

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—FEBRUARY 1, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **The Tamil Nadu school education department - has launched a residential training programme for government school students in their own districts to help them crack national level competitive exams**
- ✓ The training programme will help students to crack exams including Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), Common Law Admissions Test (CLAT) and CA exam.
- ✓ The programme is inspired by Bihar's 'Super 30 programme', which prepares underprivileged students for JEE-Advanced exam
- ✓ The school education department selected 40 students from Tamil medium and 40 students from English medium in Class XII in each district for the training under the programme
- ✓ The selection was based on the previous performances in exams such as NTSE (National Talent Search Examination) and various assessment tests.
- ✓ In the first phase, the school education department has established these model schools in 14 districts including Chennai, Tiruvallur, Dharmapuri, Trichy, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Perambalur and Krishnagiri.
- ✓ The selected students are given food, accommodation, books, study material, uniforms along with a tablet for academic activities.
- ✓ The model schools were launched in November and December 2021.
- ✓ In Chennai, there are two model schools in operation — one in Saidapet and another in Nungambakkam.
- ✓ Students from government schools, corporation schools and Adi Dravidar welfare schools are selected by following 69% reservation.
- ✓ Students from biology and maths groups alone were selected for the programme.
- ✓ In the next phase, commerce students also will be selected and given training for CA exams.

- **Tamil Nadu – is ranked at the third place in terms of revenue generated from stamp duty and registration fee among states after Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh**
- ✓ This was revealed in an analysis by a financial services firm, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd.
- ✓ Based on the study, the cumulative revenue collection through stamp duty and registration charges from all the states was ₹1,001 billion between April and November in the current financial year (2021-22).
- ✓ Of this, Tamil Nadu's share was ₹8,669.8 crore (8.7%), behind only Maharashtra with ₹17,096.9 crore and Uttar Pradesh with ₹12,785.6 crore.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu was third in the previous financial year too (2020-21), accounting for 9.1% of the total stamp duty and registration fee generation in the country.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu collects 11% of the project cost as these charges. (7% stamp duty and 4% registration fee)

## NATIONAL

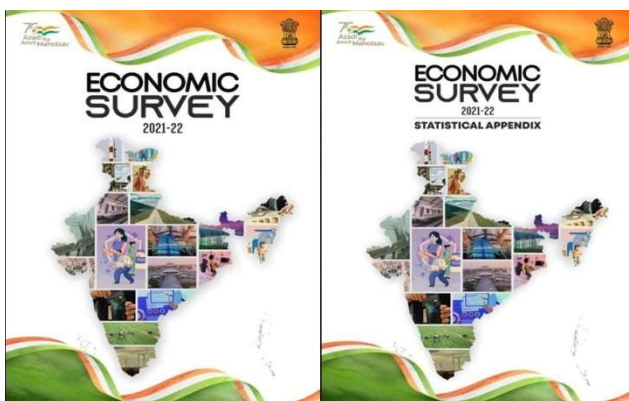
- **The Budget Session of Parliament - formally began on January 31 with President Ram Nath Kovind's joint address to both Houses in the Central Hall.**



- ✓ In his speech, the President highlighted the achievements of the central government, listing some of the important milestones.
- ✓ Lauding the country's handling of the Covid pandemic, the President noted that 150 crore doses were administered to the country's citizens in a record time and more than 70% of beneficiaries of the vaccination drive have been administered the second dose
- ✓ He said that the Rs 64,000 crore PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission will prepare the country for a health crisis in future.
- ✓ The President held that BR Ambedkar's ideals are the guiding principles for the government.
- ✓ The President praised the Union government for its various welfare schemes including PM Gareeb Kalyan Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, Jan Aushadi Kendra, Ujjwala Yojana, Mudra Yojana, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', 'Har Ghar Jal' and PM-KISAN

