

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 10, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced on January 9 that the entire Cauvery delta region would be declared a protected agriculture zone.
- ✓ The protected agriculture zone announcement would include the districts of Thanjavur, Trichy, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Karur
- ✓ The state government would consult legal experts and initiate measures to pass a special law in this regard
- ✓ The announcement assumes significance as, henceforth, without a no-objection certificate from the state government, no projects can be implemented in the region including those covered by the Central law.
- ✓ With the announcement, the state government has countered the Centre's recent amendment to the environmental impact assessment notification exempting hydrocarbon projects from public consultations

CIVIC POLL DEFEAT IN DELTA REGION REASON?

> Total cultivation area in delta region
28 lakh acres (kuruvai, samba and thaladi crops)

> Total paddy production
33 lakh tonnes



PROTEST TIMELINE

2009 | Centre gives nod to extract coalbed methane

2013 | CM J Jayalithaa puts project on hold after protest by farmers

Sep 2015 | Centre gives nod for hydrocarbon projects including one at Neduvasal in Pudukottai district

Feb 2017 | Centre approves awarding contracts for

'development of the discovered fields'

Feb 2017 | Protests break out at Neduvasal

Mar 2017 | CM assures Neduvasal villagers that no hydrocarbon project will be implemented

2018 | Protests spread to Kathiramangalam in Thanjavur district

- ✓ As per the Chief Minister, the state government will not give its clearance for any project that affects the livelihood of farmers.

- ✓ In general, the Centre's nod is required only when it comes to projects under the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act, whereas in matters such as agriculture, states are free to notify agriculture zones
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - inaugurated a new cricket stadium in Kariveppilapatti near Thalaivasal on February 9 in the presence of former Indian national cricket team captain, Rahul Dravid**



- ✓ Former Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) chairman N Srinivasan, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association president Rupa Gurunath and state ministers were present during the occasion
- ✓ The ground is located at a distance of nearly 25km from the Salem town
- ✓ It has a play area of 90 metres, which is the biggest in the State and accommodates 5 turf wickets.
- ✓ The facility also features 12 practice turf wickets, players pavilion and press box.
- ✓ The ground was set up by the Salem Cricket Foundation at a cost of 3 crore
- ✓ The new stadium would start hosting matches soon, especially hosting Chennai Super Kings (CSK)'s Indian Premier League (IPL) matches
- ✓ On hosting the IPL matches, Salem could soon become the first city to host the matches outside the state capital, Chennai
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - laid the foundation stone for the Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences on February 9.**
- ✓ The Institute will come up at Thalaivasal in Salem at a cost of ₹1,024 crore
- ✓ Once operational, the institute would be the biggest in south Asia, which would be set up in an area of 1,100 acre
- ✓ The institute will be of international standards and will have a veterinary college within
- ✓ The veterinary institute in Salem will be the fifth such institute in the State
- ✓ The State's livestock population had increased by 21%, consequent to various government schemes involving the free distribution of livestock



- ✓ Schemes such as the free distribution of cattle, launched by former Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa, have helped improve the livelihood of village women.
 - ✓ Till date, the government has distributed free cattle to 87,444 village women.
 - ✓ The cattle, and the calves they have produced, numbering 1,76,153, have helped increase dairy production and improve the livelihood of the beneficiaries.
 - ✓ Consequently, milk production in the State has also increased to 2.66 lakh litres per day
 - ✓ The livestock park will have three components.
 - ✓ The first component will have a modern dairy farm and a state-of-the-art veterinary hospital.
 - ✓ In addition, there will be a facility for breeding of native cattle breeds like Umbalacheri, Alambadi and Bargur, for breeding native dogs like chippiparai and Kombai and also for protecting native goat breeds and pig rearing.
 - ✓ The second component will carry out the production of value added products from fish, meat, egg and dairy.
 - ✓ A 2000-sq. m. pisciculture farm would be set up to produce 20 lakh fishes every year, which will be distributed to farmers for rearing.
 - ✓ The third component will be of academic interest, where a complex for higher education, research centre for veterinary sciences and a training centre for farmers would be established.
- **The Tamil Nadu government's overseas manpower corporation (OMC) - has signed a pact with the India trade and exhibition centre (ITEC), Sharjah, for creation of a 'placement cell' to find jobs for the state's youth in UAE.**
- ✓ The placement cell will obtain information on job vacancies and requirement of overseas employees and provide qualified manpower to its member industries and organisations.
 - ✓ ITEC is a joint venture of the Union ministry of commerce and Sharjah Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Sharjah, UAE.
 - ✓ The OMC focuses on finding jobs overseas for the state's young aspirants
 - ✓ The MoU would enable the OMC to stay in touch with various industries in the Middle East countries to find more job opportunities for the state's youth.

