

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 2, 2020

TAMIL NADU

- **Jawaharlal Nehru University vice-chancellor, M Jagadesh Kumar - has been nominated to the search panel for a new vice-chancellor for University of Madras**
- ✓ His name was nominated by the State Governor Banwarilal Purohit, who is the chancellor of the University.



- ✓ Professor Jagadesh Kumar would be the convenor of the search panel.
 - ✓ He did his post-graduation and PhD at IIT Madras and worked in IIT Delhi before taking over as vice-chancellor of JNU in 2016
 - ✓ P Maruthamuthu, former vice-chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University, and P Ramasamy, former vice-chancellor of Alagappa University, have been earlier nominated as senate and syndicate nominees to the panel.
 - ✓ The three year tenure of present vice chancellor of University of Madras, P Duraisamy, will end in May.
- **The Tamil Nadu State board Class XII students - will appear for board exams from March 2, 2020.**
 - ✓ The exams start with the language paper.
 - ✓ Nearly 8.16 lakh students across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry will appear for the exams
 - ✓ This is the first batch of students to take the exams after the revamp of the State Board syllabus

- ✓ The school education department had revised the Class XII syllabus and updated school textbooks in June 2019
- ✓ The aim of the revamp is to prepare state board students for competitive exams like National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)
- ✓ During the exams, as many as 4,000 flying squads will conduct checks to prevent malpractices.
- ✓ A special exam centre has also been set up at Puzhal prison for 62 inmates who will give Class XII board exams this year.
- ✓ From Chennai, 47,264 students will write the exam at 160 centres.
- ✓ The exams will end on March 24 and results will be released on April 24.

SCHEMES

- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla - recently launched a national campaign named “Suposhit Maa Abhiyan” from his constituency, Kota in Rajasthan on March 1, 2020, with an intention to create malnutrition-free India.**



- ✓ The main objective of this campaign is to keep adolescent girls, pregnant women and newborn ‘healthy’.
- ✓ About 1000 kits of 17 kg balanced diet were provided to 1,000 pregnant women in the first phase of the campaign.
- ✓ The campaign will provide nutritional support for pregnant mothers, girls and also newborn babies
- ✓ The balanced diet consists of wheat, gram, maize, and millet flour, jaggery, oatmeal, lentils, large soybean, ghee, groundnut, roasted gram, dates, and rice
- ✓ During the campaign period, the health of the child, including medical examination, blood, medicine, delivery etc., will be taken care of by the Government.

NATIONAL

- **The Ministries of science and technology and women and child development - have identified 11 early 20th-century women scientists, in whose honour ‘Chairs’ will be set up in institutions across the country.**
- ✓ The range of fields of excellence of these renowned female scientists varies from cytogenetics to organic chemistry to social sciences.
- ✓ However, only women researchers will be eligible to take up the research positions and get research fund up to ₹ 1 crore
- ✓ The idea behind setting up a Chair is to support research in the field the person it is named after excelled in.
- ✓ The only woman from India after whom a Chair has already been instituted is Mother Teresa.

- ✓ Through the move announced ahead of International Women's Day, some of India's iconic women scientists will be brought out of the forgotten history and into the spotlight.
- ✓ Last month, the ministry of women and child development had proposed Chairs named after women, for women.
- ✓ Dr Renu Swaroop, secretary (biotechnology) heads the three-member committee on the matter
- ✓ The committee, which includes DRDO director general (aeronautical systems) Tessy Thomas and AICTE chairperson Anil Sahasrabudhe — will soon identify the institutes where the Chairs will be set up.
- ✓ These 11 Chairs will be set up for an initial period of 5 years, which can further be extended.
- ✓ There are pioneers in the illustrious list —
 - ✓ Kadambini Ganguly - one of the first Indian woman physicians way back in 1886
 - ✓ Rajeshwari Chatterjee - Karnataka's first woman engineer and
 - ✓ Asima Chatterjee - the first woman to receive a doctorate in science.



