

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 11, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin – launches the revised CM's comprehensive health insurance scheme on January 10



- ✓ During the event, the Chief Minister also launched the extension of the scheme for five years from January 11, 2022 till January 10, 2027.
- ✓ The beneficiaries can avail 11 follow-up treatments, 52 diagnostic procedures and 8 super specialty procedures including 1,090 surgical and medical treatments.
- ✓ Under the scheme, more than 37 new diagnostic procedures, 89 additional day care procedures and 3 packages provided under the state's door-to-door health services scheme 'makalai thedi maruthuvam' will also be added
- ✓ The scheme offers ₹5 lakh insurance cover per family for a year.
- ✓ The new package focusses on cancer diagnosis and treatment, rare genetic disorders such as muscular dystrophy, palliative care and home care services.
- ✓ Families with Rs 1.20 lakh annual income will be eligible for the scheme, which aims to cover 1.37 crore families

- ✓ Journalists who have accreditation cards and also press pass holders are eligible for the scheme irrespective of their annual income
  - ✓ The government has allocated Rs. 1,248.29 crore for the scheme for this financial year and it will be implemented through United India Insurance Corporation
  - ✓ A total of 1,600 hospitals —714 government and 886 private — have been empanelled in the scheme.
- **On January 10, Chief Minister M K Stalin - unveiled a roadmap for enhancing the incubator ecosystem in Tamil Nadu.**



- ✓ The roadmap was unveiled during ISBACON 2022, inaugurated by the Chief Minister in Chennai.
  - ✓ The ISBACON 2022 was the 14th annual conference of Indian Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Parks and Business Incubator Association (ISBA)
  - ✓ Minister for MSME T.M. Anbarasan also participated in the event
  - ✓ The roadmap envisions promoting one big industry, 10 medium sized industries, 100 startups and 1,000 self-employed people coming up in each and every district
  - ✓ It also seeks to add Rs 400 crore per district per year to the state's GDP towards the broader vision of making Tamil Nadu a \$ one trillion economy.
  - ✓ As per the roadmap, a think tank would be constituted to advise the government on continuously improving the startup ecosystem
  - ✓ The roadmap aims to establish at least five incubators per district based on the potential, create innovation hubs as a starting point for encouraging made in Tamil Nadu products and enhance the seed funds for startups.
  - ✓ During the event, the CM released three reports –
    - ✓ Action plan for incubation Tamil Nadu,
    - ✓ Distributed network of incubator models to support the innovators and
    - ✓ Startups during the challenging times and CSR support for incubators
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - has cancelled his scheduled visit to Tamil Nadu on January 12 following surge in Covid-19 cases in the country**

- ✓ He will inaugurate 11 new government medical colleges across the state and the new campus of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Perumbakkam via video conferencing on the same day.
- ✓ The new colleges have been established at ₹4,000 crore in Virudhunagar, Namakkal, The Nilgiris, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Ramanathapuram and Krishnagiri.
- ✓ While the Centre gave ₹2,145 crore, the balance was borne by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ The new medical colleges with a cumulative capacity of 1,450 seats are being established under the centrally sponsored scheme of 'Establishing of New Medical Colleges attached with existing district/referral hospital'.
- ✓ Under the scheme, medical colleges are established in districts which do not have either a government or private medical college
- ✓ The new campus of Central Institute of Classical Tamil in Chennai is built at a cost of Rs 24 crore.
- ✓ CICT, which was operating from a rented building so far, will now operate from a new three-storey campus.
- ✓ The campus is equipped with a spacious library, an e-library, seminar halls and a multimedia hall
- ✓ **Prime Minister Modi will inaugurate the National Youth Festival at Puducherry in virtual mode on January 12, the scheduled date**
- ✓ The National Youth Festival which was to be held from January 12-16 to mark the 75th anniversary of Indian independence and birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, will now be held in the virtual mode for three days only.
- ✓ Around 7,000 youths from all states and Union Territories were supposed to participate in the five-day event
- ✓ However, the programme will take place now in virtual mode
- **Tamil Nadu government – announced that all places of worship in the state will be closed to the public from January 14 to 18 to contain the spread of coronavirus**
- ✓ There will also be a total lockdown on January 16, Sunday with the exemption only to essential services.
- ✓ The government has also announced the restriction on occupancy in all government (Pongal special) buses to 75%.
- ✓ Night curfew, which was imposed from January 6, will continue till this month-end
- ✓ Other restrictions pertaining to restaurants' take-away service and theatres will continue till this month-end
- ✓ An official release from chief minister M K Stalin's office said all other existing lockdown restrictions will be followed across TN.
- ✓ The state advised commercial establishments and shops to provide hand sanitisers and thermal screening and ensure that staff always wear masks.

