

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 8, 2019

TAMIL NADU

- **P Balakrishna Reddy, Sports and youth development minister of the State – sentenced to 3 year jail term and imposed a fine of Rs 10000 - in a 1998 case of rioting and causing damage to government assets – by a special court for sitting and former MLAs/MPs in Chennai**



- ✓ He was a BJP office-bearer during the said offence
- ✓ Reddy, who represents Hosur constituency in the state assembly, suffered instant disqualification both as minister and MLA
- ✓ The sentence was later suspended by the trial judge, J Shanthi on a memo moved by Reddy – enabling him to appeal in High Court
- ✓ Following the resignation, the portfolio of youth welfare and sports development has been allocated to K A Sengottaiyan, who is also the minister for school education

- **Election Commission – cancels the byelection to the Tiruvarur assembly constituency scheduled on January 28, 2019**
 - ✓ The move follows the report from the district electoral officer that the situation is not conducive for holding elections, as cyclone Gaja relief work is still underway
 - ✓ Earlier, on December 3, the chief secretary Girija Vaidyanthan too had requested the EC not to hold byelections in any of the 20 vacant constituencies in Tamil Nadu till April 2019

- **Tamil Nadu Government – scraps ‘Trimester’ pattern for Class 9 state board students from the next academic year**
 - ✓ This will bring back the annual exam pattern which was discontinued in 2011 following the introduction of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) for classes I to IX
 - ✓ Unlike the conventional exam pattern, CCE involves two components - Summative Assessment (SA) and Formative Assessment (FA)
 - ✓ Under SA, exams were conducted at the end of every term and under FA, grades were awarded for group projects, practicals and other skill-developmental activities
 - ✓ Under the trimester pattern, lessons handled in one term were not carried forward in the next terms
 - ✓ The Right of Children for Compulsory and Free Education (RTE) Act, 2009, through which CCE was introduced, mandates it only for Class I to VIII students

- **Government Stanley Medical College and Hospital – to have 24-hour cardiac catheterisation lab**
 - ✓ Thus, it becomes the 2nd hospital in the state to keep the cath-lab always open - after Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, which started 24x7 angioplasty and stenting procedures for patients with heart attacks, three months earlier

NATIONAL

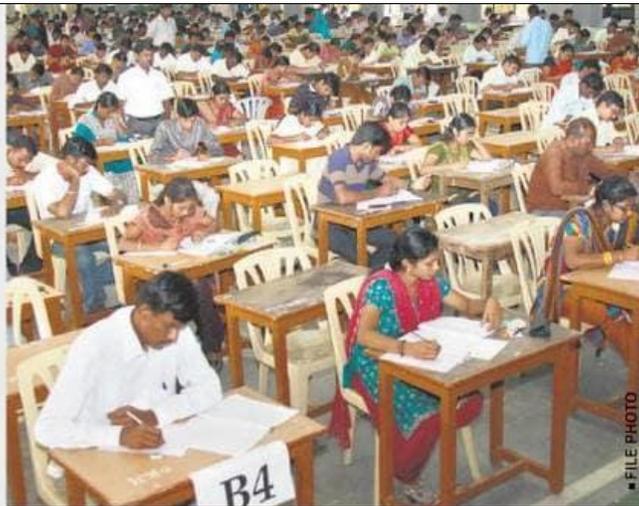
- **Union Government – to provide 10% reservation in jobs and higher education - for economically backward sections under the General Category (apart from OBCs, SC/STs)**
 - ✓ It seeks to introduce a new ‘Constitution (124th Amendment) Bill’ for the purpose
 - ✓ Break-up of Current Reservation Quota of 49%
 - ✓ 27% - Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (including widows and orphans of any caste)
 - ✓ 15% - Scheduled Tribes
 - ✓ 7% - Scheduled Castes

Reserved category

A look at the details of the 10% quota and its ramifications

ELIGIBILITY:

- People earning less than ₹8 lakh annually
- People who own farm land below 5 acres
- People who own a house measuring less than 1,000 sq ft
- In its famous Indra Sawhney judgment, the Supreme Court had set a cap of 50% on quotas
- A Constitutional Amendment Bill would be required as the Constitution does not provide for reservation on the ground of economic conditions. It envisages Amendment to Articles 15 and 16 of the Constitution



PARLIAMENT PROCEDURE

- **Constitution amendment:** The proposed quota will be over & above existing 50% reservation. The government is likely to bring a Constitution Amendment bill in Parliament
- **Under Article 368:** The Bill must be passed in each House by an absolute majority (over 50% of total membership) and a two-thirds majority of members present and voting

- ✓ Challenges for the bill
- ✓ The Supreme Court had earlier held that such a proposal is constitutionally invalid stating that economic/educational backwardness cannot be the criterion of backwardness for reservation purpose— following the similar proposal of P V Narasimha Rao's Government in 1991 for 10% extra reservation for the poor in forward castes
- ✓ In the famous 1992 Indra Sawhney & others vs Union of India case, the SC had ruled that the reservation should not exceed 50% as per Article 16 (Clause 4)
- **'Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019' - passed in the Lok Sabha on January 8, 2019**
- ✓ It seeks to provide Indian citizenship to non-Muslims from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan



