

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 22, 2021

TAMIL NADU

- **Tamil Nadu – dropped to the fifth position among states in overall delivery of justice by police for the year 2020, according to the second edition of India Justice Report, an initiative by the Tata Trust**
- ✓ The state was ranked second after Maharashtra in the year 2019
- ✓ Karnataka topped the list for the last year with a score of 5.71 out of 10, followed by Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu scored 5.40 out of 10 to reach the fifth place in 2020

TN SPENDS LEAST ON TRAINING

Money spent on training each policeman or woman <small>Average(In ₹)</small>	
TN spends	2
Mizoram	32,000
Delhi	25,000
Bihar	15,745
Himachal Pradesh	511
India 	₹8,000

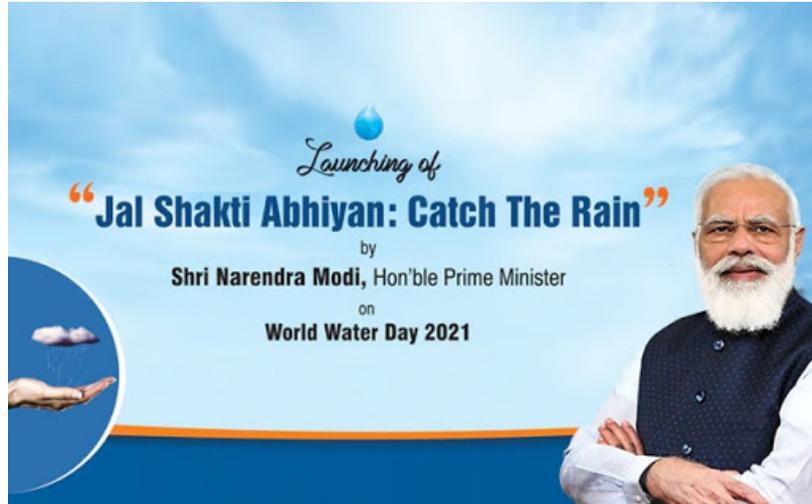


- ✓ At the national level, around ₹8,000 is spent on training each policeman or policewoman on average, but Tamil Nadu spends only ₹2, as per the report.
- ✓ Mizoram spends more than ₹32,000 for every police personnel, while Delhi spends nearly ₹25,000.
- ✓ The report ranks states based on indicators such as structural availability of resources, staff, diversity, budget allocation and vacancy levels, highlights strengths and weaknesses of each pillar in the state
- ✓ Also, as of January 2020, Tamil Nadu police had 9.4% positions vacant.

- ✓ In terms of gender parity, 18.5% of constables in the state, while it was 24.8% of officers were women.
 - ✓ On capacity building, police personnel per training institute is an indicator to measure adequacy of training institutes and the state's 23 institutes train an average of about 5,400 personnel each.
 - ✓ As per the analysis of the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) from June to October 2020, the report found that no state offered the complete bouquet of services.
 - ✓ In Tamil Nadu, details of stolen and recovered vehicles, arms and other properties, submission of requests for issue and renewal of various No Objection Certificates, are not available
 - ✓ Further, details of missing, kidnapped people and their matching with the arrested, unidentified people and dead bodies, verification of requests for servants, employment, passport and senior citizens and details of wanted criminals are partially available.
 - ✓ The report also suggested overhauling the Police Act, 1861, by introducing accountability so that arbitrary arrests, fake encounters and torture deaths are eliminated.
- **Tamil Nadu – went up to sixth position in the ranking of prisons in 2020 from 10th in 2019, as per the Indian Justice Report**
- ✓ The state had utilised 93% of the budget allocation in 2019 and 2020, with just 9% posts of officers lying vacant.
 - ✓ The money was properly utilised for setting up several welfare measures in prisons such as training, brick-making, plumbing, sign board making, electrical wiring, weaving, tailoring, tag making and flat files making to generate self employment.
 - ✓ A number of job-oriented vocational courses were introduced, apart from facilities like CCTVs, cell phone deactivators, live wire fencing, night vision binoculars, watch tower and deep search metal detector.
 - ✓ As per the report, only 9% of prisons in Tamil Nadu have video conferencing facilities for remand hearing.
 - ✓ The state spends ₹41,000 per inmate per year, while neighbouring Andhra Pradesh spends ₹2 lakh per prisoner.
 - ✓ Tamil Nadu has 233 prisoners per correctional staff, compared to Karnataka which has nearly 7,000 prisoners for the same metric.
 - ✓ Among states in terms of status of respective judiciary, Tamil Nadu retained the top rank like the previous year.
 - ✓ In terms of legal aid, Maharashtra topped the list while Tamil Nadu bagged 11th position.