(From Left) Bibha Chowdhuri (physics), Irawati Karve (anthropology), Kamal Ranadive (medicine), Rajeshwari Chatterjee (engineering) and Raman Parimala (mathematics)



- ✓ Also, the list consists of other luminaries who made significant breakthroughs in their respective fields —
 - ✓ Bibha Chowdhuri, who discovered the pi-meson and was involved in the Kolar Gold Fields experiments
 - ✓ Janaki Ammal, who cultivated a sweeter variant of sugarcane and
 - ✓ Anna Mani, whose work was supervised by CV Raman and who developed much of the weather metric systems used in India.
- **The government - is planning to conduct a review of monuments under the Centre's protection through the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the State government's protection.**
- ✓ At present, 3,691 monuments nationwide are protected by the ASI, with the highest number, 745, located in Uttar Pradesh alone.

- ✓ This was announced in the Lok Sabha earlier by Union Minister for Culture Prahlad Singh Patel
- ✓ The list of Centrally protected monuments can go up to 10,000, as several important sites under the State government's protection could be added to the Central list
- ✓ Similarly, there were some monuments that could be removed from the Central list and placed under the State government's control.
- ✓ This is to overcome the present ban of development works within 100 metres of a Centrally protected monument and regulated construction within 100-200 metres under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- ✓ In Tamil Nadu alone, there are about 7,000 temples, many of which are hundreds of years old.
- ✓ The Act protects monuments and sites that are over 100 years old.

PERSONALITIES

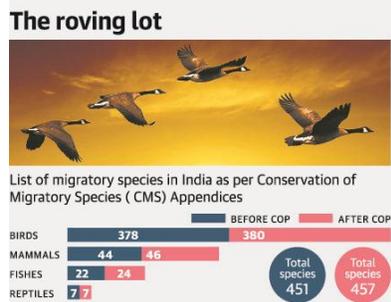
- **Britain's 111-year-old Bob Weighton - has now become the oldest living man in the world.**



- ✓ He got this position after the death of the world's oldest Chitetsu Watanabe (112) in Japan.
- ✓ Bob Weighton was born on March 29, 1908 and got married in 1937.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **The total number of migratory fauna from India – is estimated at 457 species, as per the new wildlife list put out by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)**
- ✓ Of the 457 species, birds comprise 83% (380 species)



- ✓ Before COP 13, the number of migratory bird species stood at 378.
- ✓ Of these, the bird family Muscicapidae has the highest number of migratory species.
- ✓ It was followed by the group of raptors or birds of prey, such as eagles, owls, vultures and kites, which are from the family Accipitridae

- ✓ The country has three flyways (flight paths used by birds) - the Central Asian flyway, East Asian flyway and East Asian–Australasian flyway.
- ✓ Another group of birds that migrate in large numbers are waders or shore birds.
- ✓ In India, their migratory species number at 41, followed by ducks (38) belonging to the family Anatidae.
- ✓ The estimate of 44 migratory mammal species in India has also risen to 46 after COP 13
- ✓ The largest group of mammals is bats belonging to the family Vespertilionidae.
- ✓ Dolphins are the second highest group of mammals with nine migratory species of dolphins listed
- ✓ Fish constitute another important group of migratory species.
- ✓ Before COP 13, the Zoological Survey of India had compiled 22 species, including 12 sharks and 10 ray fish
- ✓ The total number of migratory fish species from India under CMS now stands at 24.
- ✓ Seven reptiles, which include five species of turtles and the Indian gharial and salt water crocodile, are among the CMS species found in India.
- ✓ There was no change to the reptiles list after COP 13.
- ✓ The ZSI had for the first time compiled the list of migratory species of India under the CMS before the Conference of Parties (COP 13) held in Gujarat recently.
- ✓ It had put the species number at 451 and 6 species were added later.
- ✓ The added species includes the Asian elephant, great Indian bustard, Bengal florican, oceanic white-tip shark, urial and smooth hammerhead shark.
- ✓ Globally, more than 650 species are listed under the CMS appendices
- ✓ India, with over 450 species, plays a very important role in the conservation of these migratory species.

