

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

For TNPSC Group I, II/IIA,
IV & VAO Exams

December week - 2, 2021



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Tamil Nadu News

Special drone unit

1. The Tamil Nadu government has planned to form a special drone unit for the Greater Chennai police.
2. It includes nine drones including six quick response payload drones, two long-range surveillance drones and a lifeguard drone.
3. The drone units will be deployed at vantage points in the city to aid and assist field police officers
4. It aims to reduce the response time to distress calls, conduct surveillance on VIP routes and crime-prone areas.
5. The quick response payload drone will be a multi-rotor drone capable of interchangeable payloads.
6. It has an HD camera with thermal and night vision.

Kaliveli wetlands

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu has declared 5,151.60 hectares of swamp/wetlands in **Villupuram** district as Kazhuveli Wetland Birds Sanctuary.
2. The declaration was made in exercise of the power conferred in the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
3. Kazhuveli or Kaliveli wetland system is one of the largest waterfowl congregation sites in Tamil Nadu.
4. It is a well-known raptor roosting site for species like the Eastern Imperial Eagle, Greater Spotted Eagle, Red-necked Falcon and several harriers.
5. A rare migratory wader named 'Grey-tailed Tattler' has been recorded here.
6. Kazhuveli falls in the Central Asian migratory path of birds.
7. It is also home to the second-largest brackish water lake in South India.
8. Kazhuveli will be the **16th Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu**.

The Protected Areas in the State includes,

- 5 National parks,
- 15 Wildlife sanctuaries,
- 15 bird sanctuaries and
- 2 conservation reserves
- Besides, 5 Tiger Reserves viz. Anamalai, Kalakkad - Mundanthurai, Mudumalai, Sathyamangalam and Srivilliputtur Megamalai.
- Further Tamil Nadu also have 3 Biosphere Reserves viz. Nilgiris, Gulf of Mannar and Agasthiarmalai.

Ujjwala 2.0 scheme in TN

1. Under the Ujjwala 2.0 scheme, 1.74 lakh free liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) connections have been provided in the State.
2. A total of 32.43 lakh beneficiaries were covered in the first phase of the Ujjwala scheme in Tamil Nadu.
3. The state uses the Aadhaar and family card databases and correlate it with the 2011 Census data to ensure maximum coverage.

Ujjwala 2.0

- It was launched in April 2021.
- It provides LPG connections to households under various categories.
- Beneficiaries includes island dwellers, SC/ST, most backward classes, forest dwellers, tea and ex-tea garden tribes.
- These houses should not possess any other LPG connection.
- The households should have some document such as family card or Aadhaar card and have a bank account linked to the Aadhaar.
- The beneficiaries would get a gas stove, Suraksha safety hose, regulator and one LPG cylinder for free.

Initials in Tamil

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu has issued an order making it mandatory for students to write the initials of their names in Tamil.
2. It is to be followed while applying for certificates in schools and colleges.
3. It would also apply to members of the public when they submit applications for government records.
4. The first letter of the parent's name as written in Tamil would be the initial of the applicant.
5. The State government already made it compulsory for its employees to sign their name and initials in Tamil.

Minister of Tamil Official Language and Tamil Culture: **Thiru Thangam Thennarasu**

Isai Perarignar Award

1. Nagaswaram player **Seshampatti T. Sivalingam** will receive the Isai Perarignar Award of the Tamil Isai Sangam on the occasion of its 79th music festival.
2. The Pann Isai Perarignar Award is announced for **Aalavai Pon. M. Muthukumaran**.
3. Mr. Sivalingam had already received the TTK Award of the Music Academy, the Sangeetha Nataka Academy Award and the Kalaimamani Award.

India's first woman psychiatrist

1. **Sarada Menon** who was the longest-serving head of the Institute of Mental Health, died in Chennai.
2. She did her psychiatry training at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences in Bengaluru.
3. She is the country's first woman psychiatrist and was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 1992.
4. She founded the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF India) in 1984 along with psychiatrist R. Thara.

