

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 22, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- **On March 21, the Tamil Nadu assembly - adopted an unanimous resolution, condemning the Karnataka government for unilaterally proposing to construct the Mokedatu dam across river Cauvery**
 - ✓ The resolution urged the Union government not to give technical, environmental or any other clearance required for the project.
 - ✓ The resolution moved by water resources minister Duraimurugan recalled the long-drawn dispute over sharing Cauvery river water
 - ✓ As a solution, the Supreme Court delivered its judgment on February 16, 2018 and it is being implemented, said the resolution
 - ✓ The resolution was unanimously supported by the DMK allies, the Congress, VCK, MDMK and Left parties, and the opposition, AIADMK, BJP and the PMK.
 - ✓ The legislature party leaders criticised the Karnataka government's allocation of Rs 1,000 crore in the budget for the construction of the dam.
 - ✓ The proposed dam close to the inter-state border would jeopardize the interests of Tamil Nadu given that Cauvery was its lifeline with more than 20 districts dependent on it for drinking water
 - ✓ The action of Karnataka, without respecting the final order of Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal in 2007 and the judgment of the Supreme Court in 2018, and without obtaining the consent of co-basin states and clearances from the Centre was unacceptable, the resolution said.
- **On March 21, Chief minister M K Stalin - laid the foundation stone for the construction of a 1,000-bed multi-specialty hospital on the premises of King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research in Guindy.**
 - ✓ The hospital would be built at an estimated cost of ₹230 crore with more than 1,000 beds capacity, as per the state health department.
 - ✓ On June 3, the CM announced that the state would build a 500-bed hospital at a cost of ₹250 crore in Guindy.



- ✓ Soon, at least four acres of land inside the campus were identified by the health department and handed over to the state public works department.
 - ✓ The hospital will have seven floors (ground plus six) with departments including cardiology, cardiac surgery, neurology, neurosurgery, orthopaedics, and urology.
 - ✓ It will be the second multispeciality hospital in Chennai and the only tertiary care centre for the southern part of the city.
- **On March 21, Chief minister M K Stalin - said “Innuyir Kappom Thittam-Nammai Kaakkum 48” to reduce deaths due to road accidents had benefitted 33,000 families since its launch in December.**
- ✓ While replying to a question in the Assembly, the CM said that 29,142 people were treated in government hospitals, and 4,105 people in private hospitals under the initiative.
 - ✓ The state government had spent ₹29.6 crore under the pioneer scheme so far.
 - ✓ The state had already announced a good Samaritan award and ₹5,000 cash prize for those saving their lives.

STATES

- **Nongthombam Biren Singh - was sworn in as Manipur’s chief minister for a straight second term on March 21**



- ✓ The oath of office was administered by Manipur Governor La Ganesan at the Raj Bhawan in Imphal.
- ✓ Further, four BJP MLAs – Thongam Biswajit Singh, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, Govindas Konthoujam and Nemcha Kipgen – and Naga People's Front (NPF) leader Awangbou Newmai were appointed as cabinet ministers.
- ✓ The oath-taking ceremony was attended by BJP national president JP Nadda, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sharma and Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb, among others.
- ✓ A former football player-turned-journalist-turned-politician, Singh, 61, a former Congress leader, joined the BJP in October 2016
- ✓ Biren Singh began his career as a footballer, playing for the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ✓ In 1992, he quit the BSF to start publishing his manipuri daily Naharolgi Thoudang, and worked as the editor till 2001
- ✓ In 2017, Biren Singh won the elections and became the first BJP chief minister of Manipur.
- ✓ In the recent Assembly elections, Singh won from his traditional Heingang constituency for the record 5th time.
- ✓ In the recently held Assembly polls, the BJP won an absolute majority by winning 32 seats in the 60-member House
- ✓ The NPF (seven seats), Janata Dal-United (six seats), Kuki People's Alliance (two seats) and an independent member later announced their support to the BJP.

NATIONAL

- **On March 21, the University Grants Commission (UGC) - announced that the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) score will be the basis for admission in all central universities and their affiliated colleges this year**
- ✓ As per the new guidelines, no weightage will be given to board exam performance in undergraduate admissions in the 2022-23 academic session.
- ✓ However, the universities will be allowed to set a minimum eligibility on board exams marks.
- ✓ For admissions to programmes on audio-visual or performing arts or for those under extracurricular and sports category, universities or colleges can conduct and give weightage to practical or trials.
- ✓ The computer-based test will be conducted in the first week of July and will be based on NCERT's syllabus for Class XII.
- ✓ For the academic session 2022-23 all higher educational institutions, irrespective of whether they are state universities, private universities or deemed to be universities can use the CUET score for admissions in UG and PG programmes.
- ✓ CUET will be conducted in 13 languages in two shifts
- ✓ The first shift will have the compulsory language test, two domain subjects and the general test.

