

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

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

December week - 5, 2021



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TNPSC Current affairs

Tamilnadu

Meendum Manjappai

CM M K Stalin launched an environment-friendly initiative Meendum Manjapai Vizhipunarvu Iyakkam for reviving the yellow coloured cloth bag that was an integral part of daily life in the past.

This campaign aims at encouraging people to return to the use of this eco-friendly bag and discard the plastic bags.

CM Dashboard Monitoring System

It will enable him to track all welfare schemes, including the status of their implementation, fund allocation and the number of beneficiaries.

It will help in proper monitoring, more efficiency, elimination of delays and prompt decisions.

It will also update the storage levels in the key reservoirs and rainfall patterns.

It will display the status of pleas and representations made on the Chief Minister Helpline, the daily police reports on major crimes, and the progress of housing schemes for the urban and rural poor and water supply schemes.

'Indco Tea Vandis'

Chief Minister flagged off 20 tea-cum-food trucks, called 'Indco Tea Vandis'.

They will serve Indcoserve's various tea varieties to customers with support from the Special Area Development Programme (SADP).

They will be deployed in Chennai, Coimbatore, Tiruppur and the Nilgiris.

Golden Visa

Actor-filmmaker R Parthiepan has become the first Tamil actor to receive Golden Visa from the United Arab Emirates.

It has been accorded to him for his contribution to the field of cinema.

Tolkapityam

Minister of State for Education released the Hindi translation of Tolkāppiyam and the Kannada translations of 9 books of Classical Tamil literature.

It is translated by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil.

Tolkappiyam was written by Tolkappiyar.

It is a work on Tamil grammar literature tradition and sociology.

M S Swaminathan Rose

Viraraghavan, a leading horticulturist in Kodaikanal, bred a new rose variety and named it "The M S Swaminathan Rose".

This variety of rose plant results from a series of crosses between the "news" variety of rose and other purple roses,

It grows up to a height of 4 to 5 feet with a dark green granular surface, large leaves with regular thorns.

This rose wearing magenta-purple is highly disease resistant.

National

GIS-based 'Automatic Water Supply System:

It 1st of its kind in the country launched for citizens of Cantonment.

It is developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics.

It is completely automated which provides a facility to its citizen to identify the location of the water supply connection.

It automatically determines the nearest water pipeline.

It will The module further facilitates sanctions for water connection online.

NITI Aayog and WFP:

NITI Aayog agreed with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) to address issues related to the inclusion of millets in government programmes.

It aims to create a more diverse food basket through its free food distribution programme, with a focus on coarse grains & millets.

The government observed 2018 as a year of millets to encourage and promote millet production in India

It has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

Wizikey report

Reliance Industries Ltd, India's topped as India's most-visible corporate in the media.

Facebook is ranked No.1 on the index, followed by Alphabet Inc. at the Global level.

NTPC is the highest-ranked state-owned firm on the list.

World's first-ever SMS

Vodafone auctioned a non-fungible token (NFT) of the world's first-ever SMS text message, which read 'Merry Christmas', a

It was sent on its network just over 29 years ago.

Its Proceeds from the auction will go to the UN Refugee Agency to support forcibly displaced people.

Vernacular innovation program (VIP)

It is developed by Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under the NITI Aayog.

It will enable innovators and entrepreneurs in India to have access to the innovation ecosystem in 22 scheduled languages.

AIM will train a vernacular task force (VTF) in each of the 22 scheduled languages with each task force consisting of vernacular language teachers, subject experts and technical writers.

Third-Highest number of unicorns

India is the third in the list of countries having the most unicorns, trailing the US (396) and China (277), but ahead of the UK (32) and Germany (18)

It is released by New Hurun India.

It is one of the world's fastest-growing start-up ecosystems.

Bangalore tops in India having more unicorns than major hubs or cities including Boston, Palo, Alto, Paris, Berlin, Chicago.

PM 3 Big Announcement

In India, more than 61 per cent of India's adult population are fully vaccinated.

90% of the adult population received a single dose of the vaccine shots.

Children aged 15-18 years will start another vaccination programme from January 3, 2022.

It will start precaution dose for healthcare and frontline workers from January 10, 2022, onwards.

They allowed citizens above 60 years of age with co-morbidities of taking a precautionary dose of the vaccine on the advice of their doctor from Jan10th.

