

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MAR 8, 2020

### TAMIL NADU

- The Union environment ministry - has notified a buffer zone of 9.068sqkm around the boundary of Ousteri lake bird sanctuary in Villupuram district in Tamil Nadu as an 'ecosensitive' zone
- ✓ The move is intended to ban the setting up of new and expansion of polluting industries like mining, stone quarrying and crushing units.

#### KNOW THE PLACE

Total area of Ousteri lake is 800 hectares. While Puducherry declared 390 hectares of its expanse as sanctuary in 2008, TN government declared 331.8 hectares as sanctuary in 2014

➤ A total of 166 species belonging to 47 families have been recorded in the inter-state sanctuary

➤ This includes birds such as flamingos, darter, spot-billed pelicans, great white pelican, painted stork, Eurasian spoon bill and pallid harrier, which falls under the near threatened category

➤ Migratory waterfowl, fantail snipe, stints, plovers, lapwing and sandpipers are the winged visitors who come to Ousteri

from as far as Africa and Northern Europe

➤ 14 species of mammals including spotted deer, jackal, jungle cat, common mongoose, black napped hare, bonnet macaque, Indian porcupine, bandicoot rat have been recorded here, apart from 63 butterfly species



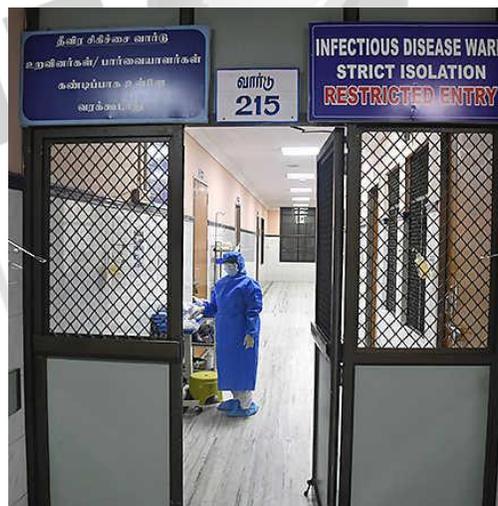
- ✓ The lake is equally spread in Puducherry (390 hectares) and Tamil Nadu (410 hectares).
- ✓ However, strikingly, the notification left out Puducherry side of the lake.
- ✓ Located 12km from Puducherry, the inter-state lake was notified as a bird sanctuary in 2008 and 2014 by the Puducherry and Tamil Nadu governments respectively

- ✓ The Bombay Natural History Society, a member of Birdlife International, has designated 'Ousteri' as an Important Bird Area (IBA) of India.
  - ✓ The lake is inhabited by more than 20,000 birds belonging to 40 migratory species during winter.
  - ✓ It has also been identified as a heritage site by International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, ranking it among the most important wetlands of Asia
  - ✓ The Asian Wetland Bureau has declared Ousteri as one of the 115 significant wetlands in Asia.
  - ✓ During winter, migratory birds moving from North Asia, Africa and Europe to Point Calimere fly along Ousteri corridor
  - ✓ A monitoring committee-led by Villupuram district collector will be monitoring the compliance of the notification
  - ✓ Poothurai, Perambai and Kadaperikuppam villages in Vanur Taluk in Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu also fall under the category of 'eco-sensitive' zone
- **Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami - announced that schemes worth ₹7,888 crore would be launched soon to strengthen the irrigation of the basin.**
- ✓ This includes a massive extension, renovation and modernisation of the irrigation system sponsored by Nabard for ₹5,590 crore
  - ✓ The chief minister announced this during his speech at a felicitation event on March 7
  - ✓ The event was organized by the farmers to confer the Chief Minister the title of 'Cauvery Kappalan' (Saviour of Cauvery) - for enacting TN Protected Agricultural Zone Development Act, banning eight polluting industries in the region



- ✓ Earlier, former chief minister J Jayalalithaa was bestowed a title, 'Ponniyin Selvi,' for gazetting the final award of the Cauvery tribunal.
- ✓ The Chief Minister announced that the restoration of Grand Anicut canal system will be launched at Rs 2,299 crore with assistance from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)
- ✓ A food processing cluster will also be set up for paddy on ten acres at Rs 25 crore in Tiruvarur