- ✓ Also, the placement cell would ensure the rights of the people and their safety while they are working in a foreign country
- ✓ The OMC would also facilitate telephonic/video conference interviews between the job aspirants and the employers
- ✓ It had launched a special drive to enrol and register qualified candidates in various trades and professions.
- ✓ The first edition of the drive held in Coimbatore on February 8
- ✓ The agency, OMC, had also entered into a pact with Health Education England for supply of nurses to their national health service
- ✓ As per the agreement, the Health Education England would employ a minimum of 500 nurses per year for the next 3 years in UK.

STATES

- **UP chief minister Yogi Adityanath - announced a new internship programme for the state's students**
 - ✓ As per the programme, students from Class X to graduation will get a chance to work with technical institutes and industries for six months to one year and will be paid a stipend of ₹2,500 per month during the period.
 - ✓ The move is aimed to tackle unemployment by equipping youths with skills and work experience
 - ✓ The Centre will contribute ₹1,500 of the honorarium while the state will provide ₹1,000
 - ✓ The internship scheme will be launched this year.
 - ✓ On completion of their internship, the government will assist them in placement through an HR cell, which will be set up soon

- **The enemy properties in Bengal – have been listed and put up for sale**
 - ✓ The state has 2,764 such properties, which are free of legal encumbrances and can be sold out

AUCTION PLAN

What is enemy property?

➤ Properties left behind by people who left to take citizenship of Pakistan and China after 1965 and 1971 (Indo-Pak war) and 1962 (Sino-India war)

Bengal has

2,735 properties of Pakistani nationals

29 properties of Chinese nationals

• Most properties rented out

- ✓ “Enemy properties” refers to those properties that are left behind by people who migrated to Pakistan (after the 1965 and 1971 wars) and China (following the Sino-Indian war of 1962), to take citizenship of those countries.
- ✓ In 2017, the Centre amended the Enemy Property Act, 1968, and Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.
- ✓ As per the Act, heirs of those who left India after 1962, 1965, and 1971 cannot claim ownership of these (enemy) properties.
- ✓ In January 2020, Union home minister Amit Shah constituted a panel to auction more than 9,400 enemy properties across India, which is likely to fetch around ₹ 1 lakh crore to the Government’s exchequer
- ✓ Following this, the Custodian of Enemy Property for India decided on a pilot auction in Bengal to evaluate the nature of the properties to be auctioned and prepare a legal report before the first lot is put up for sale.
- ✓ Last year, the Centre allowed state governments to use some enemy properties for public utilities.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministry of Home affairs - has instructed J&K and Ladakh police and various enforcement and intelligence agencies to train their personnel to interpret and enforce the central laws now applicable to the newly created Union territories.**
- ✓ As many as 164 central laws came into force in J&K and Ladakh on November 1 2019
- ✓ These laws replace the 106 laws that automatically got scrapped with the nullification of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019.
- ✓ Till J&K enjoyed special status under the Constitution, any interpretation of the rule of law was through the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC), named after Ranbir Singh of the Dogra dynasty that ruled the once princely state of Kashmir.
- **The first meeting of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra Trust - will be held in New Delhi on February 19 at the residence of K Parasaran, the head of the trust**
- ✓ The construction of the grand Ram temple will start from the auspicious days of either April 2 (Ramnavami) or April 26 (Akshaya Tritiya).
- ✓ This will be one of the agendas of the meeting
- ✓ The meeting will also choose office-bearers of the trust and also elect two more members as mandated by the terms and conditions of the formation of the Trust.
- ✓ On February 5, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced in Parliament the setting up of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra trust for the construction of the Ram temple.

