

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 3, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Madurai Kamaraj University (MKU) - will be finalizing a pact with Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology and Harvard University to carry out genomic research on fossils recovered from sites like Keezhadi by next month**



- ✓ The talks were in progress to sign an MoU between the two universities since September 2019
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to provide fossils from various archaeological sites including Keezhadi for DNA extraction and subsequent research
- ✓ The MKU is planning to conduct majority of the research work at the research facility and laboratory that it is currently being established in Madurai.
- ✓ Last year, the university authorities had announced that initial research in Madurai will be done by experts in different departments like immunology, sociology and history from MKU and archaeological experts from across India and abroad.
- ✓ At the later stage, research was to be done by experts at Harvard University in the United States with advanced research facilities.
- ✓ The final research findings will then be published via the Tamil Nadu Department of Archaeology

STATES

- Kerala - reported the country's second novel coronavirus case on February 2

CHINA VISITORS MAY BE QUARANTINED

- Health ministry says anyone who has travelled to China since Jan 15 can be quarantined
- India suspends e-visa facility for Chinese nationals, foreigners staying in China
- Second batch of 323 Indians & 7 Maldivians brought to Delhi from Wuhan, sent to quarantine centres
- Maldives president thanks India for evacuating Maldivians
- Coronavirus toll now 304, more than 14,550 infected globally

- ✓ A male student of a university in Wuhan was admitted to the isolation ward in Alappuzha medical college hospital, after testing 'positive' for the virus.
- ✓ He had returned to Kerala on January 24 along with the other students
- ✓ The first case in the country, that of a woman medical student who is undergoing treatment, was reported in Thrissur on January 30.
- ✓ The Kerala health department has quarantined 1,924 people under observation at their homes and 75 have been admitted to isolation wards in various hospitals.
- ✓ So far, 104 samples of suspected cases have been sent for tests.
- ✓ Of these, 36 results have been received and 2 were tested positive
- ✓ The Union health ministry and the India Council of Medical Research have permitted the Kerala unit of National Institute of Virology in Alappuzha to conduct tests for coronavirus, as there is a delay in getting test results from Pune NIV
- ✓ Wuhan in China is the ground zero of the virus outbreak which had infected over 14,500 people and led to 305 deaths till February 2.
- ✓ Apart from China, the virus has been detected in at least 21 countries, including India, US and UK.
- ✓ After the Alappuzha case, India announced the suspension of e-visa facility for Chinese travellers and foreigners from China on February 2.
- ✓ The Philippines reported the first death from a new virus outside of China on February 2.
- ✓ The death toll in China climbed by 45 to 304 and the number of cases by 2,590 to 14,380, according to the National Health Commission

- ✓ The figures are well above the number of those infected in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which broke out in southern China and spread worldwide.

NATIONAL

- **NITI Aayog - announced that it will launch National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in 2021**
 - ✓ The NDAP will act as a medium for different stakeholders to access data in an easy way.
 - ✓ It will host latest data from all the government websites in a 'standardised' format.
 - ✓ The NITI Aayog is National Institution for Transforming India
 - ✓ It was established in 2015 replacing Planning Commission.
 - ✓ The Prime Minister is the chair person of NITI Aayog
 - ✓ It includes a governing council that is composed of Chief Ministers of all states and union territories.
- **The East Coast Railways - commissioned the first waste-to-energy plant of Railways sector of India**



- ✓ The new centre has been set up at a cost of Rs 1.79 crores, which utilises Polycrack technology for the conversion.
- ✓ The plant converts waste collected from the garbage disposal units into carbon powder, diesel oil and gas
- ✓ The diesel oil will be sold by the Railways to other stake holders for commercial purposes.
- ✓ The gas and carbon powder will be used in brick manufacturing
- ✓ The plant has the capacity to process 500 kg of waste per day, thereby producing revenue of Rs 17.5 lakh per annum.
- ✓ It is the fourth such plant in the country.
- ✓ The first of such plant was established by Infosys in 2011 at Bengaluru.
- ✓ The second plant was established in Delhi in 2014 followed by the third by Hindalco in 2019
- ✓ In Polycrack Technology, waste is processed and modified in 24 hours

- **Union Minister Piyush Goyal - announced that Indian Railways will run 100% on electricity by 2024, becoming the first ever Railways in the world to run so**
- ✓ Also, the Indian Railways has planned to make the network zero-emission network by 2030.
- ✓ Till 2017-18, 4,087 km route had been electrified
- ✓ Previously in 2019, the target to run 100% electrified Railways was set to be achieved by 2023.
- ✓ At present, Indian trains run on diesel or electricity.
- ✓ According to NITI Aayog, the carbon emission from the Indian Railways is around 6.84 million tonnes (as per 2014 estimates).

- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment - inaugurated the Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for skill development, empowerment of persons and rehabilitation in Port Blair.**
- ✓ Such CRCs are located in Kozhikode, Bhopal, Lucknow, Patna, Guwahati, Srinagar, Ahmedabad, Mandi and Suraghi (Chhattisgarh)
- ✓ They intend to create infrastructure and resources for persons with disabilities, catering to the local rural community than urban areas
- ✓ It includes persons with low-vision, mental retardation, blindness, locomotor disability, hearing impairment, mental illness, cerebral palsy and leprosy

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization) - launched Bhuvan Panchayat version 3.0.**
- ✓ Under the project, the ISRO will collaborate with Gram panchayat members to understand their data requirements.
- ✓ The portal aims at helping village development planning process under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- ✓ The project will run for two years.
- ✓ Bhuvan is a satellite application that is powered by ISRO, which allows users to explore 2D and 3D representation of the earth.

SPORTS

- **Serbia's Novak Djokovic - claimed his 17th Major crown in the Australian Open on February 2 at Melbourne**
- ✓ The victory made him the first man in the Open Era to win Grand Slams in three different decades, having won his first title here 12 years ago



- ✓ The victory saw Djokovic move closer to Roger Federer's record haul of 20 Grand Slams, a number he's aiming for.
 - ✓ The Serb, who takes home the winner's cheque of A\$4,120,000, will also reach the top spot in the ATP rankings.
 - ✓ The fifth seeded Austrian Dominic Thiem, who was playing his third Grand Slam final, collected a cheque of A\$2,065,000
 - ✓ Novak Djokovic won the Australian Open title for record 8th time, which is the most number of times by any player in the world.
 - ✓ He had earlier won this title in 2008, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2019.
 - ✓ He had won this title three times in a row from 2011 to 2013 and it is a record in terms of Open Era
- **The Services Sports Control Board - were crowned champions of the 10th Hockey India Senior Men National Championship (A Division)**
 - ✓ They have beaten Air India Sports Promotion Board in the finals at Jhansi on February 2.
 - ✓ Petroleum Sports Promotion Board, on the other hand, defeated Punjab & Sind Bank to bag the bronze medal at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium.
 - **Harmeet Desai - clinched his maiden national men's singles table tennis title in the UTT 81st National Table Tennis Championship at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium**



- ✓ The sixth seed had to battle past a fighting Manav Thakkar to win the trophy.
- ✓ Haryana's Sutirtha Mukherjee too made a memorable tournament by clinching her second national crown with a victory over Krittwika Sinha Roy of PSPB.
- ✓ During the tournament, Sutirtha also bagged three gold, including in the team event and women's doubles
- ✓ She had earlier won the title at Ranchi in 2018.

