

### 7 killed, nearly 400 injured in Jallikattu events across TN

#### Key Points:

ତାମିଲନାଡୁର ବିଭିନ୍ନ ଜିଲ୍ଲାରେ ପୋଙ୍ଗଲ ଅବସରରେ ଆୟୋଜିତ ଜାଲିକାଟୁ ମହୋତ୍ସବରେ ୭ ଜଣଙ୍କର ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଘଟିଛି। ଭିଡ଼ ଭିଡ଼ରେ ଷଷ୍ଠ ଦୌଡ଼ିବାର ଏହି ଖେଳରେ ଗୋଟିଏ ଦିନରେ ୪୦୦ରୁ ଅଧିକ ଲୋକ ଆହତ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ତାମିଲନାଡୁ ପୁଲିସ୍ ଶୁକ୍ରବାର କହିଛି ଯେ ଗୁରୁବାର କାନୁନ୍ ପୋଙ୍ଗଲ ଦିନ ଥିଲା। ଏହି ଦିନ ଜାଲିକାଟୁ ସବୁଠାରୁ ଅଧିକ ଖେଳାଯାଏ। ଏହି ୭ ଜଣଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟତୀତ ପୁରୁକୋଟାଇ ଓ ଶିବଗଙ୍ଗାରେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଦୁଇଟି ଷଷ୍ଠ ମୃତ୍ୟୁ ଘଟିଛି।

#### What is Jallikattu?

##### Jallikattu: Overview

- ❖ **Origin:** A traditional sport popular in Tamil Nadu.

##### Nature of the Sport:

- ❖ Involves releasing a wild bull into a crowd, with participants attempting to grab its hump or bring it under control.
- ❖ Celebrated in January during the Tamil harvest festival, Pongal.

##### Associated Concerns

- ❖ **Constitutional Protection:** Central question: Whether Jallikattu qualifies as a collective cultural right under **Article 29(1)** of the Constitution.
- ❖ **Article 29(1):** Ensures educational and cultural rights as fundamental rights under Part III of the Constitution.
- ❖ **Animal Cruelty Debate:** Examined if Jallikattu perpetuates cruelty to animals or contributes to the survival and welfare of native bull breeds.
- ❖ **Relevance to Article 48:** Constitution Bench assessed whether Jallikattu laws align with **Article 48**, which promotes organizing agriculture and animal husbandry on scientific lines.
- ❖ **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act (PCA), 1960:** Examined whether Jallikattu laws in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra align with PCA's objective of preventing cruelty to animals.

##### Associated Legal Interventions

- ❖ **2011:** Centre added bulls to the list of animals whose training and exhibition are prohibited.

- ❖ **2014:** Supreme Court banned Jallikattu citing animal cruelty in *Animal Welfare Board of India vs. A. Nagaraja*.
- ❖ **2017:** Tamil Nadu passed amendments to the PCA Act and enacted rules to allow Jallikattu under the guise of tradition.
- ❖ **2018:** Supreme Court referred the Jallikattu case to a Constitution Bench.

##### Arguments Adduced

##### In Favor of Jallikattu

##### Cultural Significance:

- ❖ Symbolic of Tamil Nadu's identity, transcending caste and creed.
- ❖ A centuries-old tradition deserving regulation, not obliteration.
- ❖ **Conservation of Livestock:** Described as a tool to preserve indigenous bull breeds.
- ❖ **Educational Value:** Integrated into high school curricula to ensure cultural transmission across generations.
- ❖ **Community Sentiments:** Ban perceived as hostile to Tamil culture and community sensitivities.

##### Against Jallikattu

##### Animal Rights and Welfare:

- ❖ Petitioners argued that liberty is inherent in all living beings.
- ❖ Highlighted "extreme cruelty" inflicted on bulls during events.
- ❖ **Human Harm:** Numerous deaths and injuries reported among tamers and spectators.
- ❖ **Circumvention of Law:** Tamil Nadu's law is seen as an attempt to bypass the Supreme Court's 2014 ban.
- ❖ **Cultural Criticism:** Critics equated Jallikattu with practices like sati and dowry, abolished despite cultural significance.

