

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - ENGLISH JANUARY-2021



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

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## 1.TAMIL NADU NEWS

### **Sanjib Banerjee, 50th Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court**

- Sanjib Banerjee, former Chief Justice of the Kolkata High Court, has been recommended for appointment as the new Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court.
- Sanjeev Banerjee took over as the Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court on (Jan. 4). He was administered the oath of office by Governor Banwari Lal Purohit.
- Sanjeev Banerjee is the 50th Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court.
- This makes Sanjeev Banerjee the 42nd Chief Justice of the Chennai High Court, which was established in 1862, and the 31st Chief Justice since independence.
- Chennai High Court Judges, Speaker Danapal, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palanisamy, Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneer Selvam, Tamil Nadu Ministers, Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam, Tamil Nadu Police DGP Tripathi, Chennai Metropolitan Police Commissioner Maheshkumar Agarwal, retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and former Governor of Kerala Sathasivam were among those present.

### **Nammazhvar memorial event held at Kuruvadipatti**

- Nammazhvar memorial event organised by SASTRA, Deemed to be University, in association with Save Our Rice Programme of CREATE, at Kuruvadipatti village.
- 20 traditional rice varieties, including Karuppu kouni, Mappillai samba, Thanga samba, Seeraga samba and Karungaruvai.

### **ISRO chief Sivan's tenure extended by one year**

- The tenure has been extended till January 14, 2022. K. Sivan from Tamil Nadu was appointed as the Chairman of ISRO on 15th January 2018.

### **Wildlife officials told to keep tabs on migratory birds' health**

- 15 bird sanctuaries in Tamilnadu.
- The Forest Department is monitoring the well-being of migratory birds in sanctuaries after numerous birds died in Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and different States owing to fowl flu.
- Two lakh migratory birds have been tenting within the sanctuaries at Point Calimere in Nagapattinam district, Vaduvor and Vijayamardhandam in Tiruvarur district and Karaivetti in Ariyalur district.



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## **Thai Poesam a public holiday in Tamil Nadu from this year: Chief Minister**

- Edappadi K. Palanisamy has announced that the first public holiday will be left for the Thaipusam festival (Jan. 28).
- Thaipusam is one of the most important festivals celebrated in Tamil Nadu in honor of the Tamil God Murugan. The festival is celebrated in Kerala, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Mauritius and Indonesia.
- **Number of Holidays:** The number of public holidays in Tamil Nadu has increased from 22 to 23 due to Thaipusam holiday.

## **Increase in Orange yield in Kodaikanal due to snowfall**

- Farmers in Kodaikanal are happy with the increase in orange production due to heavy snowfall.
- Orange is cultivated on hundreds of acres in Kodaikanal hills including Adukkam, Thamaraikulam, Pannaikadu, Uthu, Thandikudi, Vadakavunchi, Perumal Malai, Pachaloo, Vadakaraiparai, Machuo and Valaigiri.

## **Rs. 1 crore biodiversity conservation forest**

- As a measure to protect wildlife in Perambalur district, the emerging biodiversity reserve of Rs 1 crore projects has been well received by the public and farmers.
- The District Forest Department is developing a Biodiversity Conservation Forest in the Chittali Forest Reserve at an estimated cost of about one crore rupees under the Tamil Nadu Forest Development Project.
- Planned to cultivate many varieties of saplings including Alamaram, Arasamaram, Naval, Iluppai, Atthi Maram, Vengai, Vagai, Pungan, Neer, Marudhu, and Vembu to plant them after one year.

## **Chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurates 7 bridges across Tamil Nadu**

- Chief minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurates the bridge built at Salem District Tiruchengode-Ariyanoo Road Rs. 45 Crore, Rajapalayam-Ayyanar Kovil Way Shenbagathoppu Road, the bridge built at Thenral Nagar and the bridge built at Thisayanvilai-Udankudi road in Thoothukudi district.
- C.M also inaugurated the bridge over the Sengamedu-Manamadai-Vettikkadu road in Pudukkottai district, the railway underpass between Poolanandapuram in Theni district, the Peelamedu-Coimbatore North railway station in Coimbatore district, the Pungamadu in Salem district and the bridges across the Salem Vashishta river.
- **Laying of foundation stone for projects:** Chief minister Palanisamy laid the foundation stone for projects worth a total of Rs. 24.78 crore in Mayiladuthurai

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district such as construction of flood waters, construction of dams in Virudhunagar district and construction of dams in Madurai district.

- MSME - Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- SIDCO - Small Industries Development Corporation Limited
- EGCLC - Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme
- CODISSIA - Coimbatore District Small Industries Association
- TNPCB - Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board
- TANSIDCO - Tamilnadu Small Industries Development Corporation Limited
- CORUS - Covid Relief And Upliftment Scheme
- TIIC - Tamilnadu Industrial Investment Corporation Ltd
- UYEGP - Unemployed Youth Employment Generation Programme
- NEEDS - New Entrepreneur Cum Enterprise Development Scheme

## **New fruit fly named after Siruvani**

- It was discovered in a non-forest area in Coimbatore district.
- The fruit fly *Euphranta siruvani*, of the family Tephritidae
- 104 known species of the genus *Euphranta* are distributed across the world, of which 14 are found in India.
- This fruit fly is differentiated from the other species of *Euphranta* by the presence of a 'V' shaped black band on the wing and prominent subapical band connected to the apical black patch.

## **Siruvani hills identified as butterfly super-hotspot**

- TNBS finds 240 species in the area, out of the 325 ones documented in State.
- A six-year research performed by **The Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS)** has recognized Siruvani hills in Coimbatore district as a butterfly super-hotspot.
- Members of TNBS documented 240 (74%) out of 325 butterfly species present in T.N. from Siruvani hills between March 2015 and December 2020.
- The 240 butterflies are from six households – Swallowtails (17), Whites and Yellows (28), Brush-footed Butterflies (72), Blues (69), Metalmarks (1) and Skippers (53).
- The Brush-footed butterflies households are probably the most dominant right here and uncommon sightings embody Nilgiri Tiger, Malabar Tree Nymph, Tawny Rajah and Tamil Catseye, says the report.
- Many-tailed Oakblue, a tiny butterfly with flashing blue internal wings is an iconic illustration of Siruvani hills.

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- As per the report, uncommon butterflies from the Blues household akin to Abnormal Silverline, Shiva Sunbeam, Large 4-lineblue, Dark Ceylon 6-lineblue, Kanara Oakblue, Common Onyx and Malabar Flash are seen.

## Book Arena

- ✓ Thalamai Panbugal - Iraianbu
- ✓ Kaala paani - Dr.M.Rajendran IAS
- ✓ Annalaarin Aalumaigal - K.V.S Habeeb Mohamed
- ✓ Panchadasi - Sri Vidhyaranya Swamis, Sri Nithiyananda Swamis, Sri Veera. Subbaiah Swamis.
- ✓ Pondicherry city and its streets during the French period - N.Rasaselvam

## Swedish manufacturer chooses Tamil Nadu over Vietnam

- Autoliv Inc. pledges ₹100 crore to make air-bags in Cheyyar
- The project is expected to create jobs for over 400 people.
- A government source said, "They found the ecosystem in Tamil Nadu conducive to manufacturing and saw the State as a viable alternative to countries such as Vietnam, Thailand and the Philippines."
- "It makes economic sense for the company to set up a plant here as Chennai is the Detroit of India and major car-makers have a presence here," said a source in the automobile industry.
- In 2020, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles said it would expand its portfolio with an investment of ₹2,277 crore and generate jobs for 400 people.
- Netherlands-based Dinex proposed a project to manufacture auto components at Mahindra World City, entailing ₹100 crore in investment.
- In December last, the State government inked a deal with Ola Electric Mobility for setting up an electric two-wheeler manufacturing unit at Hosur at an investment of ₹2,354 crore.

## Rahul Gandhi watched jallikattu

- Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visit Tamil Nadu on January 14 during Pongal and Watched jallikattu (a traditional bull taming sport) at Avaniyapuram near Madurai.

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## V.O. Chidambaranar Port achieves new record in single day cargo handling & unloading

- V. O. Chidambaranar Port Trust (VOC Port) registered another new record by handling 1,89,395 tonnes of cargo in a single day on June 12, 2020, surpassing the earlier single day record of 1,80,597 tonnes on July 26, 2019, informed a release.
- The vessel – M V SSL Brahmaputra – with a size total of 260.05 metre with service rotation on the Tuticorin - Kandla (Gujarat) - Pipavav (Gujarat) - Cochin - Tuticorin was berthed right here on January 8.
- The 4413 TEUs of containers had been dealt with at a gross crane strikes per hour per crane of 25 strikes.
- The earlier document of 3,979 TEUs of containers dealt with from a single vessel on February 10, 2018.

## 74 MoUs envisaging ₹61,514-crore funding signed in Tamil Nadu

- The Amma authorities had issued an historic order offering them with 7.5% horizontal reservation.
- Through the 'Kudimaramathu' scheme, tanks, ponds, and 'ooranies' [waterbodies meant for drinking water], the place silt had not been cleared for years, had been cleaned in order that not a drop of rainwater goes waste.
- This 12 months [2020-21] alone, 74 memoranda of understanding had been signed, envisaging a funding of ₹61,514 crore and era of 1 lakh jobs. Besides, basis stones had been laid for a ₹5,000-crore IT park of DLF, a ₹1,500-crore Ascendas Radial IT park, a ₹250-crore Tidel Park at Pattabiram and a ₹250-crore mission for an aerohub at Sriperumbudur's Aerospace Park.

## Pongal Festival: Worship of Karikal Chola

- For the second year in a row on behalf of the Cauvery Rights Redemption Committee, Maman Karikala Cholan was worshiped at the fort in Thanjavur district.

## Hoisting of holy flags to mark the Kandoori festival at the Nagore Dargah

- This year's 464th Kandoori Festival kicked off with flag hoisting.
- Only 8 vehicles were present in the flag procession. Boat Mayil, Mandhiri Kapal, Teesta Kapal, Setty Pallaku, Sinna Ratham, Periya Ratham, Sambirani Satti took part in the procession.
- Beer seating ceremony on the 22nd, a sandalwood nest procession on the 23rd and a sandalwood painting on the 24th.
- Beer beach event on the 25th and a flag unveiling event on the 27th.

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## **Tamil Nadu CM inaugurates COVID-19 vaccination drive in Madurai**

- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami inaugurated the COVID-19 vaccination programme in the State at the Government Rajaji Hospital.
- Indian Medical Association national president J.A. Jayalal.
- Corona vaccination is being carried out in 166 centers in Tamil Nadu. This was started by Chief Minister Edappadi Palanichamy at the Madurai Rajaji Government Hospital.
- The first vaccination was given to Dr. Senthil at the Rajaji Government Hospital.
- 2nd was to IMA National President Jayalal and 3rd was to health worker Muthumari

## **Sri Thyagaraja aradhana to be held on Feb. 1 & 2**

- The 174th annual aradhana of saint composer Sri Thyagaraja will be held at Tiruvaiyaru in Thanjavur district on February 1 and 2.
- The 'pandhakaal' for the forthcoming festival was installed at Tiruvaiyaru.

## **Intrusion of African catfish into delta districts feared**

- The heavy spells of rain and floods in the delta districts in recent months have triggered fear among fish rearers over possible influx of alien fish species into fishing ponds.
- Last August, the National Green Tribunal issued an order banning the farming of African catfish under the Biological Diversity Act, 2020.

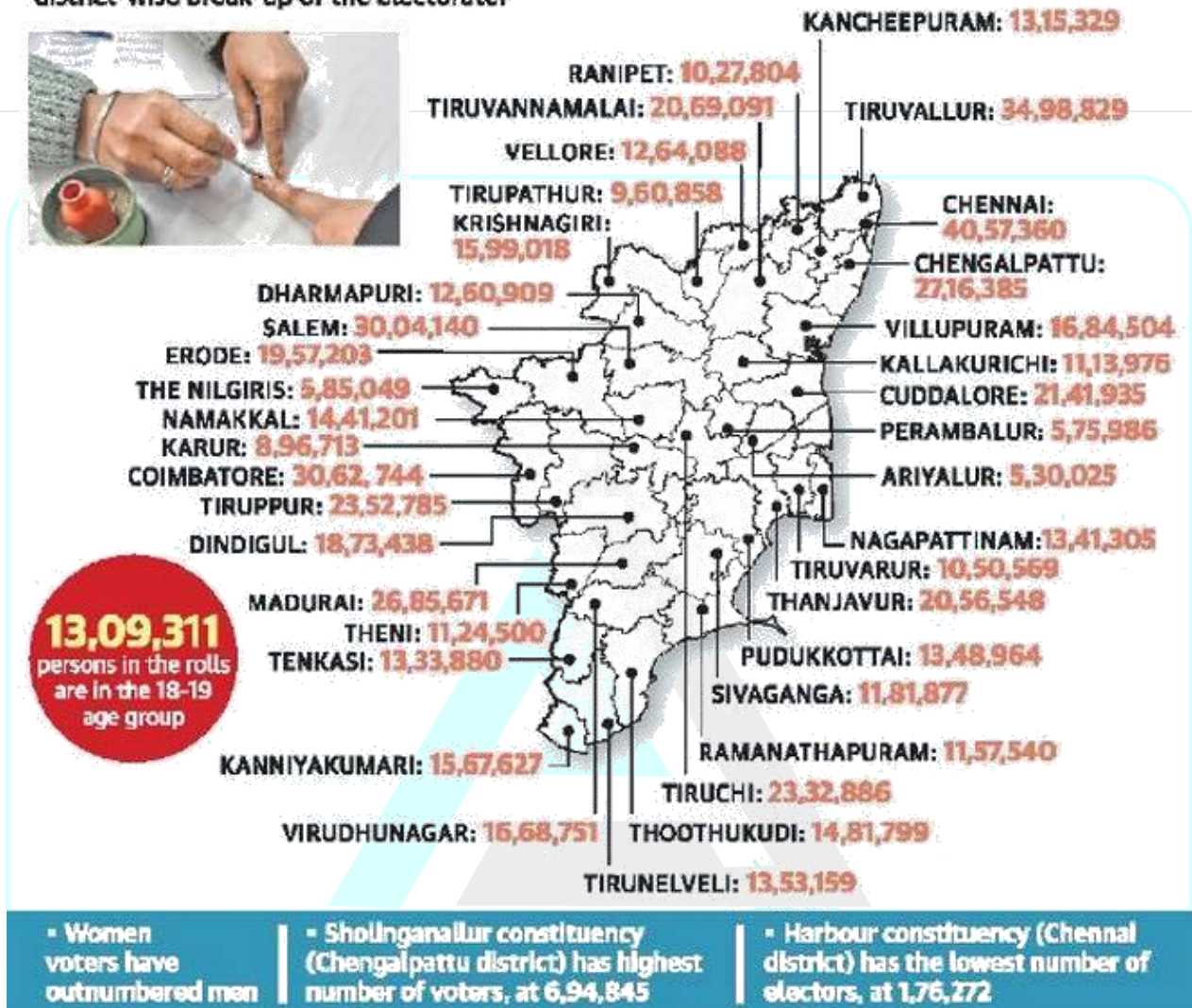
## **Tamil Nadu electorate stands at 6.26 crore**

- The electorate in Tamil Nadu stands at 6.26 crore, including 3.18 crore women, 3.08 men and over 7,246 persons from the third gender, according to the Election Commission of India.
- Highest number of voters is Shozhinganallur in Chengalpattu district with 6,94,845 electors (Men 3,48,262, Women 3,46,476, Third gender, 107).
- Lowest number is Chennai's Harbour here with 1,76,272 electors (Men 91,936, Women, 84,281, Third gender, 55).
- 13.09 lakh young voters There are 13 lakh 9 thousand 311 young voters in Tamil Nadu between the ages of 18 and 19.



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**Voter count** | The names of 3.18 crore women, 3.08 crore men and over 7,200 persons from the third gender have been published in the State's final electoral rolls. Here is a district-wise break-up of the electorate:



## Sundaram Finance names Lochan as MD

- Sundaram Finance Ltd. has named Rajiv Lochan as its next Managing Director, after the current incumbent T. T. Srinivasaraghavan retires on March 31. Mr. Lochan, who is director-strategy, will assume office on April 1.

## Sweets, prayers and souvenirs in Kamala Harris's ancestral village Thulasendrapuram

- Thulasendrapuram, the ancestral village of new U.S.Vice-President Kamala Harris in Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu.
- Kamala Harris' mother Shyamala Gopalan is from Chennai. Kamala Harris' maternal grandfather is from Thiruvarur district. Kamala Harris' grandfather Gopalan hails from Tulasendrapuram in the village of Painganadu. It is noteworthy that he served as a civil service officer during the English period.

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## Keezhadi seventh phase excavation to begin in February

- The seventh phase of excavation at Keezhadi and surrounding three villages -- Agaram, Kondhagai and Manalur will begin in the first week of February, as per a news report. The sixth phase of excavations ended in October 2020.
- The first phase of excavations at the Lower School Market Grounds in Sivagangai district began in 2015.
- So far 6 phases of excavations have been completed. The first 3 phases of excavations have been carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India. Following this, the Archaeological Survey of Tamil Nadu conducted excavations in Phases 4, 5 and 6.
- In this context, the Central Archaeological Advisory Board Standing Committee has recently approved to carry out archeological excavations in the areas of Keezhadi, Adichanalloo, Sivakalai, Korkai, Kodumanal, Mayiladumparai, Gangai Konda Cholapuram-Maligaimedu.
- Accordingly, excavation sites are to be excavated in Sivagangai district, Lower, Manalu, Kontagai and Agaram areas in a couple of days using various modern technologies such as ground penetration remote control and unmanned aerial vehicle inspection.





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## Varsity sets up centre on MGR's legacy

- During the centenary celebrations of the University of Chennai, it was announced in 2018 that the Dr. MGO Community Development Research Center will be set up on the university campus.
- Chief Minister inaugurates centre which has been given a grant of ₹5 crore
- The University of Madras has set up Dr. MGR Social Research Centre to mark the birth anniversary of the former Chief Minister.

## Survey records 149 species of birds, 105 butterflies in Trichy

- As many as 149 bird species and 105 butterfly species were recorded in Trichy district.
- Birds and butterflies survey conducted jointly by the Tropical Butterfly Conservatory, Trichy (TBCT), the forest department and Act for Butterflies, an NGO.
- Some of the unique bird species spotted during the survey are Greater Spotted Eagle, Osprey, Black Winged Kite, Oriental Honey Buzzard, Indian Spotted Eagle, Red Necked Falcon, Booted Eagle, Boneli's Eagle, White Eyed Buzzard, Eurasian Marsh Harrier, Pallid Harrier, Shikra, Black Kite and Brahminy Kite, Crested Serpent Eagle, Short Toed Snake Eagle, Indian Courser, Mottled Wood Owl, Rock Eagle Owl, and Jungle Owlet.

## Padma Awards: CM and Political Leaders, congratulations to the Winners

- Padma Vibhushan Award for late film playback singer and actor SB Balasubramaniam KC Sivasanka, social worker Marachchi Subramanian, late Dr. Thiruvankadam Veeragavan, entrepreneur Sreedha Vembu and founder of the Shanthi Foundation Subramanian have been awarded the Padma Shri.
- Similarly, the Vav Chakra award has been announced for Havildar Palani from Ramanathapuram district who died in an enemy attack while engaged in security work in the country.
- Papammal, a 103-year-old farmer, has been awarded the Padma Shri.

## CM gives away Anna gallantry medals

- A school teacher who risked her life to save her students from an explosion, a veterinary surgeon who rescued an elephant that plunged into a 60-foot deep well, a loco pilot who noticed boulders on railway tracks and saved his passengers and a cab driver who acted swiftly to save the life of an injured policeman were awarded the prestigious Anna Medal for Gallantry during the Republic Day celebrations .
- Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami handed over the medals to the recipients, in the presence of Governor Banwarilal Purohit, Madras High

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Court Chief Justice Sanjib Banerjee and other dignitaries. The Anna Medal for Gallantry (given to government servants and general public categories) carries a cheque of ₹1 lakh, a medal worth ₹9,000 and a certificate.