- ✓ The minimum residency period for citizenship is being reduced to 7 years now from the earlier 12 years
- ✓ The bill was first introduced in Parliament in 2016 and was examined later by the Joint Parliamentary Committee
- ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 to grant Indian nationality to people from minority communities

- ✓ It also nullifies the 1985 Assam Accord - under which any foreign national, irrespective of religion, who had entered the state after March 25, 1971 - should be deported
- **Airports Authority of India - has banned the single-use plastic items at its 129 airports across the country**
 - ✓ It had also declared 16 airports as 'Single-Use Plastic Free' based on the third-party inspection carried out by Quality Council of India
 - ✓ Airports Authority of India was created under the Airports Authority of India Act, 1994 and came into being on 1st April 1995
 - ✓ Single-use plastic is non-biodegradable and non-recyclable, often releasing toxic chemicals upon degradation
- **Union Government – proposes the renaming of 'Indian Forest Service' as 'Indian Forest and Tribal Service'**
 - ✓ Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had proposed the change for being more receptive towards forest-dwelling and tribal people
 - ✓ It has been made as per the recommendations of National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) in its annual report
 - ✓ In the year 1966, the government of India constituted Indian Forest Service as one of the three All India Services under the All India Services Act, 1951
 - ✓ The other services are Indian Administrative Service (IAS) and Indian Police Service (IPS)
- **Indian Highways Management Company Limited – signs MoU with Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) like BPCL, HPCL and IOCL - for sale of FASTags through their Petrol Pumps**



- ✓ FASTag is an electronic toll collection system operated by the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI)
- ✓ It enables automatic payment of toll charges without stopping at the tollgate
- ✓ FASTags are linked to a bank prepaid account from which the toll amount is deducted automatically
- ✓ FASTag works based on Radio-frequency Identification (RFID) technology

- **Ministry of Labour and Employment - has notified the draft of India's first 'National Policy on Domestic Workers'**
 - ✓ The draft policy will assist about 40 lakh domestic workers by providing recognition and benefits to them
 - ✓ The Centre is already implementing Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008, to provide social security benefits to domestic workers
 - ✓ Highlights of the Draft policy
 - ✓ Right to form their own associations/unions
 - ✓ Right to minimum wages and access to social security measures
 - ✓ Right to enhance their skills
 - ✓ Protection of domestic workers from abuse and exploitation
 - ✓ Providing them access to courts, tribunals for grievance redressal
 - ✓ Establishment of a mechanism to regulate private placement agencies
 - ✓ Establishment of a grievance redressal system

- **Ministry of HRD – approves an increase of 5000 seats in the prestigious 'Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas' (JNV) from the academic year 2019-20**
 - ✓ The current strength of JNVs is around 46600 seats before the increase
 - ✓ The Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas are residential schools for rural children
 - ✓ It is the only education system in the country for which an entrance exam is conducted for Standard 6 on an all-India basis
 - ✓ Overall, around 14000 seats have been added in the JNVs in the last 5 years
 - ✓ The JNVs are managed by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- **India – takes over the complete operation of a part of Chabahar port in Iran**
 - ✓ This is the first time that India will be operating a port outside its territories.
 - ✓ The commercial operations began at the India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ) with the arrival of a Cyprus-registered vessel 'MV Macheras'



- ✓ India started talks with Iran on Chabahar Port in 2003
- ✓ Both the countries signed a MoU for the development of the port in May 2015
- ✓ The first phase of the Chabahar port was inaugurated in December 2017 by Iranian president Hassan Rouhani
- ✓ The port was partially built by India in the 1990s to provide access to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan under the Ashgabat Agreement

SUPREME COURT VERDICT

- **Supreme Court - reinstates Alok Verma as the Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on January 8, 2019**



- ✓ A 3-member bench comprising of Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi, Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul and Justice K.M. Joseph – had set aside the Centre’s decision to send him on leave on October 24, 2018
- ✓ The court had asked the high-powered committee, which selects and appoints the CBI Director to take any further decision about him, based on the report of CVC Enquiry for corruption charges against Verma
- ✓ The high-powered committee consists of the Prime minister, the Chief justice and the Leader of the Opposition
- ✓ Supreme Court cited the landmark verdict in the case of Vineet Narain vs Union of India, 1997 (also known as Jain hawala case) where the Supreme Court had emphasized that the tenure of the CBI director had been fixed to two years after the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act
- ✓ Verma, a former Delhi Police Commissioner, was appointed as CBI director on February 1, 2017
- ✓ He is due to retire on January 31, 2019
- ✓ M Nageshwar Rao, a CBI joint director, took interim charge in the absence of Verma

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

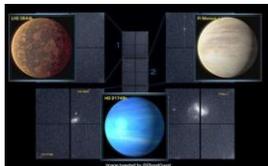
- **Global Aviation Summit 2019 – to be held in Mumbai - on January 15-16, 2019**



