

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 10, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- Chief Minister M K Stalin - inaugurated the French float glass maker Saint-Gobain's new production lines on March 9.



- ✓ State minister for MSMEs T M Anbarasan and additional chief secretary of Tamil Nadu for Industries S Krishnan were present during the event
- ✓ Benoit Bazin, CEO, Compagnie de Saint-Gobain and B Santhanam, CEO, Saint-Gobain Asia Pacific and India region were also present among others.
- ✓ The Company has invested Rs 500 crore in a new float glass facility and an integrated window line in its World Glass Campus at Sriperumbudur, Chennai.
- ✓ The two new facilities, which will provide employment to 200 people, will take the cumulative investments in the World Glass Complex to Rs 3,750 crore
- ✓ Globally, the World Glass Complex at Sriperumbudur continues to be the group's single largest investment destination
- ✓ The new plant will meet the emerging needs of the architectural, automotive (including electric vehicles) and solar applications.
- ✓ The integrated windows line is Asia's largest fully integrated facility.

- ✓ Spread over an area of 10,000 sq m, the facility will have an annual capacity of one lakh windows by end of 2022.
- ✓ In the Saint-Gobain - SIPCOT urban forest at Sriperumbudur, close to 60,000 trees spanning over 40 resilient native species have been planted over an area of 300,000 sq ft.
- ✓ Former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi laid the foundation stone of the first Float Glass Plant in January 1998 and inaugurated it in September 2000
- **On March 9, the Supreme Court - granted bail to A G Perarivalan, serving life sentence in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case**



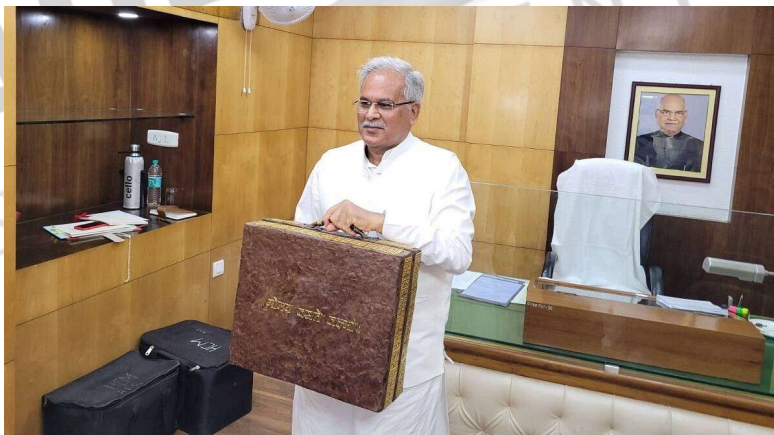
- ✓ The apex court took note of the submission that the convict has been in jail for 32 years and his conduct inside the prison and during the period of parole has been satisfactory.
- ✓ A bench of Justices L Nageswara Rao and B R Gavai was hearing the plea of Perarivalan seeking suspension of his life sentence in the case, till the CBI-led Multi-Disciplinary Monitoring Agency (MDMA) probe is completed.
- ✓ As per the SC order, Perarivalan would have to follow the conditions of release and would have to report before the local police officer every month.
- ✓ He is not allowed to leave his native village, Jolarpettai, around 100 km from Chennai, without reporting to the police.
- ✓ Perarivalan was arrested in 1991 as a 19-year-old, accused of buying two nine-volt batteries that were used to trigger the belt bomb that killed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ✓ He is one of seven people serving life sentences in the assassination case.
- ✓ Gandhi was assassinated on the night of May 21, 1991 at Sriperumbudur by a woman suicide bomber, identified as Dhanu, at a poll rally.
- ✓ Fourteen others, including Dhanu herself, were also killed.
- ✓ In May 1999, the SC had upheld the death sentence of four convicts– Perarivalan, Murugan, Santham and Nalini.
- ✓ In April 2000, the Tamil Nadu Governor had commuted the death sentence of Nalini on the basis of the state government's recommendation.
- ✓ On February 18, 2014, the top court had commuted the death sentence of Perarivalan to life imprisonment, along with that of two other prisoners – Santhan

and Murugan – on the grounds of an 11-year delay in deciding their mercy pleas by the Centre.

