



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEB 4, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- The State school education department - has allotted Rs 38 crore for constituting 'Eco and Youth' clubs in 37,000 government schools, including 327 schools in Chennai.
- ✓ These clubs will be instituted to create awareness on various social and environmental issues, including bio-diversity, climate and local ecology, nutrition, health and hygiene.
- ✓ In elementary and middle schools, the club will have 5 members and higher classes will have 15-member clubs
- ✓ Principals or vice-principals will head the clubs
- ✓ Interested teachers will be chosen by the school headmaster to coordinate activities on a rotational basis.
- ✓ These teachers, in turn, will select students to become members of the clubs.
- ✓ The clubs will be using idle school resources like auditorium, libraries and art rooms after regular working hours and on holidays for its activities
- ✓ These clubs will have three wings — literary, awareness, arts & culture.
- ✓ The literary wing will conduct various activities such as essay writing, elocution and poetry competitions on environmental issues for students in their respective schools.
- ✓ The awareness wing will be conducting awareness campaigns on special days such as 'Earth Day' and 'World Environment Day', cleaning and maintaining parks, playgrounds in their vicinity.
- ✓ The art and culture wing will undertake tree plantation drives, help set up drip irrigation systems, reverse osmosis (RO) and rain water harvesting projects in the school premises.
- ✓ The money spent towards this will be monitored by Parents Teacher Associations or the School Management Committee
- ✓ The expenditure will be later uploaded to the government portal for scrutiny.

- ✓ Experts, parents and retired government school teachers and staff can be roped in to guide students
- **The Tamil Nadu government – has announced the commencement of decennial census of the fisherman community in March.**
- ✓ It will also undertake a first-of-its-kind study on the socio-economic status of marine fishermen community in the state.
- ✓ The study aims to identify the marine fishing villages, population dependent on marine fisheries resources and their occupational structure.
- ✓ The population of the fishermen community as per the 2010 census was 7.87 lakh
- ✓ At present, the conventional estimate of the community would be around 10.25 lakh
- ✓ The six-month long statistical exercise will cover details like age, literacy, occupation, fishing craft (mechanised fishing boat/non-motorised/ motorised vessels) and fishing gears.
- ✓ The census will help the government to develop specific schemes benefitting the fisherman community
- ✓ The objective of the exercise is to identify the latest status, impact of various government schemes and key areas of interventions for improvement of their living standards.
- ✓ The study will focus on the schemes implemented in the last 15 years and the corresponding improvement achieved through the schemes.
- ✓ It will also study infrastructure facilities developed over the past 10 years along Tamil Nadu coast, handling of catch, marketing of fish and the benefits achieved by the fishermen through these infrastructure facilities
- ✓ Besides collection of demographic data, the study will also deal with the ownership and possession of fishing assets and implements, nature of fishing, disposal of catch, income and indebtedness.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has the second longest coastline in the country, with a 1076-km long coastline covering 13 coastal districts
- ✓ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in total marine fish production in the country.
- ✓ About 6.75 lakh tonnes of fish was caught in the last fiscal, generating foreign exchange revenue of Rs 5,500 crore.
- ✓ During the fishing ban period, the state offers a financial aid of Rs 5,000 to each family
- **The state government - has sanctioned Rs 19.93 crore to renovate the 157-year-old Kuthirai Vandi court building in Coimbatore and three other heritage court buildings in Salem, Kancheepuram and Nagercoil.**



- ✓ The government has sanctioned Rs 9 crore out of the Rs 19.93 crore to restore the Kuthirai Vandi court to its past period of history and glory.
 - ✓ Built in 1863, the munsif court got its present name as it was levying fines on riders of horse carts for violation of rules during the colonial period.
 - ✓ When horse carts were the prime mode of transport, there were rules in place to regulate them
 - ✓ Most often the cart owners arrived at the court to pay the penalty for not installing lantern and bell in the cart, and thus the court got its present name.
 - ✓ The PWD would prepare raw materials such as limestone to carry out the restoration work.
- **The 15th Finance Commission has allocated 4.189% of the Centre's tax revenue for Tamil Nadu for the next 6 years, up by 0.166% (4.023% allocated in 14th Finance Commission)**
- ✓ However, this figure is still less than what the State got from the 13th Finance Commission - 4.969%

