

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 22, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- On January 21, Chief Minister MK Stalin - launched a new online application 'CLAPP' at the Secretariat



- ✓ Using CLAPP, referring to Complete Leave App, police personnel of all ranks can now apply for leave and get it sanctioned immediately
- ✓ Apart from leave application, cops can submit their medical leave, earned leave, weekly off through the app.
- ✓ The new mobile app has been designed to prevent delays, summary rejections or favoritism by the sanctioning authority and is aimed at ensuring more transparency in the leave sanctioning process
- ✓ The senior officers have been asked to clear the pending leave petitions within three hours after receiving a request from police personnel.
- ✓ If the delay exceeds three hours, the matter will be escalated to the superior officer above the sanctioning officer
- ✓ The app will be initially rolled out to the Armed Reserve police personnel and will later be expanded to cover other units of the city police
- ✓ With over 5,800 police officers, the Armed Reserve units have the most number of personnel among the Greater Chennai City Police

- ✓ Currently, the armed police personnel have to visit the offices of their superiors to submit leave applications and to get sanction, after which they have to enter it in their dairies in the Armed Reserve Police unit office
 - ✓ The mobile app, an initiative of the Greater Chennai City Police, also has a facility to apply leave using SMS in advanced CLAPP V2 version.
 - ✓ The Chennai Police Leave Application (CLApp) lists 7 types of leave including casual, medical and earned leave and applicants may specify reasons by picking from options listed separately.
 - ✓ Director General of Police C Sylendra Babu, Chennai Police Commissioner Shankar Jiwal and senior government officials participated in the launch event
- **On January 21, Chief Minister M K Stalin – said that the state government will build a state-of-the-art arena at Alanganallur with world class facilities to enable thousands of people to view its signature jallikattu event**
- ✓ The CM made the announcement while inaugurating schemes worth ₹51.77 crore and laying foundation stone for projects worth ₹50 crore through video conferencing from Chennai.
 - ✓ According to the CM, the arena which can seat thousands of spectators would also have a museum to showcase native breeds of cattle, a veterinary hospital and many other facilities.
 - ✓ The site for the arena had been already identified on the outskirts of Alanganallur.
 - ✓ The present arena is in the heart of the town panchayat and a cramped one.
 - ✓ In this regard, work would start soon and it would take about two years to complete.
 - ✓ The total cost of projects inaugurated and initiated in Madurai and the welfare measures distributed was Rs 342.33 crore.
 - ✓ The newly inaugurated structures included additional building in Madurai medical college, hostel, Kuruvikkaran Salai bridge, anganwadis and school buildings.
 - ✓ A sum of ₹18 crore would be spent for renovation of Veeravasantharayar mandapam which was ravaged by a fire in 2018 at Sri Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple.
 - ✓ The government allocated Rs 25 crore for renovation works at the Meenakshi Amman Temple, and promised that the temple's Kumababishegam will be conducted in two years
 - ✓ Finance Minister Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, District Collector Aneesh Sekhar, Corporation Commissioner KP Karthikeyan, MP Su Venkatesan, and other leaders took part in the event.

NATIONAL

- **On January 21, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - announced that he would unveil a hologram statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at India Gate on January 23, the 125th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter**



- ✓ On the day, a special programme will be held to honour the winners of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Apada Prabandhan Award, which is given to recognise the contributions in the area of disaster management.
- ✓ The virtual hologram statue, which will be visible only at night, will beam at the India Gate till a physical statue of Netaji is installed
- ✓ The hologram statue measuring 28 feet in height by 6 feet in width, will be powered by a 4K projector capable of delivering brightness levels of 30,000 lumens
- ✓ The idea behind creating a hologram is to simply project an image in such a way that it looks realistic and visible from all sides.
- ✓ The grand statue, made of black granite from Telangana, will be placed under the canopy at India Gate, probably in August this year, replacing the Amar Jawan Jyoti
- ✓ The canopy under which Netaji's granite statue will be installed earlier housed a statue of England's King George V, which was removed in 1968 and shifted to Coronation Park at Burari in Delhi.
- ✓ Coronation Park was the venue of the first Delhi Durbar of 1877 when Queen Victoria was proclaimed the Empress of India and later the Durbar commemorating the coronation of King George V as Emperor of India took place on 12 December 1911
- ✓ The canopy was built along with the rest of the grand monument in the 1930s by Sir Edwin Lutyens.
- ✓ The announcement came just days after the government declared that the Republic Day celebrations will now start from January 23, Netaji's birth anniversary, instead of usual date of January 24 and end on January 30, the day Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated
- ✓ The government had also earlier renamed Ross Island in Andamans as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Island.
- ✓ In January 2021, the government had announced that Bose's birth anniversary would be celebrated as Parakram Divas.
- ✓ It has also renamed Howrah Kalka Mail as "Netaji Express", has arranged a program at Victoria Memorial and National Library Programme in Kolkata and released a memorial postal stamp