110th Anniversary of National Anthem

Jana Gana Mana was sung publicly for the first time at the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress on December 27, 1911.

The national anthem is also titled "the morning song of India".

It was adopted as the country's National Anthem by the Constituent Assembly of India on January 24, 1950.

Jana Gana Mana' was written in Bengali by Rabindranath Tagore.

Renukaji Dam

It is a multipurpose project on the Giri river in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.

It will generate 200 million units of energy in a surface powerhouse with 40 MW installed capacity.

It has the storage of 498 million (49.8 crores) cubic metres, which will fulfil about 40 per cent of the drinking water requirement of Delhi.

NITI's Annual Health Index 2021

It is developed by NITI Aayog, World Bank and the Ministry of Health and family welfare.

NITI Aayog categorised smaller states into three segments based on their performance — aspirants, achievers and frontrunners.

Category	Top position	Bottom Position
Larger States	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh
Smaller States	Mizoram	Nagaland
Union Territories	Dadra and Nagar haveli	Andaman and Nicobar

Tamil Nadu Ranks Second with a composite score of 72.42

Good Governance Index 2021

It is prepared by DARPG, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.

The GGI 2020-21 categorises States and UTs into four categories.

Category	Classification	Top position
Other States	Group A	Gujarat
	Group B	Madya Pradesh
North-East and Hill State		Himachal Pradesh
Union Territories		Delhi

Tamil Nadu leads in the Judicial and Public Security Sector.

Marriage Age of Girls

The Draft bill to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 was introduced in Lok Sabha, to increase the minimum age of marriage of females.

It increases the minimum age in case of females to 21 years

It adds that the provisions on overriding effect over any other law, custom, usage or practice governing the parties to the marriage.

Soya Meal – Essential commodity

Centre declares Soya Meal as an Essential Commodity up to 30th June, 2022

It is notified under the Essential Commodities Act

It will smoothen the sale and availability of this item in the market.

It will stop unfair market practices and enhance the availability for consumers like Poultry farms and Cattle feed manufacturers.

SPMRM

Telangana tops in the implementation of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM)

It was launched to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services and create well-planned clusters.

Sangareddy and Kamareddy districts stood in the first two positions among the 300 clusters across the country where the programme was being implemented.

Tamil Nadu and Gujarat took the second and third positions.

India's Chair in UNSC

India will chair the counter-terrorism committee at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) during 2022.

It will be chaired by India after 10 years, as India last chaired this committee in 2012.

It will chair the Taliban Sanctions Committee, Libya Sanctions Committee and the counter-terrorism Committee.

India's first Health Locker

It is developed by Docprime Technologies, a wholly-owned subsidiary of PB Fintech, has launched Docprime Health Locker,

It is India's first Health Locker integrated with Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

ABDM:

It is an initiative of the Union Health Ministry, was launched in August 2020

It will develop an integrated digital health infrastructure, with digital Health IDs of citizens for sharing health data within the ecosystem, and store all of the user's health records.

CEBR's Report

The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR)

India will regain the sixth position in World Economic League Table (WELT) from France next year and become the third-largest economy in 2031.

It also predicted that China will overtake the US in 2030

Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has approved the Corbevax vaccine, the Covovax vaccine, and the anti-viral drug Molnupiravir for restricted use in emergencies.

Corbevax – India's 1st indigenous protein subunit vaccine using the receptor-binding domain of Spike protein.

It is manufactured by Hyderabad-based Biological E

Molnupiravir -Oral antiviral drug

It was developed in collaboration with US firms Ridgeback Biotherapeutics and Merck, initially to treat influenza.

Covavax: recombinant nanoparticle vaccine

1. It is manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII), is also a protein subunit vaccine, but uses recombinant nanoparticle technology.

2. It is developed by US-based Novavax.

ARIIA Ranking 2021

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of the Ministry of Education (MoE).

The rankings were made under two categories- Technical and Non-Technical.

1st the time ARIIA had a category for non-technical higher educational institutions.

Category	Top Positions
Technical	IIT Madras
Non Technical	Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Delhi and IIM Kozhikode.
Colleges(Gov & Gov Aided in Technical)	College of Engineering in Pune and PSG collge of Technology

It will inspire Indian institutions to reorient their mindset and build ecosystems to encourage high-quality research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in their campuses.