A first for State

The 15th Finance Commission has recommended a post-devolution revenue deficit grant of ₹4,025 crore to the State for 2019-20

- Tamil Nadu among 14 States recommended for the revenue deficit grant
- The first time that revenue deficit grant has been recommended by a **Finance Commission for T.N.**
- State to have pre-devolution revenue deficit of ₹39,848 crore for 2019-20, as per projections of 15th Finance Commission

- Tax devolution to bridge gap by ₹35,823 crore

- The remaining ₹4,025 crore to be met through revenue deficit grant

- **Andhra Pradesh and Kerala are other southern States to get grant**

- ✓ The increase is mainly due to lower fertility rate (1.58%), higher tax collection (Rs 1.26 lakh crore) and lower per-capita growth in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP).
- ✓ The per capita GSDP is dependent on the state's economic growth and population.

- ✓ The commission has taken 2015-16 and the next 2 financial years for calculating the average per capita GSDP of states.

KEEPING SCORE

Lower fertility, higher tax collection and lower per-capita GSDP growth helped

STAYING AHEAD

Tamil Nadu is in the 10th position in per capita Gross State Domestic Product



State	Average per capita GSDP
Goa	₹4,17,030
Sikkim	₹3,27,073
Haryana	₹2,04,216
Himachal Pradesh	₹1,86,673
Karnataka	₹1,84,974
Kerala	₹1,83,989
Uttarakhand	₹1,81,712
Maharashtra	₹1,79,989
Telangana	₹1,76,269
Tamil Nadu	₹1,73,623

FACTORING IN FERTILITY RATE

Fertility rate, which is the average number of children a woman has in a lifetime, is one of the factors impacting weightage in the 15th Finance Commission. It is lowest for Tamil Nadu, among the big states



State	Total Fertility Rate
Tamil Nadu	1.58
Andhra Pradesh	1.6
Kerala	1.79
Karnataka	1.81
Maharashtra	1.91
Gujarat	2.03

- ✓ In this, the average for Tamil Nadu is Rs 1.73 lakh which is marginally lower than Telangana (Rs 1.76 lakh, 9th rank), Maharashtra (Rs 1.78 lakh-8th rank)
- ✓ Apart from the share of the tax, Tamil Nadu and a few other states, which have revenue deficit (Rs 74,340 crore), will also get additional assistance from the Centre.
- ✓ Thus the state will get nearly ₹6,000 crore additional funds next fiscal.

- ✓ Overall, the commission has recommended post-devolution revenue deficit grants amounting to ₹74,340 crore for 14 states.
- ✓ Out of the total sanctioned amount, ₹37,917 crore has been assigned to 5 states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has been recommended a post-devolution revenue deficit grant of ₹4,025 crore, even though the State's estimate was around Rs 20,000 crore for the year
- ✓ This is the first time that the State will be receiving such a grant from the Centre

STATES

- The Kerala government - declared the China-origin novel coronavirus epidemic a 'state-specific disaster' on February 3, after a third confirmed case reported in the State



- ✓ On February 3, a 19-year-old medical student who returned from Wuhan tested positive for the virus in Kasaragod district
- ✓ The student had flown from Wuhan to Kolkata and taken another flight from there to Kochi before boarding a train to Kasaragod on January 27
- ✓ The 3 confirmed case patients have been kept in the isolation ward in medical colleges at Thrissur and Alappuzha and at the district hospital in Kasaragod
- ✓ As on February 3, 2,239 travellers from China and other nCoV-affected countries have been placed under surveillance in the State
- ✓ Of the 140 samples sent so far to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, 46 have tested negative.
- ✓ The declaration of 'calamity' tag will help the government allot more funds for prevention and spreading of the disease
- ✓ Also, the police will get additional powers to arrest those who are against the prescribed treatment or those who spread fake news about the disease
- Odisha government - has recently launched a virtual police station to provide more comfort and ease to its citizens in registering complaints

- ✓ This virtual police station (e-police station) will operate under the State Crime Records Bureau in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.
- ✓ It can be accessed through imsop.odisha.gov.in.
- ✓ Through the portal, people can register their complaints about vehicle theft without visiting a Police Station.
- ✓ The government has also prepared a web-based application for lodging complaints.

