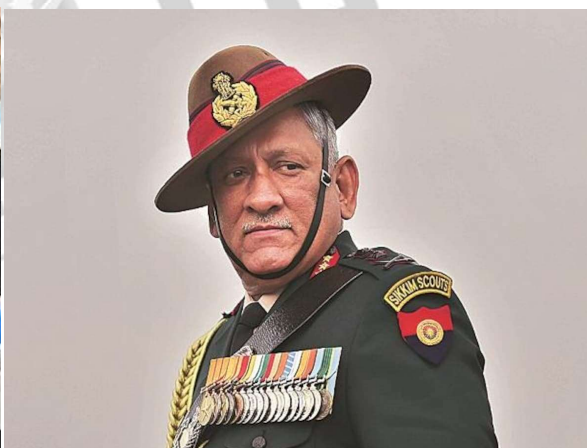


## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS—JANUARY 25, 2022

### STATES

- On January 24, the Gujarat government - named an under-bridge in Rajkot after General Bipin Rawat to honour the country's first Chief of Defence Staff who died in a chopper crash in December.



- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the under-bridge located in Laxmi Nagar area virtually.
- ✓ The bridge was built by Rajkot Municipal Corporation at a cost of ₹42.38 crore
- ✓ General Rawat died on December 8 when his military helicopter crashed near Coonoor in Nilgiris district in Tamil Nadu
- ✓ All 14 on board, including the general's wife, died in the incident
- **Uttar Pradesh - became the first state in India to have administered more than 25 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccine.**
- ✓ As on January 24, Uttar Pradesh has administered at least 25.05 crore out of total 162.7 crore doses in the country.
- ✓ This means that 15.3% of the vaccine used in the country was administered in Uttar Pradesh alone.
- ✓ Other states in India's top five were way behind Uttar Pradesh.

- ✓ In Maharashtra, which is Uttar Pradesh's nearest contender, 14.64 crore doses have been given.
- ✓ It is followed by West Bengal (11.87 crore), Bihar (11.01 crore) and Madhya Pradesh (10.87 crore).
- **The World Bank - has approved a loan of around Rs 1,000 crore (\$125 million) for the West Bengal government**
- ✓ The loan is granted for several development projects related to social protection of poor and vulnerable groups of the society
- ✓ The loan will help the administration improve services such as medical help through telemedicine, support for the elderly and differently-abled, financial inclusion of citizens with digital payments and disbursement of benefits for public schemes
- ✓ The loan is given under the 'West Bengal Building State Capability for Inclusive Social Protection' operation
- ✓ The West Bengal government runs over 400 programmes that provide social assistance, protection, care services and jobs through an umbrella platform, 'Joy Bangla'
- ✓ 'Joy Bangla' is the state's unified delivery system with focus on vulnerable groups such as women, elderly, tribal and scheduled castes, people with disabilities and those in the disaster-prone coastal regions.
- ✓ The state also implements an unique 'Duare Sarkar' (government at your doorstep) programme to ensure improved and faster identification of beneficiaries, providing service delivery at the doorsteps of the citizens and monitoring benefit delivery
- ✓ The state spends more than Rs 20,000 crore annually to run these welfare schemes

## SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Facebook parent company Meta – stated that its newly unveiled AI Research Super Cluster (RSC) will be the fastest in the world by the middle of next year**



- ✓ Meta introduced the AI Research Super Cluster (RSC) on January 24, 2022 and it is not completely built yet.
- ✓ RSC is believed to be among fastest AI supercomputers running today.
- ✓ It can learn from trillions of examples, work across hundreds of languages, and analyze text, images and video together to determine if the content was harmful.
- ✓ The company has reportedly developed the artificial intelligence supercomputer to support the next generation of machine learning and to support its metaverse project
- ✓ Facebook changed its name in October to Meta to reflect its focus on the metaverse, which it plans to be the successor to the mobile internet.
- ✓ The metaverse refers to the idea of shared virtual environments which people can access through different devices and where they can work, play and socialize.
- ✓ Google already has its supercomputer called Sycamore which runs on 53 qubits.

## APPOINTMENTS

- **The government - has appointed Vinodanand Jha as chairperson for the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) Adjudicating Authority based in Delhi.**



- ✓ He has been appointed for a term till June next year.
- ✓ The three-member authority for PMLA cases adjudicates matters related to attachment of assets by the Enforcement Directorate.
- ✓ Jha is a 1983-batch retired IRS officer and has been serving as a member (finance and accounts) in the authority since September 2018.
- ✓ He retired from the income tax as its principal chief commissioner posted in Pune.
- ✓ The decision of the authority and its approval is necessary for the confiscation of assets of an accused after they are attached by the enforcement agencies under the PMLA.
- ✓ The post of a full-time chairperson in the authority has been vacant since September 2020.

- ✓ The posts of two other members in the panel, apart from the chairperson, too are vacant at present.

## AWARDS

- On January 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - conferred the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar (PMRBR) award in the bravery category for the year 2022 to 29 children from across the country at a virtual ceremony.