National

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

1. PM Modi inaugurated multiple projects worth Rs 18,000 crore in Uttarakhand recently.
2. This includes the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor which will be built at a cost of around 8,300 crore rupees.
3. It will significantly reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun from six hours to around 2.5 hours.
4. It will have **Asia's largest wildlife elevated corridor** of 12 kilometres for unrestricted wildlife movement.
5. Prime Minister said that India's policy today is of '**Gatishakti**', to work twice or thrice as fast.

Uttarakhand

- Capitals: Dehradun (Winter), Gairsain (Summer).
- Chief minister: Pushkar Singh Dhami.
- Governor: Lt Gen Gurmit Singh.

India's Largest Manufacturing Hub

1. Gujarat has pipped Maharashtra to emerge the largest manufacturing hub in the country.
2. Gujarat's Gross Value Addition (GVA) in manufacturing growing 15.9 per cent annually on average between FY12 and FY20.
3. The data was released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
4. Maharashtra's annual growth rate during the period was 7.5 per cent per annum.
5. It continues to lead as the nation's biggest services hub.
6. The other states with the highest manufacturing GVA were Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.
7. The worst performers among states, which were already among the top 10 manufacturing ones during the period, were Rajasthan, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Gujarat

- Capital: Gandhinagar.
- Chief minister: Bhupendrabhai Patel.
- Governor: Acharya Devvrat.

RBI Monetary Policy

1. Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of RBI has kept the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent for the ninth consecutive time
2. The MPC is headed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das.
3. The Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and bank rates remain unchanged.
 - Policy Repo Rate: 4.00%
 - Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%
 - Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 4.25%
 - Bank Rate: 4.25%
 - CRR: 4%
 - SLR: 18.00%

'She is a Changemaker' Programme

1. It is a a pan-India capacity building programme launched by National Commission for Women.
2. It is launched for women representatives at all levels, gram panchayats to parliament members and political workers including office bearers of National/State political parties.
3. The programme was launched by Ms Rekha Sharma, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women.
4. It aims to improve leadership skills of grassroots women political leaders.

National Commission for Women:

- It was set up as a statutory body in January 1992.
- It was established under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990

e-Sawari India E-Bus Coalition

1. NITI Aayog has announced the 'E-Sawaari India Electric Bus Coalition'.
2. It is in partnership with Convergence Energy Service Ltd (CESL) and World Resources Institute, India (WRI India), with the support from Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI).
3. It aims to share knowledge and learnings on the e-bus adoption in India among several stakeholders.
4. The electrification of public transport is key to India's decarbonisation strategy.
5. This Coalition is a step toward ensuring steady and paced electrification of the bus transport system in India.

InFinity Forum

1. Prime Minister Modi virtually inaugurated a thought leadership forum on FinTech, 'InFinity Forum'.
2. The event was hosted by International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in collaboration with GIFT City and Bloomberg.
3. Indonesia, South Africa and the United Kingdom were the partner countries in the 1st edition of the Forum.
4. It is an event with a focus on aspects relating to FinTech and using it for inclusive growth.
5. The InFinity Forum had a theme named 'Beyond.'

International

Clean Energy and Climate Partnership

1. India and European Union (EU) jointly agreed to implement the 2016 India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership.
2. The Panel agreed on increased technical cooperation in energy efficiency, renewable energy, green hydrogen, grid integration, storage, power market design, interconnection, cold chain, and sustainable financing.
3. The Panel also agreed to explore further avenues to strengthen India-EU cooperation in the context of the International Solar Alliance.
4. EU expressed its support for the close cooperation between India and the International Energy Agency.

Gambia's President

1. Adama Barrow won a second term as President in the Gambia's presidential election.
2. He won by achieving over 53% votes from 50 of 53 constituencies.
3. The previous presidentship of Adama Barrow ended the 20 year long dictatorship of former Yahya Jammeh.

Gambia

- Capital: Banjul
- Currency: Gambian dalasi.

