

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 19, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **Greater Chennai Corporation - has reserved 100 wards for women after cancelling its previous order that had allotted more than 50% wards to women.**
- ✓ As per the new order, 16 wards have been reserved for scheduled caste (women), 84 for women (general) alongwith 16 for scheduled caste (general).
- ✓ The mayors of all three corporations under GCC — Chennai, Tambaram and Avadi — have been reserved for SCs with Chennai and Tambaram to have their first women mayors.
- ✓ As per its 2019 notification, the GCC has reserved 89 wards out of 200 wards for women candidates and another 16 seats for the scheduled caste (women), bringing the total tally to 105 and reservation to more than 50%.
- ✓ This was quashed by the Madras High Court saying that reservation can only be based on the total number of seats in the Municipality and not on Zonal wise demarcation

STATES

- **West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee - has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi opposing the proposed amendments to Rule 6 of IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954**
- ✓ The proposed amendments seek to change the rules for central deputation of IAS officers from different states
- ✓ The new Rules would allow the Centre to post any IAS officer working in the state for central deputation.
- ✓ The proposed amendment asks the states to nominate a pre-decided number of IAS officers for central deputation reserve and allows the Centre to post these officers, even overriding state objections.

- ✓ As per the present system, the Centre every year asks states for an “offer list” of officers from the All India Services cadre who are willing to go on central deputation, after which it selects officers from that list
- ✓ In December, the Central Government had sent a letter to all the state governments seeking their opinion on the proposed amendment of the IAS (Cadre) Rules, 1954
- ✓ Recently, the West Bengal CM had opposed the manner in which a former Bengal chief secretary was placed on central deputation.

NATIONAL

- **Three Navy sailors were killed and 11 sustained burns - in an explosion on board INS Ranvir, a Rajput-class destroyer, at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on January 18.**



- ✓ The explosion occurred in an internal compartment of the destroyer, which was on a cross-coast deployment from Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam since November 2021
- ✓ It is speculated that the blast was not ammunition-related and caused probably due to leak of Freon gas in the unmanned air-conditioning compartment of the 4,000-tonne warship.
- ✓ A board of inquiry (BoI) ordered into the mishap will ascertain the exact details
- ✓ This is the first major incident since June 2019 when a worker died in a fire on board the then under-construction Visakhapatnam destroyer at Mazagon dockyard
- ✓ Before this, in August 2013, explosions on-board INS Sindhurakshak killed 18 sailors and sank the submarine in the Mumbai harbour
- ✓ INS Ranvir, among the oldest warships in the Navy, is a Soviet-era destroyer and was commissioned into the Indian navy on April 21, 1986
- ✓ It is the fourth destroyer of the Rajput class and the first of the Ranvir class.
- ✓ The other Ranvir class destroyer is INS Ranvijay.

- ✓ The role of Ranvir class ships involves protection such as anti-aircraft and anti-submarine warfare for carrier task force defense against submarines, low-flying aircraft, and cruise missiles.
- ✓ The current Navy chief Admiral R Harikumar has commanded the ship earlier in his career.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The government - has approved the appointment of Eastern Command chief Lt General Manoj Pande as the next Army vice chief**



- ✓ Lt-Gen Pande will succeed Lt-General C P Mohanty, who is slated to retire on January 31.
 - ✓ General Pande is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers (The Bombay Sappers) in December 1982
 - ✓ He is a graduate of Staff College, Camberley (United Kingdom) and attended the Higher Command Course at Army War College, Mhow at Indore in Madhya Pradesh and National Defence College (NDC) at Delhi.
 - ✓ During his 37 years of distinguished service, Pande took an active part in Operation Vijay and Operation Parakram
 - ✓ Manoj Pande was posted as Chief Engineer at the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea in the rank of lieutenant colonel
 - ✓ He was Director-General at Army Headquarters dealing with subjects of discipline, ceremonial and welfare.
 - ✓ He also served as head of the tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command before assuming his present responsibilities as head of the Eastern Army in June 2021.
 - ✓ He commanded an Engineer Regiment along the Line of Control in Jammu & Kashmir, an Engineer Brigade as part of the Strike Corps, an Infantry Brigade along the Line of Control, a Mountain Division in the high altitude area of western Ladakh and a Corps deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) as also in Counter Insurgency Operations area in the northeast
- **Senior IAS officer Vikram Dev Dutt - has been appointed chairman and MD of Air India, days before the Tata Group takes over the airline.**