Hydro Power Projects

PM laid Foundation four 4 Hydro projects in Himachal Pradesh

Sawra-Kuddu Hydro Power Project

Dhulasidh Hydro Power Project

Luhri Stage 1 Hydro Power Project

Renukaji Dam

Sports University

Major Dhyan Chand Sports University will come up in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.

Major Dhyan Chand, widely regarded as one of the greatest field hockey players in history, scored three Olympic gold medals for India – in 1928, 1932, and 1936.

Digital Degree

PM awards degrees for Students at IIT- based on blockchain technology.

This is the first time in India that the degrees have been awarded using blockchain technology.

Blockchain-based degrees are helpful in keeping records of students and are easily accessible.

The records are safe and also damage-proof.

India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)

This scheme was notified by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is a specialised and independent business division within the Digital India Corporation.

It aims to build a vibrant semiconductor and display ecosystem

It enables India's emergence as a global hub for electronics manufacturing and design.

The mission is authorised to negotiate with the applicants under the semiconductor fab scheme and the display fab scheme.

The mission has given the autonomy to decide the appropriate technology mix, applications, node generation, capacity, among others and propose the structure and quantum of fiscal support for the selected applicants.

International

Dinosaur Embryo

University of Birmingham found an extremely rare, preserved dinosaur embryo curled up inside a fossilised egg, in southern China.

The embryo has been named 'Baby Yingliang' (from the Yingliang Stone Nature History Museum in Xiamen).

It is found underneath the rocks of 'Hekou Formation' at the Shahe Industrial Park in Ganzhou City, Jiangxi Province.

The embryo belongs to a species of toothless beaked theropod, also known as oviraptorosaurs.

BRICS Bank

India has welcomed Egypt as the fourth new member of the BRICS New Development Bank.

It is a multilateral development bank (MDB) established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS)

Its objective is to finance the infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries.

It supports public or private projects through loans, guarantees, equity participation and other financial instruments.

It is headquartered in Shanghai, China.

World's longest Metro line

Shanghai opens longest Metro line in the world

It has opened two new driverless metro lines.

It is ranked as the city with the largest Metro network in the world.

Dual-mode vehicle

The world's first dual-mode vehicle was introduced in the town of Kaiyo, Japan.

It is said that the vehicle can run on roads as well as rail tracks.

Food printing:

A plant-based burger system, that has been personalized to each customer is launched by Israeli food-tech firm SavorEat.

It is the first companies to use 3D printing technology on cook food.

Customers can also choose how much fat and protein they want in each burger.

Appointments

Deputy NSA

Vikram Misri has been named the next Deputy National Security Advisor.

IFS officer and India's envoy to Beijing for almost three years

He will succeed Pankaj Saran, ex-Indian envoy to Russia and Bangladesh who demits office on December 31.

UN Disarmament

Anupam Ray is appointed as India's next permanent representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva.

Mr Ray, a 1994-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently serving as a joint secretary in the MEA's headquarters in Delhi.

SSB director general

Sanjay Arora, ITBP director-general will hold the additional charge of another border guarding force SSB.

The SSB is primarily tasked to guard unfenced Indian borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

Arora, a 1988-batch officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, was appointed the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG

Chandra Prakash Goyal

Chandra Prakash Goyal is appointed as the Director-General of Forests & Special Secretary (DGF&SS), Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change.

Goyal, a 1986 batch IFS officer was previously the Principal Chief Conservator of Forest under Uttar Pradesh Department of Forest.

Sports

Harbhajan Singh:

The 41-year-old from Punjab took 417 wickets in 103 Tests, 269 wickets in 236 ODIs and 25 scalps in 28 T20Is in his illustrious career.

In the IPL across 13 seasons for Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings, and Kolkata Knight Riders, he has scalped 150 wickets in 163 matches.

Harbhajan made his India debut during an ODI against New Zealand at Sharjah in 1998.

He last played for the country in March 2016 during a T20I against the UAE at Dhaka.

Pankaj Advani

Pankaj Advani wins his 11th National Billiards title in Bhopal

He defeated his PSPB teammate Dhruv Sitwala 5-2

It is his 35th overall national title.

Vijay Hazare Trophy 2021

Himachal Pradesh gained victory by defeating Tamil Nadu at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium, Jaipur.

