

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

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

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Tamil Nadu

TN Digipex 2022.

- The Department of Posts, Tamil Nadu Circle, has organised the 13th State-level philately exhibition called 'TN Digipex 2022 in digital mode.
- The virtual exhibition was organised in association with the South India Philatelists' Association.
- **"India's rich cultural heritage"** was the theme of the exhibition.

Right to Services Act

- Makkal Needhi Maiam founder Kamal Haasan recently urged the State government to immediately enact a Right to Services Act.
- Right to services act would ensure delivery of various public services by government agencies within a particular time frame, and also help to curb corruption.
- It would ensure services like obtaining ration cards, legal heir certificates etc are delivered within a specific time frame from the date of application,
- There is the possibility of a penalty for deficiency of service.
- In 2019, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court had emphasised that the State government should mull enacting the Right to Services Act.

Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act.

- The Tamil Nadu Assembly recently passed the Bill to further amend the Tamil Nadu Co-operative Societies Act, 1983 to reduce the term of the office of the board of directors of co-operative societies from five years to three years.
- This was in response to complaints received from the public and members of the co-operative societies about financial irregularities and frauds in co-operative societies.
- The government had decided to reduce the term to three years to protect the interests of co-operative societies, streamline the administration, ensure proper governance and to increase the efficacy of their functioning.

Temple advisory committee.

- The Tamil Nadu government recently constituted a State-level advisory committee for all major Hindu temples under the purview of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) Department.
- The Chief Minister will be the committee's chairperson and HR&CE Minister will be its vice-chairperson.
- The HR&CE Secretary will be a member, and the HR&CE Commissioner the member-secretary.
- The committee will oversee the maintenance of major temples with an annual income of over Rs. 10 lakh.

Citizens' information portal.

- Jean Drèze, a member of the TN State Advisory Council has recommended the creation of a citizens' information portal (CIS) in Tamil Nadu.
- Such a portal would facilitate social audits and other efforts to curb corruption.
- As per Section 4(2) of the RTI Act, public institutions had an obligation to make information available to the public in a proactive manner without waiting for RTI queries.

Desalination plant.

- Chennai's third desalination plant at **Nemmeli** along the East Coast Road with a capacity to treat 150 million litres a day (mld) will be completed by 2023.

Desalination Plant:

- A desalination plant turns salt water into water that is fit to drink.
- The most commonly used technology used for the process is reverse osmosis.
- In reverse osmosis, an external pressure is applied to push solvents from an area of high-solute concentration to an area of low-solute concentration through a membrane.
- The microscopic pores in the membranes allow water molecules through but leave salt and most other impurities behind, releasing clean water from the other side.
- In India, Tamil Nadu has been the pioneer in using this technology, setting up two desalination plants near Chennai in 2010 and then 2013.
- Gujarat has announced to set up a desalination plant at the Jodiya coast in Jamnagar district.
- There are also proposals to set up desalination plants in Dwarka, Kutch, Dahej, Somnath, Bhavnagar and Pipavavin Gujarat.
- Andhra Pradesh has plans of setting up a plant.

Adyar restoration project.

- The Water Resources Department (WRD) is preparing a detailed project report incorporating proposals for flood control and climate adaptive infrastructure as part of a comprehensive restoration of the Adyar river in a few years.
- The department is focusing more on the upper reaches of the river to execute work for flood mitigation and integrated improvement.
- There are plans to widen the river to about 50-60 metre to increase its carrying capacity up to 25,000 cusecs.
- Officials are also checking the possibility of replacing bund with retaining wall in flood-prone areas to enhance carrying capacity of the river.

National

Veer Baal Diwas.

- The Prime Minister recently declared that December 26 shall be marked as Veer Baal Diwas.
- It is celebrated to pay homage to the courage of the **Sahibzades**, four sons of **Guru Gobind Singh, the last Sikh guru**.
- The date has been chosen as it was the day observed as the martyrdom day of the **Sahibzadas Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh**.
- They were killed at the tender age of six and nine in Sirhind by Mughal forces.

Prakash Parv.

- The occasion of **Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti** is also known as the Prakash Parv of the tenth Sikh Guru, Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- It is the birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh and falls every year in December or January.
- On this day, devotees from all around the world send best wishes to one another and vow to follow the teachings and the path of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji was born on Paush Shukla Saptami.
- Guru Gobind Singh Ji formally became the leader and protector of the Sikhs at the age of nine after his father, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was killed by Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam.