- ✓ Union aviation secretary Rajiv Bansal, who was appointed Air India CMD in August 2017, was holding additional charge of the airline after being elevated last September.
- ✓ Dutt is set to be the last government-appointed AI CMD before the airline goes back to the Tatas.
- ✓ He has been appointed as the Air India chief in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary
- ✓ Dutt is a senior bureaucrat and a 1993-batch IAS officer of AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre.
- ✓ Before this appointment, in 2020, he served as Principal Secretary for the Health and Family Welfare Department of the Delhi government.
- ✓ Later, in 2021 he was transferred and posted as Principal Secretary of the Services department.
- ✓ On October 25, the union government had accepted the highest bid made by the Tata Sons of Rs 18,000 crore
- ✓ The union government had signed the share purchase agreement with Talace Pvt Ltd, a unit of the holding company of the Tata Sons
- ✓ As per the agreement, Tata Sons is to acquire 100% equity shares of debt-laden Air India and Air India Express, including its 50% stake in ground-handling company Air India SATS Airport Services Pvt Ltd (AISATS)
- ✓ The sale of the national carrier to the Tata Sons was the first sale after 20 years of a public sector unit since the sale of Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd (IPCL) in 2002

AWARDS

- **On January 17, Bayern Munich striker, Robert Lewandowski - was voted the 2021 FIFA Best Men's Player for the second year running, beating Lionel Messi and Mohamed Salah to the prize**
- ✓ The Polish striker managed to defend his FIFA's top prize for the second consecutive year after scoring 69 goals in 2021.
- ✓ Lewandowski broke two Bundesliga records held since 1972 by another Bayern great, Gerd Müller by scoring 41 goals for Bayern in its title-winning 2020-21 season and 43 in the calendar year of 2021.

The Best FIFA Football awards 2021

Bayern forward *Robert Lewandowski* has been named Best FIFA Footballer for the second successive year after breaking Gerd Müller's 49-year-old Bundesliga record of most strikes in a calendar year with a remarkable haul of 43 goals. *Alexia Putellas* has been crowned best female player after treble-winning season with Barcelona

THE BEST:

Men's player	Robert Lewandowski POL
Women's player	Alexia Putellas ESP
Men's Coach	Thomas Tuchel GER
Men's Goalkeeper	Edouard Mendy SEN
Puskás Award	Erik Lamela ARG
Fair Play Award	Denmark national team
Fans Award	Denmark and Finland fans

FIFA FIFPro World 11

Christine Sinclair (CAN) and Cristiano Ronaldo (POR) also claimed Best FIFA Special Awards for international goalscoring records.

Source: FIFA Picture: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS

- ✓ With his second win, Robert Lewandowski has now equalled Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo record of two best player trophies
- ✓ Robert Lewandowski acquired 82 votes to win the award, while Messi could acquire 39 votes to finish a distant second
- ✓ Earlier, Robert Lewandowski had lost out on winning the Ballon d'Or award after being edged by Lionel Messi for the award
- ✓ Alexia Putellas, who captained Barcelona to its first Women's Champions League title, was voted the best women's player
- ✓ Chelsea swept the coaching awards this year when its men's and women's teams under their managers Thomas Tuchel and Emma Hayes reached their Champions League finals.
- ✓ The best manager of the year award went to Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel, having won the UEFA Champions League in 2021 with the same team
- ✓ Chelsea and Senegal goalkeeper Edouard Mendy won the Goalkeeper of the Year 2021 award
- ✓ Cristiano Ronaldo was given a special award for breaking the international men's goal-scoring record.

