

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **On December 7, Chief Minister M K Stalin - wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging him to restore the pre-matric scholarship scheme for students of all minorities in Classes I to VIII.**
- ✓ The Chief Minister has mentioned in the letter that the withdrawal of the scholarship by the Union government would adversely affect nearly five lakh poor students in Classes I to XII in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ According to the Union ministry of minority affairs, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 makes it obligatory for the government to provide free and compulsory elementary education (from classes I to VIII) to every child
- ✓ Hence, only students studying in Classes IX and X will be eligible for the pre-matric scholarship scheme of the ministry of social justice and empowerment and the ministry of tribal affairs.
- ✓ In his letter to the PM, the CM highlighted that this scholarship supports poor, underprivileged, and marginalized students, including girls, to access quality education and, therefore, must be continued.
- ✓ The government of India had introduced the pre-matric scholarship scheme for students of minority communities in 2008-09.
- ✓ The minority students in Classes I-X in government, government aided and all recognised private institutions are eligible for this scholarship if their parent/guardian's annual income is less than 1 lakh.
- ✓ Under this scheme, a sum of Rs.86 crore was sanctioned to benefit 4,49,559 students from Tamil Nadu in the 2021-22 academic year.
  
- **Tangedco, the state-run power utility - will float tenders shortly to set up a solar park in Thiruvarur district**
- ✓ This marks the start of the government's ambitious plan to set up 20,000MW solar energy generation capacity, covering all districts in the next 10 years.

- ✓ The proposed solar park at Thiruvarur is the first of district-level solar parks announced by the government recently.
- ✓ Initially, the plan is to set up solar energy power generation capacity of 4,000MW and 2,000MW of battery energy storage systems across the state.
- ✓ Chief Minister M K Stalin is scheduled to launch the Tamil Nadu climate change mission on December 9.
- ✓ The district administrators have identified 6,333 acres for setting up solar parks as part of the state-wide exercise.
- ✓ The identified locations are in Salem (5,820 acres), Thiruvarur (143 acres), Karur (54 acres), Chengalpet (142 acres) and Kancheepuram (139 acres).
- ✓ As per the notification issued by the Union ministry of new and renewable energy in July, the revised renewable purchase obligation (RPO) trajectory for 2029-30 has been fixed at 43.3%.
- ✓ To achieve the RPO target, Tangedco needs to strengthen its solar capacity by 21,887MW, wind by 3,650MW and hydro by 2,273MW.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the highest installed wind energy generation capacity of 8,685MW in the country, which is 25% of the nation's wind power generation capacity.
- ✓ The state stands fourth in the country in terms of installed solar capacity (5,694MW).
- **Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Limited (ELCOT) - will be organising Asia's largest summit on technology and innovation, 'Umagine Chennai', between March 23 and 25, 2023, at the Chennai Trade Centre.**
  - ✓ The theme of the Conference is "Leave the future behind".
  - ✓ Umagine Chennai 2023 is a key initiative towards the state aspiring to become a trillion-dollar economy by 2030.
  - ✓ Policymakers, leading start-up entrepreneurs, technology experts, CXOs, academia, thought leaders, skill developers and representatives from technology sectors will participate in the conference
  - ✓ During the conference, the delegates will discuss and suggest future paths for driving growth and development of the technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem.
  - ✓ The conference will feature keynotes, fireside chats and panel discussions along with investment pitches, product showcases, technology showcases and release of thought leadership reports.
- **Sharad Kumar, airport director, Chennai international airport - has bagged the first prize for the best implementation of the official language on December 7.**
  - ✓ He was given an official language shield and a certificate from Chairman, Chennai Official Language Implementation Committee.



- ✓ Kumar was selected for the award among officers of 60 public sector units located in Chennai.