NATIONAL

- Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) - commenced the online process for applications for the second session of 'YUva Vigyan Karyakram' scheduled to be held in May.



- ✓ YUVIKA is a two-week training programme for school students in space activities
- ✓ The programme is scheduled to be held from May 11 to 22
- ✓ It seeks to provide basic knowledge on space technology, space science and space applications to the students to kindle their interest in emerging areas of space activities.
- ✓ 3 students each from each state/UT will be selected to participate in the programme
- ✓ The programme will include students' visit to Isro facilities and labs, exclusive sessions for discussion with space experts, practical and feedback sessions.
- ✓ Students who have finished VIII standard and currently studying in Class IX (2019-20) will be eligible for the programme.
- ✓ Even Overseas Citizen of India students can also apply for participation in the programme.
- ✓ The selection for the programme is based on the Class VIII academic performance and extracurricular activities

INTERNATIONAL

- Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan - has declared a national emergency in the country because of the massive locusts attack damaging the entire crops in the Punjab province of Pakistan

- ✓ The government assigned various tasks to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- ✓ Pakistan first witnessed the worst ever locust attack in the Punjab province of Pakistan in March 2019
- ✓ During that time, the locust attack had destroyed over 900000 hectares of land in South Punjab, Khyber, and Sindh regions
- ✓ According to the UN report, Somalia and Ethiopia witnessed the biggest locusts attack in 25 years.
- ✓ In India, two states Gujarat and Rajasthan faced the swarm of locusts from Pakistan and Iran during the end of January 2020, which have now moved to Punjab
- ✓ The locusts are primarily a type of large tropical insects that have an incredible ability to fly long distances (upto 150 km a day)
- ✓ A locust attack can destroy millions of hectares of land within a few minutes.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Chinese citizens and other country nationals living in China - have been temporarily barred from flying to India to prevent the spreading of coronavirus epidemic**
- ✓ This ban will apply from February 4 to all flights operated by both Indian and foreign airlines
- ✓ Several countries, like the US, New Zealand, Australia, Israel, Philippines and Singapore, have already barred entry to foreign visitors who recently visited and/or transited to/through China in the past 14 days.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the Centre formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) on the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to expedite efforts to manage the rapidly spreading virus.
- ✓ The GoM is headed by health minister Harsh Vardhan
- ✓ Other members of the GoM include civil aviation minister Hardeep Puri, external affairs minister S Jaishankar, MoS (Home) G Kishan Reddy, MoS (health) Ashwini Kumar Choubey and shipping minister Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ✓ The GoM will regularly review, monitor and evaluate the preparedness regarding management of nCoV in the country.
- ✓ The health ministry also revised the travel advisory asking people to avoid travelling to China.
- ✓ The e-visa facility for Chinese passport holders has been temporarily suspended
- ✓ The validity of e-visas already issued to Chinese nationals is also terminated.
- ✓ Also, the facility for submitting applications online for physical visa has been suspended
- ✓ The death toll from the new coronavirus has exceeded that of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2002 and 2003 in mainland China
- ✓ During the SARS outbreak, 349 people died in mainland China

- ✓ As of February 2, China had reported that there were 475 recoveries and 361 deaths nationwide.
- ✓ SARS had a mortality rate of 9.6%, while about 2% of those reported to have been infected with the new coronavirus have died
- ✓ China had 17,205 confirmed novel coronavirus infections as of February 2.
- ✓ During the SARS outbreak, China had 5,327 confirmed cases in the country.
- ✓ Hong Kong has also reported the first death from Coronavirus on February 04
- ✓ Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) has been declared a Global Health Emergency by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on January 30, 2020
- ✓ It belongs to a family of viruses whose infection can cause problems ranging from cough to breathlessness
- ✓ The virus infection started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China.