- ✓ Perarivalan had applied to the Tamil Nadu governor for pardon in December 2015
- ✓ On September 9, 2018, the Tamil Nadu government had made a recommendation to the state Governor for the premature release of Perarivalan and six other convicts in the case.
- ✓ The CBI, in its affidavit of November 20, 2020, had told the Supreme Court that the Tamil Nadu Governor has to decide on grant of remission to Perarivalan
- ✓ Later, the governor referred the mercy plea to the President of India saying he does not have the power to decide it.
- ✓ The mercy plea has been pending since then and the Supreme Court said that till the time the legal issue over the power to grant remission is decided, it would grant the bail to the convict.
- ✓ MDMA was set up in 1998 on the recommendations of the Justice M C Jain Commission of Inquiry which had probed the conspiracy aspect of Gandhi's assassination.

STATES

- **On March 9, Chattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel - carried the state Budget documents for the financial year 2022-23 to the Assembly in a briefcase made of cow dung powder.**



- ✓ The briefcase has been made by applying layer by layer mixture of cow dung powder, chuna powder, maida wood and guar gum over a period of 10 days in a Raipur-based gauthan (cattle shed premises)
- ✓ Specially designed for budget, the handle and corner of this briefcase are crafted from Bastar Art Artisans by Kondagaon City Group.
- ✓ The briefcase had “Gomaye Vasate Lakshmi” inscribed on it in Sanskrit, which translates to “Goddess of wealth Laxmi resides in cow dung”.
- ✓ This was the fourth budget of the Bhupesh Baghel-led Congress government in Chhattisgarh

- ✓ The Godhan Nyay Yojana was launched by the Bhupesh Baghel government as a source of vermicompost to address the shortage of chemical fertilisers in the state.
- ✓ The scheme was intended to provide income support to cattle owners through procurement of dung,
- ✓ Notably, Godhan Nyay Yojana of Chhattisgarh has made a different identity in the country and also received praise from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the past.
- ✓ Last month, the Chhattisgarh government released Rs 10.24 crore for its flagship scheme Godhan Nyay Yojana for cattle-rearing villagers, women groups associated with Gauthans and Gauthan committees.
- ✓ In 2020, the state had also announced that it will procure cow dung from cow breeders and farmers, becoming the first state in India to do so.

NATIONAL

- **India's drug regulator, the Drugs Controller General Of India (DCGI) - has granted restricted emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Covovax for use in those aged 12-17 subject to certain conditions**
- ✓ The Serum Institute of India's Covid-19 vaccine, Covovax is the fourth vaccine to receive the regulator's nod for use among those below 18 years
- ✓ The Subject Expert Committee on COVID-19 of the CDSCO last week recommended granting emergency use authorisation (EUA) to Covovax for those aged 12 to 17.
- ✓ Based on the data from two studies on about 2707 children aged 12 to 17 years, Covovax is found to be highly efficacious, immunogenic, safe and well tolerated in this age group of children
- ✓ The DCGI has already approved Covovax for restricted use in emergency situations in adults on December 28, which is yet to be included in the country's vaccination drive.
- ✓ On February 21, the DCGI granted restricted EUA to Biological E's Covid-19 vaccine Corbevax for 12 to 18 years age group subject to certain conditions.
- ✓ Hyderabad-based vaccine maker Biological E has also applied for emergency use authorisation for its Corbevax, for use in children aged 5 to 12 years
- ✓ Covovax is manufactured by technology transfer from Novavax and is approved by the European Medicines Agency for conditional marketing authorisation and also granted emergency use listing by WHO on December 2017, 2020.
- ✓ India has been using Bharat Biotech's indigenously-developed Covaxin to vaccinate adolescents between 15-18 years.
- ✓ It had received approval for emergency use in 12 to 18 in December last year
- ✓ ZyCov-D is the first vaccine cleared by India's drug regulator for inoculation of those aged 12 years and above in August last year.