- On January 29, 2020, P. Mullai, a teacher in Pulivalam Government High School in Sholinghur in Ranipet district, smelled the strong odour of LPG in the neighbourhood. Disregarding her personal safety, she guided her students to safety. “But her selflessness ended in misfortune as the LPG exploded in the neighbourhood, collapsing the house wall adjacent to the school, leaving her injured,” read her citation. She saved her 26 students but had to be admitted to hospital in a highly critical stage. She has recovered eventually.
- Forest Veterinary Assistant Surgeon A. Prakash was involved in the rescue of an elephant that fell into a 60-foot deep well on November 19, 2020 and was actively involved in the rescue that lasted over 18 hours. When the rescued elephant charged at the gathering of the people unexpectedly, Mr. Prakash followed the animal and gave it an anaesthetic drug with his bare hands, after realising there was no time left for loading the tranquilliser gun.
- Loco Pilot J. Suresh of Vaigai Express noticed his train was approaching boulders on the tracks due to a landslide on November 18, 2020. Despite inclement weather and poor visibility, he stopped the train immediately and thereby saved the lives of over 1,500 passengers on board the train.
- R. Pugazendiran of The Nilgiris district saved the life of an injured policeman after a tree fell on the latter on August 5, 2020. Mr. Pugazendiran “reached the spot quickly with his vehicle and rushed the injured police constable to the nearest hospital. The police constable was saved.”
- Inspector of Police T. Magudeeswari of the Prohibition Enforcement Wing in St. Thomas Mount, Sub-Inspector of Police N. Selvaraju of the Central Investigation Unit in Salem, Head Constable S. Shunmuganathan of Srivilliputhur Taluk Police Station in Virudhunagar district and Head Constable S. Rajasekaran of Kilkodungalur Police Station in Tiruvannamalai district received the Gandhi Adigal Police Medal. The Gandhi Adigal Police Medal is awarded to personnel of the Tamil Nadu Police, who have undertaken outstanding work in curtailing illicit liquor. The Award carries a sum of ₹40,000.
- The police stations in Salem Town, Tiruvannamalai Town and Kotturpuram in Chennai received the top three ranking stations across the State. Mr. K.A. Abdul Jabbar from Coimbatore district received the Kottai Ameer Communal Harmony Award for 2021.



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## **TN cabinet gives nod for Rs 52,257 cr investment proposals**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar outlined eight principles to repair strained relations between India and China
- Some of the major investment proposals include one by Tata Electronics to set up a mobile phone component manufacturing facility at an investment of Rs 5,763 crore in Krishnagiri district, which would create 18,250 jobs.
- Taiwan-based Pegatron Corporation would invest Rs 1,100 crore in the first phase in neighbouring Chengalpet district to manufacture mobile phones and create 14,079 new jobs, the release said.
- To manufacture solar photo-voltaic modules, SunEdison would invest Rs 4,629 crore, creating new jobs of 5,397 while Taiwan-based Luxshare to make electronic components in Sriperumbudur district, reviving the factory of Motorola which has been lying 'defunct', the release said.
- Ola Electric would manufacture electric vehicles and batteries at SIPCOT Park in Bargur, Krishnagiri district with investments of Rs 2,354 crore that would create 2,182 jobs.
- German firm Eickhoff Gruppe would invest Rs 621 crore employing 319 people to manufacture gearboxes for wind energy.
- The facility to come up near Chennai is a relocation of the company's production facility from China.
- Berlin-based BASF would invest Rs 345 crore to manufacture auto-emission catalysts in Chengalpet district that would see creation of 235 jobs.
- Lucas TVS would invest Rs 2,500 crore to produce Lithium-Ion batteries in Tiruvallur district, creating 3,500 new jobs while Japan-headquartered Daicel Corporation would set up its first airbag inflator manufacturing unit in Chengalpet district at an investment of 358 crore creating 180 jobs in the region. Seoul-based LS Automotive would invest Rs 250 crore to set up automotive switches in Tiruvallur district employing 200 people.
- Data Patterns would invest Rs 303.52 crore that would create 703 jobs in Chennai to make defence and aerospace related products, under the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor initiative.
- US-based Autoliv Inc would invest Rs 100 crore to manufacture auto-components in SIPCOT Park, Cheyyar in Tiruvannamalai district. The facility would create 400 new jobs, the release said.

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## Temple for MGR, Jayalalitha opens in Tamil Nadu

- The temple -- which was commissioned by the state Revenue Minister RB Udhayakumar whom Ms Jayalalitha had first inducted into the cabinet -- has been constructed on a one-and-a-half-acre plot near the city's T Kallupatti area at a cost of ₹50 lakh. It contains bronze statues of the two leaders.

## Rajeev Ranjan new Chief Secy; outgoing CS Shanmugam becomes advisor to Tamil Nadu govt

- Meanwhile, K Shanmugam, who is retiring from the service this evening will take over as the Advisor to the State government.
- The Tamil Nadu government appointed senior IAS officer and Union fisheries secretary Rajeev Ranjan as the Chief Secretary.
- Ranjan got his graduation degree in physics from Patna University and completed his MBA from IIM Ahmedabad. He even went on to get a postgraduate degree in public policy from the London School of Economics and has done a PhD in management.

## What are the special features of Jayalalitha Memorial?

- Special features of the Jayalalitha Memorial are as follows
- Jayalalitha used to say, "No matter how many times we fall, we will rise again like a phoenix." So his memorial building is world class in the form of a phoenix bird
- three buildings have been constructed at the memorial. The Phoenix Bird Building is located above his tomb. On the left side of the tomb is a museum of 8,555 square feet, and on the right side is a similarly enlightened park. But the infrastructure work in these 2 buildings is not over yet.
- The museum under construction will have a 'digital' photo gallery of Jayalalitha's wax statue, a collection of photographs of her artistic and political achievements, and the awards she has received. Jayalalitha's speech collections in the intellectual park, her speeches are to be broadcast in 'digital' form, like the short stories she told.
- Jayalalitha's mausoleum is built of precious granite stones. Jayalalitha's mottoes 'I am by the people ... I am for the people ...' and 'Peace, prosperity and development' are engraved on the tomb in Tamil and English.
- A bronze statue of MGR Jayalalitha with a pedestal is installed at the entrance to the memorial. In front of the entrance to the mausoleum is a beautifully carved black stone, majestic lion statue designed and installed.
- A modern 110 feet long walkway with a roof has been set up on both sides to access the Jayalalitha memorial. Solar panels are mounted on these roofs. The electricity available through this is to be used for the Jayalalitha memorial.

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- On the advice of horticulturists, a variety of beautiful plants and trees have been planted along with the ponds to enhance the environment. A 'Miyawaki' garden has also been set up.
- As the memorial is located along the Marina Beach, polyurethane chemically coated concrete surfaces have been laid so that the building is not affected by weather and salt winds.
- M.G.R. An unquenchable lamp has been set up at Jayalalithaa's tomb as it is in the tomb.
- The Jayalalithaa Memorial is a scenic spot with high quality marble, granite, glass pedestals, lawns, water pools, beautiful plants, trees and colorful lanterns.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 2.SPECIAL NEWS (January-2021)

### **A leopard count with a missing benchmark number**

- India's leopard population increases by 60% in 4 years" [since 2014]
- In 2014, the study estimated a minimum leopard population of 7,910 individuals from 18 different Indian States covering a study area of 92,164 square kilometres.
- The report, Status of leopards in India, 2018, distinctly mentions that the figure is the 'minimum number', the way it was launched has depicted that the country has 12,852 leopards.

### **THE MAIN THREATS**

- **Habitat loss** due to mining and quarrying
- **Poaching** for body parts
- **Mortality** due to vehicular collisions
- **Accidental deaths** due to snares set for catching wild prey all seem to be impacting the conservation of this rosette-patterned cat.

### **2020: India's record year in agricultural production**

- The contribution of the agricultural sector to the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is about 15 per cent.
- Growth in agriculture and allied sectors was 3.4 per cent in the first and second quarters of the year.
- Food grain production during the cultivation season 2019-20 (July to June) was 296.65 million tonnes. This is up from 300 million tonnes in 2020-21 (current year).
- Rs 1,42,761 crore allocated for agriculture and allied sectors in the Union Budget tabled last February.



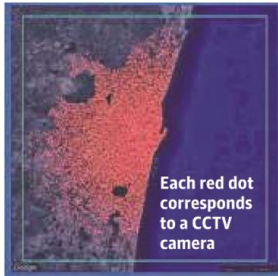
## DATA POINT

### All eyes on you

Chennai had the highest number of CCTV cameras per sq. km. globally, according to a recent report by surfshark.com, which uses data up to 36 months old. Delhi and Hyderabad also featured in the top 10 list. However, six cities in the top 10 are in China, with London being the only city outside Asia to feature in the list. However, perception of the crime level in a city does not correlate with the number of CCTVs in a city

### CHENNAI UNDER WATCH

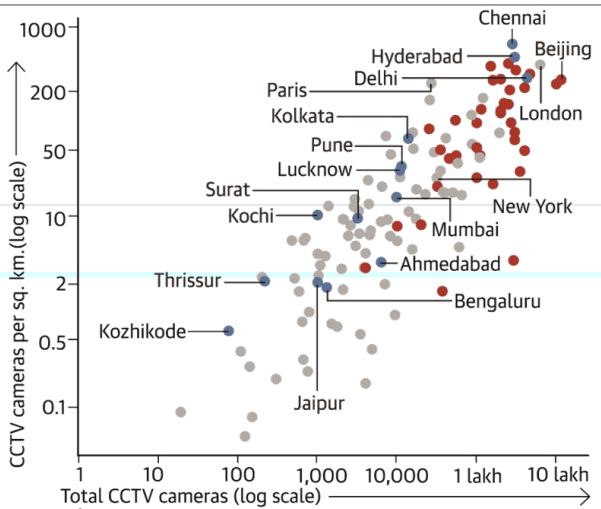
Chennai had as many as **657** CCTV cameras per sq. km., making it the city with the highest camera density in the world.



\*Crime index is a value between 0 and 100 where a higher value indicates higher crime level. The index measures the perception of crime levels in a city and is computed based on surveys conducted by Numbeo.com. Surfshark.com collated the number of CCTV cameras in each city from hundreds of sources, including Reuters, Global Government Forum and 360kuai

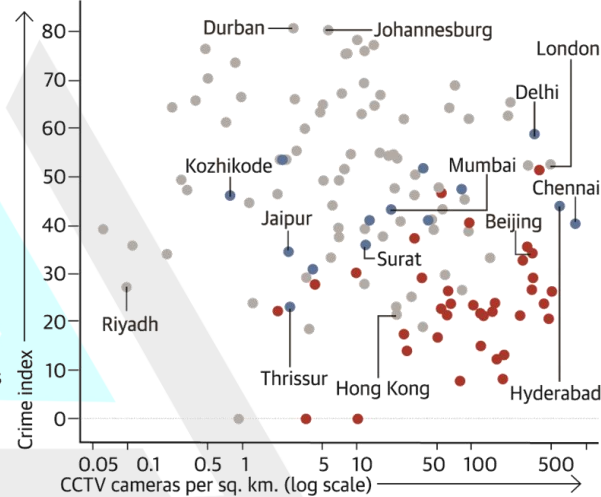
### CAMERA COUNT

The chart plots the number of CCTV cameras in 130 cities worldwide against the number of cameras per sq. km. While three Indian cities – Chennai (1st), Hyderabad (2nd), and Delhi (8th) – featured in the top 10 list of most CCTVs per sq. km., as many as 20 out of the 30 most camera dense cities were from China (●)



### NOT A DETERRENT I

The chart plots the number of CCTV cameras per sq. km against the crime index\* in 130 cities worldwide. Though India (●) and China (●) had a similar density of CCTV cameras, the crime index in Chinese cities was markedly lower. Thus, more CCTV cameras do not necessarily correspond to lower crime rates as cultural, economic, and political factors also play a significant role in a city's crime rate



## New freight corridor a big boost: PM

### Infra Boost

PM inaugurates large section of eastern DFC

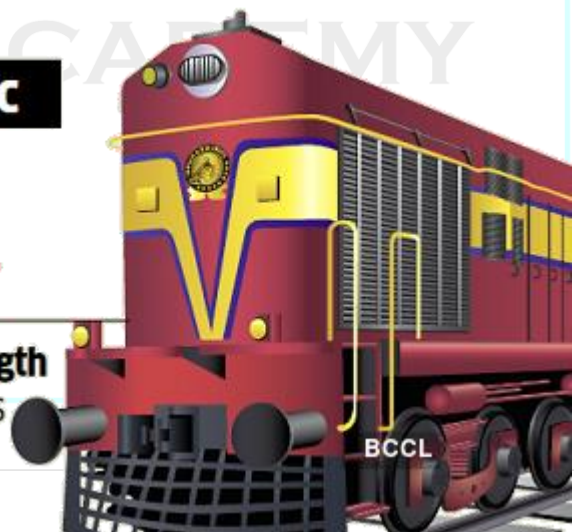
Says trains will move faster, carry more load on DFCs

Boost to exports, ease of doing business

### ABOUT DFC

Total cost estimated at **₹81,459 cr**

Cumulative length of two corridors over **3k Km**



- PM flags off world's first 1.5 km-long electrified double stack container train.
- Compared to the previous freight train average speed of 25 km/hour, the maximum of 90 km/hour had now been achieved, Mr.Modi pointed out.

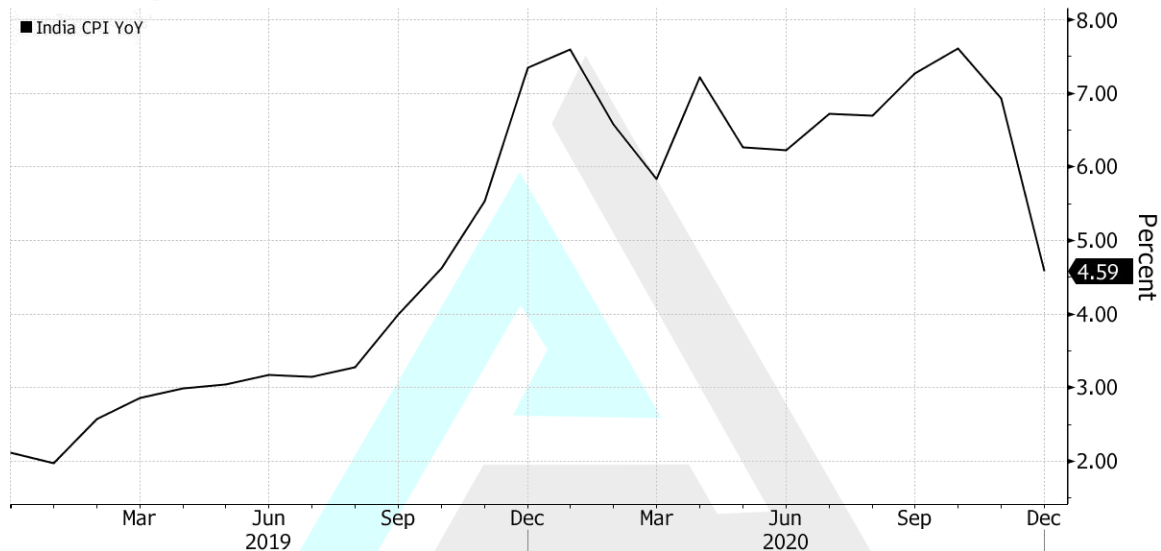
# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India is currently constructing the Western DFC (1,506 km) and Eastern DFC (1,875 km).
- The Eastern DFC, starting from Sahnewal near Ludhiana in Punjab, will pass through Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand and terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.
- The Western corridor connecting Dadri in Uttar Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai will cover Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra.

## Inflation slows to 4.59% as food prices ease

### Inflation Softens

Consumer price inflation cooled to a 15-month low in December



Source: Ministry of Statistics

- India's retail inflation decelerated appreciably to 4.59% in December, from 6.93% in November, dipping below 6% for the first time since March 2020 as food prices cooled.
- National Statistical Office (NSO)
- India's index of industrial production (IIP) for November was dragged lower by mining and manufacturing.
- Mining output contracted 7.3% in the month, while manufacturing declined 1.7%

### KEY POINTS

- Food inflation eased to 3.41% from 9.43% the previous month
- Fuel and lighting prices rose 2.99%
- Clothing and footwear costs rose 3.49%
- Housing prices gained 3.21%
- Separate data showed factory output declined 1.9% in November after rising 3.6% previous month

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## **Biden ropes in 20 Indian-Americans, 17 in key White House positions**

- Biden the 46th President of the United States.
- Harris, 56, is also the first ever Indian-origin and African American to be sworn in as the vice president of the United States.
- Kamala Harris will be sworn in by Supreme Court female judge Sonia Sotomayor.
- Joe Biden has either nominated or named at least 20 Indian Americans, **including 13 women**, to key positions in his administration.
- Neera Tanden, who has been nominated as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget
- Dr Vivek Murthy, who has been nominated as the US Surgeon General.
- Vanita Gupta has been nominated as Associate Attorney General Department of Justice
- Biden nominated a former foreign service official Uzra Zeya as the Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights.
- Mala Adiga has been appointed as Policy Director to the future First Lady Dr Jill Biden
- Garima Verma would be the Digital Director of the Office of the First Lady
- Sabrina Singh has been named as her Deputy Press Secretary.

## **Roots to Kashmir**

- **Aisha Shah, who has been named as Partnership Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy**
- **Sameera Fazili, who would occupy the key position of Deputy Director at the US National Economic Council (NEC) in the White House.**
- Bharat Ramamurti, as Deputy Director.
- Gautam Raghavan, who served at the White House in the previous Obama Administration returns to the White House as Deputy Director in Office of Presidential Personnel.
- Vinay Reddy, who has been named as Director Speechwriting.
- Young Vedant as Assistant Press Secretary to the President.
- Tarun Chhabra: Senior Director for Technology and National Security
- Sumona Guha: Senior Director for South Asia
- Shanthi Kalathil: Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights.
- Sonia Aggarwal has been named Senior Advisor for Climate Policy and Innovation in the Office of the Domestic Climate Policy
- Vidur Sharma has been appointed as Policy Advisor for Testing for the White House Covid-19 Response Team.
- Neha Gupta as Associate Counsel
- Reema Shah as Deputy Associate Counsel.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Kerala on alert after bird flu in two districts

- Kerala was placed on high alert after an outbreak of bird flu was confirmed in Kottayam and Alappuzha districts.
- H5N8 subtype of the Influenza A virus was reported in ducks in Thalavadi, Thakazhy, Pallipad and Karuvatta in Alappuzha district and Neendoor in Kottayam district.
- Five of eight samples airlifted to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, Bhopal, tested positive for the virus.

**Influenza Type A Viruses**

**Subtypes**

- Hemagglutinin (HA)
- Neuraminidase (NA)

(Viruses are divided into subtypes on the basis of two proteins on the surface of the virus)

- 18 known HA subtypes
- 11 known NA subtypes

**Different combinations of HA and NA proteins are possible**

- An H7N2 virus designates an influenza A virus subtype that has an HA7 protein and an NA2 protein
- H5N1 virus has an HA5 protein and an NA1 protein

All known subtypes of Influenza A viruses can infect birds, except subtypes H17N10 and H18N11, which have only been found in bats

**Influenza A H5**

- There are nine known subtypes of H5 viruses
- H5N1, H5N2, H5N3, H5N4, H5N5, H5N6, H5N7, H5N8, H5N9

## Panel of experts for avian influenza affected states

- The Central Government is to send a team of experts to states including Kerala and Rajasthan where bird flu cases have been detected.
- Bird flu can be transmitted through farmed ducks, chickens and other migratory birds, including crows.
- More than 69,000 birds have been killed in Kerala alone, said K. Raju, the state minister for animal husbandry.

## Confirmation of bird flu in 10 states

- The virus has already been confirmed to spread to 7 states **namely Kerala, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh.**
- The virus is currently spreading in the capital **Delhi**. Numerous ducks and crows lay dead in the Sanjay Lake and parks there. Their samples are tested in a laboratory in Jalandhar and the virus is confirmed.
- Numerous birds were found dead in areas including Parbhani, Mumbai and Thane in the **Maharashtra**.
- More than 200 birds, including numerous crows, have been found dead in bird flu in areas including Dehradun and Rishikesh, the capital of **Uttarakhand**.
- This has increased the number of bird flu affected states in the country to 10.



## 3. IMPORTANT EVENTS

### Malaysian Award for Veerayuga Man Velpari Novel

- Madurai Lok Sabha member and writer S. Venkatesh's novel 'Veerayuga Nayakan Velpari' has been shortlisted for the Malaysian award.
- The novel has been hailed as one of the world's best works by the National Land Finance Cooperative Society of Malaysia's **Tan Sri K.A. Soma Language Literary Association**.
- The biennial award carries a cash prize of US \$ 10,000 (approximately Rs. 7 lakhs in Indian currency).
- The first novel written by S. Venkatesh, 'Kaval Kottam', won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2011.
- It is noteworthy that the novel 'Veerayuganayakan Velpari' has a large readership in Malaysia and the novel Velpari is a textbook of Tamil language studies at the University of Malaysia.

