

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 5, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- **The indirect elections to the posts of mayor, deputy mayor, chairperson and vice-chairperson - took place in local bodies across the state on March 4**
- ✓ The swearing-in ceremony commenced on the same day for candidates who were elected unopposed.
- ✓ Earlier, 12,800 newly elected urban civic body ward councilors took oath of office on March 3
- ✓ This is the first time that the 21 municipal corporations, 138 municipalities, and 489 town panchayats have elected representatives after a gap of six years.
- ✓ DMK party will have 20 mayors from the total of 21 corporations in the state, after allotting the mayor post in Kumbakonam to the Congress.
- ✓ It has allotted 11 seats to women and 9 to men as the mayor.
- ✓ After allotting six deputy mayor posts to the alliance parties, the DMK fielded deputy mayor candidates for 15 corporations, with five being women candidates.
- ✓ DMK's Priya Rajan, a 28-year-old M.Com graduate, was elected unopposed as the youngest ever, first Dalit and third woman mayor of the Greater Chennai Corporation after Tara Cherian (Congress, 1957-1958) and Kamakshi Jayaraman (DMK, 1971-1972).



- ✓ She was sworn-in as the Mayor at the Ripon Building in Chennai in the presence of the 200 newly-elected councillors and Chennai Corporation Commissioner Gangandee Singh Bedi.
- ✓ Corporation Commissioner Gagandee Singh Bedi administered the oath of office to Priya and handed her the ceremonial dress, while DMK cabinet minister P K Sekar Babu and Ma Subramanian handed over the ceremonial mace.
- ✓ DMK's councillor from ward 169 in Little Mount Mahesh Kumar, will be the deputy mayor candidate.
- ✓ Contesting an election for the first time, Priya was elected as councillor from ward No 74 in Chennai's Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar in the urban local body polls held on February 19.
- ✓ The granddaughter of DMK's three-time MLA from Perambur constituency Chengai Sivam, Priya is the daughter of 'Perambur' R Rajan, a ward-level DMK functionary in Thiru Vi Ka Nagar, who has been in the party for over 30 years.
- ✓ Before Priya, the last mayor of Chennai was AIADMK's Saidai Duraisamy (2011-2016)
- ✓ In the Greater Chennai Corporation, the DMK has 153 councillors of its own out of the total 200 wards while its allies occupy another 25 wards
- ✓ Among others, 42-year-old N Dinesh, who pursued his masters in Australia, will be the mayor of Tiruppur Corporation, while 36-year-old Mahalakshmi Yuvaraj, who quit Infosys will be the mayor of Kanchipuram.
- ✓ Besides Chennai, the municipal corporations of Tambaram and Avadi will also have mayors from the SC community after the DMK reserved these seats for the marginalised community
- ✓ While Tambaram is a SC reserved seat for women, Avadi is a SC general seat.
- ✓ K Vasanthakumari was chosen as the Tambaram mayor, while G Udhayakumar will be the first mayor of Avadi.
- ✓ Congress party's Saravanan, an autorickshaw driver, was chosen as the first mayor in Kumbakonam.
- ✓ DMK's Kalpana Anandakumar, a first time councilor, will not only be the first woman mayor in Coimbatore but would also be the first DMK mayor in the city.
- ✓ DMK's Indrani has been named as Madurai mayor, Mu Anbazhagan as Trichy mayor and P M Saravanan as Tirunelveli mayor.
- ✓ The ruling party's A Ramachandran has been announced as mayor for Salem, Mahesh for Nagercoil in Kanyakumari district and Nagarathinam for Erode corporation
- ✓ DMK's Sujatha Anandakumar was named as mayor for Vellore corporation, N P Jegan for Thoothukudi, Sundari for Cuddalore and S. Ramanathan for Thanjavur corporation
- ✓ In Karur, Kavitha Ganesan has been announced as mayor, S A Sathya named for the top post in Hosur, Ilamathi and Sangeetha Inbam as mayor for Dindigul and Sivakasi corporations respectively

- ✓ DMK recently swept the civic polls in Tamil Nadu and won 952 wards in corporations, 2,360 in municipalities and 4,389 in town panchayats.

