



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 8,

2021

TAMIL NADU

- **On March 7, the Tamil Nadu government - made e-pass mandatory for all international and domestic passengers arriving in the state except those from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.**
 - ✓ The automatic e-pass could be generated on “<https://eregister.tnega.org>”
 - ✓ Apart from the e-pass, the passengers doesn't need any other clearance from any state authority
 - ✓ The business travellers visiting the state for a short stay of 72hours are exempted from home quarantine
 - ✓ However, people from Maharashtra and Kerala are mandated to undergo 14-day home quarantine, as per the Government order
 - ✓ Maharashtra recorded a 142-day high of 11,141 fresh cases on March 7
 - ✓ As per the new order, the health and family welfare department has made testing norms stringent for travellers from the UK, South Africa and Brazil arriving at Chennai airport in transit.
 - ✓ Accordingly, transit passengers from these countries whose final destination is Tamil Nadu and who have tested negative in a transit airport, will have to give a sample at Chennai airport and leave.
 - ✓ These passengers will be tested again in Chennai and follow-up action would be taken based on the test result.
 - ✓ The passengers should submit a self-declaration form for Covid-19 on the online Air suvidha portal (www.newdelhiairport.in) before scheduled travel, declare their travel history, and should carry a negative RTPCR test report.

- **Indian Institute of Technology - Madras (IIT-M) – launched Women Leading IIT-M (WLI) programme to boost women leadership in the field of science and technology.**
 - ✓ Under the programme, the institute is planning to raise \$2 million endowment by the end of 2021

- ✓ This fund will provide annual grants to support programs taken by women students, faculty and researchers.
- ✓ In the first year alone, the fund aims to grant ₹70 lakh for various initiatives.
- ✓ This sum will be raised through alumni and CSR grants.
- ✓ The institute has around 18% of women in the undergraduate courses in the class of 2020 as against 8% in 2017
- ✓ Moreover, as many as 30% of the PhD students are women, up from 22.5% in 2017
- ✓ The institute has implemented around 30 programmes till now to encourage women in STEM areas.
- ✓ Among other goals, the institute aims to increase the proportion of women assistant professors to 20% from the current 15%, and also wants to generate 30% of all faculty applications from women candidates.
- ✓ The programme's objectives include conducting outreach programs, recruit more women faculties including visiting women faculty, run programmes that provide physical and emotional safety for women, and encourage leadership among women faculty, among others.
- ✓ The WLI programme will also serve as a catalyst to enable reducing the hurdles faced by women students

NATIONAL

- **Prime Minister, Narendra Modi - to inaugurate the 'Maitri Setu' between India and Bangladesh via video conferencing on March 9, 2021.**
- ✓ The PM will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of several infrastructure projects in Tripura on the occasion.
- ✓ The 'Maitri Setu' is a bridge that has been built in the River Feni that flows between the Indian boundary in the state of Tripura and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The construction of the bridge was done by the "National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd".
- ✓ Built at the total cost of Rs. 133 crore, the 1.9 Km long bridge connects the Sabroom in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- ✓ After this bridge is operation, the state of Tripura will become the 'Gateway of North East' with having access to Chittagong Port in Bangladesh.
- ✓ This port is located at the distance of 80 Kms from Sabroom.
- ✓ Prime Minister will also lay down the foundation stone to set up an "Integrated Check Post at Sabroom" on the occasion.
- ✓ This check post will help in easing the movement of goods and passengers between India and Bangladesh.
- ✓ The check post project, built at a cost of Rs. 232 crore, will be undertaken by "Land Ports Authority of India".

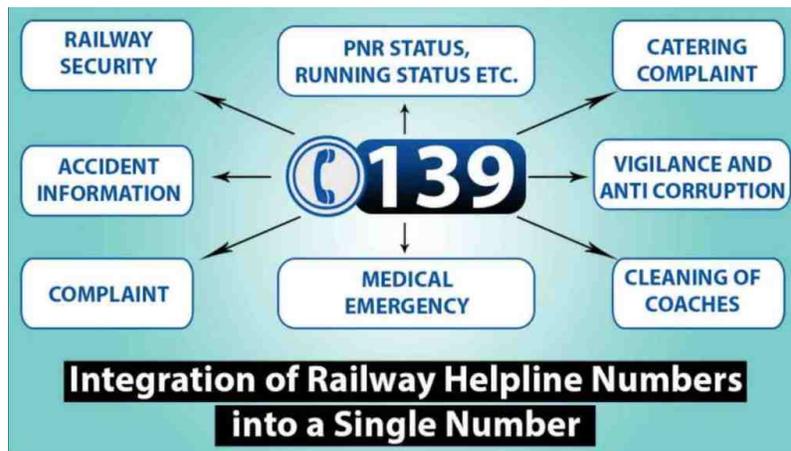
- **President Ram Nath Kovind - laid the foundation stone for conservation works of Singorgarh Fort at the Singrampur village of Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh on March 7, 2021.**