11th India junior national Hockey championship

Uttar Pradesh Hockey maintained its unbeaten record with a decisive 3 - 1 victory over Chandigarh

It is held in Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu.

4th Para-Badminton National Championship

It is held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Haryana's Nitesh Kumar Won double gold by defeating World No. 1 Paralympic Games gold medallist Pramod Bhagat and Manoj Sarkar.

In Women SU5 category, Manisha from Tamil Nadu secured gold.

In Women SH6 category, Nitya Sre from Tamil Nadu secured Gold.

Mohammed Shami

He became only the 5th Indian fast bowler to reach 200 Test wickets.

He is the 11th Indian Bowler to claim 200 wickets in Test cricket.

Kagiso Rabada was his 200th scalp.

Jasprit Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah went past the milestone of 100 Test wickets away from home in test cricket in Centurion against South Africa.

Van der Dussen became Bumrah's 100th Test victim in overseas conditions.

Rishabh Pant

He broke Dhoni and Saha's record for fastest to 100 Test dismissals as wicketkeeper

He has taken 26 games to reach 100 dismissals in Tests, which includes 92 catches and 8 stumpings.

The second place in this elite list is held by Dhoni and Wriddhiman Saha.

He is the only Indian wicketkeeper-batsman to score a Test century in England and Australia.

Awards

National breed conservation award for 2021

The All India Co-ordinated Research Project (AICRP) on poultry breeding, Mannuthy, under the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Science University (KVASU), bagged this award.

It received the prestigious award from ICAR - The National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) for the conservation and research activities on the Tellicherry breed, the only registered native chicken breed from the State.

PETA Awards:

Alia Bhatt, was recently named 2021 'Person of the Year' by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India.

She was awarded the prestigious title to "celebrate her work in support of an animal-friendly fashion industry and her advocacy for dogs and cats in need

Global Environment and Climate Action Citizen Award

Viral Desai, popularly known as Greenman for his love for the environment, has been awarded in Dubai

Sushila Devi Award 2021

Anukrti Upadhyay has won this award for the Best Book of Fiction for her novel, Kintsugi.

Sahitya Akademi Award

The Sahitya Akademi Award 2021 was given in 20 Indian languages

Namita Gokhale as the winner for her 2016 English novel Things To Leave Behind

Tamil feminist writer Ambai(Tamil) - Short story collection Sivappu Kazhutthudan Oru Patchaiparavai

Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021

Megha Majumdar won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2021 for her debut book 'A Burning'

Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2021

Anita Vachharajani won for the English language - 'Amrita Sher-gil: Rebel With A Paintbrush'.

Mu. Murugesh (Tamil)- collection of short stories Ammavukku Magal Sonna Ulagin Mudhal Kadhai.

Economy

Tokenisation Rules

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently extended the deadline for complying with the card information storage rules by Jan 1st 2022.

It prohibited merchants from storing customer card details.

It mandated for the adoption of card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation as an alternative to card storage.

Tokenisation refers to replacement of actual card details with an alternate code called the "token", which shall be unique for a combination of card, token requestor.

CII DX Award 2021

HDFC Bank was named under 'Most Innovative Best Practice' at the coveted Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Digital Transformation Award 2021 or CII DX Award 2021.

Artificial Sun:

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST), a nuclear fusion reactor research facility, ran at 70 million degrees Celsius for as long as 1,056 seconds (17 minutes, 36 seconds).

The Experimental Advanced Superconducting Tokamak (EAST) reactor is an advanced nuclear fusion experimental research device located at the Institute of Plasma Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (ASIPP) in Hefei, China.

The purpose of the artificial sun is to replicate the process of nuclear fusion.

It uses hydrogen and deuterium gases as fuel.

The EAST is one of three major domestic tokamaks that are presently being operated across the country.

James Webb Space Telescope.

It is built by NASA's

It will reach its destination in solar orbit 1 million miles from Earth about four times farther away than the moon.

It is about 100 times more sensitive than Hubble and is expected to transform scientists' understanding of the universe and our place in it.

It mainly will view the cosmos in the infrared spectrum, allowing it to peer through clouds of gas and dust where stars are being born, while Hubble has operated primarily at optical and ultraviolet wavelengths.

AI 'prosecutor'

China develops AI 'prosecutors' that can charge citizens with crimes with '97% accuracy replacing prosecutors "to a certain extent."