## STATES

- **On March 4, the Haryana government - introduced a bill in the state assembly against religious conversion through force or fraud**
- ✓ State home minister Anil Vij introduced the Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill, 2022, on the third day of the budget session.
- ✓ The Haryana Prevention of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Bill prohibits religious conversions which are effected through misrepresentation, force, undue influence, coercion, allurement or by any fraudulent means or by marriage by making it an offence.
- ✓ The bill provides for declaring marriages, which were done solely for the purpose of conversion from one religion to another religion, null and void.
- ✓ As per the Bill, the onus of proof lies with the accused.
- ✓ If conversion is done by allurement, use of force, fraudulent means of coercion, then there is a provision of imprisonment of one to five years and a fine of not less than Rs 1 lakh
- ✓ Similar Bills in the recent past have been passed in BJP-ruled states including Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

## NATIONAL

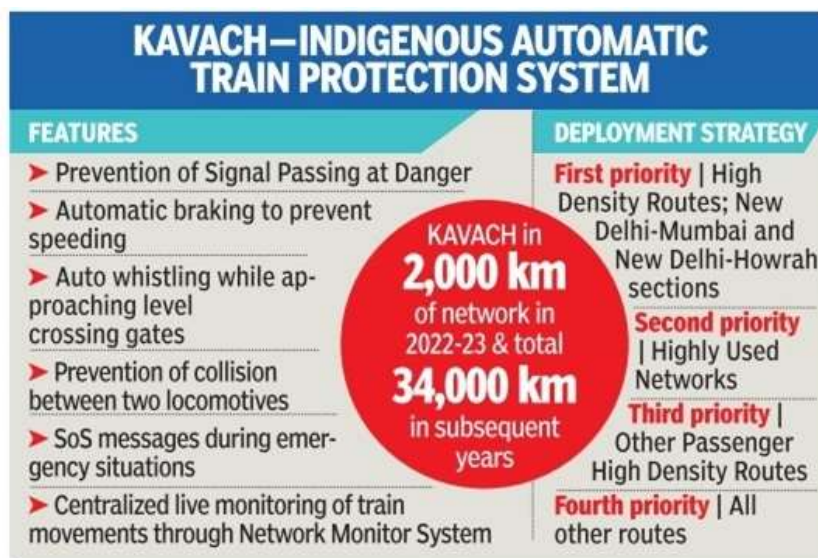
- **The Indian Railways - conducted a live demonstration of Kavach, an indigenous automatic anti-collision system for trains**
- ✓ The test run of Kavach, being considered as the world's cheapest automatic train collision protection system, was conducted in Secunderabad.



- ✓ Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and railway board chairman V K Tripathi tested the technology on March 4
- ✓ Both of them were on board in two locomotives coming from opposite directions on the same track.
- ✓ But both the locos stopped automatically at 380 metre distance from each other and avoided a collision because of this new technology.

