



**December - 29**

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Local Body Elections – Tamilnadu**

- ❖ The local body elections in Tamil Nadu was held on 27th and 30th December.
- ❖ These elections are conducted by Tamil Nadu State Election Commission under M.Palanisamy.
- ❖ Last election was on October, 2011.
- ❖ At present, out of 37 districts, only elections for rural local bodies in 27 districts was held.
- ❖ Elections will not be held for rural local bodies in the nine districts of Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Vellore, Tirupattur, Ranipet, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi.
- ❖ The rural voters in the state will elect four members.
- ❖ It was a direct Election for Village Panchayat Ward Members, Village Panchayat President, Panchayat Union Ward Members and District Panchayat Ward Members.
- ❖ The elections for panchayat ward member and president of the Panchayat will be on non-party basis.
- ❖ The elections for district panchayat ward member and panchayat union ward member will be on party basis.
- ❖ Indirect elections to the post of district panchayat and panchayat union chairpersons and vice-chairpersons will be held on January 11.

#### **About Tamilnadu Local bodies**

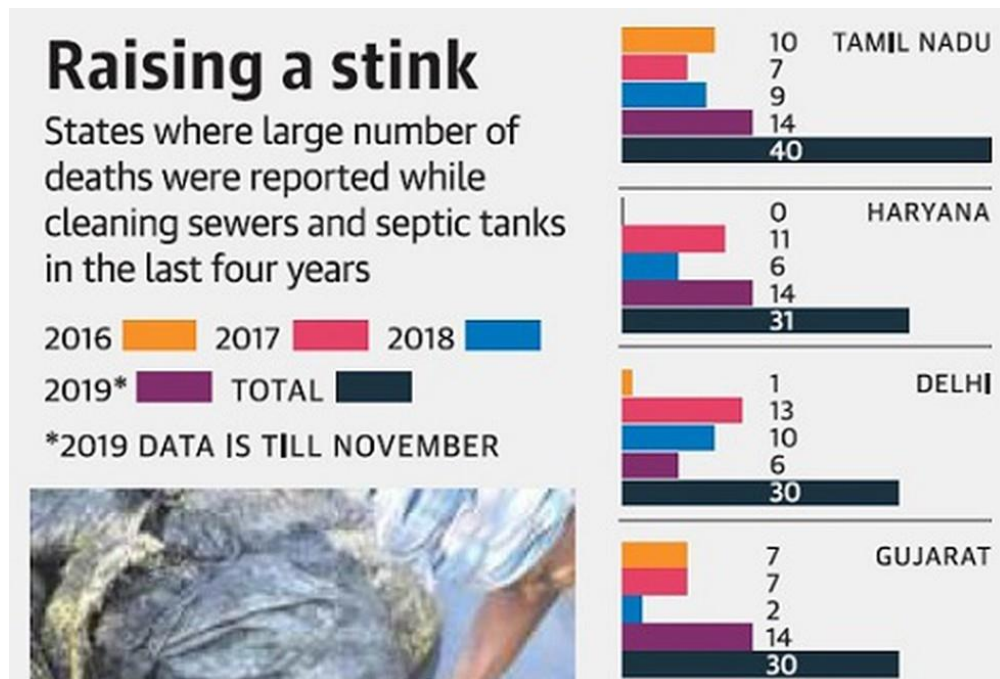
- ❖ Urban local bodies include 15 Municipal corporations, 148 Municipalities and 561 Town panchayats.
- ❖ Rural local bodies include 12,524 Village Panchayats, 388 Panchayat Unions, and 33 District Councils of India/District Panchayats.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Manual Scavenging Data**

- ❖ As per the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, as many as 282 people have died while cleaning sewers and septic tanks in the country between 2016 and November 2019.

- ❖ Among the States, Tamil Nadu has recorded 40 deaths, the highest in number, in these four years.
- ❖ This is followed by Haryana with 31 deaths, and Gujarat and Delhi with 30 deaths each.
- ❖ There has been rapid and unplanned urbanization in the above states.
- ❖ There are about 60,440 manual scavengers identified across the country, in 17 States.
- ❖ More than half of them about 35,472, have been identified from Uttar Pradesh alone.
- ❖ The Parliament had enacted the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 which came in force from December 6, 2013.
- ❖ Sanitation is a State subject and the people for cleaning of sewers and septic tanks are employed by local bodies.
- ❖ Genrobotics is an Indian robotics company headquartered in Trivandrum, Kerala.
- ❖ In 2018, GenRobotics released the Bandicoot robot for cleaning sewers.



### Eat Right Mela

- ❖ The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 2nd edition of Eat Right Mela in New Delhi.



- ❖ The Union Minister launched 'The PURPLE Book' a handbook on diets for diseases
- ❖ He also launched NetSCoFAN (Network for Scientific Co-operation for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition).
- ❖ Eat Right India movement was launched by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in 2018 under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.