One District-One Product

- Union Minister for Food Processing Industries launched six brands, developed as part of the 'One District-One Product' (ODOP) approach under a central scheme PMFMES.
- The Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme aims to provide financial, technical, and business support for the up-gradation/ setting up of two lakh micro food processing units.
- It is based on the ODOP approach of Atmanirbhar Bharat and is designed for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ODOP is based on a Japanese development business model.
- ODOP is implemented by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries**.
- It is operationally merged with the 'Districts as Export Hub' initiative implemented by the Director-General of Foreign Trade, Department of Commerce.

Ministry of Food Processing Industries:

Minister: Pashupati Kumar Paras.

Minister of State: Prahlad Singh Patel.

Missionaries of Charity.

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs has restored the FCRA licence for Missionaries of Charity.
- The Missionaries of Charity was established by the Blessed Mother Teresa on October 7, 1950 with the sole aim to give 'wholehearted free service to the poorest of the poor'.
- A member of this organisation have to obey the vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience
- Their fourth vow is to give wholehearted free service to the poor
- Missionaries care people, such as: refugees, ex-prostitutes, the mentally ill, sick children, abandoned children, people with AIDS, and the aged regardless of their religion.

Missionaries of Charity:

Established by: Mother Teresa in 1950.

Headquarter: Kolkata

Motto: "I Thirst"

Superior general: Sr. Mary Prema Pierick.

Chilika Lake

- Fewer migratory birds came to Odisha's Chilika lake this winter compared to the previous year, according to the annual bird census carried out in the lake.
- The **Nalabana bird sanctuary area** in the lake hosted the highest congregation of birds.
- Migratory birds from northern Eurasia, the Caspian region, Siberia, Kazakhstan, Lake Baikal visit the Chilika every winter to escape the biting cold in their native areas.
- Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon at the mouth of the Daya River, flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- Irrawady Dolphin is the flagship species of the lake.
- This lake is the largest saltwater lake in India and the largest brackish water lagoon in the world after The New Caledonian barrier reef.

India to be the 2nd largest Asian economy.

- India is likely to overtake Japan as Asia's second-largest economy by 2030 when its GDP is also projected to surpass that of Germany and the U.K. to rank as the world's No.3 according to IHS Markit report.
- Currently, India is the sixth-largest economy, behind the U.S., China, Japan, Germany and the U.K.
- India's nominal GDP is forecast to rise from \$2.7 trillion in 2021 to \$8.4 trillion by 2030,
- This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of Indian GDP exceeding Japanese GDP by 2030.

International

Collective Security Treaty Organization.

- Thousands of troops from a Russian-led CSTO alliance arrived in Kazakhstan recently at the request of the Kazakhstan president.
- After the collapse of the Soviet Union, several members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, all former members of the Soviet bloc, signed a mutual defense pact known as the Collective Security Treaty.
- Aside from Russia, it currently includes five other members: **Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan.**
- Like NATO, the CSTO is based on the principle of collective defense: An attack on one member state is taken as an attack on all members of the alliance.
- The alliance conducts joint military exercises and facilitates arms sales between members.

Collective Security Treaty Organization:

Headquarters: Moscow, Russia.

Founded: 1992

Chairman: Nikol Pashinyan

Official language: Russian

Secretary General: Stanislav Zas

Sidney Poitier

- Sidney Poitier, the first Black winner of the Best Actor Oscar for his role in Lilies of the Field, has died recently.
- He created a distinguished film legacy in a single year with three 1967 films at a time when segregation prevailed in much of the United States.
- He struggled against poverty, illiteracy and prejudice to become one of the first Black actors to be known and accepted in major roles by mainstream audiences.
- In 2009, he was awarded the highest U.S. civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, by President Barack Obama.

Suu Kyi

- A court in military-ruled Myanmar sentenced Aung San Suu Kyi to four years on charges including possession of unlicensed walkie-talkies.
- Rights group Amnesty International said the new convictions were the latest act in the farcical trial against Suu Kyi.

Maya Angelou

- The US Mint has started rolling out quarters which feature late American author and activist Maya Angelou, the first Black woman to appear on the coin.
- Angelou rose to international prominence after the publication of her groundbreaking autobiography, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings," with its unflinching account of rape and racism in the segregated South.
- She was a prolific African-American writer known for her lyrical prose and regal speaking voice.

Indira Gandhi Children Hospital, Kabul.

- India, recently sent a large consignment of medicines to Afghanistan.
- The humanitarian assistance consisting of two tons of "essential life saving" medicines was handed over to the Indira Gandhi Children Hospital in Kabul.
- The Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health IGICH - a 400-bed hospital is the main hospital in Afghanistan that caters to the well-being of children from all across Afghanistan.
- It was set up with Indian assistance in the 1970s.
- Foundation stone was laid by King Zahir Shah and Vice President of India Dr. Zakir Hussain in 1966 and was inaugurated in 1972 by King Zahir Shah.