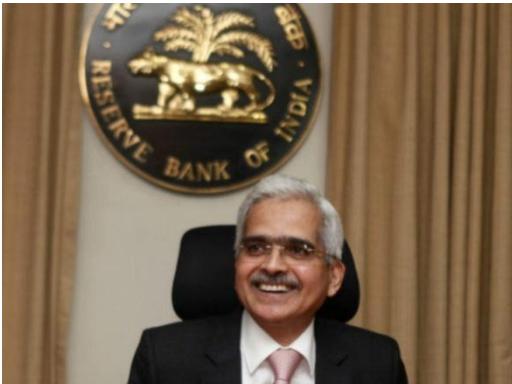
➤ **India and Maldives - signed 5 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) on February 02**



- ✓ The objective of this MoU is to establish the Addu tourism zone on the 5 islands of Addu Atoll in the Maldives at a budget of twenty-four million ninety thousand dollars.
- ✓ Apart from this, sixth MoU was signed to establish a water bottling plant in Hoarafushi.
- ✓ Addu is one of the most beautiful sites of Maldives' 26 coral islands, comprising of more than two dozens of Maldives' 1192 islands
- ✓ Indians are second among people coming to the Maldives to visit from all over the world
- ✓ India and Maldives began bilateral relations soon after the independence of Maldives from British rule in 1965
- ✓ India established its diplomatic mission in Male in 1972, the capital of Maldives.
- ✓ Maldives is located in the south of Lakshadweep islands.
- ✓ Milan is the multilateral naval exercise conducted between the countries, held in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

PERSONALITIES

- **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das - has been chosen as the Central Banker of the Year 2020 for the Asia Pacific Region**



- ✓ He was chosen by the Banker magazine for the honour.
- ✓ The Banker is a London-based international financial affairs publication owned by The Financial Times.
- ✓ It is known for its annual rankings of the world's top banks

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Isro – has developed a personnel tracker technology indigenously for strategic use to aid India's armed forces in operations beyond enemy lines.**
- ✓ As part of its Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) developed technology for the tracker and transferred it to defence PSU, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- ✓ The tracker technology will be part of Restricted Service, developed specifically for strategic users
- ✓ The IRNSS-RS provides location navigation service with anti-spoofing technology for authorised users.
- ✓ The anti-spoofing technology prevents traffic from false sources (IP addresses)
- ✓ The personnel Tracker gives position information in TDMA mode of operation
- ✓ The TDMA (time-division multiple access mode), which separates users according to time, ensures there will be no interference from simultaneous transmissions
- ✓ Currently, based on IRNSS, BEL is developing a two-way reporting terminal and personnel tracker
- ✓ It will be used to track fishing vessels and report emergencies.
- ✓ Also, it'll be a one-way reporting terminal for position of person/vehicle
- ✓ The satellite system is designed to cover the entire sub-continent
- ✓ If a team of armed forces personnel were on a mission on the other side (of the border), their commanders will know their exact position at all times, using the tracker technology

DEFENCE

- The Indian Coast Guard - commissioned a 'C-448' high-speed boat in Mangaluru, Karnataka



- ✓ The 'C-448' is an interceptor boat, which would be used for patrolling and rescue operations near the Mangaluru coast
- ✓ The boat is equipped with world-class communication and navigation equipment.
- ✓ It would also be used for maritime surveillance in the Bay of Bengal.

ECONOMY

- Ashok Leyland Ltd.,(ALL) the flagship of the Hinduja Group - has been ranked as the number three globally in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M&HCV) busmaker segment for the calendar year 2019.
- ✓ During the period, ALL sold 23,100 buses
- ✓ The ranking is based on reports released by SIAM , OICA (Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles) and IHS Markit

AWARDS

- Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani - awarded Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY) awards to various states and Union Territories and Districts on February 3



- ✓ The various winners of the awards includes --
- Category - Best performance since inception (States/UTs of more than 1 crore population)
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ Haryana
- Category – Best performance since inception (States/UTs of less than 1 crore population)
 - ✓ Dadra and Nagar Haveli
 - ✓ Himachal Pradesh
 - ✓ Chandigarh
- Category – Best performance in Matru Vandana Saptah (States/UTs of more than 1 crore population)
 - ✓ Andhra Pradesh
 - ✓ Maharashtra
 - ✓ Madhya Pradesh
- Category – Best performance in Matru Vandana Saptah (States/UTs of less than 1 crore population)
 - ✓ Dadra and Nagar Haveli
 - ✓ Sikkim
 - ✓ Manipur
- ✓ The PMMVY is a maternity benefit programme launched in 2017.
- ✓ Under the programme, a cash benefit of Rs 5000 is provided to pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- ✓ The PMMVY has so far benefitted 1.28 crore beneficiaries.