SPORTS

- **Tennis world number one Novak Djokovic - has been deported from Australia after losing a visa challenge to stay in the country over his coronavirus vaccination status**



- ✓ The Australian Government allows only vaccinated people to enter into the country for playing the Australian Open Tennis Championship
- ✓ Earlier, a Federal Court unanimously upheld the cancellation of his visa on public order grounds on January 16
- ✓ It emerged the tennis ace contracted Covid-19 in mid-December and, as per his own admission, failed to isolate despite knowing he was positive.
- ✓ In the meantime, he attended a stamp unveiling and a youth tennis event, and granted a media interview around the time he got tested and his latest infection was confirmed.
- ✓ Djokovic's visa was initially canceled on January 6 by a border official who decided he didn't qualify for a medical exemption
- ✓ He was exempted from the tournament's vaccine rules because he had been infected with the virus within the previous six months
- ✓ He won an appeal to stay for the tournament, but Australia's immigration minister later revoked his visa
- ✓ Vaccination amid the pandemic was a requirement for anyone at the Australian Open, whether players, their coaches or anyone at the tournament site
- ✓ Djokovic had won nine Australian Open titles, including three in a row, and a total of 20 Grand Slam singles trophies
- ✓ He is tied with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal for the most in the history of men's tennis
- ✓ Australian Open is one of the four tournaments of the Grand Slam that started on January 17, 2022

REPUBLIC DAY TABLEAU – A REPORT

- On January 18, Chief minister M K Stalin - said that Tamil Nadu's tableau that did not make it to the Republic Day parade in Delhi will be part of the R-Day celebrations of the state government and will be taken to major cities in the state for public display
- ✓ The tableau features contributions of freedom fighters from the state in the Independence movement
- ✓ The CM also said that arrangements would be made to organise photo exhibitions in important cities of the country
- ✓ The photo exhibition titled "Tamil Nadu in Freedom Struggle," recently held in Chennai, will also be held in other major towns across the country.
- ✓ Earlier, on January 17, the CM written to PM Narendra Modi, expressing his disappointment over the State's tableau being rejected without giving a reason.
- ✓ At least three non-BJP-governed states — Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala — have protested against the Centre, accusing it of "petty politics" following similar rejection of their themes.
- ✓ Meanwhile, defence minister Rajnath Singh wrote to CMs of Tamil Nadu and Bengal, saying tableaux excluded according to a "well-established system".
- ✓ He explained that Tamil Nadu was eliminated in round 3 of the expert committee's selection process.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu's tableaux was selected for the Republic Day parade in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

STEPS AND PROCESSES

HOW TABLEAUX ARE SELECTED FOR THE REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

➤ States/UTs and Union ministers/departments send proposals in September. Detailed guidelines and themes are sent every year

➤ An expert committee of nine members from various disciplines finalize the tableaux

➤ The sketch/design of the

proposals are scrutinized, and suggestions are given for modifications. Once approved, three-dimensional models are asked

➤ Selection is based on a combination of factors, including impact on the masses, idea/theme of the

tableaux

➤ The 12 states/UTs that will take part in the parade are Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand

- ✓ The 21 tableaux for this year's parade have been drawn from 12 states/Union Territories and nine Union ministries/departments.
- ✓ The Ministry of Defence had proposed the theme of the tableaux for the parade as 'India @ 75 - Freedom Struggle, Ideas @ 75, Achievements @ 75, Actions @ 75, & Resolve @ 75'

- ✓ For this year's Republic Day Parade, Tamil Nadu had submitted a theme "Tamil Nadu in the Freedom Struggle"
- ✓ The theme depicted the sacrifices of Tamil freedom fighters including Veerathai Velunachiar, Pulithevan, Veerapandia Kattabomman, the Marudhu brothers, V O Chidambaranar and nationalist poet Subramania Bharathiar
- ✓ The rear of the tableau had been designed to showcase a statue of Rani Velu Nachiyar riding a horse with a sword in hand and with women soldiers.
- ✓ The state government presented seven sketches for the parade this year
- ✓ The representatives of the State appeared before the expert committee thrice, making changes to the tableau, but failing to impress the expert committee of the ministry of defence
- ✓ For the second year in a row, there will be no foreign chief guest at the Delhi R-Day parade due to the pandemic.

