

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – DECEMBER 03, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **UGC upgrades Madras University to category-1**
- ✓ Madras University is now a category 1 university in the country.
- ✓ A++ grade in NAAC gives it full autonomy to start courses and launch offshore campuses.

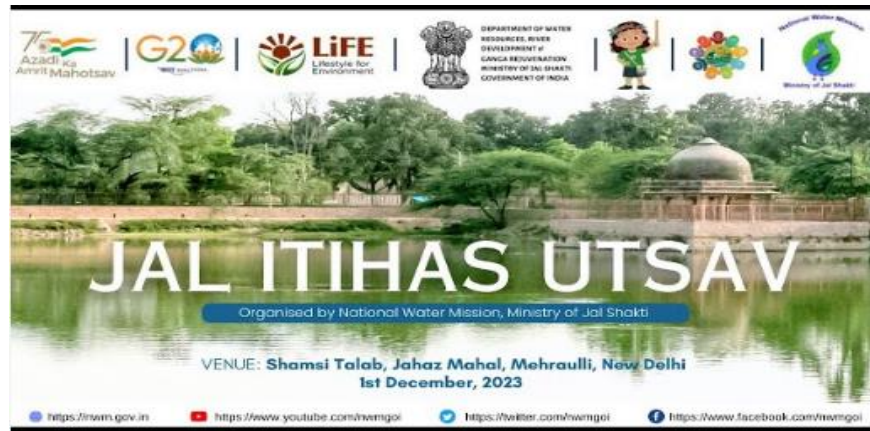


- ✓ The University Grants Commission has upgraded the status of University of Madras and recognised it as a category-1 institution, following its improved NAAC score.
- ✓ In the recent round of accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, the university secured a score of 3.59, an improvement from 3.32, in the previous cycle of NAAC assessment.
- ✓ “The UGC came up with a regulation for graded autonomy around five years ago. The main benefit is that category I universities can start programmes without the UGC’s approval, and they need to only report it to the UGC.

NATIONAL

➤ **Jal Itihas Utsav**

- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti Celebrates Water Heritage in Delhi.
- ✓ Ministry of Jal Shakti's 'Jal Itihas Utsav' raises awareness on water heritage preservation and historical structure restoration.



- ✓ **Campaign Highlights:** Culmination of "Water Heritage Fortnight" at 75 sites and the successful conclusion of 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain' campaign.
- ✓ Theme: Emphasis on "Source Sustainability for Drinking Water," targeting 150 Water Stressed Districts for rainwater harvesting.

APPOINTMENT

- **First woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE)**
- ✓ Kanchan Devi has become the first woman Director General of the Indian Council of Forestry Research Education (ICFRE).

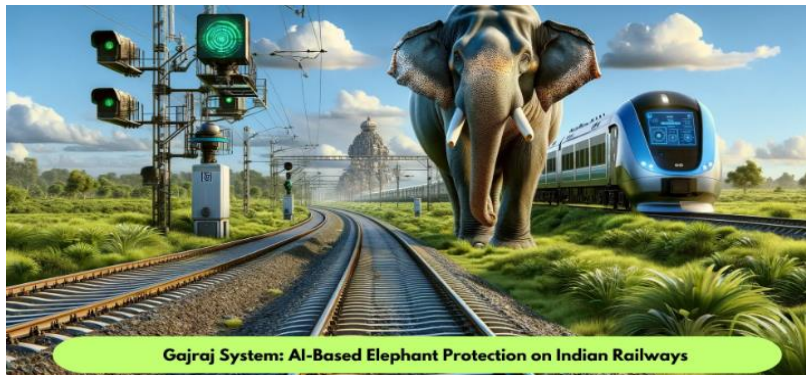


- ✓ She is an Indian Forest Service officer from the 1991 batch of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- ✓ She played an important role in setting up of the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management.

- ✓ She also played a key role in the implementation of the World Bank-funded Ecosystem Services Improvement Project at ICFRE.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **Gajraj System: AI-Based Elephant Protection on Indian Railways**
- ✓ The Indian Railways has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the "Gajraj system," an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution.



- ✓ **The Indian Railways** has initiated a pioneering step towards wildlife conservation by deploying the “**Gajraj system**,” an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based solution designed to prevent elephant fatalities on railway tracks.
- ✓ This surveillance system is being implemented along a 700-kilometer stretch in forest areas to alert locomotive pilots of elephants’ presence on the tracks, thereby mitigating the risk of collisions.

SPORTS

- **Vaishali Rameshbabu Becomes Grandmaster, Creating History**



- ✓ **Vaishali Rameshbabu**, a 22-year-old chess player from India, has recently earned the title of Grandmaster at the IV El Llobregat Open in Spain.
- ✓ This achievement makes her only the third woman from India to become a Grandmaster, following in the footsteps of **Koneru Humpy and Harika Dronavalli**.
- ✓ Her victory over Turkish FM Tamer Tarik Selbes was pivotal in crossing the 2500 FIDE rating threshold required for the Grandmaster title.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **International Day of Persons with Disabilities: December 03**
- ✓ UN Proclamation: United Nations established the International Day of Disabled Persons in 1992 (resolution 47/3) to advocate for the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.



- ✓ Observance focuses on fostering understanding of disability issues, mobilizing support, and promoting integration across political, social, economic, and cultural spheres.
- ✓ 2023 Theme: "United in action to rescue and achieve the SDGs for, with and by persons with disabilities," emphasizing collective efforts towards Sustainable Development Goals.

