

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 20, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu retains ‘achiever’ status - Logistics Infra Rankings of States**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu is this year’s top performer in a central government tool ranking states and union territories in terms of logistics infrastructure.



- ✓ The state maintained its “achiever” status within the coastal group in the Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

ECONOMY

- **Indian economy to grow 6.3% in FY24 and FY25: IMF**
- ✓ Indian economy is likely to log 6.3% growth in FY24 and FY25 on the back of macroeconomic and financial stability, according to the International Monetary Fund’s Executive Board.



- ✓ The international fund lauded the macroeconomic policies and reforms of the government, stating that India could achieve even higher growth, with greater contributions from labor and human capital.

APPOINTMENT

- **Senior IPS Officer Maheshwar Dayal**
- ✓ Maheshwar Dayal, a senior officer in the Indian Police Service, completed his official transition into the position of Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18.



- ✓ Dayal offers a wealth of expertise to his new job, making him an ideal candidate for the post.
- ✓ His remarkable career has been highlighted by a variety of leadership responsibilities throughout different districts and specialized groups.

AWARDS

- **Golden Bengal Tiger Award**
- ✓ The 29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) concluded with a momentous highlight as the Israeli film '**Children of Nobody**' secured the prestigious Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film.



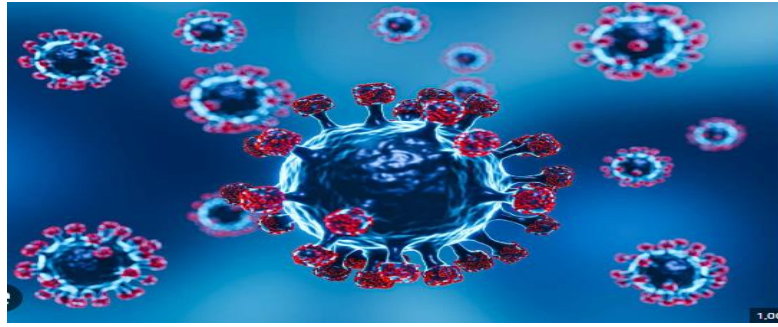
- ✓ The movie, written and directed by Erez-Tadmor from Tel-Aviv, unfolds the compelling journey of troubled boys compelled to unite to save a shelter for at-risk youth, providing them refuge from the streets.
- **Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal**
- ✓ Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh has been awarded Bhutan's National Order of Merit Gold Medal.



- ✓ The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuk honoured her at Bhutan's 116th National Day celebration.
- ✓ She is the first woman regional director of the WHO South-East Asia region.
- ✓ During her tenure, Bhutan became one of the first countries to eliminate measles and rubella ahead of schedule.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **JN.1 Variant Of COVID-19 Virus**
- ✓ The World Health Organization (WHO) issued a warning on Sunday, December 17, expressing concerns over the evolving nature of the JN.1 COVID sub-variant and the surge in respiratory diseases globally.



- ✓ The organization urged member states to prioritize sequence sharing and enhance surveillance efforts to better understand and combat the changing landscape of the virus.
- ✓ In India, JN.1 was detected in Kerala on December 8, with a reported case in 79-year-old woman who experienced mild symptoms of Influenza like Illness (ILI).

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **International Human Solidarity Day – December 20**
- ✓ International Human Solidarity Day 2023 is a significant observance held annually on December 20th. Recognized by the UN General Assembly, this day emphasizes the importance of solidarity in fostering global unity and diversity.



- ✓ On this day, discussions and events revolve around fostering solidarity, addressing issues such as land mine usage, disaster relief, universal education, poverty eradication and more.