DEFENCE

- **In a major success, India - has bagged a deal worth \$40 million to supply four indigenously-built 'Swathi' weapon locating radars to Armenia by outscoring Russian and Polish firms.**



- ✓ The 'Swathi' weapon locating radars were developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- ✓ The supply of the equipment to Armenia has started to provide a big 'push' for 'Make in India' programme in the defence sector
- ✓ The Swathi weapon locating radars provide fast, automatic and accurate location of enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets within a range of 50-km.

- ✓ These radars can simultaneously handle multiple missiles fired from different weapons at different locations.
 - ✓ The Indian Army is using the same radars for its operations along the LoC in J&K where they trace the source of attack by Pakistani positions.
 - ✓ The system was given for trial to Army in 2018.
 - ✓ The export order will open a new market to India for the sale of its indigenous systems, which are cheaper than their European and other rivals.
 - ✓ The Defence Ministry has already started looking at similar orders from South-East Asia, Latin America and Middle-East countries
 - ✓ The move would be a big boost in the area of defence exports, for which a target of ₹35,000 crore has been set by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.
- **Aerospace major, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) - has commenced the preliminary works to produce attack helicopters by 2027**
- ✓ The new helicopters, weighing 10 to 12 tonne, will be comparable with some of the best medium-lift military helicopters globally, such as the Apache of the Boeing.
 - ✓ The aim of the mega project is to stop import of more than ₹4 lakh crore worth of military helicopters for the tri-services in the upcoming years.
 - ✓ The HAL has completed the preliminary design of the helicopter already
 - ✓ The initial plan is to produce at least 500 units with the first prototype expected to be ready by 2023, once the government gives its approval to the project this year.
 - ✓ The HAL has also indicated that a budget of ₹9,600 crore will be required for the design and production of the prototype of the helicopter

ECONOMY

- **The government – announced the collection of ₹1.05 lakh crore as Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue in February 2020, an increase of 8% over the same month last year.**
- ✓ It was the fourth straight month of the collections at over ₹ 1 lakh crore
 - ✓ However, it was marginally lower than the over ₹1.1 lakh crore collected in January 2020.



- ✓ The collections and returns filed in February are for sales in January.

- ✓ Out of the total collection, the Central GST increased nearly 17% to ₹20,569 crore, while state GST was up 13% at 27,348 crore
 - ✓ The Integrated GST, the biggest of the three components of the indirect tax, stood at ₹8,503 crore and Cess is ₹8,947 crore
 - ✓ The number of returns filed also jumped by 13.6% to a record 83.5 lakh by the deadline of February 20, as per the latest data released by the finance ministry
- **The Government – clarifies that the proposed new tax regime was in line with global practice and is meant to ensure better compliance**
- ✓ It has sought to set aside fears over multiple slabs in the proposed new tax regime, which comes with the option of an exemption-free regime with lower rates.

How others tax personal income

Country	No. of slabs	Peak rate (%)
Singapore	10	22
Malaysia	10	28
India*	6+4	41.3
China	7	45
Thailand	7	35
US	7	40.8-52.8
Japan	7	45.9
South Africa	7	45
Vietnam	7	35
France	6	58.7
Canada	5	46.5-54
Philippines	5	35
Bangladesh	5	30
Brazil	4	27.5
Australia	4	45
UK	3	45

The proposed new tax regime has six slabs plus there is surcharge of 10-37% on the higher income brackets; Source: Govt

- ✓ The new mechanism proposed in the budget has six slabs, ranging from 5% to 30%, for various income levels, apart from a surcharge on those earning above ₹50 lakh annually.
- ✓ Since the regime will be optional, there will be another group of taxpayers who have a different slab and their taxable income will exclude exemptions for investments, standard deductions and allowances such as house rent and leave travel.