- ✓ Integrated agri-business model outlets will come up in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Chidambaram and Pudukottai.
  - ✓ In memory of late Nel Jayaraman, who revived many traditional paddy seeds, a traditional paddy protection centre will be set up in Needamangalam.
  - ✓ The Chief Minister also laid the foundation stone for a medical college at Orathur in Nagapattinam on March 7
  - ✓ The institution will have 750 beds and an intake of 150 students per year for the MBBS programme.
  - ✓ During the event, the CM announced that the government is considering bifurcating Mayiladuthurai taluk from Nagapattinam district and declaring it as a separate district.
  - ✓ The new district will have Mayiladuthurai as its headquarters
  - ✓ On March 6, the CM launched a host of schemes through video conferencing from the secretariat.
  - ✓ A mobile app, ITI Training and Placement, to monitor the placement of students of ITIs, was launched among other schemes.
- **A 45-year-old man from Kancheepuram district in Tamil Nadu - has tested positive for Covid-19 on March 7**



- ✓ This was confirmed by Pune's National Institute of Virology
- ✓ The man, first in the State to be confirmed of the viral infection, is in the isolation ward of Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital
- ✓ According to the doctors attending him, his condition is pronounced to be stable, and he is currently showing no symptoms
- ✓ The infected person is the employee of a construction firm in Muscat, Oman and arrived Chennai on February 28 by Air India flight
- ✓ On March 4, he reported to Stanley Medical College and Hospital with fever, cough and breathing difficulty and was shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Government GH.
- ✓ His eight family members were advised 'home quarantine' and have not shown any symptoms so far.

- ✓ With this, the total number of cases identified in the country has moved to 34.
- ✓ Globally, the disease has now killed more than 3,500 people and infected more than 1,00,000 across 94 nations and territories

## STATES

- **The Student Health Card scheme - was launched in Jammu and Kashmir by Lt. Governor GC Murmu recently.**



- ✓ The scheme will ensure regular medical check-ups of school-going children.
- ✓ Under the health card scheme, the midday meals will be provided for the poor and needy school-going children to prevent malnutrition.
- ✓ The scheme also aims to ensure good health of school-going children, as health is a significant part of imparting quality education.
- ✓ It also intends to educate the parents of the school-going children aware of its benefits.

## NATIONAL

- **The Union Jal Shakti Minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat - launched the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) at the National Dissemination and Consultation workshop in New Delhi on March 4, 2020**



- ✓ The Phase II of the mission will focus on sustaining the achievements made under the Phase I in the last five years

- ✓ The Phase II of the mission aims to ensure that effective solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) is undertaken in every gram panchayat of the nation.
  - ✓ It will be implemented for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
  - ✓ The second phase of the mission will be implemented at a cost of Rs 1,40,881 crores
  - ✓ Out of the total budget, Rs 52,497 crore will be allocated from the budget of Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation and the remaining from the funds released under the 15th Finance Commission for solid and liquid waste management.
  - ✓ The mission's second phase will be monitored on the basis of the outcome in four key areas –
    - ✓ bio-degradable solid waste management (including animal waste management),
    - ✓ plastic waste management,
    - ✓ fecal sludge management and
    - ✓ grey water management.
  - ✓ Earlier, the Union Cabinet had approved the second phase of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on February 19, 2020
  - ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) aims to provide universal coverage and safe access to sanitation in rural areas.
  - ✓ It was launched on October 2, 2014.
  - ✓ Following the launch of the mission, over 10 crore toilets have been built in the rural areas across the country.
  - ✓ Also, around 5.9 lakh villages, 699 districts and 35 states and UTs declared themselves Open Defecation Free (ODF) as on October 2, 2019.
  - ✓ The Union Government has also released a study done by the UNICEF and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) on the impact of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on the women in the rural areas
- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi - gave its approval to the Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2019 on March 4, 2020**
- ✓ The bill seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013
  - ✓ It proposes to remove the criminality clause in the act in case of defaults, to provide relief to the law-abiding corporates.
  - ✓ Over 72 amendments, re-categorization of 23 offences and omission of 7 compoundable offences are proposed in the Companies Act, 2013
  - ✓ The bill will now be tabled in the Indian Parliament.
  - ✓ It needs to be passed by both the houses and then receive Presidential assent to become a law.
  - ✓ The new bill enables listing of Indian firms on foreign stock exchanges, thereby increasing the competitiveness among the Indian companies

