

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS–JANUARY 16, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On January 15, Chief Minister M K Stalin – announced that a statue of British engineer Colonel John Pennycuick, who built the Mullaperiyar dam in 1895, will be installed by the state government in a park in his native town of Camberley in the UK



- ✓ Located in Kerala's Idukki, the dam meets the water requirements of Theni, Dindigul, Madurai, Sivaganga and Ramanathapuram.
- ✓ In a statement, the CM said he was happy to make the announcement on January 15, Pennycuick's birth anniversary.
- ✓ The dam is currently operated by the Tamil Nadu government.
- ✓ At present, 2,19,840.81 acres of land are getting irrigation through this dam
- ✓ In Theni district, Pennycuick's birthday -- which is on January 15 -- is celebrated along with Pongal
- ✓ Also, the people of these districts have been naming their children after Pennycuick
- ✓ It is said that when the British government decided to abandon the project due to high cost, the Colonel sold out his ancestral properties in England to complete the project.

- ✓ Tamils in London had obtained permissions, including that of the St Peter's Church, to install the statue in Pennycuick's hometown.
 - ✓ On June 15, 2,000, former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi unveiled the statue of the British engineer at the PWD complex in Tallakulam in Madurai district.
 - ✓ Also, a memorial has been built at Lowercamp in the Theni district and the bus terminus in Theni has been named after Pennycuick.
 - ✓ Notably, a bust of Pennycuick, gifted by Chennai former police commissioner A K Viswanathan, was installed in the memorial garden at St Peter's Church in Frimley near Camberley in 2019.
 - ✓ John Pennycuick was born in 1841 in Maharashtra's Pune to Brigadier-General John Pennycuick and his wife Sarah.
 - ✓ Educated at Cheltenham College in England, Pennycuick entered the East India Company Military College at Addiscombe, Surrey, in 1857.
 - ✓ Later, Pennycuick was commissioned as a lieutenant in the Madras Engineer Group in 1858 and subsequently, he returned to India in 1960
 - ✓ Later in 1895, the Queen nominated him a companion of the Order of the Star of India.
 - ✓ He was associated with Public Works Department (PWD) for more than six years.
 - ✓ During his career, he had served as Chief Engineer in the construction of the Mullaperiyar Dam and was awarded a medal for his participation in the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867–68.
- **On January 15, Tamil Nadu government - has chosen veteran Congress leader Kumari Ananthan for Perunthalaivar Kamarajar award for 2021.**



- ✓ Making the announcement, Chief Minister M K Stalin said the annual Ayyan Thiruvalluvar award would be given to All India Tamil Sanga Peravai president M Meenakshi Sundaram.
- ✓ Kumari Ananthan (88 years) is a former president of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee.
- ✓ The former MP and MLA was closely associated with Kamaraj.
- ✓ He introduced asking questions in Parliament in TN and served as a member of the State Assembly

- ✓ He is well-versed in Tamil literature, penned several books and possesses excellent oratorical skills in Tamil.
 - ✓ His daughter, Tamilsai Soundararajan is governor of Telangana and lieutenant governor of Puducherry.
 - ✓ Meenakshi Sundaram, as former president of Bengaluru Tamil Sangam, played a crucial role in unveiling a statue of Thiruvalluvar in Bengaluru in 2009 and a statue of poet Tholkappiar in Kanyakumari district.
 - ✓ Former chief minister M Karunanidhi unveiled the two statues.
 - ✓ The retired senior engineer of BSNL is the president of All India Apex Association for Tamil Associations.
 - ✓ Each award carries a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a gold medal and a citation.
- **Retired IAS officer K Deenabandhu - has been appointed chairman of State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)**
 - ✓ Retired IFS officer N Krishnakumar has been appointed chairman of the State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC).
 - ✓ Their tenures are for three years.

NATIONAL

- **The Republic Day celebrations - will now begin every year from January 23 instead of January 24 to include the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**
 - ✓ The advancement by a day is in line with the government's focus on commemorating important aspects of India's history and culture.
 - ✓ Last year, the Centre had decided to observe Netaji's birth anniversary on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas".
 - ✓ Other important days, which have become a yearly affair, as announced by the Government are - August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day', October 31 as 'National Unity Day' (birth anniversary of Sardar Patel), November 15 as 'Janjatiya Gaurav Divas' (Birsa Munda's birth anniversary), November 26 as 'Constitution Day' and December 26 as 'Veer Baal Divas' (a tribute to the four sons of Guru Gobind Singh)
 - ✓ While launching mega celebrations of 75 years of Independence, Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' last year, PM Modi had remembered leaders like Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Baba Ambedkar, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Maulana Azad, Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan and Veer Savarkar.
- **On January 15, the Centre – announced revised guidelines and standards for EV charging ecosystem**
 - ✓ The new norms allow any individual or entity to set up public charging stations (PCS) without the need of any licensing formalities

- ✓ In this way, the owners can charge their EVs at home or offices with existing connections at domestic rates.
- ✓ The new guidelines are aimed at boosting EV charging network plans of private and public sector companies, including Reliance-BP, Tata Power, Ola, Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and state-owned Convergence Energy Services Ltd.
- ✓ The liberalised norms will attract individuals and startups in the sector, which is expected to create livelihood opportunities and lead to the setting up of more PCS
- ✓ The guidelines lay down the target of one PCS in every three-square-km grid in mega cities and every 25 kms on connecting highways in the next three years.
- ✓ Under the new scheme, state capitals and their connecting highways are to be covered in the next 3-5 years.
- ✓ Further, the power ministry is planning to offer government land to government or public agencies and private entities for setting up PCS on a revenue-sharing basis.
- ✓ According to the new regulations, government or public agencies will be offered such land for a fixed payment of ₹1 per unit of electricity used for charging to the landowning agency in line with a 10-year model revenue-share agreement.
- ✓ For private entities, such land will be offered through bidding with a ₹1 per unit revenue share as the floor.