### BJP national leader JP Natta participate in Thuglak anniversary event

- BJP national leader JP Natta visits Chennai on January 14, Pongal, to participate as a chief guest in the event marking the fifty-first anniversary of Thuglak.
- Last year (2019), Vice President Venkaiah Naidu was present for the event.

### Nomination of members to Delhi Tamil Academy

- Thirteen members have been appointed to the Tamil Academy announced by the Government of Delhi to promote the Tamil language and culture.
- It is chaired by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and chaired by former Delhi Municipal Council N. Raja has been appointed by the Delhi government.
- Selvanayagam, R. Rakesh, R. Mani, G.N.D Ilangoan, G. Krishan, G. Jawahar, Sudha Raguraman and Deepa Murugesan have been appointed as members.
- Sanjay Jain, Secretary, Department of Arts, Culture and Languages, Government of Delhi, said in a statement that all but the office bearers will hold office for two years.

### Key nutrition committees fail to meet

- Chandrakant S. Pandav, who is also known as the "Iodine Man of India".
- The National Nutrition Council (NNC), headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar and including 12 Union Ministers and five Chief Ministers on a rotational basis

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Executive Committee (EC) of the National Nutrition Mission headed by the Secretary of the Women and Child Development Ministry Ram Mohan Mishra.
- National Technical Board on Nutrition (NTBN), headed by Member, NITI Aayog, V.K. Paul.

## Only one this year

- The NNC held its last meeting in October 2019.
- EC met last in February 2020.
- According to the NITI Aayog's website, the NTBN has met only twice and its last meeting was held in August 2018.

## 17 hours in air, women crew flying into history

- Air India starts flight from San Francisco to Bengaluru.
- "This will be the longest commercial flight in the world to be operated by Air India or any other airline in India.
- The direct distance between the two cities is 13,993 km, with a time zone change of around 13.5 hours.
- **Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Puri**
- "All women cockpit crew consisting of Capt Zoya Aggarwal, Capt Papagari Thanmai, Capt Akansha Sonaware & Capt Shivani Manhas will operate the historic inaugural flight between Bengaluru & San Francisco,"
- The flight will operate with a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft VT ALG

## Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award Winners from the US

- US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)
- Mukesh Aghi (Business)
- Arvind Phukan (Environment Technology)
- Nilu Gupta (Promoting Indian culture)
- Federation of Indian Associations (NY,NJ,CT) (Community service)
- Sudhakar Jonnalagadda (Medicine)

## Transfer of 20,000 police officers in 2019

- 20,637 police officers have been transferred within the last two years of recruitment in 2019.
- Of these, 12 police commissioners have been transferred within a year and 12 police commissioners within one to two years. A maximum of 6 people have been transferred in Tamil Nadu.
- A total of 14,915 (72.27 percent) police personnel have been transferred, including 8,540 in one year and 6,375 in two years.
- A maximum of 4,209 people have been transferred in Madhya Pradesh.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- 20.90 percent of the posts of Deputy Superintendent of Police and Assistant Commissioner have been transferred.
- Of these, 2,424 have been transferred within a year and 1,891 within a year or two, bringing the total to 4,315.
- A maximum of 525 persons have been transferred in Tamil Nadu within one year and 701 in Uttar Pradesh within one to two years.
- Similarly, 1,118 (5.41 percent) District Superintendents of Police and Deputy Commissioners have been transferred.
- Of these, 602 have been transferred within a year and 516 within one to two years.
- Maximum of these 134 persons have been transferred in Tamil Nadu within one year of employment and 133 persons in Maharashtra within one to two years.
- A total of 265 (1.28 percent) of the posts of DIG, IG, Assistant Commissioner and Additional Commissioner have been transferred to 153 within one year and 112 within one to two years.
- Of these, a maximum of 15 have been transferred in Uttar Pradesh within one year and 22 in Maharashtra within one to two years.
- Statistics of Jharkhand and some Union Territories are not included.

## **S. P. Adithanar Senior Tamil Scholar Award for Dinamani**

- Thiruvalluvar Thirunal Awards and Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards were presented by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Edappadi K. Palanisamy has announced.
- Tamilar Thanthai C.P. Adithyanar News Paper Award for Dinamani.
- Tamilar Thanthai C.P. Adithyanar Weekly Magazine Award for Kalki Weekly Magazine
- Tamilar Thanthai C.P. Adithyanar Thingalilthal Award for Senthamizh Thingal Magazine

## **Thiruvalluvar Award, Chithirai Tamil New Year Awards Announcement**

- Thiruvalluvar Award for the year 2021 - Dr. Vaigaichelvan
- Thanthai Periyar Award for the year 2020 - A. Tamilmagan Hussein
- Annal Ambedkar Award - Varahur A. Arunachalam
- Aringar Anna Award - Amaran Kadampur MR. Janarthanan
- Muthamilk Kaavalar K.A.P. Viswanathan Award - Dr. V. Chethuramalingam
- Perunthalaivar Kamarajar Award - Dr. S. Devaraj
- Mahakavi Bharathiar Award - Poet Poovai Senkuttuvan
- Bavender Bharathidasan Award - Songwriter Knowledge
- Muthamizh Kaavalar Vishvanatham Award - Dr. V. Chethuramalingam

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Thamizh Thendral Thiru.Vi.Ka Award - V.N. Saami
- Chithirai New Year Award - Tamil Thai Award for the year 2020 VGP World Tamil Association
- Kabilar Award - Ch. Elumalai
- Gambar Award - Doctor H.V. Hunte
- Sollin Selvar Award - Nagai Mukundan
- Umaruppulavar Award - h. A. Syed Asan (aka) Paaridasan
- G.U Pope Award - Dr. Ulrike Nicholas from Germany
- Ilangovadigal Award - Ma. Vaidyalingan
- Amma Literary Award - Dr. T. Mahalakshmi
- Sindhanai Sirpi Singaravelan Award - A. Azhagesan
- Maraimalai Adigalar Award - Marai. T. Thayumanavar
- Ayothidas Pandithar Award - Dr. G. P. Sellammal
- Arutperunchothi Vallalar Award - Dr. Ooran Adigal
- Karaikal Ammaiyyar Award - Dr. M. Gnana Poongothai
- 1 lakh each to the award recipients, 5 lakh rupees to the Tamil organization receiving the Tamil Thai award and 25 thousand rupees to each recipient of the Tamil Semmal award.

## **Announcement of the Tamil Semmal Awards for the year 2020**

- The Government of Tamil Nadu has instituted various awards in the name of Tamil scholars and selfless leaders who have contributed to the development of the Tamil language and literature and the upliftment of the Tamil community.
- In this, one person has been announced for each district for the Tamil Chemmal Award for the year 2020.
- Chennai - J.V. karuppusamy
- Tiruvallur - Venu Purushothaman
- Kanchipuram - Dr. Su. Sada Sivam
- Vellore - Dr. S. Akbar Kauser
- Krishnagiri - M. Murugakumaran
- Thiruvannamalai - Dr. R. Venkatesh
- Villupuram - Parikkal N. Chandhiran
- Cuddalore - Dr. J. Raja
- Perambalur - Dr. A. Senthilkumar (aka) Tamilkumaran
- Ariyalur - Dr. S.Sittraasu
- Salem - Poet Pon. Chandran
- Dharmapuri - Pavalar Peru Mullaiarasu
- Namakkal - Mr. P. Muthusamy
- Erode - Dr. K. Sengottayan



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Karur - C. Karthika
- Coimbatore - M.G. Anwar Basha
- Tiruppur - Dr. Durai Angusamy
- Nilgiris - M. Prabhu
- Tiruchirappalli - Somaveerappan
- Pudukkottai - Jeevi (G. Venkatraman)
- Sivagangai - Ira. Sethuraman
- Thanjavur - Mr. Pala. Maaravarman
- Thiruvarur - Rama.Velmurugan
- Nagapattinam - M. Gopalsamy
- Ramanathapuram - A. Muniyaraj
- Madurai - Dr. P. Sathyamoorthy
- Dindigul - T. Thiagarajan
- Theni - T. Karunaisamy
- Virudhunagar - Poet Suraa (aka) S. Ramachandran
- Tirunelveli - V. Senthil Nayakam
- Thoothukudi - S. Kamarasu (Muthalankurichi Kamarasu)
- Kanyakumari - P. Elazar (Mulangulali Pa. Elazar)
- Tirupathur - Dr. S. Saravanan
- Chengalpattu - Nandivaram P. Sampath Kumar
- Ranipettai - Poet Panappakkam K. Sukumar
- Tenkasi - M. Narayanan
- Kallakurichi- C. Udhayan
- Mayiladuthurai - Durai Gunasekaran

## **U.K. invites PM Modi for G7 summit in June**

- The proposed summit will be the first in-person G-7 summit in almost two years, as it will be held in the English region of Cornwall from June 11 to 13.
- Besides India, Australia and South Korea have also been invited as guest countries.
- Modi had attended the G-7 summit in Biarritz in France in August 2019 and was also invited for the 2020 summit hosted by the US.
- This is expected to be Modi's second G-7 summit; his predecessor Manmohan Singh had attended the G-8 summit (it became G-7 from G-8 with the expulsion of Russia in 2014) five times between 2005 and 2009.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Amit Shah to launch Ayushman CAPF healthcare scheme

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to launch the Ayushman healthcare scheme for central paramilitary force personnel in Assam later this week
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY), termed as the biggest government-sponsored healthcare scheme across the globe, in September, 2018.

## Jayalalithaa memorial inauguration on Jan 27

- The memorial, resembling a phoenix, would be surrounded by lush gardens and small ponds, a state-of-the-art museum and a knowledge park.
- **Completion of work in 2 years:** Former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa passed away on December 5, 2016.
- On June 28, 2017, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced in the Legislative Assembly that a huge memorial hall would be set up.
- **How much is the fund?** Rs 15 crore was initially allocated to set up a memorial for former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.
- This fund was increased to **Rs.79 crore.**
- **Allocation details raised during various periods:**
- **December 7, 2016:** Allocation of Rs.15 crore.
- **January 10, 2018:** An additional allocation of Rs 35.80 crore.
- **July 27, 2020:** An additional Rs 7 crore 16 lakh 14, 524 has been allocated for the memorial work.
- **November 13, 2020:** An additional allocation of Rs 21 crore 79 lakh 45 thousand.

## Republic Day parade: Tamil Nadu tableau showcases replica of Pallava dynasty monuments

- This is the third time this year that the Government of Tamil Nadu has been featured in the 71st Republic Day Parade in Delhi.
- This time, a decorative show depicting the sculptural art of Mamallapuram is participating.
- The front portion of the tableau showed a replica of a rock-cut structure as seen in the 'Pancha Rathas' group of monuments in Mamallapuram.
- Bharatanatyam and Nathaswara music performances take place on both sides of the Tamil Nadu Uthi. Bharathi's song 'Barukkulle Nalla Nadu' will be performed by 4 Bharata dancers and 8 Nathaswaram thavil artists.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Budget 2019: Halwa ceremony held at finance ministry, printing of budget documents starts

- Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi.
- The monsoon session which was to have 18 sittings could manage just 10.
- The central government has decided not to print the current budget documents on paper to prevent the spread of the corona.
- **High Expectation:** The Union Government plans to table the Budget for 2021-22 in Parliament on February 1.
- This is the 8th budget to be tabled by the Prime Minister Modi-led government.
- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will present the full budget for the 3rd time.
- For the first time in the history of independent India, the budget will be tabled as the central government estimates that the country's economy will decline by 7.7% in the current financial year.
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur and senior finance ministry officials on January 23 participated in the halwa ceremony to kick-start the compilation of the Budget documents.
- This customary halwa ceremony marks the beginning of the 'lock-in' period where finance ministry staff compiles and print the documents in North Block.
- Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the '**Union Budget mobile app**' for hassle-free access of Budget documents by members of Parliament (MPs) and general public.

## National Girl Child Day Celebration

- **24 January - National Girl Child Day in India**
- National Girl Child Day was celebrated on behalf of the District Child Abduction Prevention Unit at the All Women Police Station in Ariyalur.
- District Child Abduction Prevention Division Police Inspector Sumathi and District Land Grabbing Prevention Division Police Inspector Vani and Women's Police Station Assistant Inspectors, Guards and a large number of girls were present.
- In the last 12 days, 4,000 new wealth savings accounts have been opened in the Pudukottai district.

## ECI to launch Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card Programme

- Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will launch the e-EPIC programme and distribute digital voter ID cards to five new voters
- This will be the first time that the government will issue voter identity cards in digital formats

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) will launch the e-EPIC (Electronic Electoral Photo Identity Card), which is the National Voter's Day. Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad will launch the e-EPIC programme and distribute digital voter ID cards to five new voters. This will be the first time that the government will issue voter identity cards in digital formats. Other identity proofs like the Aadhaar card, PAN card, driving licence are already available in the digital format.
- The E-Epic card download facility will start from February 1. With the aim of increasing participation of voters in the electoral process, 'Hello Voters Web Radio'.

## National Voter's Day: Governor Purohit presents Voter Id cards to young voters

- National Voter Day is set to be celebrated on Jan. 25. The state level ceremony is to be held in Chennai under the chairmanship of Governor Banwarilal Purohit.
- The Election Commission in India was established on January 25, 1950.
- **Voter Awareness:** At a ceremony presided over by Governor Banwarilal Purohit, everyone is expected to accept the National Voter Day Pledge. Governor Purohit will also present various awards and voter identification cards to young voters who have added names to the list for the first time.
- The motto of last year was 'No voter should be left out'. The theme of the event is 'Make Voters Power, Awareness, Information Awareness'.

## Ten from T.N. chosen for Padma Shri





# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Padma Vibushan

### PADMA VIBHUSHAN



**S. P. Balasubrahmanyam**  
(posthumous)  
Art, Tamil Nadu



**Belle Monappa Hegde**  
Medicine,  
Karnataka



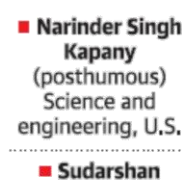
**Maulana Wahiduddin Khan**  
Spiritualism, Delhi



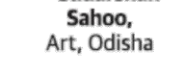
**Shinzo Abe**  
Public affairs, Japan



**B. B. Lal**  
Archaeology, Delhi



■ **Narinder Singh Kapany**  
(posthumous)  
Science and engineering, U.S.



■ **Sudarshan Sahoo**,  
Art, Odisha

## Padma Bhushan

### PADMA BHUSHAN



**K.S. Chithra**  
Art, Kerala



**Sumitra Mahajan**  
Public affairs,  
Madhya Pradesh



**Nripendra Misra**  
Civil service,  
Uttar Pradesh



**Keshubhai Patel**  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Gujarat



**Rajnikant Devidas Shroff**  
Trade and industry,  
Maharashtra



**Tarun Gogoi**  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Assam



**Chandrashekhar Kambara**  
Literature, Karnataka



**Ram Vilas Paswan**  
(posthumous)  
Public affairs, Bihar



**Tarlochan Singh**  
Public affairs,  
Haryana



**Kalbe Sadiq**  
(posthumous) Spiritualism,  
Uttar Pradesh

## 'Soorai Pottru', first Tamil film to release on OTT, joins the Oscars race.

- In the general category for the Oscars, the film competes in all categories including Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, Best Music Composer, Best Writer.
- The film has already been nominated for a Golden Globe Award for screening.

## Chief Justice Bobde recalls the first sitting of SC in 1950

- Seventy-one years ago, the Supreme Court of India took its seat for the first time under a new Constitution in the Court Chamber in Parliament House on January 28.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde remembered the occasion of the inaugural sitting of the court with Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta
- “Today is the day when the first sitting of the Supreme Court took place in 1950. In attendance was the Chief Justices of 13 High Courts.

## Mahatma Gandhi's 73rd death anniversary

- The **Death** of Mahatma **Gandhi**. **Gandhi** was shot on 30 January 1948
- The 73rd Death Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was observed across the country. In turn his memorial in Delhi Rajkot was decorated with flowers.
- Gandhi's favorite Bajna song 'Raghupathi Raghava Rajaram' was aired in Rajkot.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 4.IMPORTANT PERSON

### **New Chief Justices for 4 High Courts**

- The Law Ministry notified the elevation of Madras, Orissa, Telangana and Jammu & Kashmir
- Hima Kohli as Chief Justice of Telangana High Court
- Muralidhar has been recommended to be elevated as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.
- Pankaj Mithal as Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir
- Sanjib Banerjee, currently a judge of the Calcutta High Court, has now been elevated as the new Chief Justice of Madras High Court.

### **Suneet Sharma takes over as the new Chairman of the Railway Board**

- Suneet Sharma assumes charge as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Board (1.1.2021)
- He also serves as the Principal Secretary to the Government of India.
- Prior to this, Suneet Sharma served as the General Manager, Eastern Railway.

### **The Prime Minister presented the award to a person from Jammu and Kashmir**

- A 65-year-old man from Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir has won the Best Housing Award under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana.
- PM Awas Yojana (PMOY) is a housing scheme for the urban poor.
- Under this scheme, which was launched in 2015, a grant of Rs. 1.66 lakh is being provided by the Central Government for the construction of houses for the economically weaker sections.
- Of the 88 beneficiaries selected across the country for the award, the three are from Jammu and Kashmir
- The recipients of the award were 65-year-old Abdul Latif Kanay from Badarwa area of Doda district, along with Doda Deputy Commissioner Sagar Dattarai and Badarwa Municipal Executive Officer Yusuf-ul-Omar.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri presented the awards for best house building under the scheme.

### **Famous Tamil writer A. Madhavan passes away**

- A. Madhavan, 87, passed away due to age-related ailments. Born to Chellammal and Avudainayagam, who belonged to Kanyakumari district, Madhavan was brought up in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Author A. Madhavan's first novel, **Punalum Manalum**, was published by Readers Circle in the 1974. **Krishna Parunthu** is his famous novel. He has also written a short story called **Thoovanam**.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- He Received the Sahitya Akademi award for Literary Traces in 2015.
- He has translated two novels from Malayalam into Tamil.

## **Pranab Mukherjee praises Narendra Modi in his autobiography**

- Pranab Mukherjee, the late former President and Senior Congress President, wrote a book on his tenure, entitled 'The Presidential Years, 2012 - 2017'.
- The book was released on (05.01.2021).
- The results of the last, 2014 Lok Sabha elections are considered historically significant for two reasons.
- First, 30 years later, the people gave a decisive result in the election.
- Second, for the first time, BJP, the party won with a majority in the Lok Sabha.

## **Satya Paul, who 'reinvented' the saree, passes away in Coimbatore**

- He launched India's first saree boutique and designer label.
- Satya Paul, best known as the designer who reinvented the saree for contemporary women.
- Satya Paul, born on February 2, 1942.
- In 1980, he launched the first saree boutique in India, L'affaire, and in 1986, India's first designer label, with his son.

## **Indian-American named U.S. Army's first CIO**

- Raj Iyer has taken over as the first Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the U.S. Army after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020.
- Dr. Iyer, who holds a PhD. in Electrical Engineering.
- Dr. Iyer will supervise an annual budget of \$16 billion for the U.S. Army's IT operations.
- Over 15,000 civilians and military personnel posted across 100 countries work under him.

## **Venkatramu appointed chairman of Postpaid Bank of India**

- He is currently the Chief Electronics Officer at Equitas Small Finance Bank.
- J. Venkatramu has appointed Managing Director (MD) and CEO (CEO) of India Post Payment Bank.
- India Post Payment Bank was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2018.
- The payment can be made through the post office and can be deposited in a bank account up to a maximum of Rs 1 lakh.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## K. Ranganathan

- K. Ranganathan (92), who served for 40 years in The New Indian Express Group, passed away.
- In 1968, K. Ranganathan joined The New Indian Express Group's Chennai office as an analyst.
- Retired at the age of 78.