### **New Railway Recruitments**

- ❖ The Railway board has now decided that all new recruits in railways will be inducted through UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) Civil Services Exams under five specialities.
- ❖ The Government has merged its eight cadres and departments services into one single entity - the Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS).
- ❖ Moreover, the Chairman of Railway Board, who will also be CEO of national transporter, will be an officer of Indian Railway Service and not from any other service.
- ❖ Also, officers from Indian Railways who have experience of 35 yrs will only be posted as Chairman/CEO.

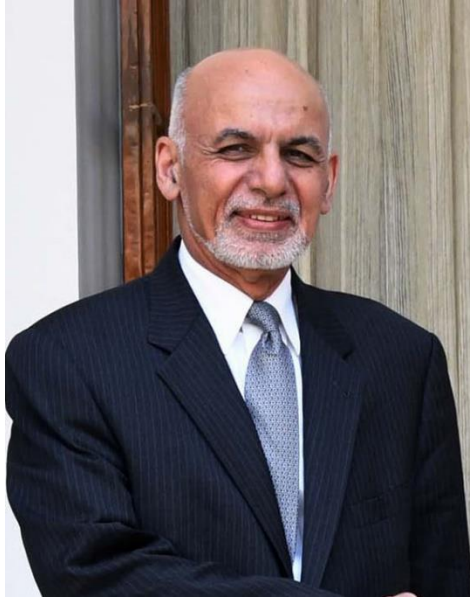
### **Railway Board Composition**

- ❖ With new changes, the Chairman along with 4 members responsible for infrastructure, operations & business development, finance and rolling stock respectively will form Railway Board.
- ❖ The Board will also have some independent non-executive members.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Afghan presidential election**

- ❖ Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani appeared to have won a second term as per the preliminary election result.
- ❖ He defeated the runner up Abdullah Abdullah.
- ❖ The current elections are the fourth Presidential poll since the Taliban's fall in 2001.



## **ECONOMY**

### **Aadhar for PMVVY**

- ❖ The Central government has made Aadhaar (the unique 12-digit biometric identity number) mandatory for subscribers of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY).
- ❖ It is a pension scheme for senior citizens aged 60 or above.
- ❖ It is being implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ❖ PMVVY was announced in Union Budgets of 2017-18 and 2018-19, and in Budget.

### **NTPC in Solar Energy**

- ❖ The State-owned power giant NTPC is planning to add 10 GW (gigawatt) of solar energy generation capacity by 2022.
- ❖ It assumes significance in view of country's ambitious target of having 175GW of clean energy by 2022.
- ❖ It will be funded mainly by green bonds.
- ❖ Green Bonds are offered for pure clean energy projects.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Ink to stop fake passports and currency notes

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Physical Laboratory (NPL) developed an ink to combat the problem of fake printing of passports and counterfeiting of currency notes.
- ❖ The ink was produced based on single excitable dual emissive luminescent pigment.
- ❖ It was developed based on the concept of fluorescence and phosphorescence phenomena.
- ❖ Currently, the currency notes display only one color with the emission of wavelength.
- ❖ However, in the ink developed by the scientists features changes in pigment color after the notes are printed.
- ❖ In ambient light the ink shows white color.
- ❖ When the ink is exposed to UV light, it turns red and when the UV source is switched OFF it turns green.

### Fluorescence and Phosphorescence

- ❖ Both in phosphorescence and fluorescence the radiation is electromagnetic and is spontaneous.
- ❖ In case of fluorescence, the radiation stops after the source is switched off.
- ❖ On the other hand, in phosphorescence, the glow continues for few hours.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Gujarat locust invasion

- ❖ Gujarat and Rajasthan are under attack from hoppers — new born locusts or known as tiddis locally.
- ❖ Banaskantha is the worst affected district in Gujarat.
- ❖ The insects were flying from Pakistan Sindh province.
- ❖ The locusts emerged from Sudan and Eritrea in the coast of Red Sea.
- ❖ The insects fly in during the day and settle on the farms at night making it difficult to ward off the swarms.
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) operates the DLIS (Desert Locust Information Service) headquartered in Rome, Italy.

- ❖ The invasion was also predicted by Locust Warning Organization (LWO) in Jodhpur.
- ❖ It operates under ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research).
- ❖ The LWO monitors 2 lakh square kilometres of desert area in parts of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Haryana.

## STATES

### National Tribal Dance Festival

- ❖ The 2019 edition of National Tribal Dance Festival held in Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ This is for the first time that National Tribal Dance Festival is being organized in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ This Tribal Dance Festival is held annually during the month of December and is organized by Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ The festival was inaugurated by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.



### Losar Festival

- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated Losar Festival to mark the Ladakhi or Tibetan New Year.
- ❖ Losar festival, which has its origin in 15th century, is also observed in all Himalayan states of country but in different times.