- ✓ Among the various infrastructural projects, the President said Delhi-Mumbai expressway will be the longest expressway and will be completed soon
- ✓ The President also said that the government had approved 21 greenfield airports and the biggest among them would be in Greater Noida.
- ✓ He gave a detailed account of the Centre's initiatives towards empowering farmers and made a specific mention of the government's focus on women and girl-child belonging to the Muslim community
  - ✓ Restrictions on Muslim women from performing Haj only with Mehram (male guardian) have also been removed, he said
  - ✓ The President further said the government has increased the number of students receiving scholarships from the minority community which has resulted in a decrease of the school dropout rate of Muslim girls
- ✓ Referring the rural economy, the President said that India's agriculture exports had crossed beyond Rs 3 lakh crore with the production of more than 30 crore tonnes of food grains and 33 crore tonnes of horticulture produce in 2020-21.
  - ✓ He further said that the government procured 433 lakh metric tonnes of wheat during the Rabi season benefiting about 50 lakh farmers alongwith a record quantity of about 900 lakh metric tonnes of paddy was procured during Kharif season, benefiting 1 crore 30 lakh farmers
  - ✓ The President also highlighted that the United Nations has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets, which the government will celebrate on a large scale.
- ✓ The President further noted that, of all the approvals accorded for modernization of armed forces in the year 2020-21, 87% were from 'Make in India' category and Armed forces have issued a list of 209 military-equipment, which will not be purchased from abroad
- ✓ The President hailed the Centre's New Education Policy and said that local languages are being promoted as part of NEP with 19 engineering colleges across 10 states to teach in 6 Indian languages this year
- ✓ The President said that the government has started 14 PLI schemes striving to create over 60 lakh jobs
- ✓ Raising the marriageable age of women, triple talaq law and the steps taken by the government to create an idel environment for start-ups also figured in his speech.
- ✓ While talking about the start-ups, the President said 60,000 new start-ups have been established in 56 different sectors in our country since 2016, which have resulted in creating more than 6 lakh jobs
- ✓ He also said that the MSME sector have been a backbone of the Indian economy, and a driver of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- ✓ In order to protect MSMEs from crisis and ensure adequate availability of credit during the Corona period, the government started a scheme for guaranteed collateral free loans of Rs. 3 lakh crore, which was later enhanced to Rs. 4.5 lakh crore in June 2021

- ✓ Further, the President said that the government has introduced capacity building programmes under the 'Mission Karmayogi' campaign to strengthen & boost the participation of civil servants in the government sector.
  - ✓ The President acknowledged that as a result of the efforts made by the central government, the popularity of Yoga, Ayurveda, and traditional medicine is increasing day by day.
  - ✓ The President said that the 'Gatishakti' master plan is ushering the country in a new era of multi-modal transport
  - ✓ He further said that the inflow of \$48 billion in investments in the first seven months of the current financial year is a testimony to the increasing belief of the global investor community in India
  - ✓ Referring to the Startups Intellectual Property Protection Programme, he said the government has simplified and accelerated the processes related to patents and trademarks
  - ✓ Talking about the rapidly evolving drone technology, the President said that the government has notified the simplified Drone Rules 2021 and also launched a PLI scheme for the manufacturing of indigenous drones and drone parts
  - ✓ He emphasised the government's commitment to judicial reforms, highlighting the goal of delivering justice to the doorstep of citizens through alternate dispute resolution mechanisms and tele-law schemes
    - ✓ To expedite the settlement of disputes, the government has already introduced the Mediation Bill in the Rajya Sabha
  - ✓ The Budget session will be held in two parts - from January 31 to February 11 and March 13 to April 8.
  - ✓ During the month-long break, the standing committees will examine the grants to various ministries and departments and submit their reports
  - ✓ On the first day of the session, finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled the Economic Survey and will present the Union Budget for the year 2022-23 on the second day on February 1
- **The Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Nirmala Sitharaman - presented the Economic Survey 2021-22 in Parliament on January 31, ahead of the annual budget on February 1, 2022**