- ✓ On January 20, it was announced that the Amar Jawan Jyoti, the eternal flame located at India Gate, which has not been extinguished for 50 years, will be put off and merged with the flame at the nearby National War Memorial.
 - ✓ The flame was inaugurated by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the Republic Day in 1972
 - ✓ The National War Memorial, situated in the vicinity – on the India Gate circle – was constructed by the Modi government in 2019
- **The Union ministry of Information and Broadcasting – has issued orders to block 35 more YouTube channels, two websites, Twitter and Instagram accounts each, and one Facebook account, all originating in Pakistan**
- ✓ The decision has been taken against these channels and accounts for spreading anti-India content in a “coordinated manner over digital media”.
 - ✓ The fake, anti-India content contained references to Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir alongwith India’s foreign relations with other countries
 - ✓ They have also hosted fake information about the demise of former Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and content seeking to undermine the elections in five poll-bound states.
 - ✓ According to the I&B ministry, the channels also propagated toxic, separatist content, which have “the potential to incite its audience into commission of crimes adversely affecting public order in India”.
 - ✓ Earlier, on December 20 last year, the ministry invoked, for the first time, the emergency clause of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, to block 20 YouTube channels and two websites
- **The Centre – has given its approval of granting tiger reserve status to three new sites and agreed in-principle to give its nod to two more**
- ✓ These five new sites are expected to be formally declared tiger reserves (TR) in India by the end of this year, taking the total number of tiger reserves to 56
 - ✓ The three sites in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan have already got the Centre’s approval and the concerned states will now have to formally notify these areas as TRs.
 - ✓ On the other hand, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has communicated in-principle approval for two sites, soliciting detailed proposals from the states under the Wildlife Act, 1972
 - ✓ All 5 new sites are expected to be formally notified before Global Tiger Summit which is to be held at Vladivostok.
 - ✓ Srivilliputhur Meghamalai in Tamil Nadu was the last one (51st) that was formally notified as a tiger reserve in 2021.
 - ✓ All 51 TRs together cover over 73,765 sq km.

- **Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Giriraj Singh - released the revised Rural Area Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (RADPFI) Guidelines prepared by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on January 20, 2022**



- ✓ The plan has been revised to increase rural prosperity and to improve spatial rural planning.
 - ✓ It intends to transform the villages, reduce the migration and provide better quality of life.
 - ✓ The RADPFI includes the village planning scheme, which is currently operating under the town planning schemes.
 - ✓ The plan focuses on the typology of villages, including agro-climatic zones, hill areas, disaster occurrence, urban-peri-urban areas and villages
 - ✓ Based on the type of land use, standards for different areas with varied characteristics are to be developed to facilitate planned spatial development of rural areas.
 - ✓ The revised plan aims to initiate Village Town Planning Scheme (VPS) through community, based on Collaborative Planning
 - ✓ The release of RADPFI guidelines would supplement the efforts of the Centre such as the SVAMITVA scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj and RURBAN Mission of Ministry of Rural Development and facilitate better utilisation of Geospatial information.
- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology – has launched a new project to speed up the delivery of several citizen services using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).**
- ✓ The project, the Digital Government Mission, will make government systems more intelligent
 - ✓ The system will help citizens discover schemes that they are eligible for, and government benefits they can receive without asking for them.

- ✓ Under the mission, people should be able to get automatic renewals every time their driving licence or passports expire since all the data is already available with the government.
- ✓ The mission seeks to offer services in an integrated manner across services and departments, which will tremendously benefit citizens.
- ✓ The Government of India launched e-governance 15 years ago and later launched NODE in 2020.
- ✓ NODE is National Open Digital Ecosystem that aims to replicate the success of UPI, GST, Aadhaar etc.,

INTERNATIONAL

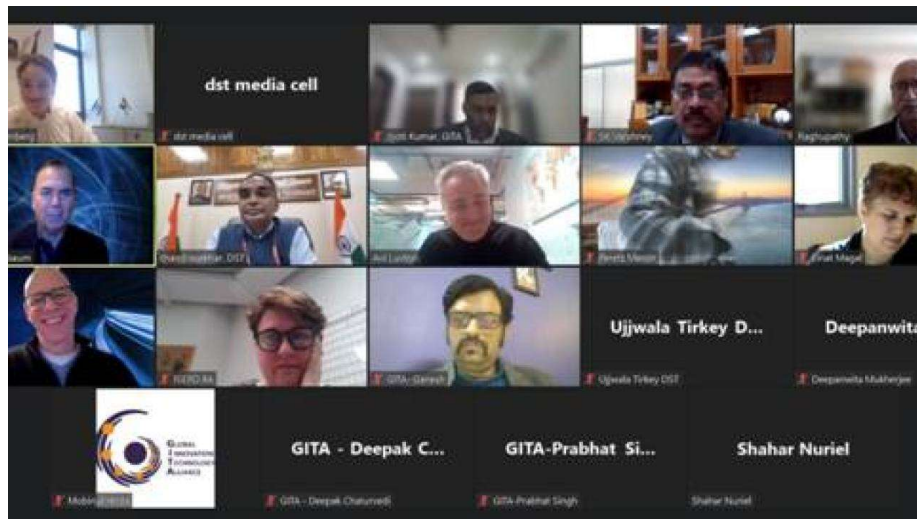
- **Lahore high court Justice Ayesha Malik - will be Pakistan's first-ever woman judge of the Supreme Court**



