

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 27, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- On January 26, Governor RN Ravi - unfurled the Tricolour at Marina front in Chennai on the occasion of the 74th Republic Day.



- ✓ The Governor was welcomed by Chief Minister MK Stalin and then introduced him to the defence and police personnel.
- ✓ The celebrations were marked by a grand march past by the contingents of the armed forces, police, home guards and NCC members, besides the colourful parade and cultural events.
- ✓ The pageantry of floats organised by 21 departments and NLC, Neyveli highlighted the achievements of state government.
- ✓ For the first time, students enrolled in Students in Responsible Police Initiatives (SIRPI), a state equivalent of NCC, participated in the parade.
- ✓ Carnival of schoolchildren and college students, traditional cultural programmes including Kalbeliya dance (Rajasthan), Koli dance (Maharashtra), Bagurumba dance (Assam), Kaisilambattam, karakattam and Naiyandi Melam (Tamil nadu) were the highlights of the parade
- ✓ After the governor unfurled the Tricolour, CM Stalin presented various state awards such as Anna gallantry awards, Gandhi Adigal police medal, Kottai Ameer

communal harmony award, CM's trophies for best police stations and C Narayanasamy Naidu award for higher productivity in rice.



- ✓ Farmer G Vasantha of Aalavayal village in Pudukottai district won the C Narayanasamy Naidu Award for the highest rice production.
  - ✓ The award carries a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh, a medal and a citation.
- ✓ MA Inayathulla of Kottaimedu in Coimbatore received the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award, which carries Rs.25,000, a medal and a certificate.



- ✓ Chief Minister's Trophies for best police stations went to Tiruppur north station (first prize), Tiruchy Fort station (second prize) and Dindigul taluk station (third prize).
- ✓ P Saravanan, head constable, Chennai, Jayakumar Ponnarasu, a male nurse, working with Government Kasturba Gandhi Mother and Child Care Hospital in Triplicane, J Antonysamy, a fisherman from Punnakayal in Thoothukudi, N Sreekrishnan of Kanniyakumari and A Selvam, Alamelupuram village of Thanjavur district bagged Anna medals for gallantry
- ✓ DE Priyadharshini, inspector, Central Intelligence unit, headquarters, Chennai; K Jayamohan, inspector, Pattukottai Prohibition Enforcement Wing, Thanjavur; S

Sahathevan, SI, Central Intelligence unit, Salem zone; B Enayath Basha, SI, Central Intelligence unit, Villupuram zone; and S Sivanesan, head constable, Palur police station, Chengalpattu, received Gandhi Adigal police medal for exemplary services in arresting the offenders

## NATIONAL

- **On January 26, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya - launched world's first intranasal Vaccine, iNCOVACC**



- ✓ The vaccine has been approved for use as a primary as well as a heterologous (mix-and-match) booster dose in India.
  - ✓ It is a pre-fusion stabilised recombinant replication-deficient adenovirus vectored vaccine with a pre-fusion-stabilized SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.
  - ✓ Unlike the existing vaccines for Covid-19 that are injectable, iNCOVACC can be delivered through the nose, as a 2-dose series, 4 weeks apart.
  - ✓ A total of 8 drops (0.5 ml per dose)—4 drops into each nostril—are administered.
  - ✓ The vaccine coats the mucous membrane in the nasal pathway with an antibody layer, preventing infection at the source.
  - ✓ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved the vaccine for limited emergency use as a heterologous booster dose in adults in November last year.
  - ✓ The vaccine is now available on CoWIN, and is priced at Rs 800 for private markets and Rs 325 for supplies to the Union and state governments.
  - ✓ It is developed by Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) in collaboration with the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a PSU under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- **On January 26, President Droupadi Murmu - unfurled the national flag and led her maiden Republic Day celebrations at Kartavya Path.**
  - ✓ The flag hoisting was followed by a rendition of the national anthem and a 21-gun salute.



- ✓ The 74th Republic Day parade was flagged off after President Murmu received the 21-gun salute.
- ✓ This year, the country witnessed several 'firsts' during the Republic Day parade.
- ✓ This year's grand celebrations marked many firsts starting with the venue.
- ✓ The Republic Day celebrations took place on the revamped Central Vista avenue this year and it was also the first time that the Republic Day parade was held on the newly renamed Kartavya Path.
- ✓ Rajpath, since being renamed as Kartavya Path last year, witnessed appearance from tanks, guns and soldiers, for the first time.
- ✓ El-Sisi was the first Egyptian leader to be invited as the chief guest for the event.
  - ✓ He was also the first chief guest since 2020, when then Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro attended the parade, as no chief guests were invited in 2021 and 2022 due to Covid-19.
  - ✓ A military contingent of the Egyptian Army with 144 personnel marched in India's Republic Day parade
- ✓ All official invites for the ceremonial event were sent online for the first time
- ✓ Before 2023, British guns were used to accord the 21-gun salute to the President of India before the parade, while this year, under the government's 'Make in India' scheme, indigenously-made 105 mm field guns replaced the vintage artillery of 25-powder guns.
- ✓ This year, only Made-in-India weapon systems were showcased at the Republic Day parade, in tune with the theme of "Atmanirbhar Bharat".
  - ✓ Some of the indigenously developed weapons include K-9 Vajra howitzers, MBT Arjun, Nag anti-tank guided missiles, BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Akash air defence missiles, and Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicles.
- ✓ The Navy's IL-38, a reconnaissance maritime aircraft that has served the force for more than 40 years, made its inaugural and possibly final appearance in the event
- ✓ Besides the IL-38 aircraft, the formations like 'Bheem' and 'Vajrang' were showcased over the Kartavya Path for the first time.
- ✓ The women officers of the Indian Army led their missile contingents, with lieutenant Chetana Sharma leading the 'Made in India' Akash surface-to-air missile system

