

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2, 2023

### TAMIL NADU

- **The state government – is planning to introduce a comprehensive mental health programme for school students from this month**
- ✓ The programme aims to address mental health issues among adolescent children in government and government-aided schools
- ✓ It will be launched in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and seven other districts on a pilot basis
- ✓ The four-year programme, following the pilot study, will be extended throughout the state from next year.

#### AT A GLANCE

##### Comprehensive school-based mental health programme

➤ The programme aims to **protect the mental health of adolescent children in govt, govt-aided schools**

➤ It will be launched on a pilot basis in 10 districts **including Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpeta, Tiruvallur**

➤ In every district, **25 schools will be selected and students will undergo a 10-hour course for a year**



➤ Students will be screened and **they will get life skill training, psychological counselling and individual counselling by professional counsellors**

➤ Teachers will get trained **on building positive teachers-students relationships and identifying students with emotional issues**

➤ It will be **extended throughout the state after a year**

- ✓ Under the initiative, students in Classes IX to XII will be screened and taught relaxation techniques, life skill training, games and if needed, given professional counselling.
- ✓ Teachers will also be trained on handling students with behavioural issues.
- ✓ The programme will be implemented in 25 schools in each district which face behavioural issues

- ✓ Two teachers from each school will be trained on mental wellbeing, handling students with emotional challenges, preventing substance abuse and creating a positive environment in classrooms
  - ✓ Under the programme, Institute of Social Education (ISE), a non-governmental organisation, in partnership with Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, will set up a district unit with a trained counsellor and a social worker.
  - ✓ The programme will include workplace wellness sessions for teachers and to mentor them.
  - ✓ It also aims to involve parents and local community to create awareness.
  - ✓ Besides engaging professional counsellors, the initiative also plans to launch counselling through phone to the needy students and teachers.
- **On January 1, Chief Minister M K Stalin - announced a hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees from the existing 34% to 38% with immediate effect.**
- ✓ The increase, effective January 1, 2023, would benefit about 16 lakh government staff in the state, including teachers, pensioners and family pensioners
  - ✓ This move would involve an additional annual expenditure of Rs.2,359 crore to the state
  - ✓ Further, the Chief Minister said that a committee will be constituted to look into the protest of government teachers seeking 'equal pay for equal work'.
    - ✓ The committee is to be headed by secretary of finance department (expenditure) and comprises of secretary of school education department and director of primary education
  - ✓ Based on the recommendations of the committee, action would be taken, said the CM.
- **Greater Chennai Traffic Police (GCTP) - will soon install a 'Live Traffic Monitor' system to reduce vehicular congestion at 300 road junctions in the city.**
- ✓ This system, to be unveiled at an estimated cost of Rs.1 crore, can fetch real-time data from web maps
  - ✓ It will help police monitor daily traffic scenarios at 900 to 1,000 roads and divert traffic along other roads in case of emergencies.
  - ✓ The data will be updated once in five minutes so that the output can be accurate.
  - ✓ In addition, the app will store this information to study peak hour and festive season traffic patterns so that diversions can be made accordingly.
  - ✓ Authorised traffic personnel can access this data either through a desktop or mobile device using their credentials.
  - ✓ At present, GCTP largely relies on information provided by its field officers before making any changes in traffic patterns and it is on a trial-and-error basis.

- ✓ The Chennai city police launched an app named 'roadEase' in October 2021 to help commuters identify roadblocks or diversions en route but the app sought unnecessary access to personal media files, contacts and cameras.

## NATIONAL

- **The Centre – has rolled out a new integrated food security scheme starting from January 1, 2023.**
- ✓ The new Scheme would provide free food grains to 81.35 crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) for the entire year 2023.
- ✓ Last week, the cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, had decided to provide food grains under NFSA free of cost to the 81.35 crore beneficiaries during 2023.
- ✓ Free foodgrains will concurrently ensure uniform implementation of portability under the “One Nation- One Ration Card” across the country.
- ✓ Under the scheme, Central Government will provide free foodgrains to all NFSA beneficiaries including Antyodaya Ann Yojana households and Priority Household persons.
- ✓ The foodgrains will be provided through the widespread network of over five lakhs fair price shops across the country
- ✓ The government will bear the food subsidy of more than Rs. 2 Lakh crore for the year 2023.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **On December 31, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' - inaugurated a regional international airport built with the Chinese assistance in western Nepal's tourist hub of Pokhara.**



- ✓ The PM unveiled a plaque marking the official inauguration of the Pokhara Regional International Airport (PRIA), which is the third international airport of Nepal
- ✓ The international flights are expected to take off after the second week of February.