- ✓ It also seeks to increase the penalty of settling offences by a regional director to Rs 25 lakh from the previous Rs 5 lakh.
  - ✓ As per the new bill, the companies with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligation of less than Rs 50 lakhs need not constitute a CSR committee.
  - ✓ Earlier, the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2015 had amended certain provisions of the Act to remove the difficulties faced in the implementation of various provisions of the Act.
- **The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) - has signed MoU with Amazon, as a part of Women's Day celebrations, recently.**



- ✓ The main aim of the MoU is to e-market products made by self help groups in India.
- ✓ It seeks to empower the women entrepreneurs and promote their products in the online marketplace.
- ✓ The agreement is a key initiative for the second edition of Shehri Samridhi Utsav to be organized between March 28, 2020 and April 12, 2020.
- ✓ The Utsav is an initiative of Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs
- ✓ It is a rally that aims at increasing the outreach of DAY-NULM.
- ✓ The DAY-NULM is a flagship programme of Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs.
- ✓ It aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor by enabling their self-employment opportunities and increase their wage earning capabilities.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **US President Donald Trump - signed a new bill worth around \$8.3 billion to stop the spread of coronavirus in United States.**



- ✓ The bill was passed by the US Senate with majority votes of 96-1 on March 5, 2020.
- ✓ Earlier, the House of Representatives had passed the bill on March 4 with a majority of 415-2 votes.
- ✓ The bill aims to boost the government's response to tackle the rapid spread of the deadly coronavirus in US.
- ✓ The total number of confirmed coronavirus cases has risen to 233 in the United States, including 14 deaths.
- ✓ Under the new bill, the federal public health agencies will be provided with funds to conduct tests, provide treatment, get vaccines and help the local governments prepare to respond to the coronavirus threat and deliver medicines to those in need.
- ✓ It also seeks to introduce the 'Telehealth' consultations to reduce doctor visits.
- ✓ The bill is expected to increase access to public lab testing and also help pay for isolation and quarantine of infected or suspected patients.
- ✓ It will also help local organizations better track the virus and limit its exposure.
- ✓ It also aims to ensure protection against possible price rise of the vaccines and other medicines.
- ✓ Indian-origin health policy consultant, Seema Verma was recently appointed as a key member of the Coronavirus Task Force in the United States.
- ✓ The task force was constituted by the US President Donald Trump to tackle the deadly Coronavirus in the US.
- ✓ The task force is chaired by Alex Azar, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **The Department of Science of Technology, operating under Ministry of Science and Technology - organized a two-day 'International Conference on Nano-Science and Nano Technology' (ICONSAT) at Kolkata recently**



- ✓ The Conference deliberated on the current needs of the country in the field of Nano-Science.
- ✓ It dealt with 5Ms in the field of nano technology, namely Material, Mechanical, Manufacturing, Manpower and Machines.
- ✓ India launched the "Nano Science and Technology Initiative" (NSTI) in 2001 for a span of 5 years.
- ✓ In 2007, it was renamed as "Nano Mission" with a larger funding of 250 million USD.
- ✓ In 2013, India was ranked at third place in research paper publication in the nano technology field, after China and USA, highlighting the progress made in the field

# PERSONALITIES

- 'TIME Magazine' - has named India's former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and freedom fighter Amrit Kaur among 100 greatest women of the year.



- ✓ TIME has created 100 special covers for 100 women from 1920 to 2020, who made an impression in that particular year.
- ✓ The magazine has named Amrit Kaur as the women of the year for 1947 and Indira Gandhi for 1976
- ✓ It mentioned that Indira Gandhi became India's great authoritarian in 1976 after becoming the Prime Minister of India following the victory over Pakistan in Bangladesh Liberation War.
- ✓ She declared an emergency in 1975 and also amended the constitution to give herself more powers
- ✓ During the emergency period, she jailed several politicians, censored the press of the country and suppressed the fundamental rights of people.
- ✓ Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was born in the royal family of Kapurthala.
- ✓ She completed her education in England but dedicated her life to help India free from England's rule.
- ✓ In 1930, Amrit Kaur became Mahatma Gandhi's secretary while tackling social issues and raising voice for women's education.
- ✓ She was the first woman health minister of India after Independence, serving the country in the position for the next 10 years.
- ✓ Amrit Kaur founded the 'Indian Council for Child Welfare' and helped the government to establish several hospitals and medical colleges.
- ✓ In 1999, TIME Magazine's customary 'Man of the Year' was converted into the 'Person of the Year' for making it equal for men and women.