SPORTS

- **Shuttler P.V. Sindhu and boxer Mary Kom - are among the 5 nominees for the inaugural BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award to be presented on March 8.**



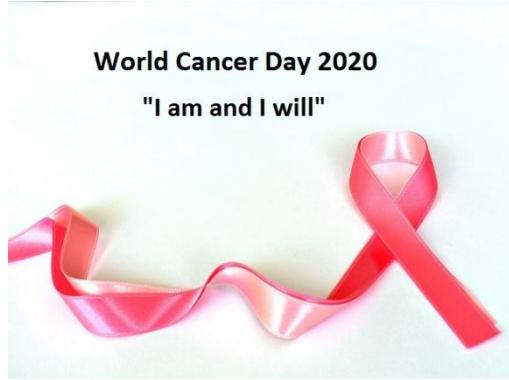
- ✓ The other three are Vinesh Phogat (wrestling), Dutee Chand (athletics) and Manasi Joshi (para-badminton)
 - ✓ The winner will be decided following an online voting.
- **Sachin Tendulkar - has been shortlisted as one among 5 contenders for the Laureus Sporting Moment 2000-2020 Award.**
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- ✓ The winner will be selected after the third and final round of voting, which will end on February 16.
 - ✓ The moment, titled 'Carried On the Shoulders Of A Nation', is a reference to the Indian cricket team's 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup triumph.
 - ✓ In his sixth attempt, Tendulkar finally became a World cup winner in 2011 as India beat Sri Lanka by six wickets.
 - ✓ Earlier, Tendulkar was one of the 20 contenders for the award.
 - ✓ The winner will be announced during the Laureus World Sports Awards Show on February 17 in Berlin.
- **Keerthana Pandian of Karnataka - won the junior snooker title at the Manisha-Vascon National billiards and snooker championships**



- ✓ Keerthana has defeated Anupama Ramachandran of Tamil Nadu to win the title
- ✓ She had won the girls' title in the IBSF World u-16 snooker championship in 2018.

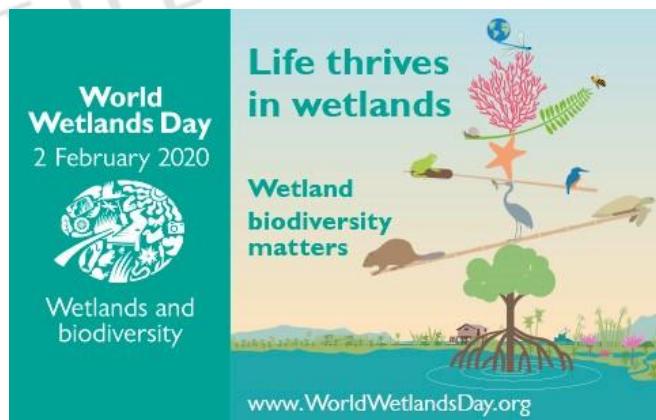
INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Cancer Day – February 4**



- ✓ The observance of the day intends to create awareness about cancer, a deadly disease
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'I am and I will'
- ✓ This theme has been proposed for the next three years.
- ✓ World Cancer Day was first time celebrated on February 04, 2000, after World Cancer Summit, Paris.
- ✓ On this day in the year 2000, a Charter of Paris against Cancer was signed at the Cancer Summit.
- ✓ This charter was signed between UNESCO and then French President Jacques Chirac.
- ✓ Every year about 9.6 million people die from cancer, with low middle-income countries accounting for 70% of cancer deaths.
- ✓ There are five types of cancers – Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Lymphoma and Myeloma, Leukaemia and Brain and spinal cord cancers.

➤ World Wetland Day - February 02



- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'Wetlands and Biodiversity'
- ✓ It was celebrated for the first time on February 02, 1997, after 16 years of the signing of Ramsar convention on this day
- ✓ The Convention is named after the Ramsar city of Iran where it was signed.
- ✓ The convention works closely with 6 partners namely Birdlife International, WWF International, International Water Management Institute, International Water

Management Institute, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

- ✓ Wetlands support about 40% of the biodiversity and about 1 billion people get their livelihood around various wetlands
- ✓ The wetlands provide habitat to several species, acting as a buffer zone against flooding and storms.
- ✓ They also act as natural filter of water, breaking down harmful pollutants and transform them into pure elements

