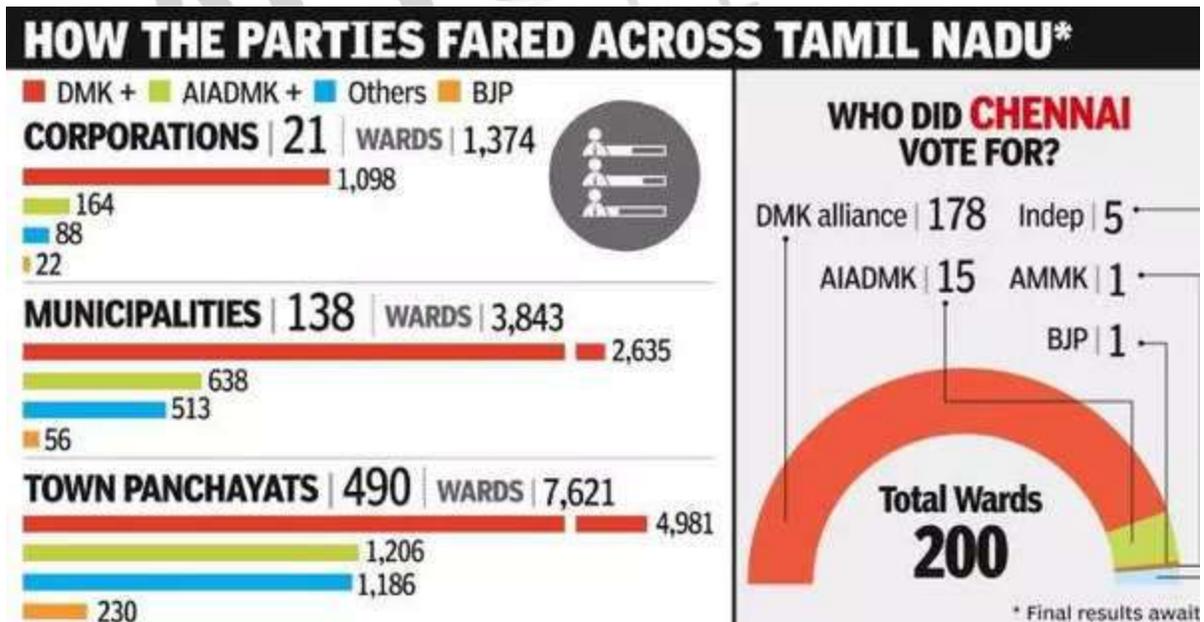


EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 23, 2022

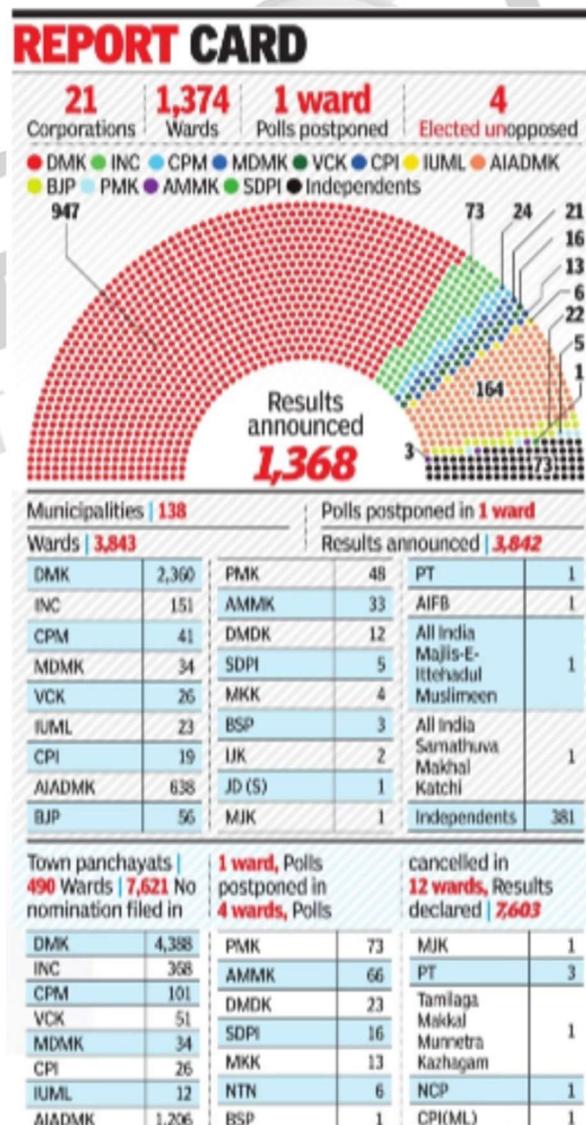
TAMIL NADU

- On February 22, the ruling DMK - registered a landslide victory in the urban local body elections held on February 19, 2022
- ✓ The party won all 21 city corporations, 128 out of the 138 municipalities and 400 out of 489 town panchayats.
- ✓ It won 947 of the 1,374 wards of the 21 corporations, 2,360 of the 3,843 wards of 138 municipalities and 4,388 of the 7,621 wards of 490 town panchayats.
- ✓ The new councillors will elect their corporation mayors and chairpersons of municipalities and town panchayats on March 4.