- The hospital was renamed as Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health in 1985.

WTO order on sugar

- India has appealed against a ruling of the World Trade Organisation's trade dispute settlement panel on domestic sugar subsidies.
- The cases were brought by Brazil, Australia and Guatemala in 'India - Measures Concerning Sugar and Sugarcane'.
- Given the lack of agreement among members regarding the filling of vacancies, there is no Appellate Body division available to consider the appeal.

Gateway to Hell.

- Turkmenistan's famous 'Gateway to Hell' is set to be closed.
- Gateway to Hell is a natural gas crater located near Darvaza in Turkmenistan.
- It used to be a natural gas field which then collapsed into a cave and became a crater.
- The crater is situated amid the Karakum Desert which has one of the largest gas reserves in the world
- It was widely believed that it was a drilling operation of the Soviet engineers that went wrong and caused it to form
- One of the reasons that Turkmenistan ordered the closure of the Gateway to Hell is the concern for the environment and health of the people in nearby areas.



Turkmenistan:

Capital: Ashgabat

President: Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow

Currency: Turkmenistani mana

Defense

Man-portable anti-tank guided missile.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation recently flight tested the Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM).
- The missile has miniaturised infrared imaging seeker and advanced avionics for onboard control and guidance.
- The missile has a range of 2.5 km.
- The indigenously developed MPATGM is a low weight, "fire and forget" missile.

CH 47 Chinook helicopters:

- Indian Air Force (IAF) confirmed that it is looking to procure more CH-47 Chinook Helicopters from the USA.
- In February 2020, the Indian Air Force started using Chinooks at theatres such as Ladakh and Siachen Glacier to assist Indian forces deployed at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in adjourned occupied areas of Aksai Chin by the Chinese PLA.

Smart Army Camp.

- An Indian inventor has prepared a smart camp for the soldiers.
- It will not only protect those posted on the icy heights from the cold, but will also help them to check the movement of the enemy sitting at a distance of up to 50 km away from them.
- This Chargeable Smart Army Camp has small heater plates installed in it.
- There is no need for solar power or electricity to heat them, rather the soldiers can charge these heater plates with their own hands using a physical rotated charger.
- The camp also has a battery for backup purposes, thus the electricity can be stored and used when needed.
- It has hi-tech sensors fitted in it that will detect the movement of enemies from 50 km away and will also alert the soldiers living in the camp.

Notam

- India has recently issued a Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) for a launch of an experimental flight vehicle.
- NOTAM are notices distributed by means of telecommunication containing information concerning the establishment, condition or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure or hazard, the timely knowledge of which is essential to personnel concerned with flight operations.

IAF Vayu Shakti

- The Indian Air force (IAF) is planning a fire power demonstration 'Vayu Shakti 2022' to display its operational capability at the Pokhran field firing range in Jaisalmer on February 10.
- In the day and night war exercise, Rafale and fighter helicopter Apache are expected to take part.

Science & Technology

Pig's heart in human:

- U.S. surgeons have implanted a heart from a genetically modified pig in a 57-year-old man.
- This procedure could one day help solve the chronic shortage of organ donations.
- This procedure took place in the University of Maryland Medical School in the US.
- The Food and Drug Administration granted emergency authorisation for the surgery as a last ditch effort for a patient who was unsuitable for conventional transplant.

Raspberry Pi

- Raspberry Pi is a low cost, credit-card sized computer that plugs into a computer monitor or TV, and uses a standard keyboard and mouse.
- Raspberry Pi can use electromagnetic waves to detect malware with nearly 100% accuracy.
- The newly developed system enables malware detection without any additional software.
- If it becomes available commercially, small and medium organisations could use the single-board computer to protect their systems from cyberattacks for a low cost.

Grime-eating bacteria

- Recently, art restorers in Italy worked to rid a priceless Michelangelo of centuries of accumulated dirt and grime using bacteria
- Usually, chemical agents and laser techniques are employed to remove dirt, oil, glue or pollutants from monuments, stoneworks and paintings.
- Researchers have used micro-organisms like Bacteria *Desulfovibrio vulgaris* to clean a marble monument and recognised the bacteria's role in protecting the artistic heritage of humanity.

100 years of Insulin shot.

- Insulin was discovered by **Sir Frederick G Banting, Charles H Best and JJR Macleod** at the University of Toronto in 1921 — after which it was purified by James B Collip for safer testing on humans.
- In 1921, biochemist James Collip joined the trio to help purify insulin so as to make it safe enough for testing on humans.
- Banting and Macleod went on to win the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on October 25, 1923.
- Deficiency of insulin leads to diabetes mellitus which was a major cause of death before the discovery and isolation of insulin.

