



# EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 25, 2023

## TAMIL NADU

- On March 24, Chief Minister M K Stalin - rolled out state disaster management plan and state disaster management policy 2023 in the Secretariat, Chennai.



### TO MAKE TN DISASTER RESILIENT

#### GOALS | TO INCREASE

- Availability and access to multi hazard early warning systems
- Hazard vulnerability risk assessment and risk mapping
- Mitigation measures for disaster risk reduction
- Mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction into development plans
- Multi stakeholder participation

#### TO REDUCE

- Disaster mortality
- Number of affected people
- Vulnerability of weaker sections
- Disaster damages to critical infrastructures and disruption of basic services
- Direct economic loss

- ✓ Under the new policy, the state government will adopt a new culture of prevention, preparedness, and quick response in disaster management
- ✓ The policy lays out a clear chain of command with well-defined authority, along with the responsibilities of the various stakeholders and earmarks the available resources to ensure efficient utilisation.
- ✓ The policy replaces the existing reactive approach with a proactive one of mitigation and risk reduction
- ✓ Along with creating databases of resources and strategies for disaster management, it will promote coordination among the diverse agencies involved in disaster management.
- ✓ The policy listed out ongoing projects and programmes that are being implemented by departments, which have scope to take up disaster risk reduction.
- ✓ It aims at making Tamil Nadu a disaster resilient state by enhancing the capacity of all stakeholders to respond to disasters.

- ✓ The policy also noted that a few pockets of the state are vulnerable to earthquakes and fall in Zone II and III.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Plan, 2023, lists out the various action plans to handle different types of natural and human-made disasters.
- ✓ The plan aims to minimise impact on lives, livelihood, critical infrastructure like health and education and socio-cultural status of people, and environment during disasters
- ✓ It encompasses action to be initiated during a range of disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, tsunamis, floods, urban flooding, industrial and chemical disasters, biological and public health emergency, nuclear and radiological disasters and fire.
- ✓ According to the plan, the State Emergency Operation Centre at Chennai will be upgraded as a state-of-the-art Multi-Hazard Early Warning Centre (MHEWC) and relocated to a new green building.
  - ✓ The centre will engage experts from various fields and be equipped with dashboards for continuous monitoring of various risks
  - ✓ The MHEWC would be based on the WMO (World Meteorological Organisation) framework
- ✓ Also, real time flood forecasting with hydro modelling control rooms would be established for flood prone/high rainfall basins.
- ✓ The government will devise a State Climate Action Plan and will also focus on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into development plans.
- ✓ As per the disaster management (DM) Act 2005, state governments have powers to make provisions for the implementation of the disaster management plans.
- ✓ The Act also mandates that every department of the state government prepare a departmental disaster management plan in accordance with the state disaster management plan (SDMP).
- ✓ Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management K.K.S.S.R. Ramachandran, Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu and senior officials were present on the occasion.

## **NATIONAL**

- **On March 24, Rahul Gandhi - was disqualified as an MP from the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in compliance with the Surat trial court order.**
- ✓ The court had convicted him in a criminal defamation case and sentenced him to two years on March 23.
- ✓ The Lok Sabha secretariat announced his disqualification in a notification, effective from March 23, the date of his conviction.
- ✓ The disqualification will bar 52-year-old Gandhi, a four-time MP, from contesting polls for eight years unless a higher court stays his conviction and sentence.
- ✓ Rahul's disqualification kicked in the moment H H Varma, the chief judicial magistrate of Surat, sentenced him.

➤ Section 8(3) of RP Act mandates **disqualification of any lawmaker who is 'convicted** of any offence and sentenced to imprisonment for not less than 2 years'

➤ Sec 8(4) of Representation of People Act, 1951 states that disqualification takes effect only 'after 3 months have elapsed' from date of conviction. In 2013 ruling in '**Lily Thomas v Union of India**', **SC struck it down as unconstitutional and declared that MP/MLA would stand disqualified immediately**

➤ In 2018 '**Lok Prahari v Union of India**' order, **SC said disqualification 'will not operate from date of stay of conviction by appellate court'**