- ✓ The 21 corporations are Avadi, Chennai, Coimbatore, Cuddalore, Dindigul, Erode, Hosur, Kancheepuram, Karur, Kumbakonam, Madurai, Nagercoil, Salem, Sivakasi, Tambaram, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Tiruppur, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi and Vellore.

- ✓ The AIADMK won 161 city corporation seats, 638 municipality seats and 15 town panchayats (1,206 seats).
- ✓ While the AIADMK has remained a distant second, the BJP has emerged as the third largest party in the polls.
- ✓ The DMK, led by CM Stalin who was elected mayor of Chennai Corporation in 1996 and 2001, won 153 of the 200 wards in the capital city, Chennai.
 - ✓ The party has contested in 165 city wards and achieved a success rate of about 93%.
 - ✓ The AIADMK alliance managed to win only 15 wards though it had contested in all the 200 wards
 - ✓ In 2011, the AIADMK had 168 out of 200 councillors in the Chennai Corporation
 - ✓ Having won 178 of the 200 councillor seats, the DMK and its allies will get to occupy 89% of the city council when it is constituted.
- ✓ The DMK alliance comprises the Congress, the Left parties, the MDMK, the VCK, the MMK and other outfits



- ✓ A DMK mayor will now be elected from among the 15 scheduled caste woman councillors belonging to the party.
- ✓ It is to be noted that the office of Mayor of Chennai and Tambaram (Chengalpattu district) corporations have been reserved for Scheduled Caste women
- ✓ The youngest among the newly elected councillors is 21-year-old resident of Villivakkam, Priyadarshini, daughter of an autorickshaw driver, fielded by the CPM in ward 98.



- ✓ The DMK also won Edappadi and Periakulam municipalities, the native places of AIADMK leaders Edappadi K Palaniswami and O Panneerselvam.
- ✓ The BJP, won 308 seats, including 22 corporation wards and 230 town panchayats.
- ✓ A total of 218 candidates were declared elected unopposed, while 73 independent candidates emerged victorious in corporations.
- ✓ For a town panchayat ward (Kanadukathan) in Sivaganga district, no nominations were filed.
- ✓ The urban local body elections in Tamil Nadu were held for a total of 12,838 ward member posts in 649 urban civic bodies

NATIONAL

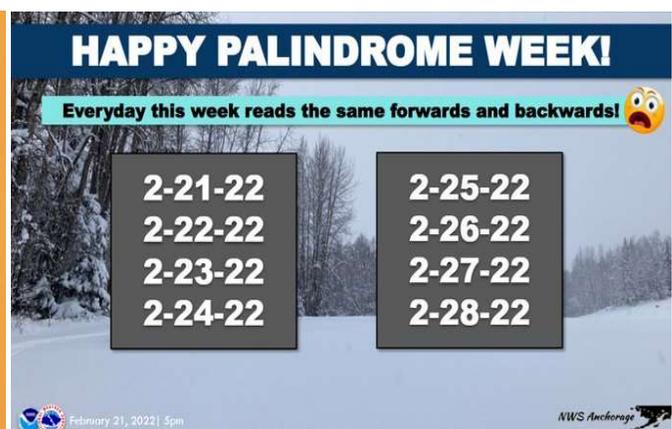
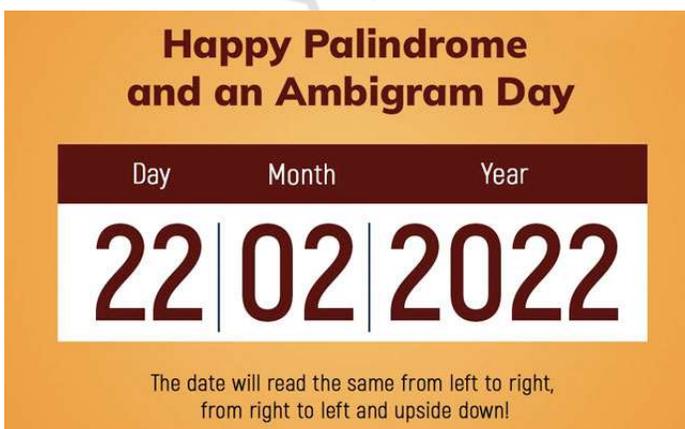
- **The government – has barred centrally-funded foreign scholarship for dalit students doing research on several humanities subjects, including Indian culture, social studies, heritage and history**
- ✓ In this regard, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has issued new guidelines barring students from applying for the National Overseas Scholarship (NOS)
- ✓ The national overseas scholarship (NOS) scheme funds 125 post graduate courses and PhD research in foreign universities for low-income families from the Scheduled Caste community and few marginalised groups.
- ✓ The final decision as to which topic can be covered under such category will rest with the election-cum-screening committee of NOS.
- ✓ According to the government, the new guidelines are part of plan to focus the scholarship scheme to explore subjects suited for foreign-based research.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Sri Lankan government – started to impose rolling power cuts across the island nation due to shortage of fuel**
- ✓ As per the government, electricity will be switched off on a rotating basis between regions for two hours between 4.30 pm and 10.30 pm
- ✓ The state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board had requested permission from Sri Lanka's Public Utilities Commission for the cuts, as fuel shortages had caused the loss of 541 MW to the national grid
- ✓ Depleted foreign reserves are driving Sri Lanka to its worst economic crisis in decades.
- ✓ A major currency shortage has stopped imports of fuel and other essentials from overseas, including milk powder, cooking gas, and petrol.
- ✓ The pandemic dealt a heavy blow to Sri Lanka's economy that depends heavily on tourism and trade, with the government estimating a loss of \$14 billion in the last two years.
- ✓ The economy is estimated to have contracted by 1.5% in July-September 2021, according to the central bank, while Inflation also surged to 12.1% in December.
- ✓ Sri Lanka has borrowed heavily and faces repayments on \$12.5 billion in international sovereign bonds.
- ✓ The government settled \$500 million due on sovereign bonds in January and the gross official reserves stood at \$2.36 billion at the end of January, according to the country's Central Bank.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **February 22, 2022 (22.02.2022)**