## STATES

- **The Karnataka government - has declared rabies a 'notifiable disease' under Karnataka Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020**
- ✓ Accordingly, it becomes mandatory for all medical practitioners to report incidents of rabies to the health department
- ✓ The move aims to ensure a robust reporting mechanism and to put in place effective surveillance measures.
- ✓ Generally, the deaths caused by rabies are rarely reported and children below 14 years were frequent victims

## NATIONAL

- **On December 7, Environment minister Bhupender Yadav - tabled the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill 2022**
- ✓ The bill seeks to include a dedicated framework to regulate or ban international trade of endangered species as well as permit certain traditional activities of communities living around forest areas.
- ✓ While tabling the bill, the minister said the main objectives of the bill was to incorporate the international treaty signed by India into the legal framework and provide some level of protection to people living in forest for their livestock and traditional rights.
- **On December 7, the Multi State Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2022 - was introduced in Lok Sabha**
- ✓ Junior cooperation minister BL Verma tabled the bill which seeks to amend the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, of 2002
- ✓ The proposed bill aims to improve governance and enhance transparency and accountability in cooperative societies.
- ✓ However, opposition members demanded to send the proposed legislation to the standing committee as they alleged that it encroaches on the jurisdiction of states as the cooperative societies were state subjects

- ✓ The House also took up the Anti Maritime Piracy Bill-2019, which seeks to formulate a law to deal with piracy in international waters.
- ✓ Moving the bill in the House, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said it will enhance India's maritime security including those of our trade routes.

## INTERNATIONAL

- **The Joe Biden-led White House - has issued a statement supporting the passage of 'Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment' (EAGLE) Act.**
  - ✓ The new legislation seeks to eliminate the per-country quota on green cards to enable US employers to hire people based on merit, not birthplace
  - ✓ The EAGLE Act phases out the 7% per-country limit on employment-based immigrant visas (green cards) and raises the 7% per-country limit on family-sponsored green cards to 15%.
  - ✓ The proposed Act also allows individuals who have been waiting in the backlog for two years, to file their green card applications.
  - ✓ These changes would take effect over a nine-year transition period to ensure that no countries are excluded from receiving visas while the per-country caps are phased out.
  - ✓ This week, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the Equal Access to Green Cards for Legal Employment (EAGLE) Act of 2022
  - ✓ A Green Card, known officially as a Permanent Resident Card, is a document issued to immigrants to the US as evidence that the bearer has been granted the privilege of residing permanently.
  - ✓ Under US immigration laws, 1.4 lakh employment-based green cards can be issued each year, out of which, only 7% can go to individuals from a single country.
- **US-based aircraft manufacturer Boeing – has announced the ending of the production run of its 747 jumbo jet.**



- ✓ The last Boeing 747, a cargo version, was rolled out of Everett factory in Washington, USA on December 6 for its delivery to air-cargo company, Atlas Air in early 2023
- ✓ It has been over 50 years since the first Boeing 747 was rolled out in the USA in December 1969 to two airlines that no longer exist — TWA and Pan Am
- ✓ In these 52 years, the aircraft manufacturer has rolled out 1,574 planes.
- ✓ At present, there are 44 Boeing 747 planes in operation, which are owned by the German airline carrier Lufthansa.
- ✓ United and Delta stopped using Boeing 747 years before the pandemic, while Qantas and British Airways stopped it during the pandemic
- ✓ The Boeing 747, known as the “queen of the skies”, was the largest commercial aircraft in the world and the first with two aisles, with the capacity to carry nearly 500 people.
- ✓ It was used for various activities like carrying people and cargo, and it even served as Air Force One’s presidential aircraft.
- ✓ The aircraft’s second deck gives it a distinctive ‘hump’ which has earned it the nickname “the whale.”
- ✓ The Atlanta-based company had decided to stop manufacturing the 747 due to maintenance issues, especially with parts, increased cost operation, and Boeing’s push for fuel-efficient aircrafts.
- ✓ Boeing stopped manufacturing the passenger version of the plane in 2017 and Delta Air Lines (DAL) was the last US airline to fly a passenger version of the plane, also in 2017.
- ✓ In India, the only airline that flew this airplane was Air India, which inducted the Boeing 747 under its founder JRD Tata
- ✓ Air India’s first B747 - Emperor Ashoka – had become a part of its fleet in 1971 and the carrier had launched a new “Palace in the Sky” theme for this aircraft.
- ✓ However, the carrier’s four B747s were deregistered later by the DGCA
- ✓ At present, two modified ex-AI B777s serve as the dedicated VVIP aircraft and they are called India One.