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi - to launch the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign” through video conferencing on the occasion of World Water Day on March 22, 2021.**



- ✓ The campaign will be implemented under the theme– ‘Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls’.
- ✓ On the occasion, the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh & Uttar Pradesh will sign a historic Memorandum of Agreement to implement the “Ken Betwa Link Project” in the presence of Prime Minister.
- ✓ The Prime Minister will also interact with village and ward heads in Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Gujarat during the event.
- ✓ This will be the first project of “National Perspective Plan” for interlinking of the rivers.
- ✓ This campaign will run across the rural and urban areas from March 22 to November 30 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period in the country.
- ✓ The campaign will be launched as a mass movement (Jan Andolan) in order to undertake water conservation at the grass-root level with people’s participation.
- ✓ As the part of campaign, the Gram Sabhas will also take ‘water oath’ (Jal Shapath) for water conservation.
- ✓ The “Ken Betwa Link Project” involves the transfer of water from Ken River to the Betwa River by constructing the “Daudhan Dam” and a canal to link the two rivers.
- ✓ It will provide annual irrigation of 10.62 lakh hectare, drinking water supply to about 62 lakh people and also generate 103 Mega Watt of hydropower.
- ✓ The Ken Betwa Interlinking Project will be beneficial for the water starved region of Bundelkhand.
- ✓ It will be benefiting the districts of Panna, Chhatarpur, Tikamgarh, Damoh, Datia, Sagar, Shivpuri, Vidisha and Raisen in Madhya Pradesh while the districts of Mahoba, Banda, Jhansi and Lalitpur in Uttar Pradesh

- **The government - has set up the “Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)” for the genomic surveillance of SARS-CoV-2 across the country.**
- ✓ This was announced by the Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan in a written reply in Lok Sabha.
- ✓ The consortium comprises of 10 regional whole genome sequencing laboratories (RGSLs) namely, ILS Bhubaneshwar, NIBMG Kalyani, NCCS Pune, ICMR-NIV Pune, CDFD Hyderabad, CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad, NIMHANS Bengaluru, InStem/NCBS Bengaluru, CSIR-IGIB Delhi, and NCDC Delhi.
- ✓ The proposal to sanction the fund for the initiative is under the domain of the Department of Biotechnology.
- ✓ The laboratories will evaluate the current status of new variant of SARS COV-2 in the country and determine the genomic variants in unusual trends involving super spreader events and high mortality.
- ✓ The INSACOG was proposed to sequence the 5% of all positive samples initially from each state.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Foreign Minister of Taiwan, Joseph Wu - recently launched a “Freedom Pineapple” campaign on Twitter**



- ✓ The campaign has been launched to condemn the politically-driven ban on the import of pineapples from Taiwan by China.
- ✓ The Chinese government has banned the import of pineapples from Taiwan just before the pineapple season started citing pest contamination.
- ✓ However, this was denied by experts, farmers, and the government of Taiwan.

- ✓ Following the ban, the Taiwanese government had asked its citizens and other diplomatic allies to increase their pineapple consumption.
- ✓ The government has also promised to provide financial assistance to any farmers who undergo losses because of the ban.
- ✓ The President of Taiwan, Tsai Ing-wen, has also launched a social media campaign named “Eat Taiwan’s pineapples until you burst” to increase the local consumption of pineapples.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **2001 FO32, the largest asteroid to pass by Earth this year – will fly closest to Earth on March 21**
- ✓ The largest rock, which was discovered in March 2001, will swing by the Earth at about 124,000 kilometres per hour (77,000 miles per hour)
- ✓ According to NASA, the asteroid, which is 900 meters in diameters, pose no threat to the Earth, even though it is still classified as a "potentially hazardous asteroid."
- ✓ The nearest the rock will get is 1.23 million kilometres, which is almost five times the distance between Moon and Earth.
- ✓ As per France's largest astronomy centre, Paris Observatory, the massive asteroid is expected to pass by Earth at around 9 pm IST on March 21, 2021
- ✓ According to NASA, the next time 2001 FO32 will come close to Earth by 2052.
- ✓ Sixty-six million years ago, an asteroid almost twice the diameter as the city of Paris crashed into Earth and destroyed 75% of life on the planet.