- ✓ The date forms a palindrome and an ambigram when written in the British style on 22/02/2022, a pattern that is unique and extremely unusual
- ✓ This implies that the date reads the same from left to right, from right to left and upside down.

- ✓ A palindrome is a word, phrase, sentence or number that reads the same backward or forward
 - ✓ Words like 'madam', 'refer', 'dad', 'redivider' etc. , are some examples of a palindrome
- ✓ Today's date is also being called an ambigram, meaning that it will appear same even if looked upside down.
- ✓ The next palindrome date will appear on February 8, 2080 (08.02.2080)
- ✓ Apart from Palindrome, February 22 is also being celebrated as a 'Twosday' as the number 2 is repeated many times– this is the second month of the year, the date is 22, it's on Tuesday, second day of the week and the year is 2022.
- ✓ The date is so rare that a "Twosday" won't happen again for another 400 years, till 2422
- ✓ "Twosday" is just one of several palindrome dates this week.
- ✓ Beginning on Monday, each day for the rest of the month is a palindrome, using the United States' date notation (2/20/22, 2/21/22, 2/22/22, 2/23/22, 2/24/22, 2/25/22, 2/26/22, 2/27/22 and 2/28/22)

RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT - REPORT

- **On February 22, Russian president Vladimir Putin - secured permission from lawmakers to use force outside Russia, indicating the impending attack on Ukraine.**
- ✓ The Federation Council vote approved Russian troop deployment to the rebel regions of Donetsk and Luhansk, where an 8-year conflict has killed 14,000.
- ✓ This effectively means Russia has officially recognised as 'independent' two breakaway regions in eastern Ukraine, Luhansk and Donetsk



- ✓ Meanwhile, President Joe Biden has said the troop deployment would result in the US levying severe sanctions against Moscow
- ✓ Among European nations, Germany has announced its decision to halt the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which was built but still not opened
 - ✓ About half of the natural gas used in Germany comes from Russia
 - ✓ US has objected to the project saying that building pipeline bringing natural gas from Russia to Germany — especially one that bypasses Ukraine — increases Europe’s reliance on Russian energy supplies.
 - ✓ They also warned that Nord Stream 2 poses risks to Ukraine and Poland because it could allow Russia to stop pumping gas through those countries
- ✓ European Union foreign ministers agreed to sanction 27 Russians and entities, as well banks, the defence sector and limiting Russian access to European capital markets
- ✓ All members of Russia’s Duma, parliament’s lower house, will be hit with EU sanctions, which typically involve travel bans and asset freezes
- ✓ Britain announced sanctions on three Russian billionaires and five of its banks
- ✓ A conflict could devastate Ukraine and cause huge economic damage across Europe, which is heavily dependent on Russian energy, resolved an emergency UN Security Council meet



- ✓ Ukraine, which was part of the Russian empire for centuries before becoming a Soviet republic, won independence as the USSR broke up in 1991
- ✓ Ukraine and Russia share hundreds of years of cultural, linguistic and familial links.
- ✓ As part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was the second-most powerful Soviet republic after Russia, and was crucial strategically, economically and culturally.
- ✓ Ever since Ukraine split from the Soviet Union, both Russia and the West were competing for greater influence on Ukraine in order to keep the balance of power in the region in their favour.
- ✓ In 2014, Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine, the first time a European country annexed territory from another country since World War II
- ✓ The Crimea had been given to the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic by Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev in 1954.
- ✓ The reason for Russia planning to invade Ukraine now is because Ukraine acts as a buffer between East and West
- ✓ Russia is not happy with efforts by the US and the EU to induct Ukraine into the US-led military alliance of NATO, in turn ending Russian control
- ✓ As part of the defence deal with Britain, Ukraine is building a naval base in Ochakiv and the other in Berdyansk, which is also not agreeable for Russia