- ✓ On the occasion, the President also inaugurated the Jabalpur Circle of Archaeological Survey of India.
 - ✓ He also addressed the State Level Tribal Conference at Singrampur village in Damoh which was organized by Union Ministry of Culture and the Tribal Affairs Department of Madhya Pradesh.
 - ✓ The President also launched the booklet of Tribal Department and a portal for virtual classes for the tribal artists.
 - ✓ He also awarded the talented tribal students with the Shankar Shah and Rani Durgavati awards.
 - ✓ The Singorgarh fort is a hill-fort of Garha Kingdom located at a distance of 45 km from Jabalpur city.
 - ✓ The fort was occupied in the ancient times by the Rajgond rulers of central India
 - ✓ Under the reign of Rani Durgavati in the year 1564, the fort was attacked by the last war of the Garha Kingdom dynasty.
 - ✓ The fort is currently in a ruined condition for which conservation work is launched
- **Google - has launched a new web platform 'Women Will' on March 8, 2021 on the occasion of "International Women's Day".**



- ✓ This platform will support around 1 million rural women in India in becoming entrepreneurs with the help of accelerator programmes, business tutorials and mentorship.
- ✓ This web portal can be accessed in English and Hindi languages.
- ✓ It will offer guidance to the aspiring women in villages to pursue their interest or hobby like beauty services, tailoring, home tuition, food processing, etc., and convert into business.
- ✓ In the initial phase, Google will work with 2,000 Internet Saathis in order to help women turn entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The Internet Saathis Programme was launched by Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai in 2015 to impart digital literacy training to women across villages.
- ✓ Google also announced other initiatives on the occasion of International Women's day.
- ✓ The social media giant has committed a grant of \$500,000 to Nasscom Foundation to provide digital and financial literacy training
 - ✓ This grant will be used to train around 1 lakh women agri-workers in the states of Haryana, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.
- ✓ Further, Google has unveiled a global "Google.org Impact Challenge for Women and Girls".
 - ✓ Under this initiative, Google will offer \$25 million in grants to the non-profit organization and social enterprises in India and other countries
 - ✓ This grant will be used to support women and girls so as to reach their full potential.
- **The Ministry of Women and Child Development - has announced to classify all the major schemes of the ministry under the three Umbrella schemes namely, Mission Poshan 2.0, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti.**
 - ✓ The integration of the schemes will ensure their effective implementation and monitoring
 - ✓ Mission Shakti was launched to provide equal access to resources & opportunities for women and girls, so that they can participate in the social, economic and political development of the country
 - ✓ The government has launched the Mission Poshan 2.0 after merging the Supplementary Nutrition Programme and Poshan Abhiyan.
 - ✓ This will help strengthening the delivery, outreach, nutritional content, and outcomes.
 - ✓ Mission Vatsalya was launched with the objective of ensuring the safety and well-being of children.
- **Indian Railways - has launched an integrated "Rail Madad Helpline number 139" to provide reply for all type of queries, assistance and complaints for passengers during the travel.**



- ✓ All the existing helpline numbers have now been integrated into a single number 139 to help in quick grievance redressal
- ✓ In order to raise the awareness and inform public, railways has also launched a social media campaign called “#OneRailOneHelpline139”.
- ✓ Indian Railways has already discontinued several railway grievances helplines in the year 2020.
- ✓ The Helpline number 182 will be discontinued from April 1, 2021 and will be merged into 139.
- ✓ The Helpline number 139 is available in twelve languages.
- ✓ This new helpline number does not require any smartphone and is compatible with all types of phones.
- ✓ The number can be used for obtaining security & medical assistance, information with respect to PNR status, arrival or departure of the train, fare enquiry, accommodation, system ticket cancellation, ticket booking, wake up alarm facility or destination alert etc
- ✓ Further, the new helpline can also provide support to solve general complaints, vigilance related complaints, parcel & goods related queries and IRCTC operated trains queries

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Australian government - has announced the suspension of its defence cooperation with Myanmar on March 7, 2021**
- ✓ Australia has also decided to redirect the humanitarian aid which it was providing to the government of Myanmar and other government-related entities.
- ✓ The decision follows the military takeover of the government of Myanmar and detention of an Australian citizen in Myanmar.
- ✓ Australian economic policy adviser Sean Turnell was detained in February 2021 in Yangon, Myanmar and was provided only a limited consular support to the Australian diplomats twice till now
 - ✓ Sean travelled from Australia to take up the job as adviser to the government of Aung San Suu Kyi