- ✓ According to a notification issued by the ministry of law on January 21, Malik's elevation has been approved by President Arif Alvi and will come into effect as soon as she takes the oath of office.
- ✓ The historic development came just two days after the bipartisan parliamentary committee on the appointment of superior judiciary approved the 55-year-old justice's nomination.
- ✓ Malik is on the fourth position on the seniority list of judges of the Lahore HC.
- ✓ She will now work as a SC judge until her superannuation in June 2031.
- ✓ She would be in the line to become the chief justice also in 2030 on the basis of her seniority.
- ✓ She gave her landmark judgment back in June 2021 when she had declared virginity tests for examination of sexual assault survivors "illegal and against the constitution of Pakistan"

INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India and Israel – discussed to widen the scope of the bilateral Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F) at its eighth governing body meeting recently on January 18**



- ✓ They approved three joint research and development projects worth USD 5.5 million and suggested measures to create a broader India-Israel collaborative ecosystem.
- ✓ The 3 projects were -
 - ✓ "Centrally Monitored IoT Nanosensors for Molecular Diagnostics in Healthcare and Screening Applications",
 - ✓ "NoMoreMos - a mosquito control biological solution" and
 - ✓ "IoT-enabled satellite communication for real-time collection of agriculture and environment data across India".
- ✓ The discussions took place virtually in the presence of officials from the Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), GITA and various industries partners.
- ✓ GITA is Global Innovation & Technology Alliance that is appointed to implement the I4F programme in India, while IIA is the implementing agency in Israel.
- ✓ The members further discussed the status of the ongoing projects under the I4F since 2018.
- ✓ The Israeli side introduced the new I4F website to increase the popularity of the joint programme and presented a list of programmes planned for 2022
- ✓ The members mutually decided on a strategy for the new phase of I4F 2.0, which included widening the scope of the fund by determining technical feasibility and market acceptability of new products or technologies
- ✓ The Indo – Israeli Agriculture Project is being implemented for more than ten years now
- ✓ Some of the highly successful outcomes of the project are rejuvenation of Mango orchards in Maharashtra and growing cherry tomatoes in Haryana.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- On January 20, 2022, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) - used Virtual Reality (VR) technology in its Security Council session.



- ✓ For the first time ever, the members of the UNSC went on a virtual field trip to Columbia, with the help of VR technology.
- ✓ On the virtual trip, the members listened, watched and got insights into the peace process in Columbia.
- ✓ The meeting discussed the upcoming elections in Columbia and the final agreement for ending the conflict and building a stable and lasting peace
- ✓ The immersive 360° videos that the UNSC used for the first time played as it occurred in the real-time environment as compared to watching it in the two-dimensional video

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Hyderabad-based pharma player Natco Pharma Ltd - has signed a non-exclusive licence agreement with the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), Switzerland, for anti-viral drug Molnupiravir.**
- ✓ Armed with this licence, Natco will plans to manufacture and sell Molnupiravir capsules 200mg for the Indian market under its own brand Molnunat.
- ✓ This agreement allows Natco to expand access to Covid-19 medicines in 105 countries in generic name.
- ✓ Under the license, Natco can set its own price for the generic products it produces, paying a royalty on sales to MSD.
- ✓ MPP is a United Nations backed public health organisation that works towards increasing access to and facilitate the development of lifesaving medicines for low and middle-income countries through voluntary licencing and patent pooling.

RANKINGS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - ranked the most popular global leader with an approval rating of 71%, according to a survey undertaken by US consulting firm Morning Consult.**

List of global approval ratings of world leaders

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Narendra Modi (India)	71%
Andrés Manuel López Obrador (Mexico)	66%
Mario Draghi (Italy)	60%
Fumio Kishida (Japan)	48%
Joe Biden (USA)	43%
Justin Trudeau (Canada)	43%
Scott Morrison (Australia)	41%
Moon Jae-in (South Korea)	38%
Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil)	37%
Emmanuel Macron (France)	34%
Boris Johnson (UK)	26%

(Source: morningconsult)



- ✓ He was followed by Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador (66%), Italy's Mario Draghi (60%) and Japan's Fumio Kishida (48%)
- ✓ PM Modi had the lowest disapproval ratings among all the leaders tracked at 21%.
- ✓ The agency currently tracks the approval ratings of government leaders and country trajectories in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- ✓ The latest approval ratings are based on data collected from January 13-19, 2022.
- ✓ US President Joe Biden had an approval rating of 43% while UK PM Boris Johnson, who is embroiled in the "party gate" controversy, had the lowest approval rating of 26%.
- ✓ French President Emmanuel Macron had a disapproval rating of 59%, South Korean President Moon Jae-in 54%, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison 52% and Canadian PM Justin Trudeau 51%.
- ✓ The global leader and country trajectory data is based on a seven-day moving average of all adults in a given country, with a margin of error of between +/-1-3%.