- **On March 9, the Centre – has removed the upper age limit for appearing in the NEET-Undergraduate 2022 exam**
 - ✓ The decision has been taken by the National Medical Commission (NMC), which is the apex body to regulate medical education across the country.
 - ✓ The move would further expand the total number of candidates taking the medical undergraduate common entrance test in India.
 - ✓ With the age limit criteria removed, aspirants can now appear in the medical entrance exam multiple times and even after taking admission to other courses
 - ✓ There has been a 166% increase in the number of NEET-UG takers since 2014.
 - ✓ Last year, the NEET UG was held on September 12 in as many as 13 languages.
 - ✓ In the 2021 edition of the exam, more than 16 lakh candidates appeared
 - ✓ The upper age limit has been a contentious issue ever since NEET began phasing out the All India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT) and the state pre-medical tests in 2016
 - ✓ In 2017, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recommended 25 years as the upper age limit for unreserved candidates while 30 years for reserved candidates belonging to OBC, SC and ST communities
 - ✓ In November 2018, the Supreme Court passed an interim order granting provisional permission to candidates above 25 years to appear in the NEET-UG
 - ✓ The National Eligibility Entrance Test (NEET), formerly known as the All-India Pre-Medical Test (AIPMT), is the qualifying test for MBBS and BDS programmes in Indian medical and dental colleges.
 - ✓ It is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- **On March 9, the government - approved an amendment to the second schedule of the Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act**
 - ✓ The amendment seeks to fix royalty rates of minerals such as potash, emerald and platinum group of metals.
 - ✓ It would also ensure the auction of mineral blocks for glauconite, potash, emerald, platinum group of metals, andalusite, and molybdenum.
 - ✓ The move would lead to a reduction in imports of these minerals
 - ✓ The mines ministry proposed reasonable rates of royalty to encourage better participation in mines auction.
 - ✓ According to the Ministry, the rates have been fixed “after extensive consultations” with the state governments and various central ministries/departments.
 - ✓ The mines ministry will formulate a methodology for the calculation of average sale price rise (ASP) of these minerals, enabling auction of these mineral blocks.
 - ✓ More than 146 blocks have been put up for auction in the financial year 2021-22.
 - ✓ Of this, 34 blocks have been successfully auctioned in the financial year.

PERSONALITIES

- **David Bennett, the first person to receive a heart transplant from a pig - has died two months after the groundbreaking surgery**



- ✓ Bennett Sr., 57, died on March 8 at the University of Maryland Medical Center in the United States, where the procedure was performed in January
- ✓ Bennett was a candidate for this last-ditch attempt only because he otherwise faced certain death — ineligible for a human heart transplant, bedridden and on life support, and out of other options.
- ✓ The United States Food and Drug Administration gave emergency approval to the Hospital for the procedure on December 31 in the hopes of preserving his life under “compassionate use” rules
- ✓ Prior attempts at such transplants have failed largely because patients’ bodies rejected the animal organ.
- ✓ This time, the Maryland surgeons used a heart from a gene-edited pig
- ✓ Scientists had modified the animal to remove pig genes that trigger the rejection and add human genes to help the body accept the organ.
- ✓ Pigs have long been used in human medicine, including pig skin grafts and implantation of pig heart valves
- ✓ Bennett survived significantly longer with the gene-edited pig heart than one of the last milestones in xeno-transplantation — when Baby Fae, a California infant, lived 21 days with a baboon’s heart in 1984.

SPORTS

- **On March 8, the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), custodian of cricket laws – has announced its new code of laws for 2022, making significant changes for the first time since 2017.**
- ✓ ‘Mankading’, one of the most controversial form of dismissal in cricket has now been changed into an official mode of dismissal and will not be considered 'unfair play'
- ✓ As per the new rules, the law has been moved from the 'unfair play' category to the 'run out' section
- ✓ It refers to the run-outs at non-striker's end when batters back up too far

- ✓ It was in 1948 when the dismissal first came to be known after Indian legend Vinoo Mankad ran out Australian wicketkeeper Bill Brown at the non-striker's end after duly warning him for backing up too far.