## Ved Mehta, celebrated writer who introduced American readers to India, dies

**SOME NOTABLE BOOKS**

**1976**  
Mahatma Gandhi and His Apostles

**1972**  
Daddyji

**1970**  
Portrait of India

**1961**  
A Battle Against the Bewitchment of Our Intelligence

**1957**  
Face to Face: An Autobiography

Source: News reports

NEWS18 creative

- Indo-US writer Ved Mehta died Jan. 9 at his home in Manhattan. He was 86.
- Ved Mehta, born in 1934 in unified Punjab, lost his sight at the age of three.
- After attending the School for the Blinds in the United States, he studied law at Oxford University in the United Kingdom.
- Ved Mehta, who is highly acclaimed for his unique English style of describing scenes, is seen as a collection of 12 books on Indian art and politics, his autobiography and a work that reveals the many dimensions of India.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## **Noted writer Solai Sundaraperumal dies at 70**

- Solai Sundaraperumal (70), a senior writer lived at Kavanur next to Ammayappan in Thiruvarur district and the special convener of the state committee of the Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers-Artists Association, passed away on (Jan. 12) due to ill health.
- His 'Channel' novel on the Venmani incident was highly acclaimed in the literary field. The novel has also been translated into Malayalam and English.
- His "Chennel", "Inside and Out", "Poison Men", "Marutha Land and Butterflies", "Only One Village", "Dappattam", "Perundinai", "Priests", "Foundation", "Wood", "Sailor's House", "Milk 'will be an interactive talk on the soil-based life, struggle and agrarian life of many citizens.

## **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres declares he will seek a second term**

- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres officially declared he is seeking a second five-year term at the helm of the United Nations.
- Volkan Bozkır - President of the United Nations General Assembly
- Since January 1, 2017, the UN. Guterres' term as Secretary-General ends on December 31.

## **Manish Kumar, the first Indian to get the COVID-19 vaccination in Delhi**

- Manish Kumar, a 34-year-old sanitation worker, became the first recipient of the vaccination drive against Covid-19 at Delhi.
- In Delhi, the vaccine was administered at 81 locations, including AIIMS, which is under federal control.
- The two vaccines are Covaxin, which is manufactured entirely by Bharat Biotech and Covishield, which is manufactured by Oxford.
- Both the Covishield and Covaxin vaccines are safe.

## **Statue Of Unity Gets More Tourists Than Statue Of Liberty: PM Modi**

- Vallabhbhai Patel/Date of birth 31 October 1875.
- PM Modi inaugurated the Statue of Unity, billed as the world's tallest, in October 2018 on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 143rd birth anniversary on the banks of the Namadai River in the Kevadia region of Gujarat.
- Almost 50 lakh tourists have visited the former since it opened two over years ago.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Legendary classical musician Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passes away

- Legendary classical vocalist and musician Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan passed away in Mumbai
- Ghulam Mustafa Khan was born in Badayun, Uttar Pradesh, on March 3, 1931.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991, followed by Padma Bhushan in 2006 and Padma Vibhushan in 2018. In 2003 he was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award.

## Cancer care pioneer no more

- Dr V Shanta, India's medical pioneer who revolutionised cancer care passes away at 93.
- When Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy set up the Cancer Institute in 1954, Shanta was about to complete her Doctor of Medicine (M.D.). She had gotten through the Public Service Commission examination and had been posted to the Women and Children Hospital.
- Dr Shanta won numerous prestigious awards, including
  - Padma Shri(1986),
  - Padma Bhushan(2006),
  - Padma Vibhushan (2016) and
  - the coveted Ramon Magsaysay Award(2005).
- Dr Shanta also served as a member on the World Health Organisation's Advisory Committee on Cancer care, until March 2005.
- Dr. Shanta came from a family of eminent scientists, including two Nobel laureates in Physics – C.V. Raman and S. Chandrasekhar.
- With government honors: According to Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Palanisamy, Santa's Funeral Held With A 72-Gun Salute.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## A role model for women, says Governor

### A lifetime of service

- Born in March 1927

- Completed **MBBS** from the Madras Medical College in 1949

- Specialised in **Gynaecology and Obstetrics** with a diploma in 1952 and MD in 1955

- Joined the **Cancer Institute** as resident medical officer in April 1955

- Along with her mentor S. Krishnamurthi, son of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy, she worked towards developing the Cancer Institute from a 12-bed cottage hospital to a **comprehensive cancer centre**

- Served as **president of the Indian Society of Oncology** (1988-1990)



Dr. Shanta receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from then Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in November 2011

- She was president of the Asian and Pacific Federation of Organisations for Cancer Control from 1997 to 1999

- She was awarded the **Padma Shri** in 1986

- Dr. Shanta was conferred with the **Ramon Magsaysay Award** for public service in 2005

- She received the **Padma Bhushan** in 2006

- She was instrumental in launching the **T.N. Cancer Registry Project** in 2013



Dr. Shanta with former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in September 2011

- She received the **Avvaiyar Award** from the Tamil Nadu government in 2013

- Dr. Shanta was awarded the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2016

- She served as **chairperson of the Cancer Institute (WIA)** till her demise on January 19

- Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit expressed grief over the Padma Vibhushan awardee's death and said, "A fine human being, as having dedicated over 60 years of her life to cancer care treatment, Dr Shanta has always emphasised on compassion and sympathy while treating patients."
- Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has announced police honours for the oncologist.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## **Dr. Shanta was working on a special publication with The Hindu**

- Dr. Shanta was working with The Hindu on a 'Special Volume on Cancer Institute'.
- On December 28, 2020, she participated in the launch of Tamil Nadu Cancer Registry Project Report 2020, a collaborative study by Cancer Institute and Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu.

## **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary to be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas"**

- The Union Culture Ministry announced that January 23, birth anniversary of Subhas Chandra Bose, would be celebrated as "Parakram Diwas" – day of courage – every year.
- 125th birth anniversary year starting from January 23, 2021 in a "befitting manner at national and international level".
- Culture Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
- Narendra Modi would preside over the inauguration of the celebrations in Kolkata, where a permanent exhibition on Netaji at the Victoria Memorial would be opened. A programme would be held in Cuttack, birth place of Bose.

## **Joe Biden sworn in as 46th President of the United States**

- Kamala Harris becomes first woman Vice-President of U.S.
- Joseph R. Biden Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the U.S.
- Past presidents – Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton and their spouses – were also present, as was outgoing Vice-President Mike Pence.

## **Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti: President Kovind, Vice President Pay Homage**

- Guru Gobind Singh birth anniversary 2021: President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu paid tribute to the 10th Sikh Guru on his birth anniversary.
- Died on 7 October 1708 (aged 41) Hazur Sahib Nanded (Present day Nanded, Maharashtra)

## **Named by UN to High-Level Advisory Board on Economic, Social Affairs**

- UN Jayati Ghosh, an Indian-based economist, has been appointed to the organisation's bio-social and economic advisory board.
- In addition, 19 international economists are on the panel.
- The UN addresses the social and economic challenges that have arisen since the Corona, including the current economic climate, and how to overcome them. The committee is to advise the General Assembly.

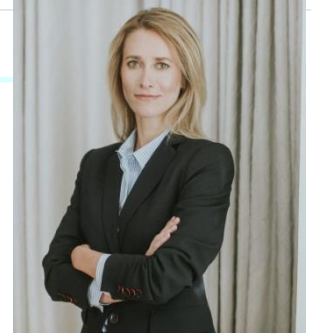


# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Jayati Ghosh, 65, graduated from Delhi University with a degree in economics. He then completed his postgraduate studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He subsequently received a doctorate from the University of Cambridge, USA.

## **Kaja Kallas becomes first female Prime Minister**

- Kaja Kallas took over as Estonia's prime minister
- The 43-year-old is the country's first female prime minister.
- The two parties formed a coalition government under an agreement reached between the Kallas-led 'Reform' party and the 'Central' party.
- The new cabinet will have 7 ministries each belonging to both parties.
- The previous government, led by Juri Ratas of the 'Central' party, was toppled this month over allegations of corruption.



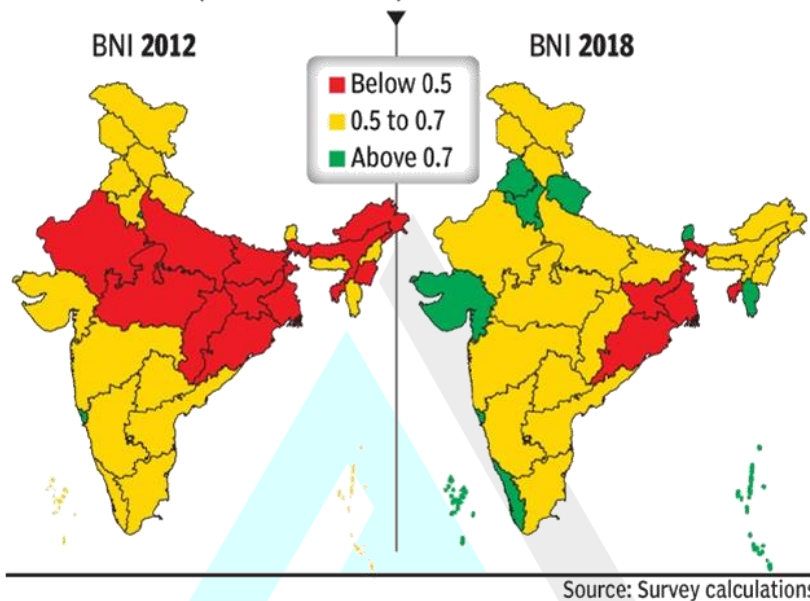
ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 5.ECONOMIC EVENTS

### Bare necessities gap between States has narrowed since 2012: Economic Survey

#### IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

Improvement in the Bare Necessities Across India  
(Rural + Urban) from 2012 to 20



- States such as Kerala, Punjab, Haryana and Gujarat had the highest access to the bare necessities while it was the lowest in Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Tripura.
- Poorer States have reduced the gap with rich States when it comes to in providing their citizens with access to the basics of daily life – housing, water, power, sanitation, cooking gas – according to a new 'Bare Necessities Index' (BNI) in the Economic Survey 2020-21.
- Access to the 'bare necessities' has improved across all States in the country in 2018 as compared to 2012
- Improvement in each of the five dimensions viz., access to water, housing, sanitation, micro-environment and other facilities
- Inter-State disparities declined across rural and urban areas as the laggard states have gained relatively more between 2012 and 2018
- Improved disproportionately more for the poorest households when compared to the richest households across rural and urban areas.
- Improved access to the 'bare necessities' has led to improvements in health indicators such as infant mortality and under-5 mortality rate and also correlates with future improvements in education indicators

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Thrust should be given to reduce variation in the access to bare necessities across states, between rural and urban and between income groups
- The schemes such as Jal Jeevan Mission, SBM-G, PMAY-G, etc. may design appropriate strategy to reduce these gaps

## **GST mop-up hits record high in December 2020**

- GST collection in December hit an all-time high of ₹1, 15,174 crore.
- According to data released by the Finance Ministry, the December mop-up was the highest since the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax in July 2017.
- The previous best was ₹1,13,866 crore, in April 2019.
- The December 2020 revenues are significantly higher than November's collections of ₹1,04.963 crore.
- The average growth in GST revenues during the last quarter was 7.3 per cent compared to (-) 8.2 per cent during the second quarter and (-) 41.0 per cent in the first.
- All the segments of GST collections yielded more in December compared to November. For instance CGST collections rose to Rs 21,365 crore against Rs 19,189 crore, SGST mop increased to Rs 27,804 crore against Rs 25,540 crore. Also integrated GST receipts were more at Rs 57,426 crore against Rs 51,992 crore and compensation cess at Rs 8,579 crore against Rs 8,242 crore.
- The finance ministry said in a statement that the GST revenues during December, 2020 have been the highest since the introduction of the indirect tax regime from July, 2017. "It is the first time that it has crossed Rs 1.15 trillion," it said.
- Talking about the previous high, the ministry said the revenues of April normally tend to be high since they pertain to the returns of March, which marks the end of financial year.
- The finance ministry said in a statement that the GST revenues during December, 2020 have been the highest since the introduction of the indirect tax regime from July, 2017. "It is the first time that it has crossed Rs 1.15 trillion," it said.



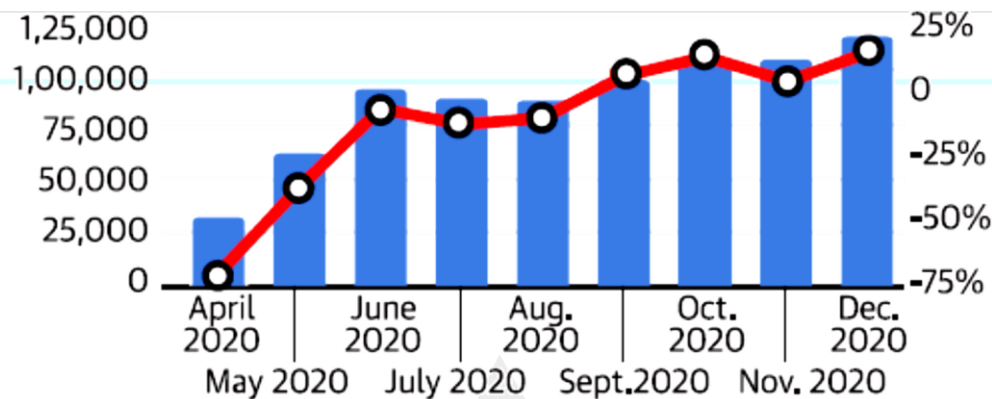
# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Collection improves

Gross GST revenue collected in December 2020 was ₹1,15,174 crore, a 11.6% increase from Dec. 2019



■ Collections in ₹ crore    ● y-o-y % change



GST Collection/Month wise (Rs cr)			GST Collection/Key States (Rs cr)		
Month	2019-20	2020-21	State	Dec, 2019	Dec, 2020
April	113865	32172	Maharashtra	16530	17699
May	100289	62151	Gujarat	6621	7469
June	99939	90917	Karnataka	6886	7459
July	102083	87422	Tamil Nadu	6422	6905
August	98202	86449	Uttar Pradesh	5489	5937
September	91916	95480	Haryana	5365	5747
October	95379	105155	West Bengal	3748	4114
November	103491	104963	Delhi	3698	3451
December	103184	115174	Telangana	3420	3543

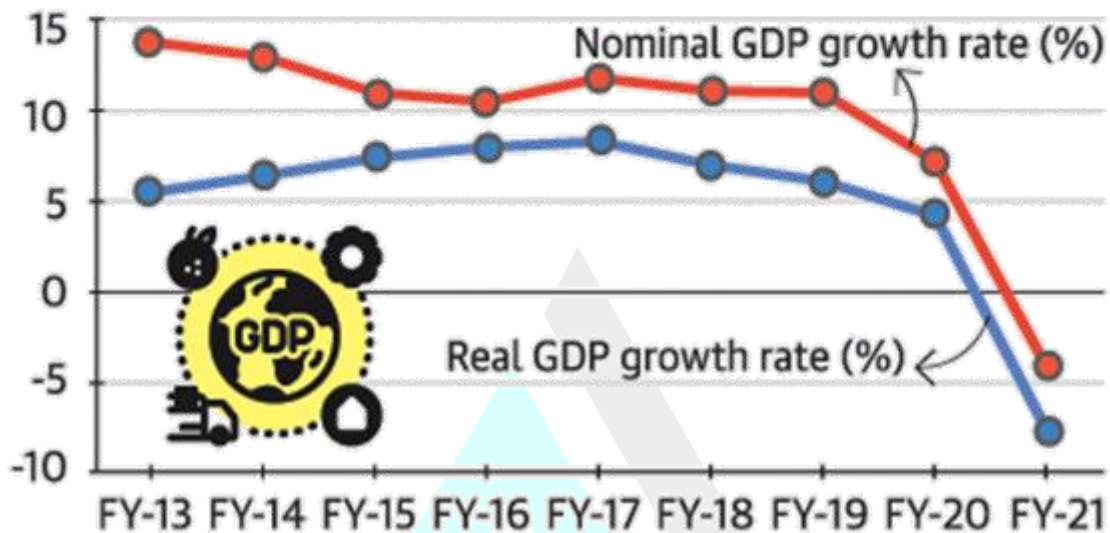
## Manufacturing sector activity strengthened in December

- Input cost inflation at 26month high, export order growth slowed to 4month low.
- The seasonally adjusted IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was at 56.4 in December, a tick higher than November's reading of 56.3.
- International demand for Indian goods rose in December, but the growth was hampered by the pandemic.
- Output growth also eased to a four-month low, but remained strong.

**GDP likely to contract by 7.7% this fiscal: govt.**

## Shrinking economy

India's real GDP and nominal GDP may contract by 7.7% and 4.2% in 2020-21 respectively, according to the government



- India's real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is estimated to contract by 7.7% in 2020-21.
- National Statistical Office (NSO).
- Corona impact has had a severe impact on the economic growth of the country. The growth of all other sectors except agriculture has gone backwards.
- The Indian economy, which grew by 4.2 percent in the last fiscal, is projected to slow to -7.7% in the current fiscal 2020-21.
- The sharpest decline in the pandemic-dented year is expected in trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting (21.4%), followed by construction (12.6%), mining and quarrying (12.4%) and manufacturing (9.4%).
- Real GVA at basic prices is estimated at ₹123.39 lakh crore in 2020-21, against ₹133.01 lakh crore in 2019-20.

## World food price index rises for seventh straight month in Dec.

- The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which measures monthly changes for a basket of cereals, oilseeds, dairy products, meat and sugar, averaged 107.5 points last month versus 105.2 in November.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- For the whole of 2020, the benchmark index averaged 97.9 points, a three-year high and a 3.1% increase from 2019.
- Vegetable oil prices continued recent strong gains, jumping 4.7% month-on-month in December after surging more than 14% in November.
- The cereal price index posted a more modest 1.1% rise in December from the month before.
- For all of 2020, the index averaged 6.6% above 2019 levels.
- Last month, the FAO revised down its harvest forecast for the 2020 cereal season for a third month running, cutting it to 2.74 billion tonnes from a previous 2.75 billion tonnes.

## **Rs 28,400 crore project for Kashmir industrial development**

- Manoj Sinha, Deputy Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Under the scheme, manufacturing start-ups in rural areas, 50 per cent of mechanical logistics investments; In urban areas, a 30 percent subsidy will be provided.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 6.SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Private hospitals keen on vaccine role

### Inoculation campaign

A look at a select list of COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved for full/emergency use in different countries



Manufacturer	Efficacy	Storage	Status
Oxford University-AstraZeneca	Upto 90%	2-8 degree Celsius	Approved for restricted emergency use in India and emergency use in U.K.
Bharat Biotech-ICMR	Unknown	2-8 °C	Approved for restricted use in emergency situation in India
Pfizer-BioNTech	95%	-70 °C	Approved for full use/emergency use in several countries
Moderna	94.50%	-20 °C	Approved in Canada; emergency use in U.S.
Gamaleya Research Center	91.40%	-18 °C	Early use in Russia, emergency use in Belarus and Argentina
CanSino Biologics	Unknown	2-8 °C	Limited use in China
Vector Institute	Unknown	2-8 °C	Early use in Russia
Beijing Institute of Biological Products	79.34%	2-8 °C	Limited use in China
Sinovac Biotech	>50%	2-8 °C	Limited use in China
Sinopharm	Unknown	2-8 °C	Approved in China, U.A.E. and Bahrain

- Once Pfizer and Moderna vaccines get approval, they will possibly start offering these vaccines
- Randeep Guleria director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences.
- Adar Poonawalla, chief executive officer, Serum Institute of India (SII)
- As regards vaccines, the two approved so far are the Oxford/AstraZeneca/Serum Institute vaccine and the Bharat Biotech vaccine.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Promising corona vaccines

- More than 200 corona vaccines have been developed worldwide.
- Comparison of major corona vaccines produced so far:

	Manufacturing companies	Current status	The dose of the vaccine	Storage temperature	Price
<b>Covaxin</b>	Produced by Bharat Biotech in association with the Medical Research Council of India and the National Center for Microbiology	Permission for use in India	Twice at 4 week intervals	Half temperature (7 days)	Less than Rs.100
<b>Covshield</b>	Produced by Oxford University in association with Britain's Astrazeneca	Approved for use in India, UK, Argentina, Mexico	Twice at 4 week intervals	2 to 8 degrees Celsius (6 months)	Rs.200 (in India), Rs.1,000 (in other countries)
<b>Pfizer</b>	Produced jointly by Phase of the United States and Biontech of Jomon	Consent in the United States, Britain, Canada, European Union countries, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Argentina, Mexico	Twice at 3 week intervals	Minus 70 degrees Celsius	Rs.5,500
<b>Moderna</b>	Madonna Company of America	Approved for use in the United States, Canada, Israel, and the European Union.	Twice at 4 week intervals	2 to 8 degrees Celsius (30 days) minus 20 degrees Celsius (6 months)	Rs.7,200
<b>Sputnik-V</b>	Gamaleya Research Center, Russia	Approval for use in countries including Russia	Twice at 3 week intervals	2 to 8 degrees Celsius	
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>	Johnson & Johnson Company	Phase III testing	One time (study in connection with double payment)	2 to 8 degrees Celsius (3 months), minus 20 degrees Celsius (2 years)	
<b>CoronaVac</b>	Sinopharm Company of China	Approval for use in China	Twice at 2 week intervals		
<b>Vector Institute</b>	Vector Institute of Russia	Phase III testing		2 to 8 degrees Celsius	
<b>Novavax</b>	Novavax Company of America	Phase III testing		2 to 8 degrees Celsius	
<b>Convidicea</b>	Chinese Institute of Canine Biologics	Using only in the Chinese military			

## Maruti Swift is India's best selling car of 2020

- The Maruti Suzuki Swift was the best-selling car in India in calendar year 2020. Despite the adverse impact of COVID-19, the Swift sold more than 1,60,700 units in CY 2020, emerging at the top of the sales charts.
- The Swift has been the best-selling hatchback in the B2 segment for the past 15 years. It has sold more than 2.3 million (23 lakh) units in total.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The car achieved the 5 lakh, 10 lakh and 15 lakh sales milestones in 2010, 2013 and 2016 respectively.
- Maruti claims that more than 53% of Swift owners are below the age of 35 years.