- ✓ The second shift will have four domain subjects and the one language of 19 choices given

INTERNATIONAL

- The Boeing 737 plane, operated by China Eastern Airlines – crashed down into mountains in the Guangxi region of southern China on March 21

'DROPPED 25,875FT IN JUST 3 MINS'

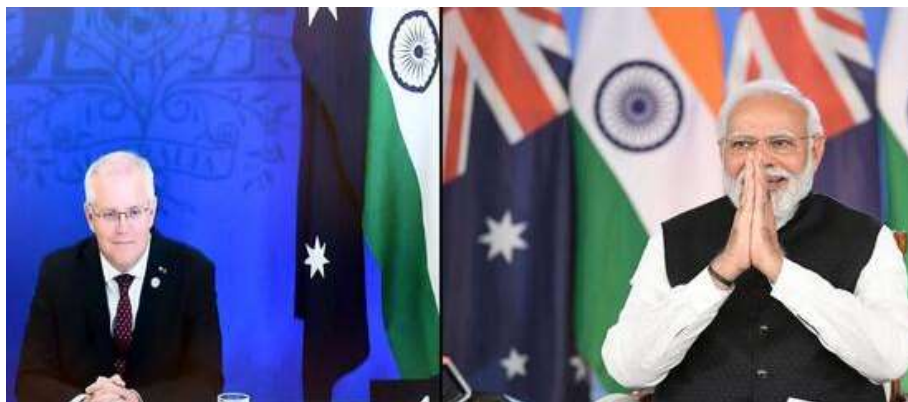
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A Boeing 737-800 flight (MU5735) of the China Eastern airline that crashed was carrying 123 passengers and nine crew members from the city of Kunming to the southern hub of Guangzhou ➤ Flight tracker shows the plane sharply dropped from an altitude of 29,100 feet to 3,225 feet in just 3 minutes, before flight info ceased ➤ A villager tells a local news site the plane had 'completely fallen apart' & he had seen 	 <p>CRASH SITE Teng County, Guangxi Province</p> <p>forest areas destroyed by crash-triggered fire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Airline said in a Jan report that it had 289 737-series jets in its 751-strong fleet. Reports say it will ground all 737-800 planes 	
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- ✓ The domestic flight, carrying 123 flyers and nine crew members, went down with no signs of survivors
- ✓ The Boeing 737-800 (MU5735) was flying from Kunming in southwest China to the southern Guangzhou city
- ✓ This is the first jetliner crash in China since the 2010 fatal accident in Yichun, northeast China's Heilongjiang province, when a plane hit the ground short of the runway, killing 44 people.
- ✓ China Eastern Airlines, one of the three state carriers in the country, is said to have grounded all Boeing 737-800 aircraft following the mishap
- ✓ China was the first country to ground the 737 MAX after fatal crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia more than three years ago
- ✓ The last fatal 737-800 crash occurred in August 2020 when an Air India Express plane overshot the table-top runway and crashed while landing at Calicut International Airport in the southern state of Kerala in heavy rain, killing 21
- ✓ Three Indian carriers -- SpiceJet, Vistara and Air India Express -- have Boeing 737 aircraft in their fleets.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Australia Scott Morrison - held the 2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit on March 21**
- ✓ During the meeting, both leaders reviewed the multi-faceted relationship between the two countries and exchanged views on regional and global developments.

- ✓ Both the leaders expressed satisfaction at the progress made under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established during the 1st Virtual Summit in June 2020



- ✓ Prime Minister Modi thanked Scott Morrison for the special gesture in returning 29 ancient artefacts to India that were illegally taken out of the country from Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal and other states.
- ✓ The 29 antiquities, the earliest dating back to the 9-10 century CE, fall under six broad themes, including Shiva and his disciples, worshipping Shakti, Lord Vishnu and his forms, the Jain tradition, and portraits and decorative objects.
- ✓ The artefacts include 12th century Chola bronzes, 11th-12th century Jain sculptures from Rajasthan, 12th-13th century sandstone Goddess Mahisasuramardini from Gujarat, 18th-19th century paintings and early gelatin silver photographs.
- ✓ Australia is expected to announce investments of Aus \$ 280 (more than ₹1,500 crore) and various initiatives to enhance cooperation in trade, defence, rare earth minerals, critical investment, technology, digital sector, migration and mobility, and education
- ✓ The two leaders met in Washington DC on the margins of the Quad Leaders' Summit on September 23, 2021 for the first in-person meeting post pandemic.

PERSONALITIES

- **Jiya Rai, a 13-year-old autistic girl from Mumbai – becomes the youngest and fastest female swimmer to swim the 29-kilometer Palk Strait in 13 hours and 10 minutes**
- ✓ On March 20, Jiya, daughter of a naval officer, swam a distance of 28.5 km from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Arichalmunai in Tamil Nadu's Dhanushkodi in a record time
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Director-General of Police (DGP) Sailendra Babu, who was present when Jiya Rai finished the swim, appreciated her and presented a memento.
- ✓ During the achievement, Jiya broke the previous record that was held by Bula Chowdhary, who had covered the distance in 13 hours 52 minutes in 2004 when she was 34 years old.