NEW CODE OF CRICKET LAWS ANNOUNCED

Approved by MCC
(Effective from Oct 1, 2022)



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Use of saliva to shine the ball permanently banned ■ Use of sweat to shine the ball still permitted ■ 'Mankading' no longer 'Unfair Play' - Wording of law to remain same, but will be moved from Law 41 (Unfair Play) to Law 38 (Run-Out) ■ The replacement players will be treated as if they were the player they replaced ■ When a batter is out caught, the new batter shall come in at the end the striker was at ■ If a bowler throws the ball in an attempt to run out the striker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> before entering their delivery stride, it will now be Dead ball ■ Wide will apply to where the batter is standing, where the striker has stood at any point since the bowler began their run up ■ If the ball should land away from the pitch, the striker can play the ball so long as some part of their bat or person remains within the pitch ■ In case of unfair movement by fielding side, the batting side awarded 5 penalty runs ■ If either side is disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play, it will be a dead ball
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- ✓ The MCC has also banned the use of saliva to shine the ball in amendments to its 2022 code that will come into effect in October.
- ✓ According to MCC, using saliva to shine the ball would be treated as an unfair practice, as saliva was found to cause no impact on the ball's movement based on its research findings
- ✓ Saliva application was barred by the ICC in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ The changes in the code, which first came into existence in 2017, were suggested by the MCC Laws sub-committee and were approved by the club's main committee last week.
- ✓ The amendment also suggests that the calling of Dead ball takes into account "if either side is disadvantaged by a person, animal or other object within the field of play."
- ✓ One of the new changes will see new batters taking the strike for the next delivery even if the previous pair had crossed while the catch was being taken.
- ✓ The law was first introduced in The Hundred tournament last year at the request of the MCC.

- ✓ Further, if there is any unfair movement by the fielding side while the ball is bowled, the batting side will be awarded with the 5 penalty runs.
- ✓ Last year, the MCC had struck down the words batsman or batsmen and replaced them with batter or batters.
- **Indian Chess Grandmaster SL Narayanan - won the Grandiscacchi Cattolica International Open in Cattolica, Italy on March 8 while R Praggnanandhaa ended second.**



- ✓ Narayanan and Praggnanandhaa were among the seven players who ended on 6.5 points after nine rounds
- ✓ However, Narayanan took the highest spot based on a better tie-break rating.
- ✓ Narayanan remained unbeaten and registered four victories and five draws.
- ✓ For the 24-year-old from Kerala, it was his first over-the-board (OTB) event win since bagging the Elllobregat Open in Spain in 2019.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- **International Day of Women Judges – March 10**



- ✓ The International Day of Women Judges aims to recognise the efforts and contributions being made by women judges and encourages young women and girls who aspire to become judges
- ✓ The day will be celebrated and observed for the first time after the UN General Assembly passed the resolution on April 28, 2021.
- ✓ The resolution of the General Assembly was drafted by the State of Qatar and sponsored by India, among others
- ✓ UN's Sustainable Development Goal 5 is Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls.
- ✓ The Supreme Court will host a special programme to commemorate the first-ever 'International Day of Women Judges'.
- ✓ Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana and 4 sitting women judges of the apex court, namely Justices Indira Banerjee, Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna, and Bela M Trivedi will take part in the 'online' programme from the top court
- ✓ The program will connect 'online' with all women judges of high courts and women judicial officers of the trial courts
- ✓ In the 72-year-old history of the Supreme Court, which has seen appointment of a total of 256 Judges till date, only 11 are women.
- ✓ Fathima Beevi was appointed as the first woman SC judge on October 6, 1989
- ✓ And it was for the first time last year during the tenure of Justice Ramana as CJI that the SC saw appointment of three women SC judges in Justices Hima Kohli, B V Nagarathna and Bela M Trivedi on September 1, 2021
- ✓ Further, the country would have to wait for 77 years to get its first woman CJI in Justice Nagarathna in September, 2027.