## How old is the universe?

- A new study calculates that the cosmos is 13.77 billion years old, give or take 40 million years, which agrees with earlier estimates made using the Planck satellite.
- The astronomers used the Chilean Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT).
- In 2019, others showed that the universe is hundreds of million years younger than this estimate, by measuring the movements of galaxies, sparking off a debate.

## Identical twins aren't perfect clones, study shows

- 15% of identical twins showed up to 100 genetic differences
- Scientists in Iceland sequenced DNA from 387 pairs of identical twins – those derived from a single fertilized egg – as well as from their parents, children and spouses.
- That allowed them to find “early mutations that separate identical twins,” said Kari Stefansson, a geneticist at the University of Iceland
- On average, identical twins have 5.2 of these early genetic differences, the researchers found. But about 15% of identical twin pairs have more genetic differences, some of them up to 100, said Stefansson.
- 2008 paper in The American Journal of Human Genetics, have identified some genetic differences between identical twins.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Decoding a meteorite that fell near Jaipur in 2017



- On June 6, 2017, at around 5 a.m., residents of Mukundpura village near Jaipur saw a bright trail in the sky followed by a thunderous sound.
- The meteorite broke into several fragments, but a pit of about 15 cm in diameter and 10 cm in depth was formed at the impact site.
- The meteorite named Mukundpura CM2 was classified to be a carbonaceous chondrite.
- Meteorites are broadly classified into three groups – stony (silicate-rich), iron (Fe-Ni alloy), and stonyiron (mixed silicate-iron alloy).
- Last month, Japan's Hayabusa-2 mission landed on Earth with samples from Ryugu.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 7.NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

### PM unveils project for affordable housing

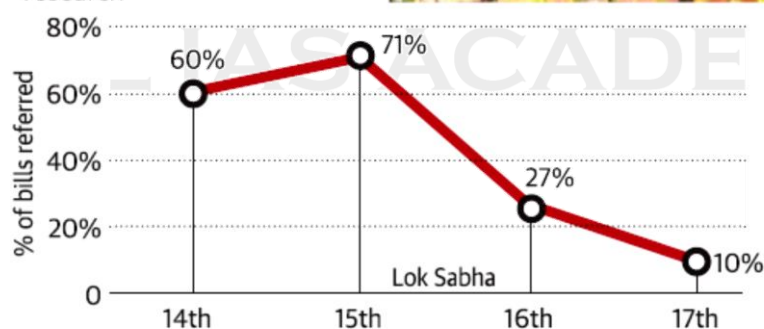
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), sanction has been accorded for building 1.62 lakh storeyed tenements and 3.42 lakh individual houses at a total cost of over ₹27,000 crore.
- Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri said that under the PMAY-Urban scheme, 1.09 crore houses had been sanctioned against the demand of 1.12 crore houses, 40 lakh houses handed over to beneficiaries, and 70 lakh more houses were under construction.

### In 2020, RS saw lowest number of sittings ever

- Rajya Sabha altogether held 33 sittings with both the Budget Session (23 sittings) and the Monsoon Session (10) being impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic with each session losing eight each sitting.
- A total of 39 Bills - 12 during the Budget Session and 27 during the Monsoon Session -- have been passed by the Rajya Sabha during 2020.

### Fast track

Only 10% of the Bills have been referred to a committee in the 17th Lok Sabha so far, much lower than the last three terms, according to PRS legislative research



### The Government of India had approved vaccines Covishield of Covaxin

- Serum was licensed by the Central Government on 4.1.2021 to manufacture and distribute the Covishield vaccine.
- India is one of the countries Among UK, Russia, USA, China, Singapore and the European Union to introduce the corona vaccine.
- Of these two vaccines, the covaxin vaccine was jointly developed by Bharat Biotech and the Medical Research Council of India (ICMO).



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The 'CoviShield' vaccine from the University of Oxford is co-produced by the world's largest pharmaceutical company, Serum in Pune, and Britain's AstraZeneca.
- With this permission, these two vaccines have been made available for public use in India.
- Both vaccines should be stored at a temperature of 2 °C to 8 °C.
- These vaccines are given twice at regular intervals to each person.

## India approves two COVID 19 vaccines for emergency use

### Vaccines out, but data missing

The efficacy data of the Phase-3 trials conducted in India for the two vaccines approved for restricted public use on Sunday have not been made public yet

#### COVISHIELD

- A vaccine developed by the Serum Institute-Pune based on the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine has been given 'conditional approval'

- The vaccine's efficacy is reported to be 70.4% based on the Phase-3 trials conducted in the U.K. and Brazil

- The efficacy data of the Phase-3 trials conducted on 1,600 volunteers in 17 Indian cities have not been made public yet

#### COVAXIN

- A vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech and the Indian Council of Medical Research has been approved for restricted emergency use in clinical trial mode

- During the first two months after the roll-out, the firm has to inform drug regulators every fortnight about the adverse effects of the vaccine

- Phase-1 and 2 trials were conducted on 800 volunteers to determine the safety and immunogenicity of the jab

- The efficacy data of the ongoing Phase-3 trials with 22,500 volunteers have not been made public yet



- The Central Drugs and Standards Committee (CDSCO) formally approved the COVID19 vaccines by Bharat Biotech and the Serum Institute of India (SII).
- The Health Ministry had said that 3 crore such personnel, considered at the highest risk for COVID19, would be given the vaccine for free.
- The head of the CDSCO V.G. Somani.
- Samiran Panda, head of the Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Division, ICMR.
- Covaxin has been developed based on an inactivated SARSCoV2 strain cultured at the National Institute of Virology, an ICMR body.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Work on Ayodhya Ram temple foundation to begin by January-end

- General Secretary of the Shri Ram Janmasthan Teerth Kshetra Trust Champat Rai.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) had sent them pictures of a channel (stream) of River Sarayu under the site of construction.
- The first soil testing took place in February 2020.
- Around 10 institutes, including the National Geophysical Research Institute (Hyderabad), Central Building Research Institute (Roorkee), IIT-Bombay, IIT-Guwahati and IIT-Madras, were engaged in the study.
- The temple will be 360 feet in length, 235 feet wide and 161 feet in height, while the plinth will be 16.5 feet above the ground level.

## Supreme Court clears Central Vista project to build a three times bigger Parliament

**NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING**  
WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE 

**A four-storey structure**  
Total area: **64,500 sq m**  
Seating capacity: **1,224 MPs**  
Cost: **Rs 970cr**  
Estimated completion: **2022**

**ADDITIONS**

- A grand Constitution Hall to showcase India's democratic heritage
- Lounge for MPs
- Library
- Multiple committee rooms
- Dining areas
- Ample parking space

Part of **Central Vista redevelopment project**

**Tata Projects limited** has won the bid for its construction

Unlike the present Parliament, the new building will not have a Central Hall

## Path cleared A chronology of the Central Vista project

**Sept. 2019:** Govt. announces Central Vista revamp plan; it envisages a new triangular Parliament House with a seating capacity for 900 to 1,200 MPs and several govt. buildings

**Feb. 11, 2020:** Delhi HC asks Delhi Development Authority to approach the court before notifying any change in the Master Plan before going ahead with the project

**Feb. 28:** Division bench stays order on an appeal by DDA, Centre

**July 17:** Supreme Court starts hearing a batch of pleas raising various issues, including environmental clearance and land use, related to the project



**Nov. 5:** SC reserves verdict

**Dec. 7:** SC allows Centre to proceed with foundation stone-laying ceremony for the Central Vista project but restrains it from starting construction

**Dec. 10:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays the foundation stone for the project

**Jan. 5, 2021:** SC clears the decks for construction of the ambitious project

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- New Parliament three times bigger than the existing 93-year old heritage building and modify the use of 86.1 acres of land, home to India's power corridor in the national capital.
- Justices A.M. Khanwilkar, Sanjiv Khanna and Dinesh Maheshwari said the court cannot order the government to desist from spending money on one project and use it for something else.
- Construction of the new parliament is expected to be completed before the country's 75th Independence Day is celebrated in 2022.

## **The first task of the "Tamil Academy" was to preserve Tamil literature by Arvind Kejriwal**

- Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said that the first task of the Delhi Tamil Academy is to preserve Tamil literature.
- The Government of Delhi has set up the Tamil Academy to promote the Tamil language and culture.
- It is chaired by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia and chaired by former Councilor N. Raja and 13 members have been appointed.

## **UN, India-led 3-member team at the UN**

- Indian Ambassador to the UN, D.S. Thirumurthy
- India has been given the leadership responsibility of the Taliban Prohibition Committee, the Anti-Terrorism Committee and the Libyan Prohibition Committee.
- India is about to celebrate its 75th Independence Day. It is noteworthy that at that time, the leadership of the Anti-Terrorist Group has to accept responsibility.
- India to assume leadership of Libyan embargo

## **'Sagar Anveshika': Harsh Vardhan dedicates new coastal research vessel to nation**

- The research vessel 'Sagar Anveshika' of the National Institute of Maritime Technology was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Health Harsh Vardhan at a function held in Chennai
- We now have the facility available to leading countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, to anticipate climate change.
- The 'Sagar Anveshika' research vessel, built in Kolkata, is 43 meters long and 9.6 meters wide.
- The ship, which weighs 496 tonnes, will have 8 scientists and 12 crew on board.
- There is a facility for scientists to travel up to 300 km from the shore and stay at a depth of 3 km at sea for 16 hours to carry out research.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

World's largest vaccination programme begins in India on January 16

## Calling the shots

The Health Ministry has ruled out certain population groups from the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. A lowdown:



### WHO SHOULD NOT BE VACCINATED

- Those aged 18 or below
- Pregnant and lactating women
- People with a history of allergic reaction to COVID-19 vaccine or to vaccines in general or injectable therapies, pharmaceutical products and food items

### WHO ARE PERMITTED

(apart from the general population)

- People with a history of COVID-19 infection
- Those with a history of chronic diseases and co-morbidities
- People who have immunodeficiency or HIV, and patients on immunosuppression drugs

- In the first phase government and private sector health care workers, including Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) workers, will receive the vaccine.
- In Gujarat, 161 centres will deliver the vaccine, Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said.
- As many as 700 healthcare workers will be administered the COVID-19 vaccine in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said.
- According to a state government release, 332 locations have been identified for the launch of the drive in Andhra Pradesh.

## Centre gives permission to Tamil Nadu to borrow more

- It is 11th State to implement 'One Nation One Ration Card'
- The Union authorities has given its approval for Tamil Nadu to borrow ₹4,813 crore moreover after its profitable implementation of the One Nation One Ration Card (ONOR) scheme.
- The Centre determined in May to extend the States' borrowing restrict by 2% of their Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- The rest is being allowed unconditionally for one half (1%) and conditionally for the opposite half.
- Totally, Tamil Nadu's borrowing restrict throughout 2020-21 could go up by at the least 1.5%, if not by 1.75%.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The different States which have undertaken ONOR are Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh.

## PM Modi announces Rs 1,000-crore seed fund for startups

- Startup India initiative launched by the Prime Minister on January 16, 2016.
- On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the implementation of the project, the 'Prarambh Start-up India International Conference' was held through a video presentation.
- In 2014, only 4 new businesses were valued at more than \$ 1billion.
- That number is currently over 30. In the year 2020 alone, the value of 11 new businesses exceeded US \$ 1billion.

## National Road Safety Month 2021

National Road Safety Month to be held from January 18 to February 17, 2021

- India accounts for 11 percent of accident-related fatalities worldwide
- 2019 Data shows pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheelers at highest risk
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari flag off National Road Safety Month.

## Work underway on over 1,000 km metro network in 27 cities: PM Modi

- “Before 2014, only 225 km of metro line became operational in 10-12 years. In the last six years, over 450 km of metro network became operational,” PM Modi said.

PM TO PERFORM  
**BHOOMI  
POOJAN**  
of key Metro  
Projects in  
Gujarat



**Ahmedabad Metro  
Rail Project Phase-II**

is 28.25 Kms long with  
an estimated cost of  
Rs 5,384 crores.

**Surat Metro  
Rail Project**

is 40.35 Kms long with  
an estimated cost of  
Rs 12,020 crores.

- ▶ Safe, fast and eco-friendly mass rapid transit system
- ▶ Comfortable, affordable and hassle free connectivity to major spots.
- ▶ Reduced traffic congestion and travel time.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Prime Minister informed that work started on infrastructure projects worth ₹17,000 crore.
- The Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-II is 28.25 km long with two corridors. While corridor-1 is 22.8 km long and is from Motera Stadium to Mahatma Mandir, corridor-2 is 5.4 km long and is from GNLU to GIFT-City. The total completion cost of the Phase-II project is ₹5,384 crore, an official said.
- The Surat Metro Rail Project is 40.35 km long and comprises two corridors. While corridor-1 is 21.61 km long and is from Sarthana to Dream City. Corridor-2 is 18.74 km long and is from Bhesan to Saroli. The completion cost of the project ₹12,020 crore.

## **In Gujarat, lotus eaters munch on just dragon fruit**

- The Gujarat government has decided to rename the dragon fruit as 'kamalam', and comments have flooded the Internet and social media platforms.
- 'The fruit does have the shape similar to the lotus flower... renaming of the fruit has nothing political about it,' says Vijay Rupani (Chief Minister Gujarat).
- He added that farmers in Gujarat's Kutch, Navsari and other parts were growing the dragon fruit and hence it should have a local name too.

## **India to expand research, tourism in Arctic**

- New draft policy also focuses on oil and gas exploration in the region
- India's Arctic Policy Roadmap For Sustainable Engagement draft rides on five pillars:
  1. Science and research activities.
  2. Economic and human development cooperation.
  3. Transportation and connectivity.
  4. Governance and international cooperation.
  5. National capacity building.
- India launched its first scientific expedition to the Arctic in 2007.

## **India will give one crore rupees in UN Peacekeeping Fund**

- The UN is committed to helping the international community effectively carry out global peacekeeping missions. This year, Rs. 1 crore will be provided to the UN on behalf of India. Promised in the Assembly.
- The Indian Ambassador to the UN, DS Thirumurthy, spoke on the occasion: Rs. 1 crore will be provided.
- At the conclusion of the recently completed 2020 study on this project of the UN, an integrated guideline was developed to strengthen the Peace

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Development Plan. It also outlines a five-year comprehensive plan for 2020 to 2024.

- UN to implement it. Rs. 10,950 crore will be required. Therefore, member states should come forward to strengthen the hand of the UN, he said.
- UN General Secretary Antonio Guterres
- In 2020, the fund will be Rs. 1,300 crore.

## **Netaji would have been proud of a new, self-reliant India: Modi**

- The Prime Minister was speaking in Kolkata while participating in the 125th birth anniversary celebrations of the iconic freedom fighter.

## **'Equipped with Rafales'**

- The Prime Minister said, "our forces have jets such as Rafale and it is manufacturing advanced jets such as Tejas. When he [Netaji] would see that the armed forces of his country are so strong and have the advanced equipment which he wanted, how would he feel," the Prime Minister asked.
- Pointing out that all the 130 crore Indians are indebted and will remain so to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Mr. Modi said January 23 is not only the birth anniversary of the national icon but also the day of birth of "self-pride" of the country.

## **150-metre-long, 30-ft-deep cross-border tunnel found**

- The foot soldiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) detected a 150-metre long and 25 to 30-feet deep cross-border tunnel, the third in recent months, in Bobiya area of Samba sector in the Jammu region.
- Sharing details of the operation, Jamwal said, "During an anti-tunneling drive the vigilant troops of BSF detected a tunnel in BOP Bobiya Area in Samba Sector".
- Earlier, BSF had exposed Pakistan's complicity in aiding and abetting terrorism by detecting a 160-metre long cross-border tunnel, along the International border in Regal area of Samba sector on November 22, 2020.
- Another 'rat hole' tunnel, which was at least 25 feet deep and 170 metres long, was detected by the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans along the international border in Galar village of Samba sector on August 28, 2020.

## **GST Compensation: Rs. 339.70 crore has been allotted to Tamil Nadu for the 13th installment**

- The central government allocated Rs 6,000 crore to the states as the 13th tranche of GST compensation.
- 339.70 crore to Tamil Nadu and Rs. 39.40 crore has also been allocated.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The central government has allowed states to borrow up to Rs 1.10 lakh crore under the special slot due to revenue shortfall due to the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- The central finance ministry approved Rs 6,000 crore for 23 states and three union territories for the 13th time.
- Out of this, Rs. 5,516.60 crore to three Union Territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Pondicherry. 483.40 crore has also been provided.
- In this 13th installment, Rs. 339.70 crore to Tamilnadu and Rs. 39.40 crore to Puducherry has also been provided.
- So far, 70 per cent of the revenue shortfall caused by the implementation of the GST has been compensated. In addition, a total of Rs.71,099.56 crore to the property states and Rs. 6,900.44 crore has also been provided.
- This amount, which is allocated to the states, is borrowed at an interest rate of 5.3 percent.
- 0.50 per cent of the GDP is allowed to be borrowed. The total GDP of Tamil Nadu is estimated at Rs.9627 crore.
- Of this, Rs 4890.14 crore has been given to Tamil Nadu and Rs 525.14 crore to Puducherry on special window basis.  
Of these, the remaining five states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim did not receive the allocation as there was no revenue shortfall due to GST implementation.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY



## 8.INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

### **Brexit Trade Agreement: Approved by the British Parliament**

- The UK's exit from the European Union was confirmed in a 2016 referendum there.
- The UK withdrew from the European Union on 31 January.

### **India won non-permanent membership of UN Security Council**

- The Security Council is considered to be the most powerful body in the United Nations.
- It has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.
- Five countries are permanent members: United States, United Kingdom, France, Russia and China.
- Each year the General Assembly elects two non-permanent five members on a rotating basis for a period of two years.
- Five for African and Asian countries; One for Eastern European countries; Two for Latin American and Caribbean countries; and reserved for both Western European and other countries.
- It requires a two-thirds majority to succeed.
- India contested the election on behalf of the Asia-Pacific region.
- The two-thirds majority in the 192-member Security Council is 128.
- 184 countries voted in favor of India and 113 countries voted in favor of Kenya.
- India has submitted to the UN key initiatives such as peace, security, mobilization against terrorism and counter-terrorism funding in the South Asian region. Minister of External Affairs Jaishankar has said that he has been placed before the Security Council.
- As India celebrates its 75th Independence Day, the United Nations Will be the main responsibility of the council

### **Australia: Amendment to the National Anthem**

- The English brought their colony under domination in the 18th century.
- Its aboriginal people have been a backward community. In recent times, the Australian government has been emphasizing the aboriginal history.
- As a part of it, the national anthem of that country is referred to as 'Young Independent Nation' which has been renamed as 'United Independent Nation' with effect from (1.1.2021).
- Thus, the word in the national anthem that the history of Australia begins with English colonialism has been removed.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Kazakhstan President abolishes death penalty

- Kazakhstan abolished the death penalty, making permanent a nearly two-decade freeze on capital punishment in the authoritarian Central Asian country, a notice on the presidential website said. The notice said President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev had signed off on parliamentary ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
- Executions were paused in Kazakhstan from 2003 but courts continued to sentence convicts to death in exceptional circumstances, including for crimes deemed acts of terror.