- ✓ This is Chief Economic Advisor Anantha Nageswaran's first Economic Survey, after taking charge on January 28
- ✓ The Previous CEA K V Subramanian demitted office in December 2021 after the completion of his three year term and Principal Economic Advisor, Sanjeev Sanyal prepared the 400-page document this year
- ✓ The survey is a single volume with separate set of statistical tables this year, as opposed to two volume formats seen in previous years
- ✓ The Economic Survey 2021-22 has forecast 8% to 8.5% expansion during the next financial year
- ✓ The projections came on a day when the National Statistics Office's revised GDP estimates for 2020-21 held the economic contraction at 6.6%, narrower than the 7.3% estimated earlier
- ✓ The annual report expects the economy to grow by 9.2% during the current financial year, indicating a recovery to the pre-pandemic level
- ✓ The projection of the Survey was comparable with World Bank and Asian Development Bank's latest forecasts of real GDP growth of 8.7% and 7.5% respectively for 2022-23.
- ✓ As per IMF's latest World Economic Outlook projections, India's real GDP projected to grow at 9% in 2021-22 and 2022-23 and at 7.1% in 2023-2024, which would make India the fastest growing major economy in the world for all 3 years.
- ✓ Among various sectors, Agriculture and allied sectors expected to grow by 3.9%, industry by 11.8% and services sector by 8.2% in 2021-22

### **Highlights of the Economic Survey 2021-22**

- ✓ The revenue receipts from the Central Government (April to November, 2021) have gone up by 67.2% (YoY) as against an expected growth of 9.6% in the 2021-22 Budget Estimates
- ✓ Foreign Exchange Reserves crossed US\$ 600 billion in the first half of 2021-22 and touched US\$ 633.6 billion as of December 31, 2021, making the country the fourth largest forex reserves holder in the world after China, Japan and Switzerland
- ✓ The government has raised Rs. 89,066 crore via 75 Initial Public Offering (IPO) issues in April-November 2021, which is much higher than in any year in the last decade
- ✓ RBI undertook various measures such as G-Sec Acquisition Programme and Special Long-Term Repo Operations to provide further liquidity
- ✓ The Gross Non-Performing Advances ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) declined from 11.2% at the end of 2017-18 to 6.9% at the end of September, 2021.
- ✓ The average headline CPI-Combined inflation moderated to 5.2% in 2021-22 (April-December) from 6.6% in the corresponding period of 2020-21
- ✓ India's overall score on the NITI Aayog SDG India Index and Dashboard improved to 66 in 2020-21 from 60 in 2019-20 and 57 in 2018-19



- ✓ India has the tenth largest forest area in the world with the forests covering 24% of India's total geographical area, accounting for 2% of the world's total forest area in 2020
- ✓ In 2020, India ranked third globally in increasing its forest area during 2010 to 2020
- ✓ In August 2021, the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, was notified which is aimed at phasing out single use plastic by 2022
- ✓ The Prime Minister, as a part of the national statement delivered at the 26<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow in November 2021, announced ambitious targets to be achieved by 2030 to enable further reduction in emissions.
- ✓ Climate finance will remain critical to successful climate action for India to achieve its net-zero carbon emission target by 2070.
- ✓ The need to start the one-word movement 'LIFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) urging conscious utilization instead of mindless and destructive consumption was underlined.
- ✓ The Agriculture sector experienced significant growth in past two years, accounting for a 18.8% (2021-22) in Gross Value Added (GVA) of the country registering a growth of 3.6% in 2020-21 and 3.9% in 2021-22
- ✓ Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew at 17.4% (YoY) during April-November 2021 as compared to (-) 15.3% in April-November 2020
- ✓ During the first half of 2021-22, service sector received over US\$ 16.7 billion FDI – accounting for almost 54% of total FDI inflows into India
  - ✓ Overall service Sector Gross Value Added (GVA) is expected to grow by 8.2% in 2021-22
  - ✓ Services exports surpassed pre-pandemic level in January-March quarter of 2020-21 and grew by 21.6% in the first half of 2021-22
- ✓ India has become 3<sup>rd</sup> largest start-up ecosystem in the world after US and China that added 487 and 301 unicorns respectively in 2021.
  - ✓ Number of new recognized start-ups increased to over 14000 in 2021-22 from 733 in 2016-17.
  - ✓ As many as 44 Indian start-ups have achieved unicorn status (valued at more than \$1 billion) in 2021 taking overall tally of unicorns to 83, most of which are in services sector.
  - ✓ Delhi NCR has dethroned Bengaluru as the startup capital of India, as per the Survey
  - ✓ Delhi added more than 5,000 recognised startups between April 2019 and December 2021 compared to 4,514 added to the total tally of Bengaluru, the Silicon Valley of India
  - ✓ Maharashtra, with 11,308 recognised startups, tops the charts among states
- ✓ Total Fertility Rate (TFR) came down to 2 in 2019-21 from 2.2 in 2015-16, while Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), under-five mortality rate and institutional births have improved in 2019-21 over year 2015-16, as per the National Family Health Survey
- ✓ Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), 83 districts have become 'Har Ghar Jal' districts.