Sunil Arora invited to join IDEA

1. Former chief election commissioner (CEC) **Sunil Arora** has been invited to join the board of advisers at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, also known as International IDEA.
2. Mr. Arora was India's 23rd Chief Election Commissioner.
3. IDEA was established in 1995. It is an intergovernmental organization based in Stockholm, Sweden.
4. The institute is assisted by a 15-member board of advisers who are eminent personalities or experts from a wide variety of backgrounds
5. It is an organisation that support sustainable democracy worldwide.
6. It has 34 member countries which include large and small, older and newer democracies from all continents.
7. India was one of the founding members of IDEA.

Beijing Winter Olympics

1. The United States has announced that US officials will not attend the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing.
2. It was after China pledged unspecified "countermeasures" against any such diplomatic boycott.
3. The US cited that "China's human rights ATROCITIES" is the main reason for its boycott.
4. The US has named the boycott as "Diplomatic Boycott".
5. It means that the US is not sending any official or diplomatic representation to participate in the Olympics.
6. However, the US is allowing American athletes to participate in the Olympics.

India-Russia Summit 2021

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin held the 21st India-Russia Annual Summit.
2. 28 agreements were signed in different sectors including trade, energy, science and technology, intellectual property, etc.
3. The leaders discussed on International North-South Transport Corridor and the Chennai – Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor.
4. The first ever India Russia **2 plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue** was held in New Delhi the before day.
5. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar represented the Indian side in the 2 plus 2 Dialogue and the Russian side was represented by their Foreign Affairs Minister and Defence Minister.
6. Both India and Russia are currently developing fifth-generation Fighter Aircraft and Multi-Role Transport Aircraft.

5th Indian Ocean Conference

1. The 5th Indian Ocean Conference was held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE).
2. The theme of the conference was '**Indian Ocean: Ecology, Economy, Epidemic**'.
3. The event is organised by the India foundation and is chaired by Sri Lankan President, Gotabaya Rajapaksa.
4. This year the conference is dealing with the challenges faced by the Indian ocean, due to the effects of the pandemic, economic decline and climate change.
5. Addressing the event, Dr. S Jaishankar highlighted China's growing power in the region.

Defence

Sandhayak

1. Indian shipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) has launched first large survey vessel Sandhayak for Indian Navy.
2. The vessel is the first in the series of four ships being built under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project.
3. In October 2018, the Indian Ministry of Defence and GRSE signed the contract to build the four survey ships.
4. Over 80% of the vessel is indigenous content by cost, the ships are fully designed by GRSE.
5. They are being built using 'Integrated Construction' concepts.

Exercise ECUVERIN

1. The military exercise ECUVERIN-21 between India and Maldives, held at Kadhdhoo Island, **Maldives**.
2. The exercise enhances synergy and inter-operability between the Armed Forces.
3. The joint military exercise will also include cultural and sports activities to enhance defence cooperation and bilateral relations.

President's Standard Award

1. President's Standard award was presented to 22nd **Missile Vessels Squadron** of Indian Navy.
2. The squadron is being awarded in 2021 as this year marks the 50th anniversary of India's victory in the 1971 war.
3. It is being celebrated across the country as **Swarnim Vijay Varsh**.
4. The Missile Vessels Squadron has been a part of Operation Vijay, Operation Parakram, etc.
5. The President's Standard Award is the highest honour awarded in military in recognition of the service rendered to the nation.
6. It is presented by the President of India.
7. The pride of the honour is equivalent to that of President's Colours awards.

Science & Technology

Digital twin platform

1. A pan India program to make the Digital Twin of the entire Urban India is launched by the Genesys International.
2. The launch programme was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
3. The creation of this very accurate 3D data will mean a host of applications would open up in high-definition mapping.
4. It will aid the smart cars, e-commerce, logistics, gaming, utilities planning for next-generation networks in telecom, etc.

The Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021

1. The Rajya Sabha recently passed the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Bill, 2021.
2. The bill seeks to set standards and codes of conduct for fertility clinics and sperm banks in the country, prevent misuse as well as adopt safe and ethical practices.
3. The Bill proposed to set up an ART bank to regulate/ensure the supply of sperm or semen, oocytes, or oocyte donors to ART clinics for their patients.
4. Women above the legal age of marriage and below 50 and men above the legal age of marriage and below 55 can avail the services.
5. To regulate the services offered by the clinics, a national board, a national registry and a registration authority.

IXPE

1. US space agency NASA launched its Imaging X-ray Polarimetry Explorer (IXPE) mission.
2. SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket carried away the mission spacecraft from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
3. It is a joint effort of NASA with the Italian Space Agency.
4. The IXPE observatory is NASA's first mission dedicated to measuring the polarization of X-rays from the most extreme and mysterious objects in the universe.
5. The objects of study by this observatory are supernova remnants, supermassive black holes, and dozens of other high-energy objects.

Appointments

New German chancellor

1. Olaf Scholz, a Social Democrat was elected as the new chancellor by the German lawmakers.
2. It puts an end to 16 years of conservative rule of Angela Merkel.
3. Scholz previously served as vice-chancellor and finance minister during the Merkel administration.

Germany

- Capital: Berlin
- Currency: Euro
- President: Frank-Walter Steinmeier.

FICCI President

1. **Mr Sanjiv Mehta** will be appointed as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
2. Mr Mehta, currently, the Senior Vice President of FICCI, will be succeeding Mr Uday Shankar, the current President of FICCI.
3. Currently Mr Sanjiv Mehta is the Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL).

Bureaucratic reshuffle

1. The Government of India has appointed **Alka Upadhyaya** as chairperson of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
2. Upadhyaya is currently Additional Secretary in the Department of Rural Development.
3. **Sanjay Bandopadhyay**, has been named as the chairman of Inland Waterways Authority of India.
4. **Sundeep Kumar Nayak** has been appointed as Director-General, National Productivity Council, Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade.

Important Days

International Volunteer Day

1. It is celebrated on 5 December 2021.
2. It is also called International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development.
3. The theme for 2021 is "Volunteer now for our common future".
4. It is to celebrate the efforts of volunteers and organizations and offer the opportunity to promote volunteerism.
5. The day was first observed and mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.

World Soil Day

1. The World Soil Day observed on **5 December** every year.
2. It is observed to raise awareness of the importance of soil quality for human well-being, food security and ecosystems.
3. Its campaign is "**Halt soil salinization, boost soil productivity**".
4. The FAO Conference unanimously endorsed World Soil Day in June 2013.
5. In December 2013 the UN General Assembly responded by designating 5 December 2014 as the first official World Soil Day.

Food and Agriculture Organisation

- It is headquartered in Rome, Italy.
- It is headed by Qu Dongyu.

Mahaparinirvan Divas

1. India observes **December 6** as Mahaparinirvan Divas every year to mark the death anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar.
2. He fought for the economic and social empowerment of Dalits in the country.
3. He was popularly known as Babasaheb Ambedkar passed away on December 6, 1956.
4. The Union government has decided to celebrate Mahaparinirvan Divas as part of the major commemoration of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
5. Ambedkar was posthumously conferred with the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.

International Civil Aviation Day

1. International Civil Aviation Day is celebrated every year on **December 7**.
2. It is to recognize the importance of aviation to the social and economic development of the world.
3. The theme of the day is "**Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development**".

International Civil Aviation Organization

- Headquarter: Montreal, Canada.
- President: Salvatore Sciacchitano.

SAARC Charter Day

1. The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Charter Day is observed annually on **8th December**.
2. It is to commemorate the adoption of the SAARC Charter.
3. The year 2021 marks the 37th anniversary of the regional group.
4. The charter was signed by the Leaders of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

5. The First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

International Anti-Corruption Day

1. It is observed annually on **9 December** to raise public awareness for anti-corruption.
2. The day is observed since the passage of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption on 31 October 2003.
3. The theme of the Day 2021 is "**Your right, your role: say no to corruption**".
4. It seeks to highlight the rights and responsibilities of everyone including States, Government officials, etc. in tackling corruption.