## Abortion Legalized

- Argentina's president **Alberto Fernández** gave the final push to the bill, the legalisation of abortion is a victory of a growing grassroots women's movement.
- It legalizes voluntary abortions at any stage up to 14 weeks of pregnancy.
- The landmark decision means Argentina(2020) becomes only the third South American country to permit elective abortions, alongside Uruguay, which decriminalised the practice in 2012, and Guyana, where it has been legal since 1995.

## British PM cancels visit to India

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's visit to India has been canceled due to the spread of the mutated corona infection.
- It has been confirmed that Prime Minister Boris Johnson will not be attending the 72nd Republic Day celebrations as a special guest.
- It is customary for the Head of State of a foreign country to attend the Republic Day celebrations, which are celebrated annually on January 26, as special guests. Jair Bolsonaro President of Brazil was the special guest at last year's Republic Day celebrations and Cyril Ramaphosa President of South Africa was the special guest at the 2019 event.
- The rate of transmission of transmitted corona infection has increased in the UK. A general freeze has been imposed again to bring it under control. Prime Minister Boris has said it is important to be in the UK to monitor preventive measures against the spread of the disease.
- It is noteworthy that in the 71 year history of the Republic of India, only in 1952, 1953 and 1966 was the Republic Day celebrated without a special guest.
- Former US President Barack Obama (2015), former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe (2014) and Russian President Vladimir Putin (2007) were among the special guests at the Republic Day celebrations.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Mob Rule in the Capitol

- The United States Capitol, often called the Capitol Building, is the meeting place of the United States Congress and the seat of the legislative branch of the U.S. federal government.
- The original building was completed in 1800.
- The Capitol building is located in Washington, D.C.
- Thomas Jefferson decided that the **Capitol's design** should be chosen by a public **competition**, and advertisements began appearing in American newspapers in March 1792.

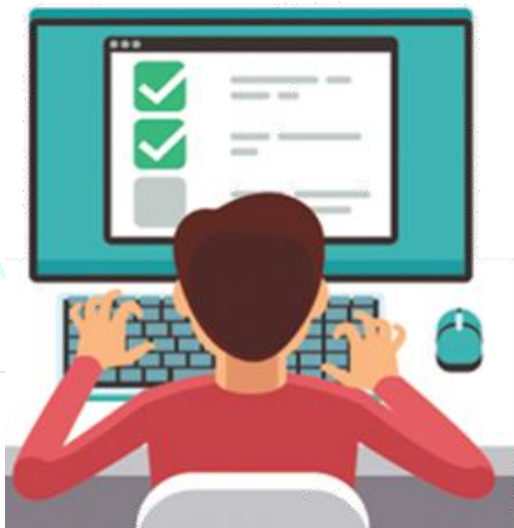
## China holds third South Asia multilateral meet in new push

- India, Bhutan and the Maldives gave the virtual event a skip
- China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying.
- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi
- The January 6 meeting was attended by all five countries China, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

## GRE exam

- After students were given the option to take the GRE exam from home due to the lockdown, allegations of fraud have surfaced, especially in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- R. Ravikanth Reddy, Sumit Bhattacharjee & P. Sujatha Varma report on the network of aspirants, ghostwriters and coaching institutes involved in the scam.

**Top 10 nations** | Between 2010 and 2019, India had the highest number of GRE takers in the world outside the U.S. However, among the 10 countries with the most test takers, India had the second lowest mean score between July 2018 and June 2019



Country	Test takers	Mean score
U.S.	42,76,519	302.9
India	8,19,880	301.1
China	6,88,884	313.5
Canada	68,518	309.9
South Korea	63,244	311.6
Iran	54,376	301.9
Taiwan	46,185	310.7
Nigeria	38,018	291.2
Japan	36,920	305.9
U.K.	32,001	311.7

## DATA POINT

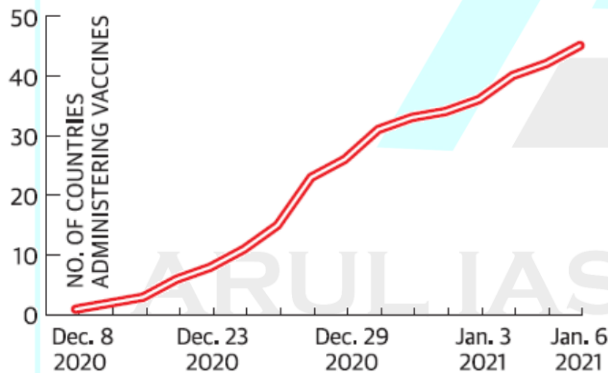
### Calling the shots

At least 45 countries have begun administering COVID-19 vaccines as of January 6, a rapid rise from only eight nations a fortnight ago. While most of the nations that began vaccination drives have prioritised front-line workers, many have included the elderly and clinically vulnerable groups. Bahrain has adopted a universal vaccination policy. After Israel and the UAE, Bahrain has administered the highest number of doses relative to its population. The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is the most popular among the list of approved candidates. By **The Hindu Data Team**

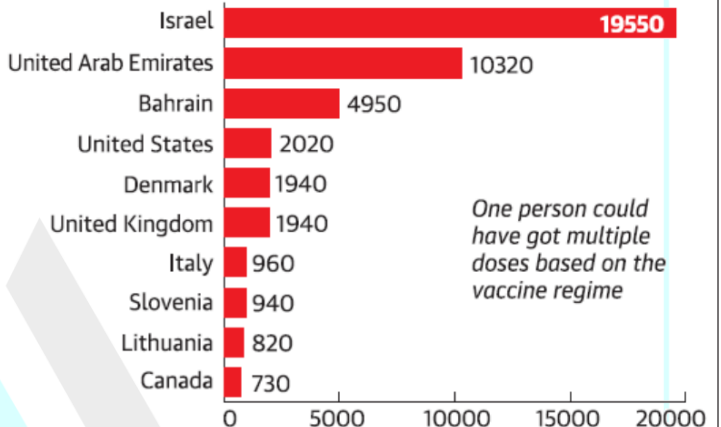
**1. Vaccine policy** | The table classifies countries based on which of the three groups - essential workers, the elderly, and clinically vulnerable - were chosen to receive the vaccine first. While in Singapore, vaccination is available for only one group, in India, all three groups have been chosen. In the UAE, select members outside the three groups are also eligible

Policy	Countries
One	Argentina, Costa Rica, Cyprus, France, Hungary, Norway, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Sweden
Two	Belgium, Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Guinea, Greece, Iceland, Lithuania, Malta, Oman, Poland, Qatar, U.S.
Three	Canada, U.K., Israel, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, India*
Three+	United Arab Emirates
Universal	Bahrain

**2. Steady climb** | The chart shows the number of countries where at least one person was vaccinated, starting from December 8, 2020. As of January 6, 45 such countries have been added to the list



**3. Doses administered** | The chart depicts the number of vaccine doses administered per 1 lakh people in a country. The graph does not represent the number of people, but the number of doses administered



**4. The makers** | The table lists the different vaccines and countries administering them. Pfizer/BioNTech's vaccine is the most widely administered, with more than 30 countries using it. India will be the second country after the U.K. to use the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, produced here as Covishield

Vaccine	Countries
CNBG	China
Moderna	U.S., Canada
Pfizer/BioNTech	U.S., U.K., Israel, Italy, France, Spain, Germany, Chile, Mexico, Oman, Saudi Arabia and more
Sinopharm	Bahrain, UAE
Sinovac	China
Sputnik V	Argentina, Russia
Oxford-AstraZeneca	U.K.

\*According to the Centre, vaccination will begin on Jan. 16 | Source: Policy data sourced from Oxford Coronavirus Government Response Tracker; Our World in Data



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Powerful earthquake in Indonesia's Sulawesi: 42 dead



- At least 42 people have died with hundreds more injured after a 6.2-magnitude earthquake hit Indonesia's Sulawesi island according to Indonesia's Disaster Management Agency.
- The quake measured 6.2 on the Richter scale.
- In 2004, a magnitude 9.1 earthquake off the coast of Sumatra, Indonesia triggered a massive tsunami.
- Of these, 2.3 lakh died in the Indian Ocean countries, including India.
- 1.7 lakh of them are from Indonesia.

## House Votes 223-205 to Call on Pence to Strip Trump of Power

- Hundreds of supporters of incumbent President Trump, who lost the election, stormed into parliament and resorted to violence. Five people were killed when police opened fire to control the violence.
- The resolution, which calls upon Pence to mobilise the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment to remove the president from office, was voted by 223 to 205 votes.
- Accordingly the resolution was passed in the House of Representatives by a margin of 18 votes.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Coronavirus Found In Ice Creams In China!

- Tianjin Daqiaodao Food Company, near Beijing, China operates an ice cream factory.
- The factory sources raw materials for making ice cream, including powder, from New Zealand and Ukraine.
- The Chinese government has announced the presence of corona virus in this factory-made ice cream.

## Kamala Harris Officially Resigns From Senate 2 Days Before Inauguration

- Kamala Harris won her seat in November 2016 and was sworn in on January 2017. At the time, Harris was California's attorney general.
- Harris resigns from the Senate ahead of inauguration
- Newsom has already named Alex Padilla, California's secretary of state, to fill Harris' seat.

## Biden to propose 8-year citizenship path for immigrants

- Under the legislation, those living in the U.S. as of Jan. 1, 2021, without legal status would have a five-year path to temporary legal status, or a green card, if they pass background checks, pay taxes and ful-fill other basic requirements.
- From there, it's a three-year path to naturalization, if they decide to pursue citizenship.

## Team Biden





# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

<b>Tom Vilsack</b> Agriculture	<b>Gina Raimondo</b> Commerce	<b>Marty Walsh</b> Labour	<b>Pete Buttigieg</b> Transportation	<b>Jennifer Granholm</b> , Energy	<b>Xavier Becerra</b> Health and Human Services
<b>Katherine Tai</b> , Trade Representative	<b>Avril Haines</b> Director of National Intelligence	<b>Michael Regan</b> EPA Administrator	<b>Isabel Guzman</b> Small Business Administrator	<b>Neera Tanden</b> Office of Management and Budget	<b>Linda Thomas-Greenfield</b> Ambassador to UN
<b>Jeff Zients</b> Coronavirus Coordinator	<b>Vivek Murthy</b> Surgeon-General	<p><b>CABINET POSTS</b>      <b>CABINET-LEVEL POSITIONS</b></p> <p><b>1</b> Biden is expected to sign a raft of 15 executive actions on his first day in office on issues ranging from the pandemic to the economy to climate change</p> <p><b>2</b> The orders will include mandating masks on federal property, rejoining the Paris</p>		<p>Climate Accord and ending Trump's travel ban on some Muslim-majority countries</p> <p><b>3</b> Trump left Washington ahead of Biden's inauguration, and said, 'We will be back in some form'.</p>	

SOURCE: GRAPHIC NEWS

## Indian-Americans in US President Joe Biden's administration



<b>Kamala Harris</b> Vice President	<b>Neera Tanden</b> Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget	<b>Dr Vivek Murthy</b> US Surgeon General	<b>Vidur Sharma</b> Testing Advisor for the White House Covid-19 response team	<b>Neha Gupta</b> Associate Counsel at the Office of White House Counsel	<b>Reema Shah</b> Deputy Associate Counsel at the Office of White House Counsel	<b>Rohit Chopra</b> Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau	<b>Vanita Gupta</b> Associate Attorney General	<b>Uzra Zeya</b> Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights	<b>Vinay Reddy</b> Director of Speech Writing		
<b>Bharat Ramamurti</b> Deputy Director for the National Economic Council for Financial Reform and Consumer Protection	<b>Gautam Raghavan</b> Deputy Director of the Office of the Presidential Personnel	<b>Mala Adiga</b> Policy Director to the First Lady Dr Jill Biden	<b>Garima Verma</b> Digital Director to First Lady Dr Jill Biden	<b>Tarun Chhabra</b> Senior Director for Technology and National Security	<b>Sumona Guha</b> Senior Director for South Asia, National Security Council	<b>Shanthi Kalathil</b> Coordinator for Democracy and Human Rights	<b>Sonia Aggarwal</b> Senior Advisor for Climate Policy and Innovation	<b>Sabrina Singh</b> Deputy Press Secretary to the Vice President	<b>Aisha Shah</b> Partnerships Manager at the White House Office of Digital Strategy	<b>Sameera Fazili</b> Deputy Director, National Economic Council at the White House	<b>Vedant Patel</b> Assistant Press Secretary

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Joe Biden signs executive order, reversing Donald Trump's key policies

- **Corona prevention:** First, President Biden signed 15 ordinances to control the rapidly spreading corona in the country. The ordinances include the imposition of face shields in federal-owned areas and the enforcement of social gaps. In a tweet from President Joe Biden, he said, "We can no longer waste time facing the corona crisis we are facing. The issue's end has the recaptured Domsday in the control of the Trump administration again and the country needs to move forward against the spread of the disease.
- **Climate Agreement:** Subsequently, President Biden signed a decree rejoining the United States on the Paris Climate Agreement. Countries, including the United States, signed an agreement in 2016 in the French capital, Paris, to allow global warming to be less than 2 degrees Celsius below pre-industrial levels. However, Trump announced in 2017 that he would withdraw from the agreement, saying it was in favor of countries like China and India and against US interests. Joe Biden is currently signing an agreement with the United States to rejoin the government.
- **Back at the World Health Organization ...** Trump has accused the World Health Organization (WHO) of favoring China over the Corona issue, and in response announced the cancellation of funding to the organization. He also announced that the United States would withdraw from the organization. Incumbent President Joe Biden has signed a decree rejoining the World Health Organization, ordering the Trump administration to reinstate funding for the organization. In addition, President Joe Biden signed various decrees, including the lifting of the national emergency declared by Trump on the border with Mexico.

## Biden's inaugural address written by Indian-American earns praise

- "In this 21-minute speech; I am the President of all the American people. My whole soul; The unification of the United States is about rebuilding. I will defend our constitution and our democracy," he said.
- Vinay, who is of Indian descent, led the team that produced Biden's speech. Not only did he produce the inaugural address, but he also produced the speeches made by Biden and Kamala Harris during the campaign.
- Biden was vice president when Obama became president for a second term. Even then this Vinay Reddy was the head of the team that designed their speech.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Central African Republic Begins 15-Day State of Emergency

- A 15-day nationwide state of emergency began in the Central African Republic in response to rebel-inspired violence over last month's disputed reelection of President Faustin-Archange Touadera.
- The state of emergency announcement came on the same day the head of the United Nations mission in the Central African Republic, MINUSCA, Mankeur Ndiaye, appealed to the U.N. Security Council to add more peacekeepers, warning the country was "at grave risk of a setback in terms of security and peacebuilding."
- A state of emergency has been declared for 15 days in this context.

## New Zealand tops COVID-19 performance ranking

- The index used data, which contained daily figures on these indicators – confirmed cases, confirmed deaths, confirmed cases per million people, confirmed deaths per million people, confirmed cases as a proportion of tests, tests per thousand people.
- An average of these indicators was calculated and each country was given a score from 0 (worst performing) to 100 (best performing).
- New Zealand received the highest score at 94.4, followed by Vietnam at 90.8, Taiwan at 86.4, and Thailand at 84.2.
- The lowest score was given to Brazil at 4.3. Mexico, Colombia, Iran and the United States too featured among the bottom five countries in terms of performance.
- India received a score of 24.3.

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## 9. OTHER STATE NEWS

### Young leadership

- Arya Rajendran, now a second-year graduation student of a city college, became the youngest-ever Mayor in the country.
- Daughter of CPI(M) activist K Rajendran, an electrician by profession, and Sreelatha, a LIC agent, Arya is a B.Sc Maths second-year student at the All Saints College.
- She had won from the Mudavanmughal ward of the city corporation, bagging 2,872 votes, 549 more than the rival Congress candidate.
- As a councillor, she wanted a family health centre in her ward and to implement programmes to reduce stress among children.



### 64,000 tourists visit Kaziranga National Park

- Declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, the park is home to one-horned Indian rhinos.
- Since its inception on October 21, Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Sanctuary has received 64,100 visitors.
- 1.27 crore in these 70 days.
- Only two rhinos were hunted last year.
- Wetlands have been established at 5 more places including wildlife habitats such as Siragoa, Bodahi, Devasuo, Haldibari, Bandobi, Kaziranga

### Natural gas pipeline project between Kochi and Mangalore

- The project was launched in 2009
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Jan 5 inaugurated the Kochi-Karnataka-Mangalore natural gas pipeline project.
- The Kochi-Mangalore Natural Gas Pipeline Project is considered to be a major milestone in the One Country, One Gas Construction Project. 450 km GAIL India has undertaken this project of laying pipes at a distance.
- It can carry 12 million metric cubic meters of natural gas a day.
- The gas pipeline runs from Kochi to Ernakulam, Tiruchirappalli, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts.
- CNG (compressed natural gas)
- PNG (piped natural gas)
- LNG (liquefied natural gas)
- Built at a project cost of around ₹3,000 crore
- Modi said the facility was part of his government's "one nation, one gas grid" policy.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The plan was to increase the share of natural gas in the energy sector from the present 6% to 15% by 2030.
- Focus was being given on increasing production of ethanol to increase its content in petrol to 20% from the present 5%.
- The world's largest hybrid energy plant(wind and solar) was coming up in Gujarat.
- The Kochi-Mangaluru pipeline would provide another 21 lakh PNG connections.
- The pipeline passes through Ernakulum, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Kannur and Kasaragod districts and ends at Mangaluru in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka.
- The project was launched in 2009 at an estimated cost of ₹2,915 crore and was expected to be completed in 2014.
- The pipeline supplies 4 million cubic metres of natural gas per day to industrial and domestic consumers in Kochi
- The first phase of the project was commissioned in August 2013 in Kochi city and Indian Oil -Adani Gas Ltd started industrial and domestic supplies in 2016.
- The LNG terminal at Kochi, which was established at an investment of ₹4,700 crore has a capacity of 5 million tonnes and the plant is expecting a 40% increase in demand with the opening of the Gail pipeline.

## Asian Waterbird Census commences in A.P.

- The two day Asian Waterbird Census 2020 commenced in Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of experts from the **Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)**,
- Covering at least two dozen sites, including Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, Kolleru Lake and Krishna Sanctuary.
- Dr. Sathiyaselvam, who had previously explored the avian diversity in the Godavari estuary, has presented a demonstration on the 90 species of birds sighted in the Godavari estuary and finalised 12 sites being covered in the census.

## Kalaripayattu academy braces for action

- Kalaripayattu, considered the oldest surviving martial art of the country, with a legacy of more than 3,000 years
- It will come up at Kerala Tourism's Vellar Crafts Village en route to Kovalam.
- Classes will be conducted here by gurus led by Padmashri Meenakshamma.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Free water scheme launched in Hyderabad

- Telangana Municipal Administration Minister K.T. Ramarao.
- Free drinking water scheme at Rahmat Nagar here and said nine lakh families would benefit from it.

## BSF unearths tunnel in Jammu

- The Border Security Force (BSF) personnel detected another terror tunnel constructed along the International Border (IB) in Jammu and Kashmir in Hiranagar sector of Kathua district.
- The 150-m long tunnel was constructed to facilitate infiltration of terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistan.
- It is noteworthy that on August 28 and November 22 last year, the BSF discovered two such tunnels in the Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The BSF had unearthed 10 such tunnels since 2011 in the Jammu region.

## President Ramnath Kovin has donated Rs 5,00,000 to build a Ram temple in Uttar Pradesh.

- The construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh is underway as per the Supreme Court order.
- Donations are being collected from all over the country for the construction of this temple.

## Gujarat rivers remain highly polluted despite norms

- Effluents continue to be dumped in Sabarmati and Mahisagar
- According to data from the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF), the Sabarmati is among the most polluted rivers in the country.
- Gujarat ranks fourth among the top five States with highly polluted rivers, with as many as 20 rivers in the critically polluted category.
- Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- The State government has proposed a ₹2,300 crore project for a deep sea effluent disposal pipeline to cater to nearly 4,500 industrial units
- The project will serve four highly industrialised districts (Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Kheda and Rajkot), which are the main sources of pollution.