- ✓ The Centre later announced that the office of the trust will be the residence of head of the trust, K Prasaran, the counsel for the Hindu parties who successfully represented Hindus in the case.
- **The 15th Finance Commission - is likely to recommend setting up of a ₹10,000-₹15,000 crore fund for welfare of jawans killed or injured in combat.**
- ✓ The move is part of the commission's discussions on a separate allocation for defence
- ✓ The panel has set up a task force under 15th Finance Commission chairman N K Singh to look at various aspects of providing resources for defence along with the proposed Jawan Welfare Fund being part of that.
- ✓ Apart from the finance commission chief, secretaries for defence, home and expenditure will be the members of task force.
- ✓ While a majority of suggestions of the 15th Finance Commission for 2020-21 have been accepted by the Government, it is working on its recommendations for 2021-26.

INTERNATIONAL

- **China - raised the death toll from its coronavirus outbreak to 811 on February 9, passing the total number of deaths globally recorded by the SARS epidemic**
- ✓ China's National Health Commission recorded another 89 deaths on February 9, pushing the total well above the 774 who died from SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome in 2002/2003.
- ✓ The total confirmed coronavirus cases in China stood at 37,198
- ✓ Also, new infections recorded the first drop since February 1, falling back below 3,000 to 2,656 cases.
- ✓ Of those, 2,147 cases were in Hubei province alone, which is the epicentre of the outbreak.
- ✓ The virus has also spread to at least 27 countries and territories, infecting more than 330 people in other countries.
- ✓ As per China's finance ministry, all levels of government had allocated a total of 71.85 billion yuan (\$10.26 billion) to fight the virus
- ✓ In an unusual move to fight the virus, a county in Hubei is offering cash rewards to people who report a fever — whether their own or someone else's.
- ✓ As per the move, people who report their fevers will get 1,000 renminbi (₹10,214)
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Indian government removed surgical masks and disposable masks and all gloves except NBR gloves from the list of banned export items.
- ✓ However, the export of all other personal protection equipment, including N-95 and other equipment accompanying masks and gloves, still remains prohibited for exports

- ✓ After the coronavirus outbreak last month, the government had banned export of protective gears, including masks and clothing, which were used to ensure safety from airborne diseases.
- ✓ PM Narendra Modi has written to Chinese President Xi Jinping expressing solidarity with China over the coronavirus outbreak
- ✓ The PM offered condolences at the loss of lives due to the outbreak and also conveyed appreciation for facilitating speedy evacuation of Indian citizens from Hubei province.
- ✓ Also, Chinese ambassador Sun Weidong had briefed foreign secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla on February 8 about Chinese efforts to deal with the crisis.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Ten endangered species of migratory animals/birds from across the globe, including 3 from India (Great Indian Bustard, Asian Elephant and Bengal Florican) - to be included in a special global list for protection under the 'Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species' (CMS)**



- ✓ Various countries have submitted their proposals to a UN body which will decide on a range of issues affecting migratory species at a COP13 conference, scheduled to take place in Gandhinagar from February 15 to 22
- ✓ The CMS listing mandates member countries to work towards protecting these animals/birds, conserving their habitats and controlling other factors that might endanger them.
- ✓ Currently, 173 species from across the globe are listed in CMS Appendix I, which deals with migratory species threatened with extinction.
- ✓ This triennial UN conference on conservation of migratory species of wild animals (COP13) will be inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi
- ✓ The conference marks India's commitment to tackle loss of biodiversity and protection of vulnerable species.
- ✓ India has been member of the convention since 1983.
- ✓ The CMS is an international treaty to protect endangered species throughout their range countries.

ECONOMY

- **The government - will introduce an integrated electronic form for incorporating new companies starting from February 15**
- ✓ The Corporate Affairs Ministry would introduce the form — SPICe+ — to offer 10 new services through a portal.
- ✓ In the new form, the EPFO and ESIC registration numbers will be allotted at the same time to improve the ease of doing business
- ✓ Currently, the Ministry has the electronic form SPICe (Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically) and that would be replaced with SPICe+.
- ✓ The 10 services offered through the new form would save as many procedures, time and cost for starting a business in India
- ✓ The incorporation of companies is made through the Corporate Affairs Ministry's portal, MCA21.

