIQ) seats**
- ✓ It also permitted the Centre to set aside additional 10% seats for economically weaker sections (EWS) for the academic year 2021-22.
- ✓ The decision would pave the way for resumption of counselling for 15% AIQ seats under NEET-UG (MBBS) and 50% AIQ seats under NEET-PG (MD) for 2021-22, which was stopped in October 2021
- ✓ The case relates to the challenge against the validity of the Centre's decision to introduce OBC/EWS reservation in the All India Quota of NEET admissions
- ✓ The bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and A S Bopanna accepted the Ajay Bhushan Pandey committee's recommendation not to change the existing criteria for identification of EWS candidates.
- ✓ It was notified in January 2019 for the admissions to UG and PG medical courses for 2021-22.
- ✓ However, the court said it will undertake a detailed scrutiny of the existing as well as the tweaked criteria recommended by the Pandey committee for the ₹8 lakh annual income criteria for identifying EWS candidates
- ✓ The committee had submitted its report on December 31 and has since been accepted by the Centre.

## **COMMITTEES**

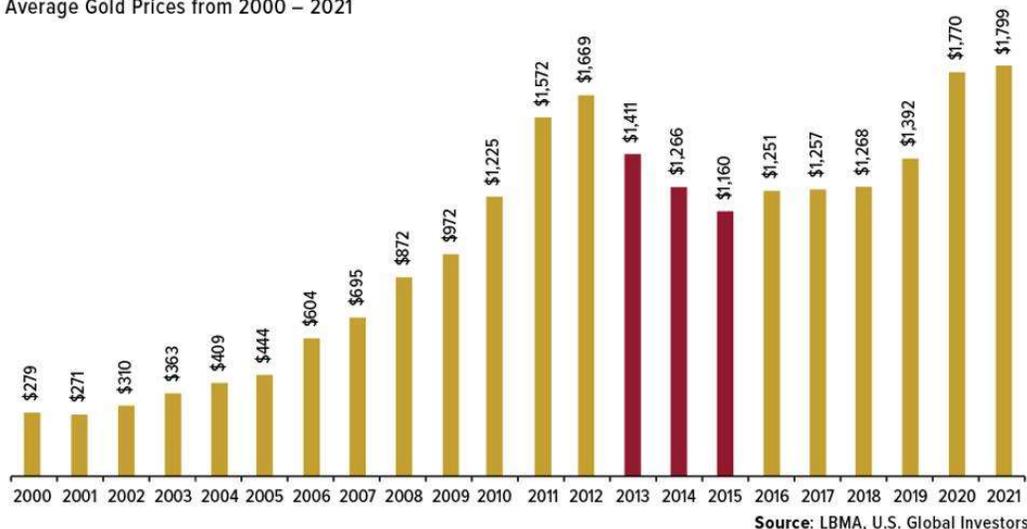
- **On January 7, the Tamil Nadu government - constituted a state-level advisory committee to monitor the maintenance of major temples and to enhance facilities for devotees**
- ✓ The committee comes under the purview of the Hindu religious and charitable endowments department.

- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin would head the state-level committee while HR & CE minister P K Sekarbabu would be the vice-chairman.
- ✓ The members of the committee would hold the office for three years
- ✓ The Secretary and Commissioner for Hindu Religious and charitable endowment department have been appointed as office bearers.
- ✓ Apart from the office bearers, 13 more members from various fields were appointed as non-office bearers
- ✓ The other members are Kundrakudi Ponnambala Adigalar, Srimad Varaha Mahadesikan, Sri Ambalavana Desika Paramacharya Swamigal, Santhalinga Marudachala Adigalar and retired judge D Mathivanan, Tamil scholar Suki Sivam, Karumuthu T Kannan, M P Sathiyavel Muruganar, N Ramasubramanian, Dharanipathi Rajkumar, Mallikarjun Santhana Krishnan, Sreemathi Sivasankar and Desa Mangayarkarasi

## ECONOMY

- **India, the second largest consumer of Gold after China - reported a record \$55.7 billion on gold imports last year.**

**Over Past 20 Years, Gold Has Been Up 86% of the Time**  
Average Gold Prices from 2000 – 2021



- ✓ This far surpassed gold imports worth \$22 billion in the previous year 2020 and the earlier all-time high of \$53.9 billion in 2011.
- ✓ In volume terms, India imported 1,050 tonnes of gold in 2021, which is the most in a decade, and far more than double of the 430 tonnes imported in 2020
- ✓ Switzerland, Saudi Arabia, and China are the largest exporter of gold to India.

## SPORTS

- **The quartet of Tamil Selvi, Rose Mastica Meril, Lavanya Nambiyar and Bagavathi R (Tamil Nadu) - finished third at the National Rowing championships at Pune, Maharashtra**



- ✓ Kerala and Orissa bagged the gold and silver medal in the women's fours at the Championships on January 6
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's previous medal, also a bronze, had come way back in 2013 through Tarunika Pratap in single scull at the National Sculling championships in Manchenahalli, near Bangalore.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is trained by coach Bhaskar Reddy, a former national sculling champion with 18 medals overall — seven gold, six silver and seven bronze.