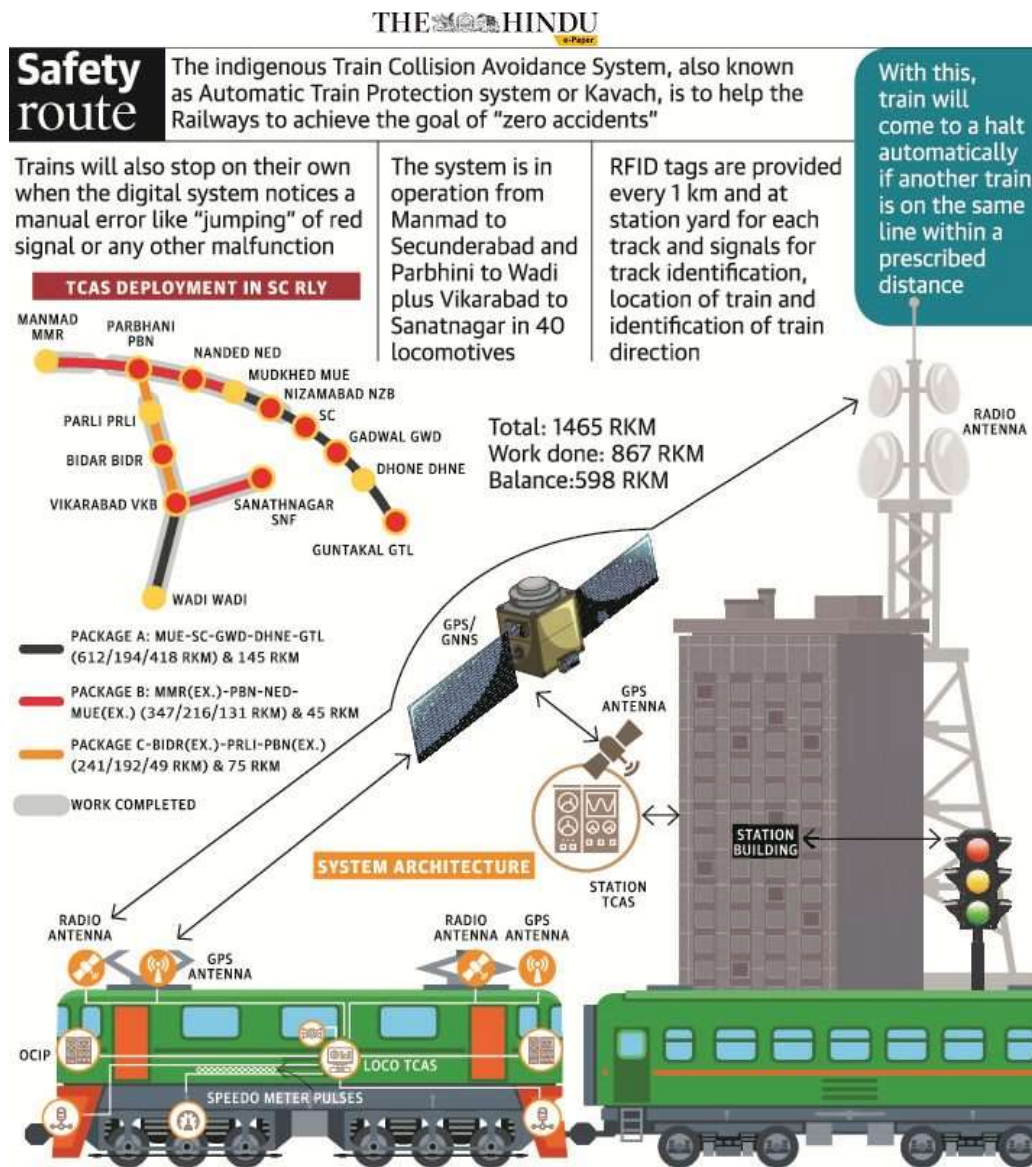


- ✓ The testing was done on three situations - head-on collisions, rear-end collisions and when a signal is passed at danger.



- ✓ Kavach is India's very own automatic protection system in development since 2012, under the name Train Collision Avoidance System (TCAS), which got renamed to Kavach or "armour".
- ✓ The Indian Railways aims to achieve "zero accidents" by deploying the anti-collision and Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.
- ✓ Kavach will soon be deployed on Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Kolkata corridors, which are being upgraded to allow trains to run at 160 kmph, as a part of Mission Raftar project
- ✓ As of now, the Kavach has been deployed on nearly 1,200km of railway track and in the next two months another 264 km will be covered.
- ✓ The technology, showcased on South Central Railway, is earmarked for aggressive rollout on 2,000 km in 2022-23, according the Budget proposals.
- ✓ Kavach is a set of electronic devices, GPS and RFIDs tags which are in locomotives, signalling systems and tracks.
- ✓ Using the high radio frequencies, these devices talk to each other and the programmed system initiates action without any human intervention.
- ✓ The locos fitted with Kavach will automatically stop if the system detects any manual error by the pilot or any other malfunction such as inadvertently jumping the red signal.
- ✓ The system is designed in a manner to ensure that it brings the train to a halt automatically if it notices another train on the same track within a prescribed distance.
- ✓ Kavach will cost between ₹40 lakh to ₹50 lakh per km, as against the import of such technology from Europe costing between ₹1. 5 crore and ₹2 crore per km
- ✓ The current avataar of Kavach adheres to the highest level of safety and reliability standard called Safety Integrity Level 4