- ✓ The children have been awarded for “exceptional achievement” in six fields – Innovation (7), Social Service (4), Scholastic (1), Sports (8), Art and Culture (6) and Bravery (3)
- ✓ Each awardee received a medal, cash prize of Rs 1,00,000 and a certificate.
- ✓ In a first, digital certificates were given to the awardees for the years 2022 and 2021 using blockchain technology developed by IIT Kanpur under the National Blockchain Project.
- ✓ A total of 61 digital certificates were issued to the winners of 2021 and 2022 awards
- ✓ The digital certificates are stored on digital wallets installed on the mobile devices of the recipients
- ✓ These certifications are unforgeable, globally verifiable, selectively disclosable and sensitive to user content
- ✓ There are 15 Boys and 14 Girls among the awardees belonging to 21 states and Union territories.
- ✓ Vishalini N C and Aswatha Biju from Tamil Nadu were among the awardees under the category of ‘Innovation’
- ✓ Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani and MoS Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai were also present at the virtual event.

## SPORTS

- India’s opening batswoman Smriti Mandhana - won the ‘Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award’ for the ICC’s Women’s Cricketer of the Year for 2021.





- ✓ This is the second time that Mandhana, who won this award in 2018 earlier, has bagged the prestigious honour.
- ✓ In the year 2021, the classy left-hander scored 855 runs in 22 one day internationals at an average of 38.86 with one century and five half-centuries.
- ✓ The 25-year-old, who hails from Sangli in Maharashtra, scored a brilliant, maiden century in India's first-ever pink ball Test against Australia at Gold Coast.
- ✓ On January 24, the International Council of Cricket (ICC) has announced various awards in the men's and women's category for the year 2021
- ✓ Unfortunately, the Indian cricket team failed to win a single ICC award.
- ✓ This is the first time since 2016 that an Indian player could not win any ICC award in the men's category.
- ✓ No Indian player got a place in ICC's ODI and T20 team for the year 2021
- ✓ For the first time ever in the history of ICC annual Awards, Pakistani players bagged three ICC awards and dominated the list of winners
- ✓ Left-arm pace bowler Shaheen Afridi received the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year.
- ✓ Babar Azam was adjudged ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year, while Mohammad Rizwan won ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year award
- ✓ England Captain Joe Root was adjudged ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year
- ✓ Root was only the third player in history to aggregate over 1700 runs in Test cricket in a calendar year.
- ✓ Only Mohammad Yousuf and Sir Vivian Richards scored more runs than Root.

### **Winners of ICC Awards**

- ✓ ICC Women's Cricketer of the Year: Smriti Mandhana (India)
- ✓ ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year: Shaheen Afridi (Pak)
- ✓ ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year: Joe Root (Eng)
- ✓ ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Babar Azam (Pak)
- ✓ ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: Lizelle Lee (SA)
- ✓ ICC Men's T20I Cricketer of the Year: Mohammad Rizwan (Pak)
- ✓ ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year: Tammy Beaumont (Eng)
- ✓ ICC Emerging Men's Cricketer of the Year: Janneman Malan (SA)

- ✓ ICC Emerging Women's Cricketer of the Year: Fatima Sana (Pak)
  - ✓ ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year: Zeeshan Maqsood (Oman)
  - ✓ ICC Women's Associate Cricketer of the Year: Andrea-Mae Zepeda (Austria)
  - ✓ ICC Umpire of the Year: Marais Erasmus (SA)
- **India women's football team - has withdrawn from the ongoing AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022 tournament following the surge of Covid-19 cases in the team**
- ✓ India's game against Chinese Taipei was cancelled after the host was ineligible to field 13 players due to Covid-19 at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on January 23
  - ✓ India is said to have withdrawn from the tournament in accordance with Article 4.1 of the 'Special Rules Applicable to AFC Competitions during the COVID-19 pandemic'.
  - ✓ The rule suggests that if a participating team has less than 13 players (including one goalkeeper) available for a match for any reason, then the team will not be able to participate in the match.
  - ✓ Hosts India was placed in Group A alongside China, Chinese Taipei, and Iran.
  - ✓ With the withdrawal of India women's football team, all their matches remain canceled and the team will not be able to qualify for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand

## RANKINGS

- **On January 22, Union home minister Amit Shah - launched the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) in Jammu and Kashmir, which is the first Union Territory to have such an index**



- ✓ In the composite ranking of the first ever DGGI, Jammu district has emerged at the top, followed by districts of Doda, Samba, Pulwama and Srinagar in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ The index was prepared by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances with technical support extended by CGG, Hyderabad.