DEFENCE

- **India - has the fourth strongest military force in the world, while China’s military is the strongest**
- ✓ This was revealed in a study released by defence website Military Direct.
- ✓ China scored 82 out of 100 points on the index.
- ✓ The USA is ranked in 2nd place with 74 points, followed by Russia with 69, India at 61 and France with 58 points
- ✓ As per the study, the “ultimate military strength index” was calculated after considering factors such as budget, inactive and active military personnel, total air, sea, land and nuclear resources, average salaries and weight of equipment.

SPORTS

- **Coimbatore shooter P Shri Nivetha - partnered with Manu Bhaker and Yashaswini to win the team gold in the women’s 10m air pistol event at the ISSF World Cup in New Delhi on March 21.**
- ✓ This was Nivetha’s maiden medal at a senior World Cup competition.

- ✓ The Indian team shot 16 points in the gold medal round to end way ahead of the Poland team that scored just 8 points.



- ✓ Shri Nivetha narrowly missed out on an individual medal in the women's 10m air pistol event on March 20 as she finished fourth.
 - ✓ Earlier in the day, India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, Deepak Kumar and Pankaj Kumar combined to win the silver medal in the men's team air rifle event.
 - ✓ The team events have been added for the first time in the rifle, pistol and shotgun category of the World Cup cycle.
 - ✓ In the men's 10m air pistol team, India's Saurabh Chaudhary, Abhishek Verma and Shahzar Rizvi bagged gold, comfortably beating Vietnam in the final.
 - ✓ Further, on March 21, Ganemat Singh Sekhon scripted history by clinching a first-ever World Cup medal for India in women's skeet
 - ✓ Ganemat won bronze in the six-woman final on the third competition day of the ISSF Combined shooting WC.
 - ✓ The bronze was Ganemat's first senior World Cup medal and also her first senior final.
 - ✓ A total of 294 shooters from as many as 53 countries are participating in the tournament, which is held at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi
- **England batsman Dawid Malan - has surpassed Pakistan's Babar Azam to become the fastest batsman to score 1000 T20I runs.**



- ✓ Malan touched the milestone figure on March 20 during the fifth T20I against India.
- ✓ He achieved the feat in his 24th innings, bettering Azam's record of 26 innings.
- ✓ India's Virat Kohli is at the third place after scoring 1000 T20I runs in 27 innings, followed by Australia's Aaron Finch (29) and KL Rahul (29).
- **India's P Iniyar – won silver in the open section of the 1st FIDE World University online blitz chess event**



- ✓ Armenian GM Haik Martirosyan won gold while Russia Mikhail Antipov bagged bronze.
- ✓ The results of the event, which concluded on March 18, was officially announced on March 21 after a fair play analysis conducted by the organisers.
- ✓ Grandmaster Iniyar, representing Bharathiar University, scored 8.5 points from 10 games to top his group and qualified for the final stage of the event.
- ✓ Iniyar is currently pursuing his BBA from PSG College in Coimbatore, affiliated to Bharathiar University.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **World Water Day – March 22**



- ✓ The celebration of the day aims to raise awareness about the dwindling resources of water and conserving it by sustained management of freshwater resources

- ✓ The day's core focus is to “support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Water and Sanitation for all by 2030”
- ✓ The World Water Day is observed every year since 1993
- ✓ A resolution by the United Nations (UN) to celebrate World Water Day on March 22 was passed in Rio de Janeiro at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
- ✓ Theme 2021 - 'Valuing Water'
- ✓ On the eve of the day, the United Nations World Water Development Report will also be launched, which includes policy direction recommendations to decision-makers
- ✓ This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic celebrations for World Water Day would be virtual
- ✓ The “UN-Water” is the convener for this Day, which selects the theme of each year in consultation with UN organizations.