- ✓ The Para-Swimming Federation of India organised and supervised the event, while Goa Shipyard provided financial support.
- ✓ Jiya was covered by the Sri Lankan Navy for search and rescue (SAR) while swimming in Sri Lankan seas, and the Indian Navy and Coast Guard ensured her safety in Indian waters.
- ✓ Palk Strait (Gulf of Mannar) is one of the toughest sea routes in the world.
- ✓ With the current record, Jiya has joined the exclusive group of swimmers including Kutraleeswaran (1994), R Jai Jaswanth (2019), Edi Hu of the United States (2020), Shyamala Koli (2021), who swam from Sri Lanka to Dhanushkodi.
- ✓ When Jiya was a little over two years old, she was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a special mention about the swimmer's achievement in his earlier Mann Ki Baat speech.
- ✓ Jiya is the world record holder in the open water swimming.
- ✓ Over the past three years, Jiya has won 24 gold medals and one silver in national and state swimming and open water sea swimming championships
- ✓ In March 2021, Jiya had won 3 Gold Medal in the Twentieth National para-swimming Championship-2020.
- ✓ In February 2020, Jiya covered the distance of 14km by swimming from the Elephanta Island to Gateway of India within a span of 3 hours and 27 minutes.
- ✓ In January 2021, Jiya became the first para swimmer to swim from Arnala Fort to Vasai Fort, covering a distance of 22 km in 7 hours and 04 minutes.
- ✓ She had also broken a global record by swimming 36km from the Worli sea link in Bandra to the Gateway of India in approximately 8 hours and 40 minutes during February 2021
- ✓ Her name has been recorded in Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records.
- ✓ In January, the ace swimmer has received the Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar 2022 award, which is the country's highest honour for a citizen under the age of 18 years.
- ✓ Jiya is currently on a mission to become the world's first and youngest para swimmer to swim seven oceans.

SPORTS

- **Sweden's Mondo Duplantis - broke his own world pole vault record at the World Indoor Championships in Belgrade on March 20.**



- ✓ US-born Duplantis cleared 6.20 metres on the third time at the Stark Arena to improve by 1cm his previous best set two weeks ago in the same Serbian venue.
 - ✓ The 22-year-old Swedish Olympic champion had cleared 6.19 metres on March 7
 - ✓ Duplantis has held the world record since February 2020, when he cleared 6.17m in Torun in Poland and then 6.18m in Glasgow a week apart.
 - ✓ He became European champion in 2018 in Berlin at only 18, and took the Olympic title last summer in Tokyo with a jump at 6.02m.
- **The International Chess Federation or FIDE's ethics and disciplinary commission - has imposed a six-month ban on Russian Grandmaster Sergey Karjakin for his views on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.**



- ✓ The six-month ban is effective from March 21 and as a result he will miss the FIDE Candidates Tournament.
- ✓ Karjakin is ranked 18th in the World with an ELO rating of 2,747.
- ✓ The FIDE Ethics and Disciplinary Commission (EDC) has found Karjakin guilty of breach of Article 2. 2. 10 of the FIDE Code of Ethics

- ✓ Accordingly, Karjakin is sanctioned to a worldwide ban of six months from participating as a player in any FIDE rated chess competition.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

➤ World Water Day – March 22



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the importance of water and educate people to conserve it.
- ✓ The day raises awareness that about more than 2 billion people are living without access to safe water.
- ✓ United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6 aims to ensure safe water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Groundwater, making the invisible visible".
- ✓ World Water Day was officially established by a resolution approved at the United Nations General Assembly conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro in 1992
- ✓ In the same year, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution by which March 22 was declared World Day for Water
- ✓ The first ever World Water Day was observed in the year 1993

➤ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21



- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about equality and to end all forms of racism and racial discrimination

- ✓ On October 26, 1966, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a resolution to observe March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.
- ✓ On March 21, 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people and injured 180, in Sharpeville, South Africa, who were peacefully protesting against the apartheid "pass laws".
- ✓ This event is known as the Sharpeville tragedy or the Sharpeville massacre, which captured worldwide attention.
- ✓ Theme 2022 - "Voices for action against racism"

➤ **World Down Syndrome Day – March 21**



- ✓ The Day is observed every year to increase awareness about the hereditary disorder, Down Syndrome
- ✓ The UN General Assembly in 2011 adopted a resolution to observe World Down Syndrome Day annually.
- ✓ The first ever World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated in 2012
- ✓ Theme 2022 – 'Inclusion Means'
- ✓ According to the United Nations, the global incidence of Down Syndrome is estimated to be between 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 live births
- ✓ Down syndrome, a genetic condition, was first described by British physician John Langdon Haydon Down in the year 1862
- ✓ However, it was only in 1959, the French physician Jérôme Lejeune identified Down syndrome as a chromosomal condition
- ✓ In Down syndrome, a person is born with an extra chromosome (chromosome 21) due to faulty cell division, which can cause physical and mental challenges in the infant.
- ✓ A child with Down syndrome is usually shorter than the rest, with flattened face, slender neck, protruding tongue, muscle tone issues etc.
- ✓ Each year, approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder, according to United Nations.