##### Similar Sports in Other States

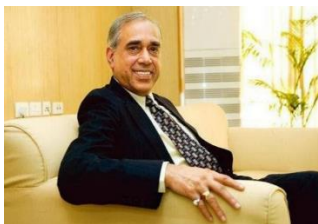
- ❖ **Karnataka:** Passed a law to legalize a similar sport, **Kambala**.

- ❖ **Other States:** Bull-taming and racing sports remain banned in Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, and others following the 2014 Supreme Court ban.
- ❖ **Exceptions:** Tamil Nadu and Karnataka continue organizing these events.

### **Nripendra Mishra reappointed Chairperson of PM Museum & Library Society**

#### **Key Points:**

- ❖ The Government of India has reconstituted the Executive Council of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society and reappointed Nripendra Mishra as the Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Society.
- ❖ The Executive Council is the highest decision-making body of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio President of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library Society and the Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is currently the Vice-Chairman.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Museum and Library Society was set up by the government of India on 1st April 1966 to manage the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library which is now known as the Prime Minister Museum and Library.



#### **Reconstituted Executive Council of the Society**

- ❖ According to the notification of the Union Ministry of Culture, the former Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Nripendra Mishra has been re-appointed as the Chairperson of the Executive Council for a term of 5 years.

- ❖ Former Union Minister Smriti Irani, noted filmmaker Shekhar Kapur, former NITI Aayog Vice-chairman Rajiv Kumar, Sanjeev Sanyal, member of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, retired Army officer Syed Ata Hasnain, and Sanskar Bharati's Vasudev Kamath have also been appointed to the Executive Council.
- ❖ The term of the newly appointed member of the Executive Council will be five years.

#### **About the Prime Minister Museum and Library**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Museum and Library was earlier called the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library.
- ❖ It is located in the historic Teen Murti Campus, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was the residence of the Commander in Chief of India.
- ❖ In August 1948 it became the official residence of the first Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and remained so till his death.
- ❖ After his death in 1964, the government of India decided to convert the place into a museum dedicated to Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- ❖ In November 1964 President Dr Radhakrishnan inaugurated the Nehru Memorial Museum in the Teen Murti.



- ❖ In 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed converting the Nehru Museum and Library into a national museum dedicated to all the Prime Ministers of India.

- ❖ The proposal was approved by the Executive Council in a meeting in November 2016 and a decision was taken to construct the Museum of all Prime Ministers in the Teen Murti Estate.
- ❖ The Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya dedicated to the 15 Prime Ministers of India, was opened to the public on 21st April 2022.
- ❖ A special meeting of the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society was held in June 2023. The meeting was chaired by the Vice-President of the Prime Minister Museum and Library Society, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ It approved the change in the name of the Nehru Memorial to the Prime Minister Museum and Library.

#### **Under Which Ministry is the Prime Minister Museum and Library**

- ❖ The Prime Minister Museum and Library is funded by the Union Ministry of Culture. The ministry is mandated to preserve, promote, and disseminate all forms of art and culture in the country.

#### **Indonesian President to be chief guest at Republic Day celebrations**

- ❖ Indonesia President Prabowo Subianto will be the chief guest at the 76th Republic Day celebration to be held on 26th January 2025 at the Kartavya Path (earlier Rajpath) in New Delhi.
- ❖ Incidentally, the first President of Indonesia Sukarno was the chief guest at the first Republic Day celebration held in New Delhi on 26 January 1950. French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest at the 75th Republic Day celebration in 2024.
- ❖ Republic Day is celebrated in the country on 26th January every year to mark the promulgation of the Indian constitution which established the Republic of India.

- ❖ The government of India invites a foreign leader as a chief guest on the occasion. In 1952, 1953, 1966, 2021, and 2022 there were no foreign chief guests due to various reasons.



#### **President Subianto's Visit to India**

- ❖ President Prabowo Subianto will be on an official visit to India on 25 & 26 January 2026. This is the first official visit of President Prabowo Subianto to India since he was sworn in as the 8th President of Indonesia in October 2024.
- ❖ During his visit to India, he will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other top Indian leadership and will discuss bilateral, regional, and international issues. India and Indonesia share close ties and were the founding members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in 1961.