- ✓ The DGGI was released virtually by the Home Minister in presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha
- ✓ The DGGI has been launched for 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir and is a major reform in bench-marking good governance at the district level.
- ✓ The DGGI is a framework document comprising performance under 10 governance sectors having 58 indicators with 116 data points.
- ✓ Previously, the Centre had released the National Good Governance Index on December 25 last year that indicated Jammu and Kashmir saw an increase of 3.7% in Good Governance Indicators from 2019 to 2021

## NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ National Girl Child Day – January 24

- ✓ The Day is observed every year to raise awareness about promoting the rights, education, health, and nutrition of the girl child across the country.
- ✓ The day was initiated first in 2008 by the Ministry of Women and child development to provide support and opportunities to the girls of the country
- ✓ The government has not announced any theme for this year's girl child day.
- ✓ In the year 2021, the theme for the National Girl Child Day was 'Digital Generation, Our Generation'
- ✓ On this day, the Ministry of Culture has organised an event named 'Umang Rangoli Utsav' as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav at more than 50 locations across the country



- ✓ On the occasion of National Girl Child Day and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually interact with Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees.
- ✓ The day is celebrated in line with government campaigns and initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Save the Girl Child, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, free/subsidized education, and women's reservations in colleges and universities.
- ✓ In the year 2021, Punjab government had observed January 2021 as 'Girl Child Month' and Madhya Pradesh celebrated the 'Girl child week' from January 21-26, 2021



- ✓ The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 22, 2015

➤ **International Day of Education - January 24**



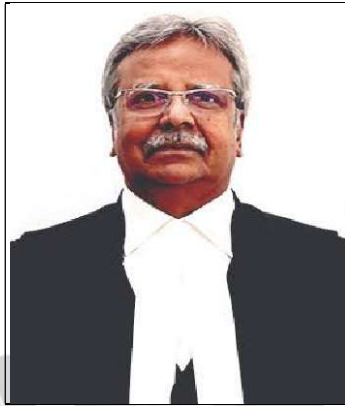
- ✓ The Day is observed annually to celebrate the role of education in peace and development.
- ✓ On 3rd December 2018, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (resolution 73/25) proclaiming 24 January as International Day of Education
- ✓ The adoption of International Day of Education was co-authored by Nigeria and 58 member states
- ✓ The first-ever International Day of Education was observed on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2019
- ✓ Theme 2022 - “Changing Course, Transforming Education.”
- ✓ The right to education is enshrined in article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- ✓ This year, the celebration will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York, Expo 2022 in Dubai, Harvard University Graduate School of Education, and Global Minnesota.
- ✓ Meanwhile, India celebrates its own National Education day celebrated on November 11 to mark the birth anniversary of India’s first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

## **TAMIL NADU’S FOURTH POLICE COMMISSION – A REPORT**

- **On January 24, the Madras high court - has directed the state to clarify whether the appointment of a retired judge as the head of the fourth police commission was in conformity with rules**
- ✓ The first bench of Acting Chief Justice Munishwar Nath Bhandari and Justice P D Audikesavalu issued the direction, pointing out that only the state home secretary should head the commission as per the rules.



- ✓ To this, the government submitted reply that the appointment had been made as per the directions of a division bench of the court.
- ✓ The issue pertains to a batch of pleas challenging the validity of certain provisions of the Tamil Nadu Police (Reforms) Act, 2013.
- ✓ **On January 19, 2022, the Tamil Nadu government constituted a fourth police commission** to enhance the relationship between the police and the public, studying service conditions and duties, modernisation of the police force etc.
- ✓ This four-member commission consists of an IAS officer, an IPS officer (both retired), a mental health expert and a retired professor.
- ✓ The commission will be headed by a retired Madras High Court judge CT Selvam.



- ✓ Retired IAS officer K Allauddin, retired IPS officer K Radhakrishnan, Dr C Ramasubramaniam and retired Prof Nalini Rao would be the members on the panel
- ✓ Senior police official Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal would be the member-secretary.
- ✓ For the first time, a Police Commission in the State is headed by a retired judge and this is done in accordance with the verdict of the Madurai Bench of Madras High Court.
- ✓ The Chief Minister made an announcement for setting up the Fourth Police Commission in the State Assembly on September 13.
- ✓ The commission will undertake an extensive study of various aspects of police departments and the welfare of the police personnel and submit its recommendations within a time frame.
- ✓ The recommendations will help the government in ensuring better policing, preventing cybercrimes and a friendly and humanitarian approach towards the people.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu constituted the first Police Commission under the chairmanship of RA Gopalaswamy, way back in 1969 during the tenure of former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi.
  - ✓ After an in-depth study, the commission submitted 133 recommendations of which 115 were accepted for implementation in 1971.
- ✓ Again, during another tenure of Karunanidhi, the Second Police Commission headed by T Sabanayagam was set up in 1989.

- ✓ After going into the conditions of service, duties and responsibilities of police, the commission came up with 112 recommendations, of which 87 recommendations were implemented.
- ✓ The Third Police Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of R Poornalingam in 2006
- ✓ The previous AIADMK government headed by the then Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced the setting up of the fourth Police Commission headed by retired IAS officer Sheela Priya on October 16, 2019.
- ✓ However, in September 2021, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court ordered the state government to reconstitute the fourth commission, since it had retired bureaucrats and police officials as members, instead of psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and advocates.
- ✓ The DMK government dissolved the commission set up by the AIADMK and constituted an entirely new commission as the fourth police commission.