SPORTS

- **Panjab University - clinched two gold medals on the final day to emerge the champion of the inaugural edition of the Khelo India University Games on March 1**
- ✓ Panjab and Pune finished with the same number of Gold medals (17), but the former's overall medal tally (46 medals) helped it to top the first ever games event by overcoming Pune (37 medals)
 - ✓ Punjabi University finished at third place with 33 medals.
 - ✓ Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijiju graced the closing ceremony, which was attended by dignitaries, including Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and Indian Olympics Association president Narinder Batra.

- ✓ Swimmers Siddhant Sejwal of Panjab and Pune's Sadhvi, who won five gold medals each, were adjudged the best players of the tournament.
- ✓ Olympian Dutee Chand, the biggest name at the Game, set a new National University record to clinch the 100m crown and followed it up with another Gold in the 200m event.
- ✓ However, Dutee's best in the 200m came in the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta where she ran 23s in the semifinal and went on to win the silver in the final.



- ✓ Weightlifter Sanket Mahadev Sargar broke the National record in the men's 55kg with a total lift of 244 while winning gold.
- ✓ The other top performers included Harmila Bains, who completed the 800-1500m double, and Narendra Pratap, winner of the long distance double (5,000m & 10,000m) in the event.

- **Indian GM Koneru Humpy - has moved up to No. 2 in the latest World rankings, ahead of reigning World champion Ju Wenjun.**



- ✓ Humpy is ranked behind China's Yifan Hou as per the March FIDE ratings.
- ✓ Humpy is the current World rapid champion, who recently won the prestigious Cairns Cup in the United States
- ✓ Humpy, who won or tied for the first spot in three elite tournaments in a row, is now on 2586, trailing only Yifan (2658).
- ✓ GM D. Harika is ranked at the ninth position
- ✓ R. Vaishali moved up a spot to ninth in the junior girls' category.
- ✓ Former World champion Viswanathan Anand is ranked 16th, followed by Vidit Gujarati at 22nd place, up by four places since last month's rankings.
- ✓ World champion Magnus Carlsen tops the Men's rankings.
- ✓ In the juniors' section, GM Nihal Sarin was ranked 10th in the world.

- **India – announced recently its withdrawal from the upcoming shooting World Cup in Cyprus, citing the threat of novel coronavirus (COVID-19).**

- ✓ The shooting World Cup is scheduled to be held in the Cyprus from March 4-13, 2020.
- ✓ The World Cup is recognised by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF).
- ✓ India decided not to send its team to Cyprus, even though there was no confirmed case of the deadly virus in the country.
- ✓ However, the Eastern Mediterranean island nation has kept suspected cases under quarantine as a precautionary measure.

- ✓ India is also scheduled to host a combined shooting world cup from March 16-26 at the Dr Karni Singh Range in New Delhi.
- ✓ Six countries have already withdrawn from the shooting World Cup, which includes China, North Korea, Taiwan, Turkmenistan, Hong Kong and Macau
- ✓ Recently, Indian Government had refused to grant visas to Chinese wrestlers to participate in the Asian Wrestling Championship held in New Delhi.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ Zero Discrimination Day – March 1



- ✓ The day is observed globally to protect rights of women and promote their empowerment and gender equality.
- ✓ It aims to create awareness about the discrimination faced by women and girls
- ✓ Theme 2020 – ‘Zero Discrimination against Women and Girls’
- ✓ The day is observed every year by the United Nations and United Nations Programme on HIV & AIDS (UNAIDS)
- ✓ It was first celebrated in the year 2014, after UNAIDS launched its ‘Zero Discrimination Campaign’ on World AIDS Day in December 2013.
- ✓ As per UNAIDS, fighting discrimination against women is vital to overcome the deadly disease of HIV/ AIDS.
- ✓ The UNAIDS aims to end the public threat of AIDS by the year 2030 as a part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