## 2nd Government Drinking Water Manufacturing Plant in Kerala: State Chief Minister Binarayi Vijayan inaugurated it

- Government Drinking Water Manufacturing Plant is operating at Thodupuzha in Idukki District, Kerala.
- The 2nd Government Drinking Water Production Plant has been set up at Aruvikkarai in Thiruvananthapuram District.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- You can fill 2,720 cans of 20 liters daily at the Aruvikkarai drinking water production plant.
- 20 liter water cans made here will be sold to the public for Rs. 20 each as an introductory offer.

## BJP MP Mahesh Sharma becomes first public representative to get vaccinated

- VP Joshi, a spokesperson for the hospital, said that Mahesh Sharma had given the first vaccination at his Kailash Hospital in Noida Sector 27.
- Vaccination has started at 6 locations in Gautampur, including Noida and Greater Noida.
- 600 health workers have been vaccinated in the Gautam Naga district on the first day, said district vaccination program officer Dr Neeraj Tyagi.
- Vaccinations were given at PGI Hospital in Sector 30, Kailash Hospital in Sector 27, Community Medical Center in Bangalore, Community Medical Center in Bisrak, Government Medical Science Center and Sharda Hospital in Greater Noida.
- In the first phase, 28,840 Covishield vaccines were received in Gautampur, officials said.

## Karnataka tops in innovation, shows NITI Aayog index

Best performers	Rank	Major States	Score
Four of the five highest scoring major States in the India Innovation Index are from the south	1	Karnataka	42.5
	2	Maharashtra	38.03
	3	Tamil Nadu	37.91
	4	Telangana	33.23
	5	Kerala	30.58
	6	Haryana	25.81
	7	Andhra Pradesh	24.19
	8	Gujarat	23.63
	9	Uttar Pradesh	22.85
	10	Punjab	22.54

- Karnataka retained its leadership position in the major States category in the second edition of India Innovation Index released by NITI Aayog.
- Other States in the top 10 are Telangana, Kerala, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab. Barring Maharashtra, all other States in the top five are in the south.
- Niti Aayog Vice-Chairman Rajiv Kumar.
- Amitabh Kant Chief Executive Officer of the NITI Aayog

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 5 die in Serum Institute fire, vaccine facility safe

- Five persons were killed in a fire that broke out on the fifth floor of an under-construction building of vaccine manufacturing major Serum Institute of India (SII) in Pune's Manjari area.
- Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar
- Uddhav Thackeray Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- State Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the fire was caused when a spark during welding fell on inflammable material.

## Maharashtra to unlock history in prisons

- Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar will inaugurate the jail tourism initiative at Yerawada Central Jail on the Republic Day.
- "Jail tourism in the state will start from the Yerawada jail in the first phase. Students from schools, colleges and other people will get a chance to visit these historical places,"
- Deshmukh said that guides will be provided to the visitors and ticket prices will range from ₹5 to ₹50.
- The prisons in Thane, Nashik and Ratnagiri will also be part of the jail tourism initiative, the minister added.

## Modi reaches out to indigenous Assamese bestowing on them land rights amid anti-CAA clamour

- Reaching out to the indigenous people of election-bound Assam amid frequent anti-CAA protests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi distributed land ownership certificates to over one lakh such families, insisting the move will guarantee them "pride, freedom and protection".
- "When the Sarbananda Sonowal government took over the reins in Assam, more than six lakh indigenous families had no legal rights over their land. In the last few years more than two lakh such families have been allotted ownership certificates.
- "They can now improve their living standards by availing of the benefits of a host of central government schemes like PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, crop insurance scheme, and also easily secure farm loans from banks,"
- **Key role:** The Northeastern states are playing a key role in the central government's 'Act Towards the East' program. The main objective of the Autonomous India project is to develop the northeastern states, including Assam.

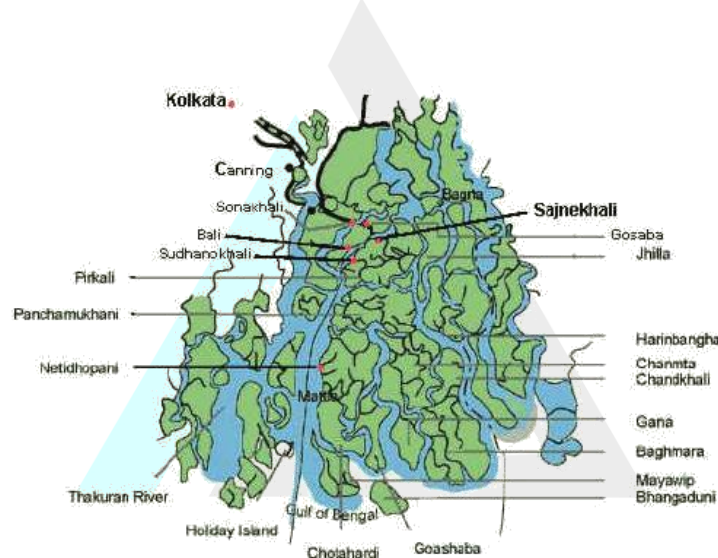
# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- He said the 1.75 crore Jan Dhan accounts opened by his government proved a boon during the COVID-19 pandemic as relief funds could be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries without any leakage.

## Sunderbans is home to 428 species of birds, says ZSI

- The Indian Sunderbans, which is part of the largest mangrove forest in the world, is home to 428 species of birds, a recent publication of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) states.
- Scientists and nature lovers are observing the **125th birth anniversary year of Salim Ali, the Birdman of India**
- The Sundarbans was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.

### Sundarbans National Park



## Karnataka govt. to set up 2 cow shelters in every taluk

- Earlier, the jail term for cattle slaughter was only six months. Now, imprisonment can be for up to 7 years
- The Karnataka government plans to set up two goshalas in every taluk to ensure that “not a single cow goes to slaughterhouse”, Prabhu Chavan, Minister for Animal Husbandry, has said.
- On distressed farmers abandoning male calves since they cannot sell them, the Minister said such cattle would be sent to goshalas. At present, there are 159 goshalas across the State.
- Slaughter of buffaloes was allowed in the law that existed since 1964, though the age limit was 12 then. “Now, the slaughtering of a buffalo is also not as easy. Veterinarians concerned have to issue certificates,”

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 179 species of butterflies recorded in Bengaluru

- Some rare and endangered species also spotted, according to new book Butterflies in Bengaluru
- Butterflies of Bengaluru by Krushnamegh Kunte and Nitin Ravikanthachari is an initiative by the Karnataka Forest Department (Research Wing), National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), and Indian Foundation for Butterflies, Bengaluru.
- Of the 179 species recorded, there were some spectacularly rare ones, such as the Lilac Silverline (*Apharitis lilacinus*), which, Prof. Kunte said, was seen in India after nearly 100 years. Two species that were recorded in Bengaluru for the first time in 2020 were the Orange-tailed Awl (*Bibasis sena*) and the Alida Angle (*Caprona alida*).



ARUL IAS ACADEMY



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## 10.SPORTS

### Calendar of Events 2021

#### Calendar of Events 2021

- Badminton World Tour Finals 2020 | **Jan. 27-31** | Bangkok
- 2021 Dakar Rally | **Jan. 3-15** | Saudi Arabia
- England tour of India | **Feb. 5-March 28**
- ATP Cup | **Feb. 1-5** | Melbourne



- Australian Open | **Feb. 8-21**
- All England Open Badminton Championships | **March 17-21** | Birmingham
- Formula One season opener - Australian Grand Prix | **March 21** | Melbourne



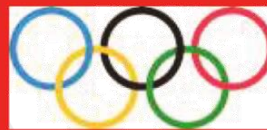
**MASTERS**

- Masters Tournament | **April 8-11** | Augusta, USA
- Indian Premier League | **April-May**
- Indian Open Badminton | **May 11-16** | New Delhi
- PGA Championship | **May 20-23** | South Carolina, USA
- French Open | **May 23-June 6**
- Asia Cup (cricket) | **June**
- Tour de France | **June 26-July 18**
- UEFA Euro 2020 | **June 11-July 11**

- Copa America 2020 | **June 11-July 11** | Argentina/Colombia
- US Open (golf) | **June 17-20** | San Diego, USA



- Wimbledon | **June 28-July 11**
- The Hundred (cricket) | **July-Aug.** | England/Wales
- The Open (golf) | **July 15-18** | Kent, England



- Tokyo Olympics | **July 23-Aug. 8**
- India tour of England | **Aug. 4-Sept. 14**
- Tokyo Paralympics | **Aug. 24-Sept. 5**

- US Open (tennis) | **Aug. 30-Sept. 12**
- Twenty20 World Cup | **Oct. 18-Nov. 15** | India
- The Ashes | **Nov. 22-Jan. 14** | Australia
- Badminton World Championships | **Nov. 29-Dec. 5** | Huelva, Spain
- Badminton World Tour Finals 2021 | **Dec. 15-19** | Guangzhou, China

### Aryna Sabalenka takes third straight title with Abu Dhabi win

- Aryna Sabalenka won her third straight tour title and 15th straight match by beating Veronika Kudermetova 6-2, 6-2 in the Abu Dhabi Open final.
- The fourth-seeded Belarusian, who won indoor tournaments in Ostrava and Linz at the end of last season, last lost in the fourth round of the French Open in October.
- 15th consecutive win, 3rd title in a row, 9th title overall - not a bad run to start 2021 on for Sabalenka!
- following up her 2020 season-ending trophies at Ostrava and Linz with a crown at this year's season-opening tournament.
- Sabalenka moved up three places to 7<sup>th</sup> in the International Women's Rankings after winning the Abu Dhabi Championship.
- Sabalenka, who has played in 13 finals so far, has won her ninth title.

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Sabalenka and Veronica, who played in the final of the Abu Dhabi Open, will next play in the Australian Open.

**The debutant duo of Natarajan and Washington – destiny's children**

## Ending a 10-year drought

It has been a decade since a player from Tamil Nadu won an India cap. On Friday, it was double delight for the State as T. Natarajan and Washington Sundar both made their debut in the Brisbane Test

### THE LIST

Player	Debut		
M J. Gopalan	1934	B. Arun	1986
Cotah Ramaswami	1936	W.V. Raman	1988
C.R. Rangachari	1948	M. Venkataramana	1989
C.D. Gopinath	1951	Robin Singh	1998
A.G. Kripal Singh	1955	Sadagopan Ramesh	1999
A.G. Milkha Singh	1960	Hemang Badani	2001
V.V. Kumar	1961	L. Balaji	2003
S. Venkatraghavan	1965	Dinesh Karthik	2004
Bharath Reddy	1979	M. Vijay	2008
T.E. Srinivasan	1981	S. Badrinath	2010
K. Srikanth	1981	Abhinav Mukund	2011
T.A. Sekar	1983	R. Ashwin	2011
L. Sivaramakrishnan	1983	T. Natarajan	2021
		Washington Sundar	2021



## A very special day

A look at the two Tamil Nadu players who earned their Test caps on Friday

**Washington Sundar**

**AGE: 21**

**PLACE OF BIRTH:**  
Chennai

**MAJOR TEAMS:**  
India, Tamil Nadu,  
Rising Pune Supergiant,  
Royal Challengers  
Bangalore

**ODI DEBUT**  
vs. Sri Lanka,  
Mohali, 2017

**T20I DEBUT**  
vs. Sri Lanka,  
Mumbai, 2017

**FIRST CLASS DEBUT**  
vs. Mumbai,  
Rohtak, 2016

**LIST A DEBUT**  
vs. Maharashtra,  
Cuttack, 2017

**T20 DEBUT:** Rising Pune Supergiant  
vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad, Pune, 2017

**IPL DEBUT:** Rising Pune Supergiant  
vs. Sunrisers Hyderabad, Pune, 2017



	Mat	Inn	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	SR	5W
ODI	1	1	1	1/65	65.00	6.50	60.0	0
T20Is	26	25	21	3/22	29.14	6.95	25.1	0
First Class	12	20	30	6/87	26.93	2.78	58.0	2
List A	39	33	24	2/20	46.83	4.61	60.8	0
T20s	87	85	67	3/10	27.95	6.61	25.3	0
IPL	36	35	24	3/16	31.21	6.87	27.2	0

■ In the 2020 edition, he took eight wickets in 15 matches for RCB. His economy rate of 5.96 was the best among the Indians



**T. Natarajan**

**AGE: 29**

**PLACE OF BIRTH:**  
Chinnappampatti,  
Salem, Tamil Nadu

**MAJOR TEAMS:**  
India, Tamil Nadu, Kings  
XI Punjab, Sunrisers  
Hyderabad

**ODI DEBUT**  
vs. Australia,  
Canberra, 2020

**T20I DEBUT**  
vs. Australia,  
Canberra, 2020

**FIRST CLASS DEBUT**  
vs. Bengal,  
Kolkata, 2015

**LIST A DEBUT**  
vs. Gujarat,  
Chennai, 2018

**T20 DEBUT:** vs. Karnataka, Chennai, 2017

**IPL DEBUT:** Kings XI Punjab vs.  
Rising Pune Supergiant, Indore, 2017

	Mat	Inn	Wkts	BBI	Avg.	Econ.	SR	5W
ODI	1	1	2	2/70	35.00	7.00	30.0	0
T20Is	3	3	6	3/30	13.83	6.91	12.0	0
First Class	20	33	64	5/41	27.03	3.02	53.5	3
List A	16	16	18	3/22	31.27	4.52	41.5	0
T20s	41	41	41	3/4	25.90	7.47	20.7	0
IPL	22	22	18	2/24	34.39	8.20	25.1	0

■ In the 2020 edition, he took 16 wickets in 16 matches for Sunrisers

■ He became the first player to make his debut in all three formats on the same tour

# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Badminton | Six Indians in the top-10

- Badminton Association of India (BAI) President : Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- The BWF rankings released earlier this week, especially in the women singles category, saw Indian domination with three more shuttlers -- Tasnim Mir (4), Tressa Jolly (8) and Aditi Bhatt (10) -- earning themselves a place in the Top-10.
- In the women's doubles category, Tressa (8), Tanisha Crasto (9) and Aditi (9) are among the Indians who are placed inside the Top-10.

## India triumphant overseas

### India triumphant overseas

After winning at The Gabba, India clinched its 21st away Test series win and second consecutive Test series victory in Australia

Year	Opposition	Won-Lost
2020/21	Australia	2-1
2019	West Indies	2-0
2018/19	Australia	2-1
2017	Sri Lanka	3-0
2016	West Indies	2-0
2015	Sri Lanka	2-1
2011	West Indies	1-0
2009/10	Bangladesh	2-0
2008/09	New Zealand	1-0
2007	England	1-0
2007	Bangladesh	1-0
2006	West Indies	1-0
2005	Zimbabwe	2-0
2004/05	Bangladesh	2-0
2003/04	Pakistan	2-1
2000/01	Bangladesh	1-0
1993	Sri Lanka	1-0
1986	England	2-0
1971	England	1-0
1970/71	West Indies	1-0
1967/68	New Zealand	3-1



## Juventus lifts Super Cup

- Andrea Pirlo won his first trophy as a coach as Juventus defeated Napoli 2-0 in the Italian Super Cup.



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Women's Asian Cup in India next year

- The 2022 Women's Asian Cup, to be hosted by India, will be held from January 20 to February 6, the Asian Football Confederation announced.
- The tournament will feature 12 teams, expanded from eight in the previous edition, comprising three groups of four with a minimum of 25 matches being played over 18 days. Eight teams will qualify for the newly-introduced quarterfinals.
- The event will also serve as a qualification tournament for the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, which will see a record five Asian teams seal their spots to join co-host Australia for the newly-expanded 32-team global showpiece.
- India has already hosted the 2016 Under-16 Asian Cup and the 2017 Under-17 World Cup.
- AFC General Secretary Dato Windsor John
- All India Football Federation President, Praful Patel

## Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy | Formidable Tamil Nadu vs plucky Baroda

- With this victory, the Tamil Nadu team has won the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for the 2nd time.

Seasons	Winners	Runners-up
2006/07	Tamil Nadu	Punjab
2009/10	Maharashtra	Hyderabad
2010/11	Bengal	Madhya Pradesh
2011/12	Baroda	Punjab
2012/13	Gujarat	Punjab
2013/14	Baroda	Uttar Pradesh
2014/15	Gujarat	Punjab
2015/16	Uttar Pradesh	Baroda
2016/17	East Zone	Central Zone
2017/18	Delhi	Rajasthan
2018/19	Karnataka	Maharashtra
2019/20	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu
2020/21	Tamil Nadu	Baroda



# ARUL IAS ACADEMY

SINCE 2014

## TNPSC GROUP 1 MAINS 2020/2021 TEST SERIES

**EXCLUSIVE**

- △ **GROUP 1 MAINS TEST SERIES**
- △ **TOTAL NUMBER OF TEST : 27**
- △ **PAPER WISE TEST : 24**
- △ **MOCK TEST TEST : 3**

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### KEY FEATURES

- ONLINE , POSTAL AND CLASSROOM BATCH AVAILABLE
- ANSWER KEY FORMAT FOR EACH TEST
- AFTER COMPLETION OF ONE TEST , NEXT TEST WILL BE PROVIDED ONLY AFTER SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION
- CLASSROOM BATCH ONLY @KARUR  
(DISCUSSION FOR EACH TEST)
- FOR POSTAL STUDENTS REFERENCE MATERIAL WILL BE PROVIDED FOR EACH TEST
- TEST WILL BE CONDUCTED ON BOTH TAMIL AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- QUESTIONS WILL BE OF RECENT TREND AS PER TNPSC PATTERN

# TEST SCHEDULE

## TOTAL MODULES : 9 AND MOCK TEST

### ▲ **MODULE 1 :**

INDIAN POLITY

NO. OF TEST :4 ( TEST NO.1 TO TEST NO.4)

### ▲ **MODULE 2 :**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NO. OF TEST :3( TEST NO.5 TO TEST NO.7)

### ▲ **MODULE 3 :**

TAMIL SOCIETY AND CULTURE

NO. OF TEST : 2 ( TEST NO.8 TO TEST NO.9)

### ▲ **MODULE 4 :**

GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

NO. OF TEST : 3 ( TEST NO.10 TO TEST NO.12)

### ▲ **MODULE 5 :**

ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY

NO. OF TEST : 2 ( TEST NO.13 TO TEST NO.14)

### ▲ **MODULE 6 :**

INDIAN ECONOMY

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.15 TO TEST NO.17)

### ▲ **MODULE 7:**

MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE

GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.18 TO TEST NO.20)

### ▲ **MODULE 8 :**

SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.21 TO TEST NO.23)

### ▲ **MODULE 9 :**

CURRENT AFFAIRS

NO. OF TEST :1 (TEST NO.24)

▲ TEST NO.25 PAPER 3(FULL LENGTH TEST)

▲ TEST NO.26 PAPER 2(FULL LENGTH TEST)

▲ TEST NO.27 PAPER 1(FULL LENGTH TEST)

# MODULE 1

NO. OF TEST: 4 (TEST NO.1 TO TEST NO.4)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT- I : INDIAN POLITY

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
1.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p><b>Constitution of India:</b> Historical background - Making of the Indian Constitution - Preamble - Salient features of the Indian Constitution - Fundamental Rights and Fundamental Duties - Directive Principles of State Policy - Schedules to the Indian Constitution. <b>Union Executive:</b> President, Vice - President, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Attorney General of India. <b>Union Legislature:</b> Parliament: Lok - Sabha and Rajya - Sabha - Composition, Powers, Functions and Legislative procedures. <b>Union Judiciary:</b> Structure, Powers and Functions of the Supreme Court - Judicial Review - Latest Verdicts</p>
2.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p><b>State Executive:</b> Governor, Chief Minister - Speaker and Council of Ministers , Advocate General of the State. <b>State Legislature:</b> State Legislative Assembly - Organization, Powers and Functions. <b>State Judiciary:</b> Organisation, Powers and Functions of High Courts, District Courts and Subordinate Courts. <b>Local Government:</b> Historical Development - Features and working of 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992. <b>Union Territories:</b> Evolution of States and Union Territories - Administration of Union Territories. <b>Federalism in India:</b> Centre - State Relations - Centre - State Administrative Relations - Centre - State Legislative Relations and Centre - State Financial Relations.</p>
3.	<p>UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India</p> <p><b>Civil Services in India:</b> Historical background - Classification of Civil Services - Recruitment &amp; Training of Civil Servants. <b>State Services:</b> Classification of State Services and Recruitment. <b>Official Language:</b> Constitutional provision - Official Language Act, VIII Schedule to the Constitution. <b>Amendments:</b> Major Amendments to the Indian Constitution. <b>Special Status to Jammu &amp; Kashmir:</b> Art 370.</p>



UNIT- I : Indian Polity and emerging political trends across the world affecting India

**Political Parties:** National & Regional parties, Pressure Groups, Interest Groups, Public Opinion, Mass Media, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and their role. **Issue Areas in Indian**

**Administration:** Corruption in India - Anti - Corruption Measures - CVC - Lok Adalats - Ombudsman - RTI Act - Minister - Secretary Relationship - Generalist Vs. Specialist controversy.