- ✓ Organised by - the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in collaboration with FICCI
- ✓ Theme – ‘Flying for all’
- ✓ The event will witness the participation of over 1000 delegates from global aviation fraternity
- ✓ The Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha had earlier launched the official mobile App for GAS 2019 on December 19, 2018

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **NASA's (USA) TESS probe - has discovered a new planet, HD 21749b**
- ✓ It is the 3rd new planet discovered by the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) probe



- ✓ Its earlier discoveries were - Pi Mensae b and LHS 3844b having an orbit of 6.3 days and just 11 hours respectively
- ✓ HD 21749b is present outside the solar system and has an orbit of 36 days around a bright, dwarf star in the Reticulum constellation
- ✓ It has a surface temperature of around 300 degrees fahrenheit

ECONOMY

- **Central Statistics Office – had released its forecast that the economy will grow 7.2% in 2018-19, faster than the previous year's 6.7% expansion**
- ✓ Earlier, RBI had predicted an economy growth of 7.4% in the current fiscal year that ends in March 2019
- ✓ In November 2018, the government had re-estimated the GDP linked to 2011-12 prices

APPOINTMENTS

- **Gita Gopinath - joins the International Monetary Fund as its first Female Chief Economist**



- ✓ Mysore-born Gita Gopinath, thus becomes the second India-born economist to hold the position after former Reserve Bank of India Governor, Raghuram Rajan
- ✓ She also serves as the financial adviser to the chief minister of Kerala
- ✓ She succeeds Maurice Obstfeld, who had retired in December 2018
- ✓ Gopinath is the current John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University (US)
- ✓ Christine Lagarde is the current Managing Director of IMF

SPORTS

- **Indian Cricket team - won their first ever Test series in Australia - after winning the first Test in Adelaide and the third Test in Melbourne**



- ✓ India have toured Australia since 1947 but never before managed to win a series in the country
- ✓ India had already secured the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with their win in Melbourne
- ✓ Win the win, Indian team becomes the first from Asia to win a series on Australian soil.
- ✓ The player of the series award was handed to Cheteshwar Pujara, who scored three centuries and averaged 74.42

ALL ABOUT RESERVATION

RESERVE GEAR

The map shows central government quotas for recruitment from the various states. Individual states also have their separate quotas for education and state government jobs. The likes of Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra have introduced quotas at the state level that breach the 50% ceiling set by Supreme Court

PERCENTAGE OF RESERVATION

Below 50% 50% More than 50%

HARYANA

Proposed: 67%

The BJP govt passed a bill in 2016 to grant 10% quota to six communities, including Jats, in jobs and education. HC upheld the bill but the quota is kept in abeyance and the matter has been referred to the BC Commission

GUJARAT

After the Patidar quota stir, BJP govt through an ordinance granted 10% quota for economically backward classes (EBC) among upper castes. Gujarat had 49.5% quota and HC struck down the ordinance. The state govt finally let the ordinance lapse

MAHARASHTRA

Total quota: 68%

The BJP-ruled state in November 2018 granted 16% reservation to Marathas in government jobs and education. The state, which already had 52% reservation, became second only to Tamil Nadu in total reservation granted

RAJASTHAN

Proposed: 54%

The Vasundhara Raje-led BJP government in 2017 upped reservations for OBCs from 21% to 26% in jobs and education. But SC told the state that it cannot breach the 50% ceiling

TELANGANA

Proposed: 62%

The ruling TRS in 2017 passed a bill that takes total quotas to 62% in jobs and education. It wants the provision to be included in Ninth Schedule to protect it from legal challenge

ANDHRA PRADESH

Proposed: 55%

The Chandrababu Naidu-led TDP government in 2017 passed a bill to provide 5% reservation for the Kapu community in government jobs and education. It is now seeking to include the reservation in the Ninth Schedule as the state's total quotas exceeds the 50% ceiling

TAMIL NADU

Total quota: 69%

Tamil Nadu has put its quota law in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution to shield it from judicial scrutiny. A division bench in 2018 refused to stay the 69% reservations but petitions are pending in the apex court challenging the quota

THE STATE QUOTA BREAK-UP FOR CENTRAL GOVT JOBS

STATE/UT	SCs	STs	OBCs	STATE/UT	SCs	STs	OBCs	STATE/UT	SCs	STs	OBCs	STATE/UT	SCs	STs	OBCs
Arunachal	1	45	0	Himachal	25	4	20	Meghalaya	1	44	5	Tripura	17	31	2
Assam	7	12	27	Jharkhand	12	26	12	Mizoram	0	45	5	U'khand	18	3	13
Bihar	16	1	27	Karnataka	16	7	27	Nagaland	0	45	0	UP	21	1	27
Ch'garh	12	32	6	Kerala	10	1	27	Odisha	16	22	12	Bengal	23	5	22
Goa	2	12	18	MP	15	20	15	Punjab	29	0	21	Delhi	15	75	27
Gujarat	7	15	27	Manipur	3	34	13	Sikkim	5	21	24				

Source: persmin.gov.in; Media reports