- ✓ The number of patents filed in India increased by almost 50% from 2010-11 to 2020-21, the Economic Survey showed
- ✓ The number of patents filed stood at 39,400 in 2010-11, and 58,502 in 2020-21.
- ✓ Consequently, India's ranking in the Global Innovation Index has climbed 35 ranks, from 81st in 2015-16 to 46th in 2021

## CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed 30th National Commission for Women (NCW) Foundation Day programme on January 31, 2022 via video conferencing**



- ✓ The theme of the programme is 'She - The Change Maker', aimed at celebrating the achievements of women in different fields
- ✓ Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani was present on the occasion.
- ✓ A discussion on "Women Entrepreneurs Driving the Change" followed the PM's speech, while two more panel discussions titled "Women in Decision Making" and "Digital Empowerment of Women" were also held at the event.
- ✓ During his address, PM Modi cited the government's move to seek an amendment to the law to increase the age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 as a step aimed at empowering girls to complete their education and build a career
- ✓ The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021 was introduced by the government in Lok Sabha in the winter session in December
- ✓ It is presently under scrutiny of a parliamentary standing committee.
- ✓ The country has seen a three-fold increase in the number of women self-help groups in the last 6-7 years, while 70% beneficiaries of Mudra Yojna are women
- ✓ Similarly, in more than 60,000 startups that have emerged after 2016, 45% have at least one woman director.
- ✓ NCW was founded in January 1992 as a statutory body under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990

- ✓ It was established to review the constitutional and legal safeguards for women, recommend remedial legislative measures, facilitate redressal or grievances, and advise the government on policy matters affecting women.

## ECONOMY

- **Tata Steel - will take control of Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) after bidding Rs 12,100 crore, including equity and debt**

### LONG PRODUCTS BIZ TO TAKE OFF

<b>4th asset bought by Tatas from govt</b>	➤ Tata Steel plans to make Neelachal Ispat Nigam (NINL) a hub for long products business in future
<b>2001   CMC</b>	
<b>2002   SNL</b>	➤ The NINL acquisition, financed through a mix of internal accruals & bridge loans, will close within a couple of months
<b>2021   Air India</b>	
<b>2022   NINL</b>	➤ It gives the steel giant 1-million-tons-per-annum (mtpa) of steel-making capacity, 2,500 acres for future growth, and iron ore reserves of around 100 million tons
<b>M&amp;As under N Chandrasekaran</b>	
<b>2018   Bhushan Steel (largest buy at ₹35,200cr)</b>	
<b>2019   Usha Martin Steel</b>	➤ Tata Steel will also build a 4.5mtpa long products complex in some years, and expand it to 10mtpa by around 2030
<b>2021   BigBasket, 1MG, Tejas Networks, Air India</b>	➤ The long products segment is poised to witness significant growth as India builds its infrastructure and industrialises
<b>2022   NINL</b>	



