# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 3, 2022

## TAMIL NADU

- ➢ **Tamil Nadu - to begin vaccinating children between the ages of 15 and 18 against the coronavirus from January 3, 2022**
- ✓ Chief minister MK Stalin will inaugurate the vaccination programme for children at a government high school in Saidapet.
- ✓ The state has identified more than 33 lakh who are eligible to get vaccinated in this category.
- ✓ They will be administered Bharat Biotech's Covaxin.
- ✓ There are an estimated 7.40 crore children in the 15-18 age group eligible for the vaccination across the entire country
- ✓ As cases rise, the state plans to restrict hospitalisation for those with the Omicron variant to five days as most patients tested negative after the third or the fourth day.
- ✓ Medical teams will virtually monitor patients, who are fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, under home isolation (UK-model), said health minister Ma Subramanian.
- ✓ Meanwhile, acting Chief Justice M N Bhandari, in an order dated January 2, said the Madras high court will not resume physical hearings from January 3 as was announced earlier.
- ✓ All hearings will be conducted in virtual mode till further notice, the order said.
- ✓ The orders apply to the functioning of the Principal Seat in Chennai as well as the Bench in Madurai and all the subordinate courts in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

## NATIONAL

- ➢ **On January 2, the Centre - told the Supreme Court that it would continue with the ₹8 lakh annual income limit criteria for economically weaker section (EWS) reservations**

✓ This is based on the recommendations made by an expert committee set up to revisit this criterion for availing 10% reservation in admissions to educational institutions, including medical colleges, and government jobs
✓ The committee advised implementation of its recommendations from next year
✓ The three-member committee comprises former union finance secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey, member secretary ICSSR VK Malhotra, and principal economic advisor Sanjeev Sanyal
✓ Apart from the income limit, other conditions for EWS recommendation includes whether the beneficiary's family own or possess five acres of agricultural land, a residential flat of 1,000 square feet and above or residential plot of 100/200 square yards and above in notified/non-notified municipalities.
✓ The committee altogether omitted the residential asset criteria but retained the five acre agricultural plot criteria, which was also accepted by the Centre
✓ The income criterion for identifying EWS was introduced by a notification dated January 17, 2019
✓ The committee was formed on November 30 after the Supreme Court raised doubts over 10% EWS and 27% OBC quota in NEET-PG admissions in 2020-21 academic session
✓ The Centre put on hold the NEET-PG counselling process in view of the case pending before the Supreme Court

➢ **The toll collection across national highways and state roads through FASTags – touched an all-time peak in December, at ₹3,679 crore, which was ₹119 crore per day.**
✓ Nearly 98% of the total toll collected through FASTag accounts for only National Highway stretches.
✓ According to data captured by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the toll collection increased by ₹502 crore in December compared to November last year.
✓ The year-on-year comparison also shows that the toll collection increased by ₹1,375 crore in last month against ₹2,304 crore in December 2020.

➢ **India - has appealed against a ruling of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) trade dispute settlement panel.**
✓ Earlier, the panel had ruled that the country's domestic support measures for sugar and sugarcane are inconsistent with global trade norms.
✓ The appeal was filed by India in the WTO's appellate body, which is the final authority on such trade disputes.
✓ India has stated that the WTO's dispute panel ruling has made certain "erroneous" findings about domestic schemes to support sugarcane producers and exports and the findings of the panel are completely "unacceptable" to it.
✓ The panel in its ruling on December 14, 2021 recommended India to withdraw its alleged prohibited subsidies within 120 days.

# APPOINTMENTS

➢ **Indian-origin Ashok Elluswamy - became the first employee to be hired for his electric vehicle company's Autopilot team**



✓ This was announced by Tesla founder and CEO Elon Musk
✓ According to Musk, Ashok will be the head of Autopilot engineering.
✓ Before joining Tesla, Elluswamy worked with Volkswagen Electronic Research Lab and Wabco Vehicle Control System.
✓ He holds a bachelor's degree in electronics and communication engineering from College of Engineering Guindy, Chennai, and a Master's degree in robotics system development from Carnegie Mellon University.

# NATIONAL DAY

➢ **Savitribai Phule Jayanti – January 3**



Savitribai Phule
(3 January 1831- 10 March 1897)

- The birth anniversary of social reformer, an educationalist and poetess from the state of Maharashtra, who fought for women's rights, Savitribai Phule is celebrated across the country on January 3
- Phule was born on January 3, 1831 in Maharashtra, and is remembered for her vital role in championing women rights in India.
- Her birthday is known as 'Balika Din' in Maharashtra, and is celebrated in many girls' schools
- Savitribai, together with her husband Jyotirao Phule, founded one of India's first girls' schools in Pune, at Bhide Wada, in 1848
- Apart from that, Savitribai Phule became the first Indian woman to become a teacher at a time when girls were not allowed to attend schools.
- She is also regarded as the first female teacher as well as the first Indian headmistress of India.
- Phule later opened a women's shelter called the Home for the Prevention of Infanticide where widows could deliver their children and leave them for adoption if they wanted.
- She was against the child marriage and strongly opposed the Sati tradition.
- Phule advocated for inter-caste marriages, and along with her husband, founded the 'Satyashodhak Samaj', which organised marriages without priests and dowry.
- She died on March 10, 1897 at the age of 66 in Pune, during the bubonic plague