- **The Tamil Nadu police - have unveiled a set of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) to be followed by its personnel while handling complaints relating to crimes against children.**
- ✓ As per the new guidelines, the police personnel have to visit the spot within 30 minutes of receiving a written complaint and register a case within 24 hours.
- ✓ Police register such cases based on complaints received through 1098 and 181 helplines, those received at control room number '100', and those lodged by victims, their family members, and social welfare department officials.
- ✓ According to the SOPs, investigating officers should ensure that the victims receive counselling offered by the Directorate of Social Defence and medical assistance.
- ✓ If the child was sexually exploited by family members, police should inform district child protection officers and rescue the child.
- ✓ The officers should read out the FIR before the child's guardian or family members.
- ✓ Women police officers should be present when recording the child's statement at a place based on the child's wish.
- ✓ Police should not use a siren while taking the child to record a statement and the accompanying police personnel should be in plain clothes.
- ✓ Counsellors should be present when police hold an inquiry with the child.
- **Mysuru-based Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) – to transfer around 28,000 estampages and documents relating to Tamil inscriptions to Chennai**
- ✓ The artefacts include 10 metre-long estampages with inscriptions from the Brihadeeswarar temple in Thanjavur.



- ✓ Made at the end of the 19th century, it is one of the first estampages in the country.
- ✓ Estampage is the process of obtaining impressions of inscriptions on copper and stone onto inked paper.
- ✓ The process began after the epigraphy branch of the ASI was established in 1887.
- ✓ The records will be preserved at the Clive's House at Fort St George in Chennai.



- ✓ For this purpose, the office of the deputy superintending epigraphist, South Zone in Chennai, will be renamed the office of the deputy superintending epigraphist (Tamil Inscriptions).
- ✓ Estampages were initially taken from Brihadeeswarar temple at Thanjavur, Pallava monuments in Mamallapuram, and temples in Vellore district in the late 1880s.
- ✓ It's being done to preserve the inscriptions as there is a possibility that these inscriptions on monuments might disappear with time.
- ✓ The inscriptions are transcribed by epigraphists and maintained as records by the ASI
- ✓ The estampages must be maintained at temperatures less than 21 degree Celsius.
- ✓ In this regard, the Madras high court division bench of Justice N Kirubakaran and Justice M Duraiswamy had passed an order in August last year
- ✓ The Court had directed the ASI to transfer all the Tamil estampages and documents from the epigraphy circle in Mysuru to the epigraphy branch in Chennai within six months and rename the epigraphy branch in Chennai as epigraphy branch (Tamil).

## NATIONAL

- **The rollout of 'precaution dose' (booster) of Covid vaccines – commenced on January 10, 2022**
- ✓ On the first day, around 10.55 lakh people received their third shot
- ✓ This included around 7.4 lakh health workers and frontline workers, and more than 3.1 lakh people aged over 60.
- ✓ The government has sent reminder SMSs to more than one crore eligible beneficiaries, inviting them to receive precaution dose on the day.
- ✓ States like Gujarat (1.57 lakh), Andhra Pradesh (1.24 lakh), Rajasthan (95,891) and Karnataka (82,384) administered the highest number of precaution doses.
- ✓ According to health ministry's projection, nearly three crore health and frontline workers are estimated to be eligible in January to get the booster or "precaution dose" of Covid vaccine.
- ✓ Besides, 2.7 crore people in the 60-plus age group with co-morbidities are projected across the country.
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have most people in this category.
- ✓ The gap between the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine and the third should be at least nine months, according to the Health Ministry
- ✓ The third dose will be the same vaccine the people have received for their first and second doses

- **The third wave of the Covid pandemic – is expected to peak in big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata by next week**
- ✓ This was based on the findings on preliminary data assessed under the SUTRA (susceptible, undetected, tested (positive), and removed approach) model by Prof Manindra Agarwal from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur (IIT-K)
- ✓ As per the model, the peak for the rest of the country is expected between January-end and the first week of February and subside by mid-March
- ✓ There are indications that India may report around 8 lakh cases a day - twice that of the Covid-19 Delta variant driven second wave
- ✓ SUTRA is a mathematical model that tracks Covid-19 pandemic curve.
- ✓ Adequate input data to the model helps in predicting the pattern of pandemic wave which is being referred to by policymakers for containment and preparedness purposes.
- **India's oldest sloth bear, fondly named Gulabo – died at Van Vihar National Park in Bhopal on January 10**



- ✓ 40-year old Gulabo was one of the star attractions at Van Vihar
- ✓ According to foresters, Gulabo was rescued in May 2006 from a street performer and was put through a rehabilitation process
- ✓ Gulabo wasn't keeping well for the past few months and was shifted to a care centre at the national park.
- ✓ An autopsy determined the cause of death as a failure of internal organs due to old age.
- ✓ Gulabo was cremated by staffers of the park as per the norms.
- ✓ The Van Vihar National Park, located on the banks of Bhopal's Upper Lake, also runs a rescue and breeding centre for sloth bears