### Strategic Sale

**Tata Steel** emerged winner to buy NINL

**Other bidders** include JSPL, NSPL and JSW Steel Ltd

**NINL** debt and liabilities ₹6,600 crore as on 31.3.2021

**NINL** has negative net worth of ₹3,487 crore

**NINL** accumulated losses is ₹4,228 crore on March 31, 2021

**Post-sale** consideration will go towards settling of the liabilities



- ✓ On January 31, the government said it has approved the highest bid of Tata Steel Long Products, a unit of the \$21-billion Tata Steel, for a 94% stake in the loss-making Neelachal.
- ✓ This is the first instance of privatisation of a public sector steel manufacturing enterprise in India.
- ✓ The unit of Tata Sons plans to make Neelachal's Odisha facility, currently defunct, the hub for its long steel business in the future.
- ✓ Long steel products refer to rods, rails and bars used in the construction sector.
- ✓ The deal comes after Tata Sons acquiring Air India from the government through the privatisation process.
- ✓ In 2018, Tata Steel had acquired Bhushan Steel for Rs 35,200 crore, the largest M&A under Tata Steel chairman N Chandrasekaran
- ✓ Besides Tata Steel, billionaire industrialist Sajjan Jindal-controlled JSW Steel and a grouping of Jindal Steel & Power owned by Sajjan's younger brother Naveen Jindal and Nalwa Steel & Power submitted financial bids for Neelachal.
- ✓ Tata Steel will have to pay 10% of the bid amount when it signs the share purchase agreement.
- ✓ Neelachal's debt exceeded Rs 6,600 crore, while its accumulated losses was Rs 4,228 crore as on March 31, 2021.



## APPOINTMENTS

- **The Supreme Court collegiums - has recommended the elevation of Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari as Chief Justice of the Madras high court**



- ✓ The Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India N V Ramana and also comprising Justices U U Lalit and A M Khanwilkar, met on December 14, 2021 and January 29, 2022
- ✓ It had also recommended 14 advocates and three judicial officers for appointment as judges in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa HCs
- ✓ Once the union law ministry approves the recommendation, Justice Bhandari would be appointed as chief of the chartered Madras high court.
- ✓ Justice Bhandari, whose parent high court is the Rajasthan HC, is at present the Acting Chief Justice of the Madras High Court.
- ✓ He assumed office as the Acting Chief Justice of Madras High Court on November 22, 2021 after then CJ Sanjib Banerjee was transferred to Meghalaya High Court
- ✓ Justice Bhandari was appointed as a judge of the Rajasthan high court on July 5, 2007.
- ✓ Later, he was transferred to the Allahabad high court on March 15, 2019.
- ✓ As an advocate, he primarily practised before the Rajasthan high court at Jodhpur and Jaipur, Central Administrative Tribunal, Jaipur and initially in the Supreme Court in Constitutional, Civil, Service, Labour, Criminal and Arbitration matters and specialised in Constitutional, Service, Labour & Arbitration matters.
- ✓ Justice Bhandari is due to retire in September this year.

## SPORTS

- **On January 31, Indian Hockey goalkeeper, P R Sreejesh - won the prestigious 'World Games Athlete of the Year' award for his 2021 performances**



- ✓ With the award, Sreejesh becomes only the second Indian to receive the accolade.
- ✓ Indian women's hockey captain Rani Rampal, who won the award in 2020, is the only other Indian to win the honour for her performances in 2019.
- ✓ Sreejesh beat competition from sport climber Alberto Ginés López of Spain and Italy's wushu player Michele Giordano for the award.
- ✓ In a global fan vote conducted on TheWorldGames.org, Sreejesh finished well clear at the top of the 24-strong nomination list
- ✓ Sreejesh's tally of 1,27,647 votes was almost twice as many as the second-placed athlete, Spain's Sport Climbing ace Albert Ginés Lopez, who secured 67,428 votes.
- ✓ The 33-year-old PR Srejeesh was part of the Indian hockey men's team that claimed a bronze medal in the Tokyo Olympics
- ✓ Earlier, he was voted as FIH Goalkeeper of the Year for 2021
- ✓ The World Games is a multi-sport event staged every four years by the International World Games Association with the support of the International Olympic Committee.
- ✓ The World Games are staged over a period of 11 days, with more than 30 sports on the programme.