It is the world first machine that can charge people with crimes using artificial intelligence.

It is so far able to identify eight common crimes such as fraud, gambling, dangerous driving and 'picking quarrels.

Magnetic Field on an Exoplanet

It is the first sign of a magnetic field surrounding a planet outside of our solar system or Exoplanet.

An international team of astronomers used data from the Hubble Space Telescope to discover the signature of a magnetic field in a planet outside our solar system.

Earth's magnetic field acts as a shield against energetic particles from the sun known as the solar wind. Magnetic fields could play similar roles on other planets.

5G

It will be rolled out in cities like Gurugram, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chandigarh, Ahmadabad, Jamnagar, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Lucknow, and Gandhinagar.

Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea and Reliance Jio have established 5G trials sites across the mentioned cities.

It is a wireless technology to deliver higher multi-Gbps peak data speeds, ultra-low latency, more reliability, massive network capacity, increased availability, and a more uniform user experience to more users.

Ziyuan-1 02E

It is an Earth observation satellite launched into space by China.

It is launched for exploring natural resources.

NASA's Psyche mission

It is the 1st mission to explore a giant metal asteroid known as Psyche in the main asteroid belt.

It will be launched in August 2022.

An asteroid belt will be present between Mars and Jupiter.

ECWCS

It is known as an extreme cold weather clothing system or special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment (SCME) items for the troops deployed in high altitude regions

It is designed by DRDO with improved thermal insulation and physiological comfort.

Persons in News

Sri Aurobindo's 150th Anniversary

PM chairs first meeting of the committee on a celebration of 150th birth anniversary of Sri Aurobindo.

He was born on August 15, 1872, in Calcutta.

He is a revolutionary, nationalist, poet, educationist and philosopher.

He worked as a teacher, Baroda College's vice principal, and also as a secretary to Maharaja of Gaekwad.

He published his newspaper Vande Mataram and a magazine Arya.

Desmond Tutu

Nobel Peace Prize winner, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, died at the age of 90

He was South Africa's first Black Anglican archbishop.

He won the Nobel Peace Prize for his opposition to racial discrimination in South Africa.

Defence

Pralay

It is a surface-to-surface conventional quasi-ballistic missile developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

It has a range of 150-500 Km

It is powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor and multiple new technologies

It is capable of being launched from a mobile launcher and it has the latest navigation system and integrated avionics.

S400 Missile

Indian Air Force deployed its first squadron of S-400 missile defence systems in the Punjab sector to bolster its defence capabilities against Pakistan and China.

It is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia

It can reach a distance of 400 km, airborne targets of 250 km and an altitude of 30Km.

It makes use of active radar homing for intercepting air targets at great distances.

INS Khukri

It is the first of the indigenously built missile by the Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders.

It was decommissioned after 32 years of service.

ASIGMA App

It is an Army Secure IndiGeneous Messaging Application (ASIGMA) developed by a team of Corps of Signals in-house.

It is a WhatsApp-like instant messaging application that offers robust security measures to protect the chats.

It is being deployed on the Army's internal network as a replacement of the Army Wide Area Network (AWAN) messaging application which has been in service for the past 15 years.

ABHYAS

ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested today by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for the evaluation of various missile systems.

Abhyas is designed & developed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials.

Quantum Laboratory

The Indian Army, with support from the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), has established the Quantum Lab at Military College of Telecommunication Engineering, Mhow (MP).

It also established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre at the same institution.

It will help in transforming the current system of cryptography in the Indian Armed Forces to Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).

Defence Minister Inaugurated New Brahmos Aerospace Cruise Missile Manufacturing Unit in Lucknow.

Books & Authors

Book Name	Author	Significance
Glimpses of a Pioneer's Life Journey	V L Indira Dutt	
The Modi Gambit: Decoding Modi 2.0	Sanju Verma	various achievement in the last 2 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2nd term as PM of India
Kashmir: the quest for peace in a troubled land	former Indian Army Chief of Staff Gen. Nirmal Chander Vij (ret)	
The Turnover Wizard – Saviour Of Thousands		autobiography of Arup Roy Choudhury, the former Chairman and Managing Director of NTPC Limited and NBCC (India) Limited.

Important Days

25th December

Good Governance Day (India)-To commemorate the birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.