- ✓ Australia decided to suspend its defense training program with Myanmar which was worth 1.5 million Australian dollars over the five years.
 - ✓ This program was restricted to the non-combat areas like English-language training.
- ✓ Australia had also imposed sanctions like an arms embargo and other sanctions which targeted several individuals.
- ✓ The military in Myanmar took over the government and a state emergency was announced in Myanmar on February 1, 2021
- ✓ Prime Minister of Myanmar Suu Kyi and the President Win Myint were arbitrarily detained by the military since then.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **Two Indian Navy ships – to visit the historic port town of Mongla in Bangladesh for the first time from March 8 to 10, 2021**
- ✓ The ships will take part in the ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ celebrations which will commemorate 50 years of the 1971 liberation war against Pakistan.
- ✓ The two Indian Naval Ships to take part in the celebrations are indigenously built offshore patrol vessel, Sumedha and another indigenously built guided missile corvette, Kulish.
- ✓ The ships will pay homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian soldiers & citizens who lost their lives in the Liberation War of 1971.
- ✓ This war is also known as the Bangladesh War of Independence or the Liberation War in Bangladesh.
- ✓ The war led to the independence of People’s Republic of Bangladesh.
- ✓ It started after the Pakistani military launched the “Operation Searchlight” against people of East Pakistan on March 25, 1971.
- ✓ In the war, the Pakistani military was defeated and 90000 troops were made to surrender with the joint efforts of India and Bangladesh.

ECONOMY

- **The HDFC Bank - has launched the “SmartUp Unnati mentoring Programme” on the occasion of International Women’s Day to support women entrepreneurs.**
- ✓ Under this programme, senior women executive leaders from the Bank with the expertise will mentor women entrepreneurs so as to help them in achieving their goals in next one year.
- ✓ This programme is available for the existing customers of the bank.
- ✓ It will initially target more than 3,000 women entrepreneurs who are associated with the SmartUp programme of the bank.
- ✓ This programme will provide women entrepreneurs the access to mentorship, encourage them to widen their vision and to face the challenges.
- ✓ The SmartUp programme was launched by the HDFC Bank in the year 2018.



- ✓ It is an online mentoring platform which was launched for banking start-ups.
- ✓ Under this programme, HDFC is working with the state governments, incubators and accelerators to promote entrepreneurship.

SPORTS

- **Ace Indian wrestler, Bajrang Punia - has regained the world number one ranking after clinching a second successive gold medal at the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series.**



- ✓ The wrestler defeated Tugay Tumor Ochir of Mongolia by 2-2 criteria in 65 kg freestyle final event in Rome on March 7, 2021.
- ✓ The 27-year old Punia was ranked at the second spot in world ranking before the Matteo Pellicone Ranking Series was started.
- ✓ The wrestler had defeated Jordan Oliver from The United States in the year 2020 in the final.
- ✓ Punia had reserved his place for the Tokyo Olympic Games in the month of September 2019 after he won the bronze at World Championships

RANKINGS

- **Singapore – has topped the “Economic Freedom Index 2021” global ranking for the second consecutive year.**

- ✓ The index, prepared by the Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, featured 184 countries for the period of July 2019 to June 2020.
- ✓ The overall score of the Singapore was increased by 0.3 points to 89.7.
- ✓ Hongkong was not considered in this year's index for the first time because it has become a Special Administrative Region and its economic policies come under the direct control of China
 - ✓ It had topped the list for 25 years out of 26 years (except 2020) before this year's index.
- ✓ New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and Ireland completed the Top-5 rankings with a score of 83.9, 82.4, 81.9 and 81.4 respectively.
- ✓ Among the major economies of the world, the United Kingdom has been ranked at 7th position with a score of 78.4 points.
- ✓ The United States has been ranked at its lowest ever place of 20th with 74.8 points, while Japan was ranked at 23rd with a score of 74.1 points.
- ✓ Germany obtained 72.5 points and was ranked 29th and China has been ranked at 107th place with a score of 58.4 points.
- ✓ **India has been ranked 121st freest in the 2021 index** with a score of 56.5, placed under the category of 'mostly unfree' and is ranked at 26th place out of 40 Asia-Pacific countries.
- ✓ Cuba, Venezuela, and North Korea have been placed at the bottom of the index, ranked 176th, 177th, and 178th.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ International Women's Day – March 8, 2021



- ✓ The celebration of the Day aims to highlight and raise awareness about the power, courage, determination and achievements of Women in various spheres of life.
- ✓ It strives to create a gender-equal world and celebrates the political, cultural, economic and social achievements of women
- ✓ Theme 2021 – “Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”

- ✓ The first ever women's day was celebrated on February 28, 1908 by the Socialist Party of America.
- ✓ In the year 1917, the women gained suffrage in Soviet Russia following which March 8 became a national holiday in Soviet Russia.
- ✓ United Nations announced the Day and started celebrating it since the year 1977.