#### **Selection of the Republic Day's Chief Guest**

- ❖ The selection and extension of invitations to foreign leaders to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebration is the responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The Ministry considers many factors before selecting foreign leaders for this purpose.
- ❖ It considers factors like India's economic, political, and military relationship with the concerned country.
- ❖ After selecting the foreign leader, the approval of the Prime Minister is taken by the Ministry.
- ❖ The Ministry then inquires whether the foreign leader is available on that date or not. If the foreign leaders agree then an official invitation is issued to the foreign leader, on behalf of the Prime Minister of India.

### About the Republic Day Parade and its Celebration

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence is responsible for the Republic Day and the Independence Day celebration in New Delhi. The organisation of the ceremonial Parade and the tableaux displayed on the occasion are the responsibility of the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ First chief guest- President Sukarno of Indonesia in 1950. First female chief guest- Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom in 1961.
- ❖ Pakistani chief guest- Two Pakistani leaders have been chief guests so far. Malik Ghulam Muhammad, Governor General of Pakistan was the chief guest in 1955. Rana Abdul Hamid, Minister of the Pakistani government, in 1965.
- ❖ Nobel Prize winners as chief guest- Nelson Mandela of South Africa (1995) and Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar (1991).
- ❖ Jacques Chirac of France participated once as a President and once as a Prime Minister.
- ❖ As Prime Minister of France, Jacques Chirac was the chief guest in 1976. ▪ In 1998, he participated as the President of France.
- ❖ Only American President - Barack Obama in 2015.
- ❖ In 2018, all 10 leaders of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) were the chief guests at the Republic Day parade.
- ❖ In 2023, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al Sisi was the chief guest.
- ❖ In 2024 French President Emmanuel Macron was the chief guest.

### Singapore President Shanmugaratnam's visit to India

- ❖ President Tharman Shanmugaratnam of Singapore was on a five day official visit to India from 14-18 January 2025.

- ❖ This is the first official visit of President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to India. During his visit to India he visited New Delhi and Odisha. During his visit to Odisha on 17 & 18 January 2025, eight memorandum of understanding (MoU) were signed between Singapore and the state of Odisha.



### 60th anniversary of India Singapore diplomatic relation

#### Key Points:

- ❖ The Singapore President's visit to India coincided with the 60th year of the establishment of the diplomatic relation between the two countries. India was one of the first countries in the world to recognize Singapore in 1965.
- ❖ At the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, President Droupadi Murmu and President Tharman Shanmugaratnam jointly unveiled a logo commemorating 60th anniversary of establishment of India-Singapore bilateral ties at the President Shanmugaratnam also met the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior Indian ministers; External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari; Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda; Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.





### President Shanmugaratnam visit to Odisha

- ❖ In the second leg of his India visit, President Shanmugaratnam visited Odisha on 17 & 18 January 2025. During his visit to Odisha the President visited the Sun Temple at Konark and the Bharat Biotech vaccine manufacturing center at the outskirts of Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ President Shanmugaratnam was received at Bhubaneswar's Biju Patnaik International Airport by the Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan on his arrival in Odisha.
- ❖ Singapore President Shanmugaratnam visited the World Skill Centre in Bhubaneswar. The centre has been established with the collaboration with Singapore's Institute of Technical Education and Education Services (ITEES) and funded by the Asian Development Bank. At the World Skill Center eight MoU were signed between the Singapore and Odisha governments.

### About Singapore

- ❖ Singapore is a small country and is also known as a city-state. It is situated at the southern tip of the Malay peninsula. Singapore has a small population with mixed ethnicity.
- ❖ The ethnic Chinese constitute the largest population in the country followed by ethnic Malays and Indians.
- ❖ President : Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- ❖ Prime Minister: Lawrence Wong Capital: Singapore Currency: Singapore dollar



### Cabinet Approves 3rd Launchpad for ISRO's New Generation Rockets

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the construction of the third launch pad of the Indian Space Research organisation (ISRO) which will be equipped to launch the future human space flight of ISRO and its next generation rockets. The approval was given by the Union Cabinet in a meeting held in New Delhi and chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### Where will be the 3rd Launch Pad constructed?

