

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 18, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- On January 17, Tamil Nadu governor R N Ravi - released the Tamil version of the book “Exam Warriors,” authored by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



- ✓ The book is based on the Prime Minister’s concern for the youth and is full of his experiences of struggling to live and achieve.
- ✓ It is a collective wisdom of faculty experts and educationists, parents, students and meant for the psychological preparedness of students and youth.
- ✓ During his address, the governor urged students to read the book, which would be their lifelong guide to overcome examination fear.

### INTERNATIONAL

- On January 16, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - has listed Pakistan-based terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki as a global terrorist under its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee
- ✓ Makki is the brother-in-law of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed, who, with the help of ISI and the Pakistan, planned and orchestrated the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

- ✓ He has held various leadership roles within LeT, a US-designated Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and also played a role in raising funds for LeT operations.



- ✓ In June 2022, India slammed China after it blocked the proposal to list terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki under the Sanctions Committee, also known as the UNSC 1267 Committee.
- ✓ Makki, who has been involved in raising funds, recruiting, and radicalizing the youth to plan attacks in India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir, has already been listed as a terrorist by India and the United States.
- ✓ In November 2010, the US Department of the Treasury had designated Makki as a 'specially designated global terrorist.'

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The 53rd edition of the annual World Economic Forum summit – began at the Swiss town of Davos on January 16**



- ✓ More than 2,700 delegates from 130 countries, including 52 heads of state/government, are expected to convene at Davos during the mega summit
- ✓ The five-day long conclave featuring business leaders, political figureheads, investors and academics is being held physically for the first time in three years
- ✓ The theme of this year's meet is 'Cooperation in a fragmented world'.
- ✓ This year, German chancellor Olaf Scholz is the only G-7 leader attending the summit

- ✓ The other political leaders include the heads of European Union, NATO, Greece, Spain, Philippines, South Korea, South Africa and Finland.
- ✓ UN chief Antonio Guterres, IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva, WTO Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg and WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus will also attend the forum
- ✓ There will be no Russian representation this time due to stringent sanctions imposed on them by the West due to the Ukraine war.
- ✓ India will be represented by union ministers Ashwini Vaishav, Smriti Irani, RK Singh and Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ✓ At least three chief ministers of state will also be in Davos for the forum – Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde, and Karnataka CM Basavaraj Bommai.
- ✓ Indian business leaders who will attend the 2023 meeting include Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, N Chandrasekaran, Kumar Mangalam Birla, Adar Poonawalla, Sajjan Jindal, Nadir Godrej, Rajan Mittal and Sunil Mittal, and Sanjiv Bajaj, among others.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **Gautam Adani's group – has proposed to deploy hydrogen fuel cell operated trucks for mining logistics and transportation as part of its decarbonisation plan.**
- ✓ Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), part of the diversified Adani portfolio of companies, signed an agreement to launch a pilot project to develop a hydrogen fuel cell electric truck (FCET) for mining logistics and transportation with Ashok Leyland, India, and Ballard Power, Canada
- ✓ This collaboration marks Asia's first planned hydrogen powered mining truck.
- ✓ While AEL will lead the demonstration project, Ballard —an industry leading fuel cell engine manufacturer — will supply the fuel cell engine for the hydrogen truck.
- ✓ Ashok Leyland, one of the largest manufacturers of buses in the world, will provide the vehicle platform and technical support.
- ✓ The FCET is scheduled to be launched in India in 2023.
- ✓ The Adani Group had previously announced it plans to invest more than \$50 billion over the next 10 years in green hydrogen and associated ecosystems to up to 3 million tons of green hydrogen annually.

## **DEFENCE**

- **Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, a joint venture of Russia and India - has produced the first batch of 7.62 x 39 mm AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles under the brand name "Kalashnikov India" at Korwa ordnance factory in Uttar Pradesh's Amethi.**



- ✓ From the Russian side Rosoboronexport and Kalashnikov Concern subsidiaries of the Rostec State Corporation are part of this venture.
- ✓ This makes India the first country outside Russia which has started the production of AK-200 series assault rifles of the world-famous brand.
- ✓ Last week, Army Chief General Manoj Pande said the first batch of 5,000 AK-203 rifles will be delivered to the Army by March with around 5% indigenous content and another 65000 rifles with 17% indigenous content will be delivered over the next 32 months.
- ✓ Later, rifles will be made in India with full indigenous content and it will take up to a decade (128 months) to be delivered
- ✓ The AK-203 rifles would replace the ageing Indian Small Arms System (INSAS).
- ✓ One of the largest users of these Russian made Kalashnikov assault rifles are the Indian Army's Infantry regiments and Rashtriya Rifle (RR) units.
- ✓ The Korwa ordinance factory was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.
- ✓ Over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles will be made in India with technology transfer from Russia under a deal worth over Rs 5,000 crore signed between both the countries in December 2021.

## ECONOMY

- **The NCLT bench in Chennai - has approved the scheme of amalgamation of Equitas Holdings Limited (EHL) and Equitas Small Finance Bank Limited (ESFB).**
- ✓ The primary objective of the amalgamation is with regards to one of the conditions by RBI for applying universal bank licensing of the Small Finance Bank (SFB)
- ✓ The Appointed Date for the amalgamation is January 1, 2023.
- ✓ Post the merger, the SFB's promoter Equitas Holdings Limited will cease to exist and there will be only one entity.