

January - 20

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Development Awards

- ❖ The Development Awards of Tamil Nadu Government 2019 have been announced.
- ❖ The Tamil Thai award 2019 has been announced for the Chicago Tamil Sangam.
- ❖ Other awards were
 - Kapilar Award – Vettri alagar,
 - U.Ve.Sa Award – V Mahadevan,
 - Kambhar Award - Saraswathi Ramanathan,
 - Sollin Selvar Award – Kavidasan,
 - G.U. Pope Award - Maria Joseph Xavier,
 - Ilangovadigal Award - Kaviko Gnanaselvan (A) Thirunana sambantham,
 - Umaruppular Award - Liaquat Ali khan,
 - Amma Literary Award - Umayaal muthu,
 - Singaravelar Award - Ashoka Subramanian,
 - Maraimalai adigal Award - Scholar Muthukumaraswamy,
 - Iyothee Thass Pandithar Award - Scholar Prabhakaran,
 - Best language Translator Awards - Mohammed Yusuf, Mastan Ali, Prof. Siva. Murugesan,
 - Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award for 2018 – Nagarasan.

NATIONAL

Ranking on water departments

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti recently launched rankings of Central and state governmental water departments based on their efficiency targets.
- ❖ It also aims to create Water Resource Information System (WRIS) in all states.
- ❖ According to the report, Gujarat topped the ranking and Delhi was pushed to the last.
- ❖ Among the seven central government departments, Survey of India topped the list followed by National Institute of Hydrology and Central Water Commission.



- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board received the lowest rank.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was the best performer among all the states.
- ❖ The state was at 33rd position in 2018 and has been pushed to 13th rank this time.

Kerala and CAA

- ❖ The Kerala government invoked Article 131 to file a petition against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Kerala has become the first state to move the apex court challenging CAA stating that it violates Article 14, Article 21 and Article 25 of the Indian constitution.
- ❖ Article 131, known as original jurisdiction, vests the Supreme Court with original jurisdiction over any dispute arising between the states or between the centre and state.
- ❖ The article gives the Supreme Court the power to take up such cases straight instead of going through a lower court or reviewing a lower court's judgement.
- ❖ Several petitions have been filed against the CAA act in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ The apex court may hear the petitions separately or club them together but Kerala Government's petition cannot be clubbed with those petitions.

Punjab and CAA

- ❖ After Kerala, Punjab assembly passes resolution against CAA or Citizenship Amendment Act.
- ❖ The move is significant as it highlights the opposition's attempt to use state legislatures and the judiciary to challenge the controversial law.

Pulse Polio Program 2020

- ❖ The Pulse Polio Programme 2020 was launched by the President Ram Nath Kovind by administering Polio drops to children below the age of five.
- ❖ India has eradicated polio completely in 2012.
- ❖ In 2015, India was declared polio free.
- ❖ However, because of the surge of new polio cases in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the Government has decided to hold one more NID (National Immunization Day) in 2020.
- ❖ India's last reported polio case was from Howrah, West Bengal in the year 2011.
- ❖ India completed a full 5 years as a "polio-free nation" on January 13, 2016.

- ❖ Vellore, (Tamil Nadu) became the first Indian town to become 100% polio-free through the pulse strategy, and the rest of India adopted this strategy in 1995.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been free from polio for the last 16 years.

What are IPV and OPV?

- ❖ There are two types of vaccines that are being administered in the country.
- ❖ It includes IPV (Inactivated Polio Vaccine) and OPV (Oral Polio Vaccine).
- ❖ IPV is a wild-type poliovirus strain that is administered in combination of other vaccines.
- ❖ It includes Diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, haemophilus, hepatitis B and influenza.
- ❖ IPV is more effective than OPV.
- ❖ It increases intestinal immunity in children who have been already immunized with OPV.
- ❖ To prevent the virus from coming to India, the government has since March 2014 made the Oral Polio Vaccination (OPV) mandatory for those travelling between India and polio-affected countries, such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Syria and Cameroon.