- ❖ The launch pad will be constructed at the existing Space port of India-Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The Satish Dhawan Space center already has two functional launch pads from where rockets are launched in space.

### Budget of the Third Launch Pad

- ❖ The government of India has approved a budget of Rs 3984.86 crore. The project is expected to be completed within 48 months or 4 years.

### Launch Pad of ISRO

- ❖ The Indian space programme started with the launch of sounding rockets from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launch Station (TERLS), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 21 November 1963.
- ❖ With the formation of ISRO in 1969 and expansion in the Indian space programme a need was felt to construct a new launch pad to launch heavier rockets.
- ❖ The Satish Dhawan Space Center was set up in the islands of Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The first rocket- a sounding rocket RH -125 was launched in 1971. At present the Center has two functional launch pads from where rockets are launched in space.



### First Launch Pad

- ❖ The first launch pad was built in the early 1990s and the first launch took place on 20th September 1993.
- ❖ The launch pad is capable of launching Polar Satellite Launch vehicle (PSLV) and Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).

### Second Launch Pad

- ❖ The second launch pad became operational in 2005.
- ❖ The second launch pad is used to launch Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and LVM3(Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mk III). Both these rockets use cryogenic engines .
- ❖ The second launch pad is also used as a stand by for PSLV rockets.
- ❖ Chandrayaan -3 mission was also launched from the second launch pad.

### Requirement of Third Launch Pad

- ❖ The Government of India has set an ambitious target for the Indian Space programme during the Amrit Kaal.
- ❖ It includes establishing an operational Bharatiya Antriksh Station by 2035 and a manned mission to Moon by 2040.
- ❖ ISRO needs a new generation of heavier rockets with a new generation of propulsion system. The other two existing launch pads of the ISRO are not capable of launching these new classes of rockets.
- ❖ Thus the third launch pad is being constructed at the Satish Dhawan Space Center.

### Prime Minister Modi inaugurates 2nd Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2nd Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 17 January 2025. The first Bharat Mobility Global Expo was held in February 2024 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Bharat Mobility Global Expo is a global mobility Expo that brings together the entire value chain of the mobility sector under one roof.
- ❖ The mobility sector refers not only to the automobile sector but also to all the other industries that provide the vehicles and infrastructure for transportation. It also includes the new emerging digital technologies sector, electric vehicles, and its associated infrastructure.



- ❖ The Bharat Mobility Global Expo celebrates India's growing role as a global hub for mobility and showcases the success of the country across the automotive and mobility value chain, featuring cutting-edge technologies and innovations.
- ❖ Venue and Theme of the 2nd Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 The Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 is being held at three places from 17-22 January 2025. In Delhi, it is being held at Bharat Mandapam and at Yashoboomi.
- ❖ The third venue is at Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh. The theme of the 2nd Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 is "Beyond Boundaries: Co-creating Future Automotive Value Chain".

### Organiser of the 2nd Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025

- ❖ The Coordinating agency of the Bharat Mobility Global Expo is the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC) and supported by the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The Expo is also being supported by various bodies of the automobile and auto component sectors.
- ❖ In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the strength of the Indian economy and the automotive sector in the world. Some of the highlights are as follows:
- ❖ India is the 5th largest economy in the world in 2024 on the basis of nominal gross domestic product (GDP).
- ❖ India is set to become the third-largest economy by 2027 overtaking Germany.
- ❖ The government has set a target to become a \$ 37 trillion economy by 20247.

### Global Mobility

- ❖ The automotive sector in India in 2024 was \$ 240 billion and its contribution to the country's GDP was 7 %.

### India is the

- ❖ Largest 3-wheeler and Tractor Manufacturer in the world,
- ❖ Largest 2-Wheeler Market in the world □  
2nd Largest 2-wheeler Manufacturer in the world,
- ❖ 3rd Largest Passenger Vehicle Market in the world,
- ❖ 3rd Largest Construction Equipment Market in the world,
- ❖ 4th Largest Passenger Vehicle Manufacturer in the world.