- ✓ The Border Security Force's (BSF) camel contingent had 12 women riders for the first time.



- ✓ Another feature of this year's Republic Day was a team of "Daredevils" Motor Cycle Riders from the Corps of Signals co-led by a woman officer who was a part of the parade.
- ✓ The newly-recruited Agniveers (three women and six men) were part of the parade for the first time.
- ✓ In a first, the marching contingent of the CRPF, which has the distinction of raising the first-ever women-armed police battalion in the world, had all women personnel in the ranks.
- ✓ Lt Commander Disha Amrith led a 144-member naval contingent at the parade, while Squadron leader Sindhu Reddy, who has served the IAF for over nine years and flies an Mi-17 helicopter, led the all-male marching contingent of the IAF
- ✓ Beating Retreat, the ceremony that takes place on January 29 and marks the conclusion of the Republic Day festivities, will have 3-D anamorphic projections for the first time.
- ✓ Besides, 23 tableaux -- 17 from states and Union territories, and six from various ministries and departments – rolled down during the ceremonial parade with the common theme of 'nari shakti' or women empowerment and devotion
  - ✓ They have depicted the nation's rich cultural heritage, economic and social progress and strong internal and external security
  - ✓ The Narcotics Control Bureau also showcased a tableau for the first time.
  - ✓ The state of Uttar Pradesh won the first prize in the past two years
- ✓ The tableau from Tamil Nadu was also themed on women empowerment and culture from the Sangam era to present day.
  - ✓ It focused on the contribution of Veeramangai Velu Naachiar, Avvaiyar, MS Subbulakshmi and Muthulakshmi Reddy among others.
  - ✓ It also featured the great Bharatanatyam exponent Padma Bhushan Tanjore Balasaraswati, pioneers of female doctors in India and a social reformer, Padma Bhushan Muthulakshmi Reddy, a social reformer, author and political activist of the Dravidian Movement, Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar and Padma Shri Pappammal a popular organic farmer

- ✓ The last portion of the tableau showcased Thanjavur Brihadeeswara Temple which is recognised by UNESCO World Heritage Site.



- ✓ There was 16 marching contingents from the Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces, Delhi Police, NCC, NSS, Pipes and Drums Bands
- ✓ The event concluded with a Rafale aircraft flying at 900 kmph carrying out several acrobatic turns, the singing of the national anthem and the release of tricolour balloons.

## DEFENCE

- **The Border Security Force (BSF) - has launched a seven-day 'Ops Alert' exercise from January 21 to 28, 2023**



- ✓ The exercise was held along the Indo-Pak international border from Sir Creek in Gujarat to Barmer district in Rajasthan
- ✓ It was held with an aim to enhance security along the International Border with Pakistan in view of the Republic Day celebrations
- ✓ The Indo-Pak border along Kutch in Gujarat is sensitive as several Pakistani citizens and drugs have been caught in the region.

- **Indian Navy's fifth stealth Scorpene class Submarine INS Vagir - was commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on January 23, 2023**



- ✓ Six Scorpene type submarines have been ordered by India in 2005 as part of the Project 75 (P75) program
- ✓ They are being built in India by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- ✓ Four submarines, Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj and Vela have already been commissioned into the Indian Navy, while the outfitting of the sixth and final submarine, Vagsheer, is under progress and will be commissioned next year
- ✓ Of these, Kalvari and Khanderi were commissioned in 2017 and 2019, and Vela and Karanj were inducted in 2021
- ✓ Vagir, a diesel-electric Kalvari-class submarine, was launched on November 12, 2020 under P75 and was delivered to Indian Navy on December 20, 2022 post completion of sea trials.
- ✓ Vagir has the distinction of having the lowest build time among all indigenously manufactured submarines till date.
- ✓ The design of the Kalvari-class of submarines is based on the Scorpene class of submarines designed and developed by French defence major Naval Group formerly DCNS and the Spanish state-owned entity Navantia.