4.

**Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies** - Composition, Powers and Functions. **Profile of States** - Defence, National Security and Terrorism - World Organisations - Pacts and Summits. **India's Foreign Policy:** Foreign Affairs with Special emphasis on India's relations with neighbouring countries and in the region - Security and defence related issues - Nuclear Policy - Issues and conflicts. The Indian Diaspora and its contribution to India and to the World.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## MODULE 2

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.5 TO TEST NO.7)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT - II : ROLE AND IMPACT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN  
THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIA

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
5.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Health and hygiene - Human diseases - Prevention and remedies - Communicable diseases and non-communicable diseases - Genetic Engineering - Organ transplantation - Stem cell Technology - Medical Tourism - Advancements in Horticulture &amp; Agriculture.</p>
6.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Science and Technology - Role, Achievements and Developments - Their applications and effects in everyday life - Energy - Conventional and Non-conventional - Self-sufficiency - Oil exploration - Defence Research Organizations and other science and technology institutions - Ocean Research and Development - Role and Functions.</p>
7.	<p>UNIT - II : Role And Impact Of Science And Technology In The Development Of India</p> <p>Advancements in the fields of I.T., Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology - Mobile Communication - Remote sensing and its benefits. Achievements of Indians in the fields of Science and Technology. Latest inventions in science &amp; technology.</p>

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

## MODULE 3

NO. OF TEST :2 ( TEST NO.8 TO TEST NO.9)

SUBJECT: PAPER - II

UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE

(Candidates may answer the questions in this unit

EITHER in Tamil OR in English)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORITION
8.	<p><b>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.</li><li>2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.</li><li>3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.</li><li>4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.</li><li>5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.</li><li>6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.</li></ol>
9.	<p><b>UNIT - III : TAMIL SOCIETY - ITS CULTURE AND HERITAGE</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Tamil Society : Origin and expansion.</li><li>2) Art and Culture : Literature, Music, Film, Drama, Architecture, Sculpture, Paintings and Folk Arts.</li><li>3) Socio - economic history of Tamil Nadu from Sangam age to till date.</li><li>4) Growth of Rationalist, Dravidian movements in Tamil Nadu - Their role in the socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.</li><li>5) Social and cultural life of contemporary Tamils : Caste, Religion, Women, Politics, Education, Economy, Trade and relationship with other countries.</li><li>6) Tamil and other Disciplines: Mass Media, Computer etc.</li></ol>

## MODULE 4

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.10 TO TEST NO.12)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO  
TAMILNADU

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
10.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <p>Location - Physical features - Major Rivers - Weather &amp; Climate - Monsoon, Rainfall - Natural resources:- Soil, Water, Forest, Minerals and Wild life - Agricultural pattern - Livestock - Fisheries - Industries; Major industries - Growth and Development</p>
11.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Social- Cultural geography - Population : Growth, Density and Distribution - Racial, linguistic and major tribes.</li><li>▲ <b>GEOGRAPHY -CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></li></ul>
12.	<p>UNIT-I : GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TAMILNADU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▲ Oceanography - Bottom relief features of Indian Ocean, Arabian sea and Bay of Bengal.</li><li>▲ Basics of Geospatial Technology: Geographical Information System (GIS) and Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS).</li><li>▲ Map: Geographical landmarks - India and its neighbours.</li></ul>

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## MODULE 5

NO. OF TEST :2 ( TEST NO.13 TO TEST NO.14)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

### UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
13.	<p><b>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Ecology:</b> Structure and function of Ecosystem - Ecological succession - Biodiversity conservation: Types - Biodiversity Hot Spots in India - Biodiversity : Significance and Threats - In situ and Ex situ conservation measures - Roles of Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) &amp; Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Environmental Laws, Policies &amp; Treaties in India and Global scenario - Natural calamities and Disaster Management - Environmental Health and Sanitation.</p>
14.	<p><b>UNIT II: ENVIRONMENT, BIODIVERSITY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Environmental Pollution and Management:</b> Air, Water, Soil, Thermal and Noise pollution and control strategies - Solid and Hazardous waste management - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Steps in EIA process - Environmental Clearance - Environmental Auditing. <b>Climate Change:</b> Global Environmental Issues and Management - Changes in monsoon pattern in Tamil Nadu and India - Environmental consequences of climate change and mitigation measures - Clean and Green Energy - Environmental Sustainability.</p> <p><b>Environment CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p>

# MODULE 6

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.15 TO TEST NO.17)

SUBJECT: PAPER - III

UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND  
IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
15.	<p><b>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</b></p> <p>Features of Indian Economy - Demographical profile of India - National Income - Capital formation - NEP (New Economic Policy) - NITI AYOOG - National Development Council. Agriculture - Role of Agriculture - Land reforms - New Agricultural Strategy - Green Revolution - Price Policy, Public Distribution System (PDS), Subsidy, Food Security- Agricultural Marketing, Crop Insurance, Labour - Rural credit &amp; indebtedness - WTO &amp; Agriculture. Industry - Growth - Policy - Role of public sector and disinvestment - Privatisation and Liberalization - Public Private Partnership (PPP) - SEZs. - MSMEs. - Make in India. Infrastructure in India - Transport System - Energy - Power - Communication - Social Infrastructure - Science &amp; Technology - R&amp;D.</p>
16.	<p><b>UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY - CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA</b></p> <p>Banking &amp; Finance - Banking, Money &amp; Finance - Central Bank - Commercial Bank - NBFIs. - Stock Market - Financial Reforms - Financial Stability - Monetary Policy - RBI &amp; Autonomy. Public Finance - Sources of Revenue - Tax &amp; Non-Tax Revenue - Canons of taxation - GST - Public expenditure - Public debt - Finance Commission - Fiscal Policy Issues in Indian Economy - Poverty &amp; inequality - Poverty alleviation programmes - MGNREGA - New Welfare programmes for rural poverty - Unemployment - Inflation - Inflation targeting - Sustainable economic growth - Gender issues. India's Foreign Trade - BOP, EX-IM Policy, FOREX Market, FDI; Globalization &amp; its impact - Global economic crisis &amp; impact on Indian economy.</p>

17.

UNIT III : INDIAN ECONOMY -  
CURRENT ECONOMIC TRENDS AND  
IMPACT OF GLOBAL ECONOMY ON INDIA

International Agencies - IMF (International Monetary Fund) World Bank - BRICS - SAARC - ASEAN. Tamil Nadu Economy & Issues - Gross State Domestic Product - Trends in State's economic growth - Demographic profile of Tamil Nadu - Agriculture - Industry & entrepreneurship development in Tamil Nadu - Infrastructure - Power, Transportation systems - Social Infrastructure - SHGs. & Rural Women empowerment - Rural poverty & unemployment - Environmental issues - Regional economic disparities - Local Government - Recent government welfare programmes.

**ECONOMY CUURENT AFFAIRS**



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# MODULE 7

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.18 TO TEST NO.20)

SUBJECT: PAPER - I

UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE

UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

(SSLC Standard)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
18.	<p>UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Advent of European invasion - Expansion and consolidation of British rule - Early uprising against British rule - 1857 Revolt - Indian National Congress - Growth of militant movements - Different modes of agitations - Emergence of national leaders - Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore, Netaji, Moulana Abulkalam Azad, Ambedkar and Patel - Era of different Acts &amp; Pacts - Second World War &amp; final phase struggle - Communalism led to partition.</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b></p> <p>Information technology - Basic terms, Communications - Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) - Decision making and problem solving - Basics in Computers / Computer terminology.</p>
19.	<p>UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Effect of British rule on socio-economic factors - National renaissance - Socio religious reform movements. Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Bharathiar, VOC, Subramania Siva, Rajaji, Periyar and others - Political parties and Welfare schemes.</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b></p> <p>Conversion of information to data - Collection, compilation and presentation of data - Tables, Graphs, Diagrams - Parametric representation of data - Analytical interpretation of data - Percentage - Highest Common Factor (HCF) - Lowest Common Multiple (LCM)</p>
20.	UNIT- I: MODERN HISTORY OF INDIA AND INDIAN CULTURE



**UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**  
(SSLC Standard)

India since independence - Characteristics of Indian culture - Unity in diversity - Race, Language, Religion Custom - India: a secular state - Organizations for fine arts, dance, drama and music.

**Latest diary of events:** National and International - National symbols- Eminent personalities & places in news - Sports & Games - Books & Authors - Awards & Honours - Cultural panorama - Latest historical events - Latest terminology - Appointments - who is who?

**GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY**

Ratio and Proportion - Simple interest - Compound interest



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## MODULE 8

NO. OF TEST :3 ( TEST NO.21 TO TEST NO.23)

SUBJECT: PAPER - I

UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU

UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE & MENTAL ABILITY

(SSLC Standard)

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
<b>21.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p><b>SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU</b> Population Explosion - Unemployment issues in India &amp; Tamil Nadu - Child Abuse &amp; Child Labour - Poverty - Rural and Urban Sanitation - Illiteracy. Women Empowerment - Role of the Government in Women Empowerment - Social injustice to Women - Domestic violence, Dowry menace, Sexual assault - Role of women and women's organisations</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> Area - Volume</p>
<b>22.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Social changes in India - Urbanization and its impact on the society - Problems and remedies - Impact of violence on Society - Religious violence, Terrorism and Communal violence - Regional Disparities - Problems of Minorities - Human Rights issues. Education - Linkage between Education and Social Development - Community Development Programmes - Employment Guarantee Schemes - Self Employment and Entrepreneurship Development - Role of N.G.Os in Social Welfare</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> Time and Work</p>
<b>23.</b>	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <p>Government Policy on Health. Welfare Schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Central and State governments and their performance.</p> <p><b>GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY</b> Probability.</p>

## MODULE 9

NO. OF TEST :1 ( TEST NO.24)

CURRENT AFFAIRS

TEST NO.	SUBJECT/PORTION
24.	<p>UNIT- II : SOCIAL ISSUES IN INDIA AND TAMIL NADU UNIT-III : GENERAL APTITUDE &amp; MENTAL ABILITY (SSLC Standard)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>△ Current Affairs On</li><li>△ Indian Polity, Law,</li><li>△ Latest Diary Of Events: National And International - National Symbols- Eminent Personalities &amp; Places In News - Sports &amp; Games - Books &amp; Authors - Awards &amp; Honours - Cultural Panorama - Latest Historical Events - Latest Terminology - Appointments - Who Is Who?</li><li>△ Latest Inventions In Science &amp; Technology,</li><li>△ Geography Current Affairs,</li><li>△ Environmental Current Affairs,</li><li>△ Economy Current Affairs.</li></ul>
	<p>MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 3 - TEST NO. 25 MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 2 - TEST NO. 26 MOCK TEST NO.1 PAPER 1 - TEST NO. 27</p> <p>ALL THE BEST.....</p>

✂ **Total No. of Tests -27 (Including Mock Tests)**

✂ **Question paper will be in both language Tamil and english**

✂ **Answer Booklet** will be provided as per **TNPSC Group I Main Examination** conducted by TNPSC

✂ **Test series with TNPSC GROUP 1 MAINS syllabus covered .**

✂ **Paper correction within 2 days from the day of test mark and rank will be published on the same day of valuation**

✂ **Each and every student will be guided after every valuation of paper and result.**

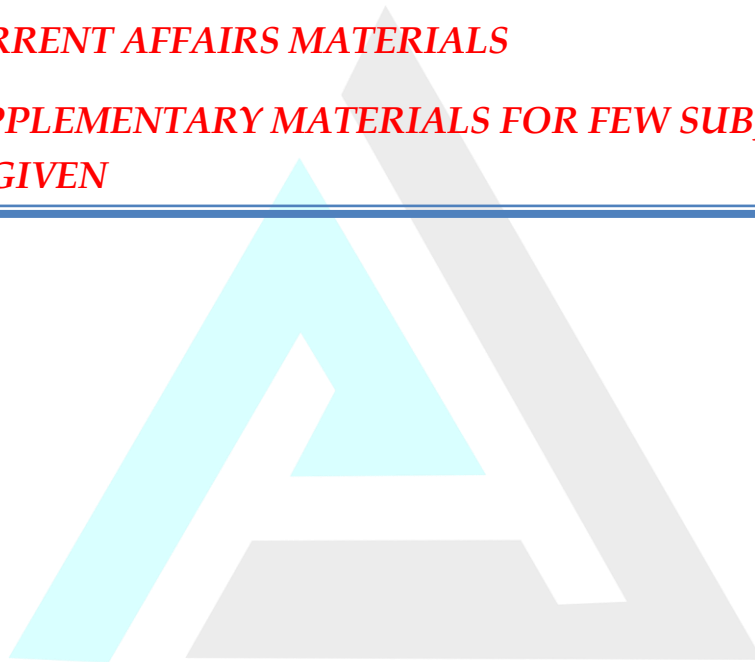
**TYPE OF BATCHES AVAILABLE:**

**TNPSC GROUP1 MAINS**

- ▲ Online(Mail Mode)
- ▲ Postal (Courier)
- ▲ Classroom

**NOTE**

- ▲ **CURRENT AFFAIRS MATERIALS**
- ▲ **SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS FOR FEW SUBJECT WILL BE GIVEN**



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**BASED ON REVISED SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

**TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC**

**GROUP - II/IIA PRELIMS**

- ▲ SCHOOL BOOK TEST : 10
- ▲ SYLLABUS BASED : 10
- ▲ TOTAL TEST : 20

**MODULE 1: SCHOOL BOOK MANDATORY TEST  
SCHEDULE**

<b>S.NO</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>NO.OF QUES</b>
1.	CIVICS 6 <sup>TH</sup> -8 <sup>TH</sup> STD	100
2.	CIVICS 9 <sup>TH</sup> -10 <sup>TH</sup> STD	100
3.	POLITICAL SCIENCE 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	150
4.	GEOGRAPHY 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 10 <sup>TH</sup>	150
5.	GEOGRAPHY 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	100
6.	ECONOMICS 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 12 <sup>TH</sup>	150
7.	HISTORY 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 8 <sup>TH</sup> STD	150
8.	HISTORY 9 <sup>TH</sup> TO 12 <sup>TH</sup> STD	150
9.	SCIENCE 6 <sup>TH</sup> TO 10 <sup>TH</sup>	200
10.	SCIENCE 11 <sup>TH</sup> AND 12 <sup>TH</sup>	150

## MODULE 2: SYLLABUS BASED TEST

**DATE OF EXAM:** Will Be Given Individually For Students Joining Test Batch

TEST NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
11.	<b>UNIT-VI: INDIAN ECONOMY</b> (i) Nature of Indian economy - Five year plan models - an assessment - Planning Commission and Niti Ayog. (ii) Sources of revenue - Reserve Bank of India - Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy - Finance Commission - Resource sharing between Union and State Governments - Goods and Services Tax. (iii) Structure of Indian Economy and Employment Generation, Land reforms and Agriculture - Application of Science and Technology in agriculture - Industrial growth - Rural welfare oriented programmes - Social problems - Population, education, health, employment, poverty. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ Highest Common Factor (HCF) ✓ Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS	200 QUES
12.	<b>UNIT- III: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA</b> (i) Location - Physical features - Monsoon, rainfall, weather and climate - Water resources - Rivers in India - Soil, minerals and natural resources - Forest and wildlife - Agricultural pattern. (ii) Transport - Communication. (iii) Social geography - Population density and distribution - Racial, linguistic groups and major tribes. (iv) Natural calamity - Disaster Management - Environmental pollution: Reasons and preventive measures - Climate change - Green energy. <b>APTITUDE</b> ✓ SIMPLIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE <b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b> ✓ JAN&FEB 2020	150 QUES
13.	<b>UNIT-VII: INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT</b> (i) National renaissance - Early uprising against British rule - Indian National Congress - Emergence of leaders - B.R.Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Bharathiar, V.O.Chidambaranar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar,	150 QUES

	<p>Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Subash Chandra Bose and others.</p> <p>(ii) Different modes of Agitation: Growth of Satyagraha and Militant movements.</p> <p>(iii) Communalism and partition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ RATIO and PROPORTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MAR&amp;APRIL&amp;MAY 2020</p>	
14.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-V: INDIAN POLITY</b></p> <p>(i) Constitution of India - Preamble to the Constitution - Salient features of the Constitution - Union, State and Union Territory.</p> <p>(ii) Citizenship, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties, Directive Principles of State Policy.</p> <p>(iii) Union Executive, Union legislature - State Executive, State Legislature - Local governments, Panchayat Raj.</p> <p>(iv) Spirit of Federalism: Centre - State Relationships.</p> <p>(v) Election - Judiciary in India - Rule of law.</p> <p>(vi) Corruption in public life - Anti-corruption measures - Lokpal and LokAyukta - Right to Information - Empowerment of women - Consumer protection forums, Human rights charter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ SIMPLE and COMPOUND INTEREST</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JUNE TO SEPT 2020</p>	200 QUES
15.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IV: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA</b></p> <p>(i) Indus valley civilization - Guptas, Delhi Sultans, Mughals and Marathas - Age of Vijayanagaram and Bahmani Kingdoms - South Indian history.</p> <p>(ii) Change and Continuity in the Socio - Cultural History of India.</p> <p>(iii) Characteristics of Indian culture, Unity in diversity - Race, language, custom.</p> <p>(iv) India as a Secular State, Social Harmony.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT- VIII : History, Culture, Heritage and Socio - Political Movements in Tamil Nadu</b></p> <p>(i) History of Tamil Society, related Archaeological discoveries, Tamil Literature from Sangam age till contemporary times.</p> <p>(ii) Thirukkural :</p>	175 QUES



	<p>(a) Significance as a Secular literature  (b) Relevance to Everyday Life  (c) Impact of Thirukkural on Humanity  (d) Thirukkural and Universal Values - Equality, Humanism, etc  (e) Relevance to Socio - Politico - Economic affairs  (f) Philosophical content in Thirukkural  <b>(iii)</b> Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle.  <b>(iv)</b> Evolution of 19th and 20th Century Socio-Political movements in Tamil Nadu - Justice Party, Growth of Rationalism - Self Respect Movement, Dravidian movement and Principles underlying both these movements, Contributions of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ TIME AND WORK</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ OCT TO DEC 2020</p>	
16.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT - IX : Development Administration in Tamil Nadu</b></p> <p><b>(i)</b> Human Development Indicators in Tamil Nadu and a comparative assessment across the Country - Impact of Social Reform movements in the Socio - Economic Development of Tamil Nadu.  <b>(ii)</b> Political parties and Welfare schemes for various sections of people - Rationale behind Reservation Policy and access to Social Resources - Economic trends in Tamil Nadu - Role and impact of social welfare schemes in the Socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.  <b>(iii)</b> Social Justice and Social Harmony as the Cornerstones of Socio - Economic development.  <b>(iv)</b> Education and Health systems in Tamil Nadu.  <b>(v)</b> Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on Economic growth.  <b>(vi)</b> Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields.  <b>(vii)</b> e-governance in Tamil Nadu.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ AREA AND VOLUME</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ JAN TO FEB 2021</p>	150 QUES

17.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNIT-I : GENERAL SCIENCE</b></p> <p>(i) Scientific Knowledge and Scientific temper - Power of Reasoning - Rote Learning Vs Conceptual Learning - Science as a tool to understand the past, present and future.</p> <p>(ii) Nature of Universe - General Scientific Laws - Mechanics - Properties of Matter, Force, Motion and Energy - Everyday application of the basic principles of Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Light, Sound, Heat, Nuclear Physics, Laser, Electronics and Communications.</p> <p>(iii) Elements and Compounds, Acids, Bases, Salts, Petroleum Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides.</p> <p>(iv) Main concepts of Life Science, Classification of Living Organisms, Evolution, Genetics, Physiology, Nutrition, Health and Hygiene, Human diseases.</p> <p>(v) Environment and Ecology.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>APTITUDE</b></p> <p>✓ REASONING</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CURRENT AFFAIRS</b></p> <p>✓ MARCH AND APRIL &amp; MAY - 2021</p>	150 QUES
18.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.1</b>	200 QUES
19.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.2</b>	200 QUES
20.	<b>MOCK TEST NO.3</b>	200 QUES

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