Red Sanders

- Red Sanders (Red Sandalwood) has fallen back into the '**endangered**' category in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List.
- The species, *Pterocarpus santalinus*, is an Indian endemic tree species, with a restricted geographical range in the Eastern Ghats.
- The species is endemic to a distinct tract of forests in Andhra Pradesh.
- It was classified as 'near threatened' in 2018 and has now joined the 'endangered' list once again in 2021.
- Over the last three generations, the species has experienced a population decline of 50-80 per cent.

Dementia.

- The number of dementia cases in India is expected to almost double by 2050.
- A higher proportion of women than men will suffer from the disease during the period.
- Dementia is the loss of cognitive functioning — thinking, remembering, and reasoning — to such an extent that it interferes with a person's daily life and activities.
- Some people with dementia cannot control their emotions, and their personalities may change.

ISRO Chief.

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced recently the appointment of the eminent rocket scientist **Dr. S Somanath** as its new chairperson and Space Secretary.
- His appointment is for a combined tenure of three years from the date of joining of the post.
- He worked in the area of system engineering of launch vehicles and has specialised in launch vehicle systems engineering, structural design, structural dynamics, integration designs and procedures, mechanism design, and pyrotechnics

Important Days

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

- The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has celebrated this day since 2003 from **January 07-09** every year.
- Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas is a day dedicated to the overseas Indian community and celebrated once every two years.
- The day has its roots from our 'Father of The Nation,' Mahatma Gandhi, who was considered the greatest Pravasi.
- He returned from South Africa in 1915 and led the Indian freedom movement.

National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

- National Human Trafficking Awareness Day on **January 11** raises awareness of the persistent issue of human trafficking.

National Youth Day

- In 1985, the Government of India declared **Swami Vivekananda's** birthday – **January 12** - as National Youth Day in honour of the great philosopher and monk.
- Swami Vivekananda was born Narendranath Datta on January 12, 1863, in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- He was also credited for introducing Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the western world.
- He had a very strong belief that youth can transform the fate of India through their hard work, dedication and spiritual power.

World Hindi Day

- World Hindi Day is observed on **January 10** to honour the Hindi language.
- The theme of this day is to make Hindi a part of public opinion, although it doesn't necessarily mean that one has to leave their mother tongue.
- The first World Hindi Day conference was organised on January 10, 1975, in Nagpur, a city in the state of Maharashtra.
- The Ministry of External Affairs began the tradition of celebrating World Hindi Day in other nations in 2006 with an aim to promote this language across the world.

Awards

Golden Globes

- The **Power of the Dog and West Side Story** won the top film prizes at Golden Globes.
- The Power of the Dog became only the second film directed by a woman to win the best drama prize.
- The Power of the Dog also won for best director and best supporting actor for Kodi Smit-McPhee.
- Steven Spielberg's West Side Story remake claimed top honours for best picture, comedy or musical, as well as lead and supporting actress prizes for stars Rachel Zegler and Ariana DeBose.

Sports

On-field penalties in T20Is

- International Cricket Council has recently announced Slow over-rates in T20Is will invite stricter penalties.
- Teams which fail to keep up will end up with one fielder less outside the 30-yard circle for the remainder of the innings.
- The in-match penalties are in addition to the sanctions for slow over rate outlined in Article 2.22 of the ICC code.
- The existing sanctions include demerit points and financial penalties on teams and their captains.
- The change was recommended by the ICC Cricket Committee, which regularly discusses ways to improve the pace of play in all formats, after considering reports on the effectiveness of a similar regulation in the playing conditions.

ATP Cup title

- Felix Auger-Aliassime beat Spanish Roberto Bautista Agut to win Canada a maiden ATP Cup title in Sydney.

IPL title sponsor.

- The Tata Group has replaced Vivo as the title sponsor for the Indian Premier League 2022 and 2023 editions.

Books & Authors

Book Title	Author	Description
Alphabetica: A Satire On Majoritarianism.	Kaushik Roy (Roy Phoenix)	It is allegorical tale features the letters of the alphabet as 'characters' living on the planet 'Typewriter' and in a country called 'Alphabetica'. With the consonants being the majority and vowels the minority, the book takes a deep dive into the majoritarianism of the world.
1. Manglu Charan Biswal. 2. Daria Parira Kabita. 3. Astaragara Kabi. 4. Di Dhara Luha. 5. Agni Sambhaba. 6. Ananya.	Manglu Charan Biswal	Eminent Odia litterateur Manglu Charan Biswal died recently. The prolific writer's 'Bhukha' was later adapted into an award-winning film.