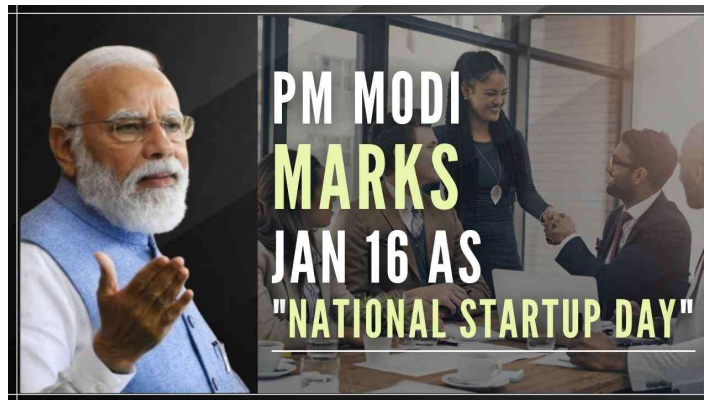
INTERNATIONAL

- **Pakistan - has decided to offer a permanent residency scheme for wealthy foreign nationals, including Sikhs living in the US and Canada, Afghans and Chinese**
- ✓ The decision is aimed at attracting investment and boosting the country's flagging economy and national growth.
- ✓ The new scheme was in line with the new National Security Policy, which was launched by PM Imran Khan on January 14.
- ✓ The policy allows foreigners to get permanent resident status in lieu of investment.
- ✓ One of the purposes of the PR scheme was to attract rich Afghans, who were moving to Turkey, Malaysia and other countries after the Taliban returned to power.

NATIONAL DAY

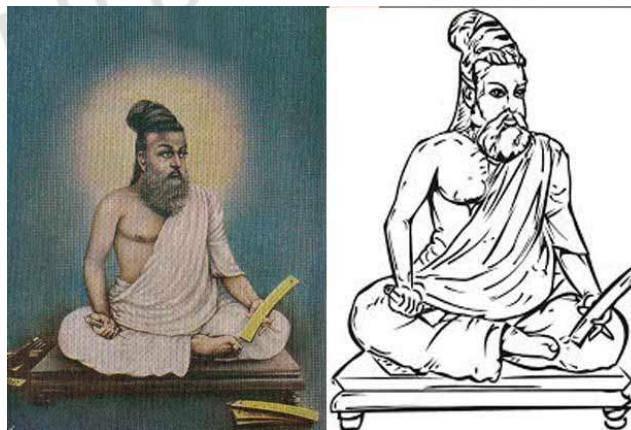
- **National Startup Day – January 16**
- ✓ On January 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that January 16 will be celebrated as 'Startup' day as they will be the backbone of a new India
- ✓ The number of startups in the country has jumped to 60,000 from 500 five years ago, with 42 unicorns coming up last year alone
- ✓ The country currently has 82 unicorns, each valued in excess of \$1 billion, which is the third highest in the world.
- ✓ PM Modi had launched the Startup India movement on January 16, 2016.

- ✓ Also India is celebrating the first ever Startup India Innovation Week between January 10, 2022 and January 16, 2022.



- ✓ The week celebrations are organized by Department of Promotion Industry and Industrial Trade.
- ✓ PM Modi said that as against 4,000 patents registered in 2013-14, last year (2020-21), the comparative figure was 28,000.
- ✓ As against 70,000 trademarks registered in 2013-14, over 2.5 lakh were registered last year.
- ✓ The PM also said that the drive towards innovation has improved India's ranking on the Global Innovation Index from 81 to 46
- ✓ In 2022, the National Startup Day is celebrated on six themes - sustainable development, technology of future, from local to global, building champions in manufacturing, nudging the DNA and growing from roots.

➤ **Thiruvalluvar Day - January 15 or January 16**



- ✓ The Government of Tamil Nadu celebrates the 15th (16th on leap years) of January as Thiruvalluvar Day in the honour of the poet Thiruvalluvar, as part of the Pongal celebrations.
- ✓ Thiruvalluvar was a celebrated Tamil poet and philosopher who lived in the 4th century BCE.
- ✓ Commonly known as Valluvar, he is best known for authoring Thirukkuraḷ, a collection of couplets on ethics, political and economic matters, and love.

- ✓ The text is considered as one of the finest works of the Tamil literature.
- ✓ A resolution to celebrate a day known as "Thiruvalluvar Day" by all Tamils was passed on January 17th 1935
- ✓ Kali Sivakannuswami Pillai and Padmashri Suppayya passed the resolution and the first Thiruvalluvar Day was celebrated in May 1935
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu Government built Valluvar Kottam in 1976 in honour of the poet.
- ✓ A 133-foot statue was built in kanniyakumari for Thiruvalluvar.
- ✓ Thirukkural has 1330 couplets, which are divided into 133 sections, while each section has ten couplets.
- ✓ The Valluvar year is a type of calendar system, which has additional 31 years.
- ✓ For instance, the Valluvar year of 2022 (Gregorian year) is 2053.
- ✓ It was former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu M Karunanidhi who initiated the idea of Valluvar Day.

ONE YEAR OF VACCINATION - REPORT