- ✓ The PRIA, a flagship project of Nepal-China Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation, was constructed with Chinese loan assistance.
- ✓ The government had signed a \$216 million soft loan agreement with China in March 2016 for the construction of the new airport in the lake city.
- ✓ The PM also requested the Chinese government to facilitate the opening of border crossings with China and to assist in the construction of railway services and other projects.
- ✓ Nepal has recently unveiled 'Tourism Decade 2023-2033' to boost its tourism sector.

## DEFENCE

- **Air Marshal Pankaj Mohan Sinha - took over the command of the Western Air Command (WAC) on January 1**



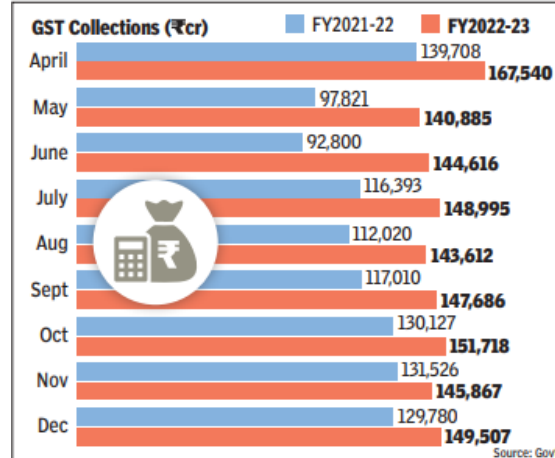
- ✓ The WAC is the frontline IAF command that is responsible for a huge area stretching from Ladakh to Rajasthan.
- ✓ An experienced fighter pilot with over 4,500 hours of flying experience, Air Marshal Sinha succeeded Air Marshal S Prabhakaran, who retired on December 31, as the WAC chief.

## BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **The Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in December 2022 - recorded a 15.2% year-on-year jump at over Rs.1.49 lakh crore, according to a data released by the Finance Ministry**
- ✓ The monthly GST revenues of more than Rs.1.4 lakh crore has been collected for 10 straight months in a row
- ✓ This is the third highest collection ever reported by the Finance Ministry
- ✓ Since the inception of the new indirect tax regime in July 2017, monthly GST revenue has surpassed the Rs.1.50-lakh crore mark twice — the highest ever collection of Rs.1,67,540 crore in April 2022, and the second highest of Rs.1,51,718 crore in October.



## RISING COMPLIANCE



- ✓ Further, collections in December were about 2.5% higher than the Rs.1,45,867 crore revenue of the preceding month.
- ✓ Out of the gross GST revenue collected during December 2022, the central GST (CGST) component was Rs.26,711 crore, state GST (SGST) was Rs.33,357 crore, integrated GST (IGST) was Rs.78,434 crore (including Rs.40,263 crore collected on import of goods) and the cess was Rs.11,005 crore (including Rs.850 crore collected on import of goods),
- ✓ During the month of November 2022, 79 million e-way bills were generated compared to 76 million e-way bills in October 2022
  - ✓ E-way bills are required for the movement of goods worth Rs.50,000 and above.
  - ✓ They are a digital compliance mechanism under the GST regime to track the movement of goods.
- ✓ Among the major manufacturing states, GST revenues of Haryana in the month saw a 14% y-o-y growth at Rs.6,678 crore; Uttar Pradesh (19% at Rs.7,178 crore); Gujarat (26% at Rs.9,238 crore); Maharashtra (20% at Rs.23,598 crore); Karnataka (21% at Rs.10,061 crore); and Tamil Nadu (25% at Rs.8,324 crore).
- **The transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform - hit a new record of 782 crore in December 2022, with the value of these also touching a new high of Rs 12.8 lakh crore.**
- ✓ In terms of number of transactions, the December figure is 7% higher than in November while, in value terms, the amount transacted last month was 8% more than the preceding one.
- ✓ Year on year, the number and value of transactions are up 71% and 55%, respectively.
- ✓ In calendar year 2022, the UPI platform saw 7,404 crore transactions for Rs 125 lakh crore.