Awards

"Young Geospatial Scientist" Award

1. Ropesh Goyal from IIT-Kanpur won the 'Young Geospatial Scientist' award.
2. It is in recognition of his unique contribution to developing the Indian Geoid Model and computation software.
3. It was awarded during the event of the DigiSmart India 2021 conference hosted by the Geospatial World.
4. The award is to promising scientists below 35 years of age in memory of Rachapudi Kamakshi, a strategic analyst with a strong inclination towards geography and geospatial studies.

UNESCO heritage awards

1. Nizamuddin Basti project wins two UNESCO heritage awards
2. It is a project on holistic urban revitalisation of the historic Nizamuddin Basti community in Delhi.
3. The project won in two categories in this year's UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation.
4. It has bagged the prestigious Award of Excellence and also won the Special Recognition for Sustainable Development category.
5. Nine projects from six countries Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Malaysia, and Thailand have been honoured by a jury of heritage experts.

Ciprian Foias Award

1. Indian-origin mathematician Prof. Nikhil Srivastava has been jointly selected for the inaugural Ciprian Foias Prize by American Mathematical Society (AMS).
2. Prof. Srivastava will receive the prize along with Prof. Adam Marcus and Prof. Daniel Spielman.
3. The award recognises their highly original work that introduced and developed methods for understanding the characteristic polynomial of matrices.
4. Prof. Srivastava has also won the George Polya Prize in 2014 and the Held prize in 2021.
5. The prize will be presented on January 5, 2022 at the Joint Mathematics Meeting in Seattle.
6. This is described as "the largest mathematics gathering in the world."

Jnanpith Award

1. Konkani novelist and short story writer **Damodar Mauzo** won the 57th Jnanpith Award.
2. Assamese poet **Nilmani Phookan Jr** won the 56th Jnanpith Award.
3. The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and the highest Indian literary award.
4. It is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature."
5. It was instituted in 1961.
6. The award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral.

Sports

Ajaz Patel

1. Ajaz Patel of New Zealand is the 3rd cricketer to take 10 Wickets in an Innings.
2. England bowler Jim Laker had taken 10 wickets in an innings against Australia in 1956.
3. India's Anil Kumble also took 10 wickets against Pakistan in 1999 at the Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi.

Saudi Arabian GP

1. Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** (Britain) won the inaugural edition of the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (GP),
2. He surpassed Max Verstappen (Netherlands) in the event held at the coastal resort area in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

BWF Player of the Year

1. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark was named Male player of the year 2021.
2. China's Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying was named the Female player of the year 2021 by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

Books & Authors

Book	Author	Description
1971: Charge of the Gorkhas and Other Stories	Rachna Bisht Rawat	It tells the story of the flight lieutenant who went missing after his plane crashed inside Pakistan in modern military history.
Public Service Ethics- A Quest for Naitik Bharat	Prabhat Kumar	The book highlights the multiple dimensions element of human character, the practice of ethical principles as a way of life.
The Midway Battle: Modi's Roller-coaster Second Term	Gautam Chintamani	It marks the second tenure of the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Miscellaneous

Asia Power Index 2021

1. India has ranked 4th most powerful country in the Asia-Pacific region.
2. It is based on Lowy Institute Asia Power Index 2021.
3. The annual Asia Power Index measures resources and influence to assess the relative power of states in Asia.
4. The top 10 countries for overall power in the Asia-Pacific region are the United States, China, Japan, India, Russian, Australia, South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand.

World's 100 Most Powerful Women

Nirmala Sitharaman, the Finance Minister of India has ranked 37th on the Forbes' list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2021.

Person	Rank
Nirmala Sitharaman	37
Falguni Nayar, Founder & CEO of Nykaa	88
Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of the HCL Technology	52
Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, founder of Biocon	72
MacKenzie Scott, philanthropist, author and ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos	1