

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 4, 2019

TAMIL NADU

◆ **Tamil Nadu Government – forms 1,049 Biodiversity Monitoring Committees (BMCs) in the state**

- ✓ They have been formed at both the block and urban body levels
- ✓ The committees monitor and record the natural resources in the state in a register called 'People's Biodiversity Register'
- ✓ The State Biodiversity board has also prepared and released a list of TN Biodiversity heritage sites

◆ **A one-stop clinic for breast screening – has been inaugurated at Kilpauk Medical college and hospital – by V Shanta, Chairman of the Cancer Institute, Adyar**



- ✓ It was built at a cost of Rs 4.5 crore
- ✓ The clinic offers free diagnostic service to the women below poverty line and at half the price to women in other income groups
- ✓ It also offers high-end services like stereo guided VAB extraction of micro calcification, mammogram and core needle biopsies - at only quarter of the original price to women in other income groups
- ✓ According to the National Institute of Cancer Prevention Research, breast cancer accounts for 14% of all the cancers in women

◆ **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi – to lay foundation stone for the construction of AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Sciences) in Madurai on January 27**

- ✓ The approval for the construction of AIIMS in Thoppur in Madurai was granted in December by the Union Cabinet
- ✓ It will be constructed at a cost of Rs 1,264 crore under the Prathan Manthri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana within a period of 2 years
- ✓ The initial announcement for a 200-acre AIIMS facility in Tamil Nadu at a budget of Rs 2000 crore was made in the Union Budget 2015-16
- ✓ The 750-bed hospital will have upto 20 super speciality departments

◆ **Tamil Nadu Government – constitutes ‘Search panels’ to shortlist vice chancellor to TN Open University and TN Teachers Education University in Chennai, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University in Tirunelveli and Thiruvalluvar University in Vellore**

- ✓ TNOU VC search committee
- ✓ Justice (Retd) K Kannan, Chairman of Railway claims Tribunal, Principal bench, New Delhi and a retiree of the Punjab and Haryana High Court – was named as the convenor
- ✓ Other members –
- ✓ K Skandan, IAS (retd), former additional chief secretary and former director of Anna Institute of Management
- ✓ Srikanth Mohapatra, vice-chancellor of Odisha state open university
- ✓ Thiruvalluvar University VC search committee
- ✓ S C Sharma, Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in Bengaluru – was name as the convenor
- ✓ Other members
- ✓ Vishwanath Shegaonkar, IAS (retd), former principal secretary to the government, labour and employment department
- ✓ Sudhindra Nath Panda, Director of National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chennai
- ✓ MSU VC search committee
- ✓ S P Elangovan, IAS (retd), former Chairman and MD of TN Transport development finance corporation – named as the convenor
- ✓ Other members
- ✓ Padmashri M Anandakrishnan, former vice-chancellor of Anna University
- ✓ Ved Prakash, former Chairman of University Grants Commission
- ✓ TN Teachers Education University search committee
- ✓ M Jagadesh Kumar, vice-chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University – named as the convenor
- ✓ Other members

- ✓ Ramesh Kumar Khanna, IAS (retd), former additional chief secretary and former vice-chairman and CEO, TN Maritime Board
- ✓ T Balakrishnan, former vice-chancellor of Periyar University, Salem

NATIONAL

◆ **Parliament – passes the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018 on January 3, 2019**



- ✓ It seeks to 'detain' the students in any class, if they fail in their exams – scrapping the 'no-detention' policy in schools
- ✓ The existing policy under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, prohibits schools from detaining students till they complete elementary education
- ✓ Now, states can choose to hold a regular examination either at the end of Classes 5 or 8, or both or continue the no-detention policy till Class 8
- ✓ Students who fail this test can appear for a re-examination within two months of the declaration of the result
- ✓ If the students still do not pass the exam, the state government may decide to detain them.
- ✓ The proposed amendment to the bill was introduced in August 2017 and passed by the Lok Sabha in July 2018
- ✓ Union minister for Human Resources Development Prakash Javadekar's motion to amend the name of the bill to reflect that it was passed in 2019 was also accepted

◆ **The Parliament - had also passed the National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill on January 3, 2019**

- ✓ It seeks to retrospectively grant recognition to certain institutions running teacher education courses without the approval of NCTE till 2017-18 - as well as grant retrospective permission to them for starting new courses
- ✓ The Bill amends the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993
- ✓ The Bill was introduced by the Union Minister of Human Resource Development, Prakash Javadekar in Lok Sabha on December 18, 2017 and it was passed by the Lok Sabha on July 23, 2018
- ✓ It has to be noted that for the last 3 years, no permissions have given by the Central Government for starting new B.Ed colleges
- ✓ The NCTE Act, 1993 came into force on 1 July 1995
- ✓ It is applicable throughout the country, except the State of Jammu and Kashmir
- ✓ The Act establishes the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE)

◆ **Union Government – launches ‘Green-Ag’ project in collaboration with Global Environment Facility (GEF)**

- ✓ The project titled “Green – Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for global environmental benefits and the conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes” will also have the assistance of UN’s Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)
- ✓ It will be implemented in 5 states having high-conservation-value landscapes –
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh - Chambal Landscape
 - ✓ Mizoram - Dampa Landscape
 - ✓ Odisha - Similipal Landscape
 - ✓ Rajasthan - Desert National Park Landscape
 - ✓ Uttarakhand – Corbett-Rajaji Landscape
- ✓ The Green-Ag project seeks to transform India’s agricultural and environmental sector to achieve biodiversity and conserve critical landscapes