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) - has named its Mars rover 'Perseverance' after a nationwide competition.



- ✓ NASA has scheduled its Mars mission in July 2020.
- ✓ Alexander Mather, a seventh grade student, recommended that Rover should be named 'Perseverance', which got more votes than any other entry.
- ✓ The Perseverance will collect samples of Martian Rocks from Mars.
- ✓ It will collect dust samples for next Mars missions and help human exploration of the reddish planet.
- ✓ NASA's Mars Rover 'Perseverance' would work as a robotic scientist.
- ✓ Weighing about 2300 pounds (approx 1043 kg), it will research for signs of past microbial life on Mars
- ✓ It also aims to discover the possibility of life on the red planet and pave the way for future manned missions.
- ✓ It is a car-sized rover which is about 10 feet long, 7 feet tall and 9 feet wide.
- ✓ The rover will depart Cape Canaveral, Florida in July 2020, and will land on Mars seven months later in February 2021.
- ✓ It will become the fifth American rover to land on Mars.
- ✓ NASA has decided to launch its mission in July 2020 because Earth and Mars will be in a good position in their respective orbits during that period, requiring less power for traveling and landing on Mars

## OBITUARY

- 'Perasiriyar' K Anbazhagan, veteran politician (97 years)



### A LIFE OF PRINCIPLES

DEC 19, 1922

Born Ramaiah to M Kalyanasundaram and Swamambal at Kattur near Tiruvarur. His father was a Congressman and follower of Periyar

**1942** Introduced to values of Periyar at home, begins following Maraimalai Adigal's Thani Tamil Iyakkam and changes his name to Anbazhagan

**1942** While pursuing his post-graduation at Annamalai University, invites C N Annadurai to address students. Connects with M Karunanidhi

**1944** Joins Pachaiyappa's College as Tamil lecturer

**1948** Becomes editor of Puthuvazhvu magazine

**1949** Comes out of Dravidar Kazhagam and becomes part of the launch of the DMK

**1957** Gives up his job at the college to turn full-time politician; his academic background earns him the sobriquet Perasiriyar

➤ Elected for the first time to assembly from Egmore constituency

**1962** Loses assembly polls, but is elected to legislative council

**1964** Participates in anti-Hindi agitation and is imprisoned for six months



**FROM THE ALBUM:** Seen with E V R Periyar, C N Annadurai and M G Ramachandran

**1967** Elected to Lok Sabha from Tiruchengode

**1971** Elected MLA from Purasaiwalkam, joins Karunanidhi's cabinet as health minister

**1977** Becomes DMK general secretary, holds post till death

**1983** Resigns as MLA along with Karunanidhi protesting against the Sri Lanka war

**1986** Disqualified from assembly for burning a copy of the 17th Schedule of the Constitution as part of anti-Hindi agitation

**1989** Wins from Anna Nagar constituency and becomes education minister in the DMK government; retains portfolio after winning 1996 election

**2006** Gets elected from Harbour and goes to the assembly for the ninth time. Becomes finance minister

**2017** Pushes M K Stalin to be DMK working president

**2018** Proposes Stalin as DMK president after the demise of M Karunanidhi

**MAR 7, 2020**

Passes away at the age of 97 after being ill for a few months

- ✓ Perasiriyar (Professor) Anbazhagan, as he was respectfully called, held the post of General Secretary in the DMK party for 9 consecutive terms from 1977
- ✓ He was elected as a member of the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly in 9 elections.
- ✓ He was born as Ramaiah in Kattoor near Thiruvarur in Tanjore district(now Thiruvarur District) on 19 December 1922
- ✓ He obtained an M.A (Tamil Literature) degree from Annamalai University.
- ✓ He was a friend and advisor to former Chief Minister and late DMK chief M Karunanidhi
- ✓ He was a member of the Tamil Nadu legislative council (which was abolished later) from 1962-1967 and a member of Lok Sabha from 1967-1971.
- ✓ He was an MLA for thirteen years before giving up his post in 1984 over the Tamil Eelam issue
- ✓ Following this, he contested in state elections till 2011
- ✓ He had also served as the Minister for Social Welfare, Education before becoming the Finance minister.