### Dharmendra Pradhan launches registration portal for Kashi Tamil Sangamam

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has launched the registration

portal for the third edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam, a 10-day event to be held in Varanasi.

- ❖ The event will be held from 15 February to 24, 2025. The portal, kashitamil.iitm.ac.in, hosted by the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, will accept registrations until 1 February.
- ❖ The event, organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh government, will celebrate the age-old links between Tamil Nadu and Kashi.
- ❖ This year, the event will be dedicated to Maharishi Agasthyar.



- ❖ Competitions and other awareness programs in Tamil Nadu prior to KTS 3.0 will be organized in a befitting manner in major cities of India and abroad where there is considerable Tamil diaspora. KTS 2.0 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Varanasi on 17th December, 2023.
- ❖ This year, the government has decided to bring around 1000 delegates from Tamil Nadu under five categories/groups: (i) Students, Teachers, and Writers; (ii) Farmers and Artisans (Vishwakarma Categories); (iii) Professionals and Small Entrepreneurs; (iv) Women (SHG, Mudra Loan beneficiaries, DBHPS Pracharaks); and (v) Start-up, Innovation, Edu-Tech, Research.

### Vineet Joshi assumes charge as Secretary, Department of Higher Education

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Vineet Joshi, a seasoned Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1992 batch from the Manipur cadre, has been appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ Before this appointment, Joshi served as the Chief Secretary of Manipur, a position he assumed in May 2023 amid escalating ethnic tensions in the state.
- ❖ Vineet Joshi has previously held the position of Director-General of the National Testing Agency (NTA), overseeing major entrance examinations such as the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) and Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main. Additionally, he has served as the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), where he was instrumental in introducing the Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system.



### Singapore confers Honorary Citizen Award on Tarun Das

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Singapore has conferred the Honorary Citizen Award on Tarun Das, former Director General of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), for his invaluable contributions to Singapore and Singapore-India relations.

- ❖ The award was presented by Singapore's President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at a ceremony held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Honorary Citizen Award is the highest recognition bestowed by the Singapore Government on non-Singaporeans for their outstanding contributions to the country's growth and development.
- ❖ It is conferred on individuals who have made significant contributions in areas such as business, science and technology, information and communications, education, health, arts and culture, sports, tourism, community services, or security.



### Smriti Mandhana Smashes India's Fastest Women's ODI Century

#### Key Points:

- ❖ Smriti Mandhana smashed the fastest ODI century by an Indian woman during the third ODI against Ireland at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot.
- ❖ The stand-in India captain reached the milestone in just 70 deliveries, surpassing regular skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's record of 87 balls against South Africa in 2024.
- ❖ The 28-year-old opener's 10th ODI century was adorned with 12 fours and seven sixes as she was eventually dismissed for an 80-ball 135.
- ❖ Mandhana's triple-figure score is the joint-seventh fastest overall in the format, equalling former England cricketer Charlotte Edwards' effort from 2012.





## 12 Indians serving with Russian military killed

### Key Points:

- ❖ India on Friday confirmed that 12 citizens have so far been killed while serving with the Russian armed forces while another 16 have been listed as missing, a higher casualty figure than previously acknowledged by officials.
- ❖ Indian authorities had learnt of a total of 126 Indians serving with the Russian military and 96 of them had been discharged so far by Russian authorities, external affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal told a regular media briefing in response to several questions.



- ❖ 126 cases known
- ❖ 12 Indians died in conflict
- ❖ 96 returned to India
- ❖ 18 still serving in Russian Army
- ❖ 16 missing
- ❖ "Twelve Indian nationals have died in the conflict, who were serving in the Russian Army," Jaiswal said. The Indian side has contended that many Indians recruited into the Russian military were "misled" or duped by unscrupulous recruitment agents.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered a criminal case against 19 individuals and entities last year for their alleged role in recruiting Indians and made several arrests.