## **INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS**

- **Sri Lanka - has launched a luxury train service connecting the country's Tamil-dominated Jaffna district to the capital city Colombo**
- ✓ The train service was launched on January 9 with the help of a Line of Credit offered by India



- ✓ The intercity rail service with all facilities was launched for passengers travelling from Colombo's Mount Lavinia suburb to Jaffna's Kankesanthurai port suburb in the north, covering a distance of approximately 386km.
- ✓ The inaugural ride was undertaken by Pavithra Wanniarachchi, the Minister of Transport of Sri Lanka
- ✓ At the Colombo Fort Station, she was welcomed by Vinod K Jacob, India's Deputy High Commissioner.
- ✓ India had provided AC Diesel Multiple Units (AC DMUs) under the loan facility.
- ✓ The train service will criss-cross the island nation connecting Colombo with Kankesanthurai on the northern tip of the Jaffna Peninsula, which has a Tamil-majority population.
- ✓ The train service, while equipped with luxury facilities, is likely to facilitate an increase in tourism in the Kankesanthurai port area.
- ✓ India's total development portfolio in Sri Lanka is over \$ 3.5 billion, of which around USD 570 million are purely grant projects

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **In its latest annual assessment, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) - confirmed that 2021 was Earth's fifth hottest year on record**
- ✓ According to the European Union's satellite system C3S, the previous seven years have been considered to be the hottest on record
- ✓ However, 2021 was among the cooler years of the previous seven, but it has been slightly warmer than 2015 and 2018
- ✓ The warmest years on record are still 2020 and 2016
- ✓ Globally, the yearly average temperature in 2021 was 1.1-1.2 degrees Celsius higher than it was at the start of the industrial period in the mid-19th century
- ✓ Furthermore, the negative impacts of increasing temperatures could be seen in a number of extreme climate events like floods and heatwaves that have occurred throughout the world during the last year

- ✓ Moreover, methane concentration in the atmosphere has risen to a historic 1,876 parts per billion, which was extremely high when compared to satellite data from the previous two decades.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Prof V Kamakoti from the computer science and engineering department - was appointed the new director of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M).**
- ✓ Prof Kamakoti led the research team that designed India's first indigenously-developed microprocessor 'Shakti', which is used in communications and defence sectors.



- ✓ He will be succeeding Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi, who is stepping down after completing two terms
- ✓ An alumnus of IIT Madras and an expert in artificial intelligence, Prof Kamakoti is also a member of the National Security Advisory Council.
- ✓ At present, he is associate dean of Industrial Consultancy and Sponsored Research (ICSR) at IIT Madras.
- ✓ Prof Kamakoti was appointed by the Union Commerce Ministry in 2017 as the Chairman of a Taskforce on leveraging Artificial Intelligence for development across various fields
- ✓ A native of Vishnupuram in Thiruvallur district, Prof Kamakoti completed his undergraduate studies in computer science and engineering at Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, University of Madras, in 1989
- ✓ He obtained his Master of Science (by research) and PhD from department of computer science and engineering, IIT Madras in 1992 and 1995 respectively
- ✓ He joined IIT Madras as an assistant professor in 2001.
- ✓ Prof Kamakoti received several awards, which include Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship in 2020, IESA Techno Visionary Award in 2018, IBM Faculty Award in 2016 and DRDO Academy Excellence Award in 2013.
- ✓ His predecessor, Ramamurthi, has completed 10 years or two terms as director of IIT-M.
- ✓ During his tenure, IIT-M got the top rank among engineering institutions for six consecutive years in NIRF rankings, overall top institute for the last three years



and top innovative institution for the last three years in Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA).

- ✓ He also oversaw a rapid expansion of campus infrastructure including a ₹1,000-crore satellite campus near Chennai.
- ✓ **On January 10, the government appointed new directors to the Indian Institutes of Technology in Delhi, Madras, Indore and Mandi**
- ✓ Professor Rangan Banerjee from IIT Bombay is the new IIT Delhi director
- ✓ Electrical engineering professor at IIT Kanpur Laxmidhar Behera will be the director of IIT Mandi, while mechanical engineering professor Suhas Joshi of IIT Bombay is the new director of IIT Indore.
- ✓ IIT Mandi and IIT Indore were being led by acting directors Prof Ajit Kumar and Prof Neelesh Kumar Jain, respectively.
- ✓ The outgoing directors of IIT Delhi and IIT Madras – Prof Ramgopal Rao and Prof Bhaskar Ramamurthi – were serving on extension, with their five-year tenures having ended in April 2021.



APPLO  
STUDY CENTRE