➤ **Javier Perez de Cuellar, former UN Secretary General (100 years)**



- ✓ Javier Perez, a diplomat from Peruvian, was the two-term secretary-general of the United Nations
- ✓ In 1988, he played a major role in the historic ceasefire between Iraq and Iran.
- ✓ Perez de Cuellar became UN Secretary-General on December 31, 1981, and re-elected on this post in October 1986.
- ✓ He completed his second term as UN Secretary-General on December 31, 1991.
- ✓ He also visited Pakistan when he was working as Under-Secretary-General for Special Political Affairs, UN
- ✓ He was also Peru's ambassador to France during his career.

## SPORTS

- **Wasim Jaffer, former India opener and domestic cricket's prolific scorer - announced his retirement from all forms of the game, bringing an end to a 24-year-old First Class career on March 7**
- ✓ In his short test career, he scored 1944 runs@34.10, including 5 hundreds and 11 fifties.
- ✓ He eventually finished as the highest run-scorer in the history of the Ranji Trophy, becoming the first to cross the 12,000-run mark in it

### GENTLE GIANT IN NUMBERS

Wasim Jaffer in international cricket								
Format	M	Inn	Runs	HS	Avg	100s	50s	Cts
Tests	31	58	1944	212	34.10	5	11	27
ODIs	2	2	10	10	5	0	0	0

Jaffer in the Ranji Trophy								
Matches	156	238	12038	314*	56.51	40	49	200

**40** Number of hundreds scored by Jaffer between 1996-97 and 2019-20 – a record in Ranji Trophy.

**200** A record number of catches held by Jaffer in 156 matches for Mumbai and Vidarbha in the Ranji Trophy. — Rajesh Kumar



- ✓ In March 2018, he scored 286 for Vidarbha against Rest of India in the Irani Cup clash at Nagpur, becoming the first Indian batsman to score a double hundred at the age of 40.
- ✓ It's also the highest-ever score in the Irani Cup.
- ✓ The Mumbai stalwart is the present batting coach of Kings XI Punjab in IPL, and the batting consultant of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)
- ✓ As a captain, the 42-year old led Mumbai to its 38th and 39th Ranji title
- ✓ Last year, he became the first player in Indian cricket to feature in 150 Ranji Trophy matches.

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Women's Day – March 8**



- ✓ The Day acknowledges the accomplishments of ordinary women who play extraordinary role in their lifetime

- ✓ It also celebrates the act of courage and dedication of every women.
- ✓ This year's International Women's Day marks the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which is considered as the most visionary roadmap for the women empowerment.
- ✓ Theme 2020 - 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'
- ✓ The theme is aligned with UN Women's new multigenerational campaign, 'Generation Equality'
- ✓ The Generation Equality campaign brings together people of every gender, age, ethnicity, race, religion and country, to drive actions that will create the 'gender-equal' world we all deserve
- ✓ The campaign theme of the Day is #EachforEqual, which reflects collective individualism.
- ✓ To mark the day, the Prime Minister Modi signed off from his social media handles including Instagram, Facebook and YouTube for a day
- ✓ On this day, he had decided to hand over these accounts to seven women achievers to share their inspirations and life experiences with the world.
- ✓ All women visitors will be granted free entry at all ticketed monuments protected by the Archaeological Survey of India on International Women's Day
- ✓ This is the first instance that women, including foreigners, will get free entry to the ASI monuments.
- ✓ Monuments like Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb, Taj Mahal, Sun Temple in Konark, Mamallapuram, Ellora caves, Khajuraho monuments, and the Ajanta caves will be among the other sites that will grant free entry to all women
- ✓ The Railways has proposed to operate atleast two trains with only women staff of the North Central Railway, to mark the IWD
- ✓ In Agra division, the women staff comprising loco-pilots, train guard, railway protection force squad and train ticket examiners will operate Agra-New Delhi passenger train
- ✓ Also, in Allahabad division, Jodhpur-Howrah express would be under the control of only women staff.
- ✓ The celebration of the day was first proposed by the Socialist Party of America in 1909, exclusive to the City of New York
- ✓ Thus, the first International Women's Day was marked first in 1909.
- ✓ The United Nations began celebrating Women's Day in 1975.