## **PERSONALITIES**

- **On December 7, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy - has been named Time’s “Person of the Year” for the year 2022**
- ✓ The magazine also appreciated the spirit of Ukraine throughout the difficult time of Russian aggression in the country.
- ✓ The 44-year-old Ukrainian leader has been attempting to fight off Russia’s invasion of his country and has won widespread acclaim.
- ✓ Russia began bombing the eastern European country on February 24.
- ✓ The magazine described the comedian-turned-wartime leader as “the most clear-cut” winner of the award in memory after he “galvanised the world in a way we haven’t seen in decades.”

- ✓ Before entering politics, Zelenskyy was a popular comedian who starred in the role of Ukrainian president in "Servant of the People."



- ✓ Time recognised American baseballer Aaron Judge as the Athlete of the Year and Malaysian actress Michelle Yeoh as the Icon of the Year.
- ✓ In the entertainer of the year, K-pop band Blackpink won the title.
- ✓ Earlier, prominent personalities who were named Time Persons of the Year were Elon Musk in 2021, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in 2020, and Donald Trump in 2016.
- ✓ Russian President Vladimir Putin was named Time Person of the Year in 2007.
- ✓ Time first presented its Person of the Year award in 1927

## BUSINESS/ECONOMY

- **On December 7, Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das - increased key interest rates by 35 basis points, taking the total hike in rates since May to 225 basis points.**
- ✓ The RBI lowered the growth forecast for the present year to 6.8% from 7% earlier and retained inflation projections at 6.7%.
- ✓ The monetary policy committee (MPC) voted 5:1 to increase the repo rate by 35 basis points, with external member Jayanth Varma being the sole dissenter.

### YOU CAN DO IT ONLINE

➤ Banks have been insisting customers do repeat KYC by end-2022, leading to **fears of frozen a/cs** if the process is not done

➤ But RBI says with central KYC in place, customers can



share their **details from one bank with another if there's no change** in their info

➤ This can be done remotely **via registered email id/mobile**. In case of any problem, customers can **approach ombudsman**

- ✓ RBI lends to banks at the repo rate, which is now used as a benchmark for all retail loans.
- ✓ Further, the RBI said banks should not ask for verifications/updates at branch level in case a customer has done e-KYC or completed the KYC (know your customer) process on C-KYC portal.
- ✓ Customers who have completed their KYC verifications online can do the annual updates as well as any changes in personal details online.

## OBITUARY

- **On December 7, acclaimed artist and writer, Manohar Devadoss - died in Chennai at the age of 83**



- ✓ Manohar Devadoss was well-known for his paintings of traditional buildings and painted the landmarks of Madurai beautifully such as temple areas, streets, famous buildings, the Vaigai river, many iconic and historical places.
- ✓ Born in Madurai in 1936, Manohar was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a progressive, incurable degenerative eye disease, when he was in his 30s
- ✓ Three years ago, at the age of 83, Manohar completely lost his eyesight
- ✓ He authored many books which include a biographical novel on his wife Mahema titled A poem to courage, Multiple facets of my Madurai, Mahe and Mano: Challenges, Green Well Years, etc.
- ✓ Manohar also launched a charitable trust named after his wife at Aravind Eye Hospital and Sankara Nethralaya to provide medical assistance to rural people afflicted with eye-related diseases.
- ✓ He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his inspirational work in the field of Art and Charity in the year 2020

## SPORTS

- **Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu - secured silver medal in the 49kg division in the Weightlifting World Championships in Bogota, Columbia**
- ✓ Mirabai lifted a combined weight of 200 kg (87kg in snatch and 113kg in clean and jerk) to win the silver medal

- ✓ Tokyo 2020 champion Hou Zhihua's lifted a total of 198 kg (89kg in snatch and 109 kg in clean and jerk) and bagged the bronze medal.



- ✓ China's Jiang Huihua won the gold medal with a combined weight of 206 kg (93kg plus 113kg).
- ✓ Apart from her second place finish, Mirabai won silver in the clean and jerk category as the weightlifting Worlds individually award medals for snatch, clean and jerk and total lift.
- ✓ This was Mirabai's second medal at the World Championships, having previously won gold in 2017 with a lift of 194 kg (85 kg plus 109 kg).
- ✓ Earlier this year she had clinched Commonwealth Games gold.
- ✓ The 2022 World Championships are the first qualifying event for the 2024 Paris Olympics, where weightlifting events will be cut from 14 at Tokyo Games to 10