➤ Rahul may have to vacate 12, Tughlaq Lane house in a month if he

doesn't get relief from higher court  
➤ Abhishek Manu Singhvi cites Lok Prahari judgment, says there's **no automatic disqualification as Article 103 of Constitution states that only President has power to disqualify** after taking EC's advice

➤ Citing Section 8 of RP Act, an expert says **disqualification from contesting polls will be for 8 years – 2-year jail and 6 from date of release**

➤ **Gandhi second LS member, after Lakshadweep MP P P Mohammed Faisal of NCP, to be disqualified** following conviction. Kerala HC suspended Faisal's conviction and sentence but LS Secretariat is yet to revoke his disqualification

➤ RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav was disqualified in 2013 after conviction



Rahul Gandhi attended Lok Sabha's morning session and a meeting of Congress MPs

- ✓ As per the law, Rahul will also be required to vacate his official bungalow in case his conviction is not stayed within a month
- ✓ The Election Commission may announce bypoll to the Wayanad LS seat within the next six months.
- ✓ The seat fell vacant on March 23 and as per Section 151A, the EC is mandated to hold bypolls to elect a new MP from the constituency by September 22, 2023.
- ✓ This was Rahul's fourth term in the Lok Sabha, and his first from Wayanad in Kerala.
- ✓ He had won his first three terms from Amethi.
- ✓ In 2019, he lost to Union minister Smriti Irani in Amethi, while posting a big victory in Wayanad.
- ✓ Purnesh Modi, the BJP MLA from Surat west who was the petitioner in the case against Rahul, had sent the conviction order across to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.
- **On March 24, the Cabinet - approved a 4% hike in dearness allowance (DA) and dearness relief (DR) for nearly 1.2 crore serving central government employees and pensioners.**
- ✓ It also approved extending the Rs.200 subsidy per cylinder under the Ujjwala scheme for one more year
- ✓ The total expenditure to the exchequer will be around Rs.6,100 crore for financial year 2023 and Rs.7,680 crore for 2024 for this flagship social welfare scheme.
- ✓ There are nearly 9.6 crore consumers who have got the LPG connection free of cost under the Ujjwala scheme launched in May 2016.
- ✓ Union information and broadcasting minister Anurag Thakur announced the decisions
- ✓ The Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi decided to increase the DA and DR from 38% to 42% and this will be applicable from January 2023.
- ✓ This will benefit about 47.6 lakh serving employees and 69.8 lakh pensioners.
- ✓ The DA is usually revised twice every year — in January and July.

- ✓ The new DA rate will be applicable for the entire FY24, beginning April, as well.
- ✓ The government said the combined impact of this hike on the exchequer would be nearly Rs.12,816 crore per annum.

## **COMMITTEES**

- **On March 24, Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman - announced the establishment of a committee to review the New Pension System**
- ✓ The panel will be headed by finance secretary T V Somanathan
- ✓ It will “evolve an approach which addresses needs of employees while maintaining fiscal prudence to protect common citizens”
- ✓ During the day, the Finance Minister moved 64 amendments to the Finance Bill in the Lok Sabha
- ✓ The amendments included those related to debt funds and Securities Transaction Tax.
- ✓ The new committee assumes significance as some opposition-ruled states have reverted to the old pension scheme, which offers 50% of the last pay drawn by government employees.
- ✓ Faced with a rising pension liability, the Centre had, from January 2004, opted to move to the new pension scheme (later National Pension System) for all new recruits
- ✓ Under the scheme, the government employees contribute 10% of their salary towards pension and the government making a matching contribution.
- ✓ Subsequently, the Manmohan Singh government also got the states to join the NPS, moving to a defined contribution regime, instead of a defined benefit scheme.
- ✓ Currently, there are close to 85 lakh subscribers, of whom over 60 lakh are from the states, and the assets under management add up to more than Rs 6.8 lakh crore.
- ✓ Since inception, the annualised return for central government employees works out to over 9.2%, while for state government employees, it is over 9.1%.
- ✓ Opposition-governed Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab have decided to opt out of the NPS but are unable to get a refund of the money deposited with the pension fund managers as the law does not provide for it.
- ✓ In the absence of a refund, these states will have to either provide the fund for the last 16-17 years or stick to the new scheme.

## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

- **On March 24, Prime Minister Narendra Modi - addressed the ‘One World TB Summit 2023’ in Varanasi on the occasion of the World TB Day**

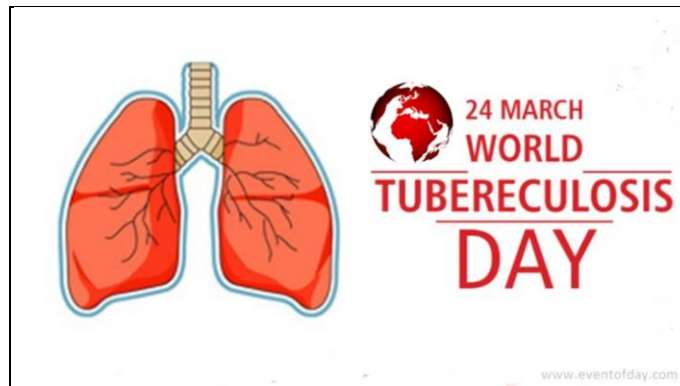


- ✓ The event was organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Stop TB Partnership at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre
- ✓ Governor of Uttar Pradesh Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath were present on the occasion.
- ✓ International delegates from over 30 countries were present at the summit.
- ✓ During the event, the PM launched various initiatives including the TB-Mukt Panchayat, the official pan-India rollout of a shorter TB Preventive Treatment (TPT), the Family-centric care model for TB and the release of India's Annual TB Report 2023.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone of the National Centre for Disease Control and High Containment Laboratory and inaugurated the site for the Metropolitan Public Health Surveillance Unit in Varanasi.
- ✓ He also awarded select States/UTs and districts for their progress towards ending TB.
  - ✓ The recipients of the awards were from Karnataka and Jammu & Kashmir on the State/UT level and The Nilgiris, Pulwama, and Anantnag at the district level.
- ✓ During his speech, PM Modi said that while the global target to end TB is 2030, India is working to eliminate the disease five years earlier
- ✓ India's TB incidence is among the highest in the world.
- ✓ The other countries with high TB incidence include Indonesia, China, the Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo among others.
- ✓ PM Modi listed several initiatives launched by his government over the last nine years to reduce the TB burden.
- ✓ This included the Ni-kshay Mitra initiative to encourage people's participation.
- ✓ Ni-kshay is a combination of words that means eradication of tuberculosis.

- ✓ The Ni-kshay Mitra initiative was launched to connect poor TB patients who need help and better-off citizens who can and are willing to help.
- ✓ Stop TB Partnership is a United Nations-hosted organisation that raises the voices of people, communities and countries affected by the disease

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ World Tuberculosis Day – March 24



- ✓ The day is observed annually to create global awareness about the respiratory infection Tuberculosis, and the preventive measures to be taken to put an end to this worldwide epidemic.
- ✓ Tuberculosis is a serious infectious and contagious disease that generally affects lungs.
- ✓ It is caused by a bacterium known as Mycobacterium tuberculosis.
- ✓ The TB bacteria usually affects the lungs but it can attack other organs as well including spine, kidney and brain
- ✓ The most common symptoms are constant coughing for more than two to three weeks, coughing up blood, extreme tiredness or fatigue, lack of appetite and weight loss, and night sweats.
- ✓ Theme 2023 - 'Yes! We can end TB!'.
- ✓ On 24 March 1882, Dr Robert Koch announced the discovery of tuberculosis bacterium and hence the day is celebrated as World Tuberculosis Day every year.
- ✓ The discovery was the most critical step taken towards the control and elimination of tuberculosis.
- ✓ Officially, the first World Tuberculosis Day was first celebrated in 1982 on the 100th anniversary of Dr. Koch's announcement.
- ✓ India accounts for 28% of all TB cases in the world, according to the Global TB Report 2022.
- ✓ There were 21.3 lakh cases detected in 2021 as compared to 18.05 lakh cases in 2020, while about 38% of global TB deaths took place in India.