◆ **Operation Broken Window – launched by the Kerala police to arrest the troublemakers creating law and order issues in the state – following the entry of 2 women in the age group of 10-50 at Sabarimala**



- ✓ The state had arrested more than 700 people and registered 559 cases with 628 persons taken into preventive custody, till January 3

◆ **Meerut – to hoist the country’s tallest tricolor at the height of 380 feet by March 2019**



- ✓ The pole of the flag has been erected at Arihantpur by a city-based social organization, Shri Paramdham Nyas
- ✓ At present, the country’s tallest flag is located at the India-Pakistan border in Attari at a height of 360 feet, erected in March 2017
- ✓ The flag is being planned to be hoisted on either February 27, the death anniversary of Chandrashekhhar Azad or March 23, the death anniversary of Bhagat Singh
- ✓ Meerut is remembered as the city from where the 1857 revolt had started

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

◆ The Chang'e 4 probe of China - successfully performed the first soft landing on the Moon's far side on January 3



- ✓ The lander had deployed its rover, named Yutu-2 or Jade Rabbit, to explore the Moon's Von Karman crater
- ✓ It is the first time a soft landing has been performed on the Moon's far side
- ✓ The far side is also known as the dark side because it faces away from Earth and remains comparatively unknown
- ✓ The dominant feature of the dark side is the 2,500km-wide South Pole-Aitken basin, the Moon's oldest and deepest crater
- ✓ Chang'e 4 is a lander-rover combination and will explore both above and below the lunar surface
- ✓ Chang'e Moon missions
- ✓ Chang'e 1 - China's first lunar mission launched in 2007 to create a topographical map of the surface
- ✓ Chang'e 2 - A second orbiting mission in 2011 to look for future landing sites as well as take high-resolution photos
- ✓ Chang'e 3 - First unmanned Moon landing of the Chang'e series. The lander with Jade Rabbit touched down in 2013, making it the first soft landing on the Moon since 1976. The rover functioned until 2016 despite technical difficulties
- ✓ Chang'e 4 - China's current mission to explore and research the far side of the Moon
- ✓ Chang'e 5 - Future mission slated for 2019 to collect and return lunar rocks and soil

INTERNATIONAL DAY

◆ World Braille Day – January 4

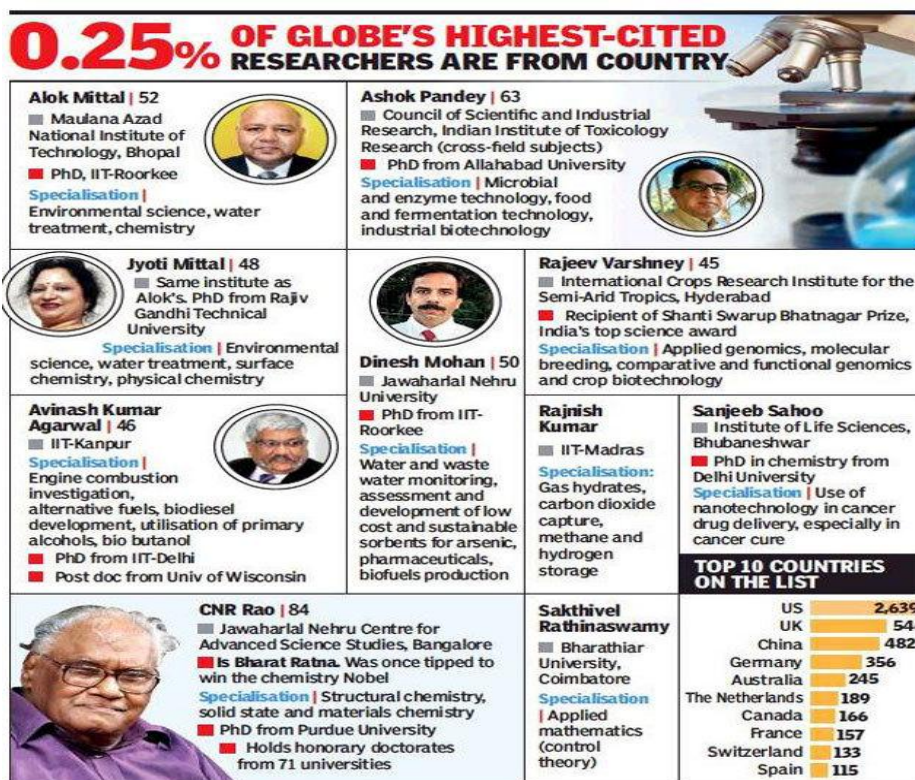


- ✓ The day marks the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille script or Braille code
- ✓ The observance of the day helps people to spread the importance of Braille language to allow the reading by visually impaired people

- ✓ Braille script is a language based on the patterns of raised dots on paper that could be read by 'feeling' the dots
- ✓ Braille has received recognition by the UN, especially in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- ✓ The Marrakesh Treaty is also celebrated for recognizing braille as critical in providing accessible information to visually impaired persons
- ✓ World Blind Union, representing million of visually impaired people, was established in 1984 with its headquarters in Toronto, Canada

REPORT

◆ 5th edition of World's most 'influential' researchers list – released by Clarivate Analytics



- ✓ 10 Indians feature among the World's Top 4000 highly-cited researchers (HCR) in the field of Science and Social Science, double than on last year's list
- ✓ Globally, HCR has representations from over 60 countries but 80% of the names comes only from 10 countries and remarkably 70% comes only from 5 countries
- ✓ Among institutions, Harvard university has highest representations with 186 names in the list