SPORTS

- **Bangladesh boys - created history by winning their country's first global cricket title, ICC U-19 World Cup**



- ✓ Bangladesh have defeated defending champions India by three wickets in the final of the ICC U-19 World Cup at Potchefstroom on February 9
- ✓ Bangladesh captain, 18-year old Akbar Ali, was declared the Man of the Match in the final for his patient 43 not out off 77 balls taking his side to victory.
- ✓ India's Yashasvi Jaiswal scored 400 runs in 6 matches, the highest by a batsman
- ✓ He was adjudged the Man of the Tournament in the marquee event
- ✓ Another Indian, leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi captured 17 wickets at 10.64 runs apiece in six matches, the most by a bowler in the competition

- **Jiri Vesely of Czechoslovakia – defeated Belarusian Egor Gerasimov to clinch the singles title in the final of the Tata Open Maharashtra in Pune**



- ✓ This is his first title in the last five years
 - ✓ With the win, he becomes the first player outside the top-100 to win India's only ATP Tour event in its 25-year history
 - ✓ The 26-year-old Vesely's previous victory came in Bucharest in April 2015
 - ✓ For World No. 70 Gerasimov, it was his maiden final
 - ✓ Indonesian Christopher Rungkat and Swede Andre Goransson lifted the doubles trophy at the Tata Open Maharashtra
 - ✓ World No. 87 Rungkat and Goransson, No. 108, overcame Jonathan Erlich of Israel and Andrei Vasilevski of Belarus to win their first Tour title
 - ✓ It was their maiden final together and came in their fifth attempt
 - ✓ In fact, it's the first ATP title by an Indonesian player, in singles or doubles.
- **Haryana - defeated Sports Authority of India, Ranchi to lift the 10th Hockey India Senior National Women's Championship at Kollam**
 - ✓ It was only second time that Haryana emerged champions
 - ✓ Earlier, they have lifted the trophy after winning the 2013 Lucknow edition beating Railways
 - ✓ Haryana was led by Rio Olympian and their most experienced player, Poonam Rani
- **Teenage Pakistani pacer Naseem Shah - became the youngest player to record a Test hat-trick**
 - ✓ He achieved the feat in the first test against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi on February 9
 - ✓ Aged 16 years and 359 days, he becomes the youngest player to record a Test hat trick, overtaking Bangladeshi Alok Kapali who achieved the feat aged 19 in 2003.
 - ✓ Naseem claimed the wickets of Najumul Hossain Shanto (lbw), Taijul Islam (lbw) and Mahmudullah (caught) in three consecutive deliveries of his seventh over
 - ✓ Naseem had figures of 4-26 before he left the field with a shoulder injury



YOUNGEST PLAYER TO TAKE A HAT-TRICK IN TEST CRICKET

PLAYER	TEAM	AGE	VS	VENUE	YEAR
NASEEM SHAH	PAK	16Y 359D	BAN	RAWALPINDI	2020
ALOK KAPALI	BAN	19Y 240D	PAK	PESHAWAR	2003
ABDUL RAZZAQ	PAK	20Y 202D	SL	GALLE	2000
HARBHAJAN SINGH	IND	20Y 251D	AUS	KOLKATA	2001
GEOFF GRIFFIN	SA	21Y 12D	ENG	LORD'S	1960

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- ✓ Naseem, who made his debut on Pakistan's Australia tour last year, is also the youngest fast bowler and second bowler overall to take five wickets in a Test innings.
- ✓ He achieved that feat at 16 years and 307 days against Sri Lanka in Karachi last year.

RANKINGS

- **India – has been ranked at 17th in the list of countries which are having 'more' risk of importing coronavirus**
- ✓ The top 10 countries and regions at risk of importing coronavirus are - Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, USA, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia.
- ✓ Researchers have announced this on the basis of a mathematical model for the expected global spread of the virus that originated in China's Wuhan area in December 2019.
- ✓ While Thailand's national import risk is 2.1%, it is 0.2% for India
- ✓ So far India has reported three coronavirus positive cases — all from Kerala.
- ✓ Among the airports in India, the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi is most at risk, followed by airports in Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kochi.
- ✓ The new model for predicting global novel coronavirus cases has been developed by researchers from Humboldt University and Robert Koch Institute in Germany
- ✓ The model is based on the worldwide air transportation network (WAN) that connects approximately 4,000 airports with more than 25,000 direct connections