INTERNATIONAL

Libya Peace Conference

- ❖ It was held recently at Berlin in Germany
- ❖ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said that major powers are "fully committed" to a peaceful resolution in Libya



- ❖ Alongside German Chancellor Angela Merkel, attendees of conference included Russia's President Vladimir Putin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, French President Emmanuel Macron and UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.
- ❖ Other countries invited were the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Algeria, China and the Republic of Congo.
- ❖ Leaders from the United Nations, the European Union, the African Union and the Arab League also attended
- ❖ The Libyan peace process is a series of meetings, agreements and actions that aim to resolve the Second Libyan Civil War.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

K4 Missile

- ❖ India has successfully test-fired a 3,500-kilometre range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine.
- ❖ It was conducted off the Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ With this test, India has moved one more step towards the induction of this ballistic missile on the INS Arihant class of nuclear submarines.
- ❖ The missile was developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Air-Launched Missile	K-4 Ballistic Missile
<p>RANGE 200 km WEIGHT OF MISSILE 2 tonne WARHEAD 500 kg LENGTH 4 m STATUS Hypersonic missile project called the Air Launched Article. Designed to fit under the belly of a Su-30MKI. First prototype by 2012.</p> 	<p>RANGE 3,500 km WEIGHT OF MISSILE 20 tonnes WARHEAD 1 tonne LENGTH 10 m STATUS Second test by January 2011. At least six more tests before induction by 2017. Future variants for larger nuclear submarines to be 2 m taller and have 5,000-km range.</p> 

- ❖ It carries a nuclear warhead of over one tonne.



- ❖ Only the US, Russia and China have submarine-launched ballistic missiles of 3,500-kilometre range.
- ❖ The submarine-launched ballistic missile is the most important part of the air, land and sea nuclear triad and is at the front of India's second-strike capability.

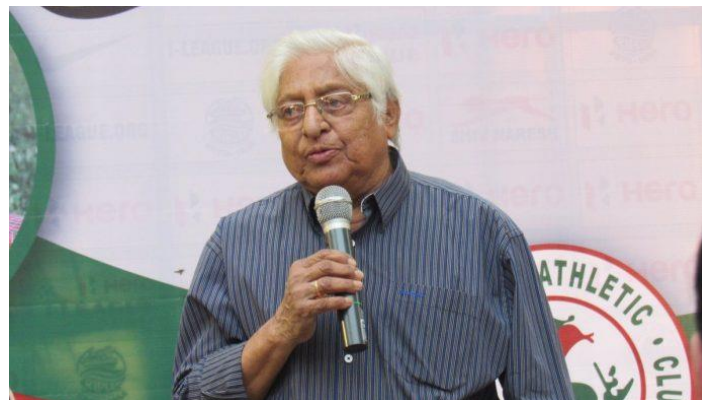
Yada Yada Virus

- ❖ A new virus detected in Australian mosquitoes has been provisionally named the Yada Yada virus (YYV).
- ❖ It is an alphavirus, a group of viruses that the researchers described as small, single-stranded positive-sense RNA viruses.
- ❖ It includes species important to human and animal health, such as Chikungunya virus and Eastern equine encephalitis virus.
- ❖ They are transmitted primarily by mosquitoes and (are) pathogenic in their vertebrate hosts.
- ❖ Unlike some other alphaviruses, Yada Yada does not pose a threat to human beings.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Chuni Goswami

- ❖ Chuni Goswami, the Indian Football stalwart who led India to win the gold medal in the 1962 Asian Games in Bangkok was honoured by the Indian Postal Department.
- ❖ He is the third Indian footballer after the late Gostho Paul (1998), and late Dr Talimeren Ao (2018) on whose name a postal stamp has been issued.



- ❖ He is also one of the six Indian Footballers to have received the prestigious Padma Shri Award along with the Arjuna Award (others being the Late Gotsho Paul, late Sailen Manna, PK Banerjee, Bhaichung Bhutia, and Sunil Chhetri).

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Immunization Day – January 19

- ❖ It was observed all over India as a part of Pulse Polio Programme, 2020.
- ❖ The day was observed with an aim to maintain the 'NO POLIO' status.
- ❖ The next round of National Immunization Day (NID) is to be held in March 10.

About

- ❖ The National Immunization Day are one of the four strategies that are recommended by the WHO to eradicate polio completely.
- ❖ According to WHO, the NID has to be conducted twice a year at a gap of 2 to 4 weeks.