- ✓ 'Kavach' was created in partnership with the Indian industry by the Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO).



- ✓ The first field trials of Kavach technology on the passenger trains were started in February 2016 and based on the experience gained, initial specifications of the Kavach were finalised in May 2017
- ✓ It was declared as the national automatic train protection system for Indian railways in 2020-21.
- ✓ Kavach was announced as a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in the 2022 union Budget.

## INTERNATIONAL

- On March 4, Russian forces - took control of Europe's largest nuclear power plant, Zaporizhzhia in southern Ukraine, after a late-night air strike



- ✓ There is no evidence of damage to the plant's six reactors, which in normal times supply 20% of Ukraine's electricity.
- ✓ When the Russians attacked only three of the six reactors were operating
- ✓ Firefighters put out the blaze, and no radiation was released from the reactors
- ✓ The assault renewed fears that the invasion could damage one of Ukraine's 15 nuclear reactors and initiate another emergency like the 1986 Chernobyl accident, the world's worst nuclear disaster, which happened about 110 kilometers (65 miles) north of the capital.
- ✓ Russia already controls Ukraine's defunct Chernobyl nuclear facility, which has stopped functioning now
- ✓ Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant is the largest in Europe and the ninth-largest across the world
- ✓ The Russians announced the capture of the southern city of Kherson, a vital Black Sea port of 280,000, making it the first major city to fall since the invasion began a week ago.
- ✓ The UN Security Council scheduled an emergency meeting on the day on the nuclear plant attack.

## INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

- **India – yet again abstained from voting on a UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution for a probe into alleged human rights violations by Russian forces during their ongoing invasion of Ukraine.**
- ✓ This is the sixth time that India has abstained from a Ukraine-related vote, including on a resolution each in the Security Council, General Assembly and Human Rights Council, since a procedural vote in the Security Council in late January for a discussion on Ukraine.
- ✓ India was among the 13 countries which abstained along with China and Pakistan.
- ✓ All three countries are yet to condemn Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- ✓ The resolution was adopted by the 47-member UNHRC with 32 votes in favour.



- ✓ In fact, the only country that voted against the resolution apart from Russia was Eritrea.
- ✓ UAE was among the countries that voted in favour of the resolution.
- ✓ It had abstained from voting on a UNSC resolution condemning Russia but later, in the General Assembly, supported a similar resolution.

## DEFENCE

- **On March 4, the Ministry of Defence – announced postponement of the 12th edition of Defence Expo while the IAF has cancelled its triennial exercise Vayushakti, scheduled on March 7.**
- ✓ According to the Government, the Defence Expo 2022, proposed to be held in Gandhinagar from March 10 till March 14, is postponed due to logistics problems being experienced by participants due to Ukraine crisis
- ✓ The biennial defence exhibition was scheduled to be inaugurated by PM Modi.
- ✓ Defexpo began in 1996 and this edition was expected to see more than 900 exhibitors from over 55 countries.
- ✓ Among foreign countries, the US had booked the largest space at the pavilion.
- ✓ Over 50 defence ministers and heads of armed forces had confirmed to attend the event.
- ✓ The IAF's major Vayushakti firepower demonstration with 148 aircrafts and helicopters at the Pokharan range in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan on March 7 has also been deferred.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were scheduled to attend the triennial exercise.
- ✓ The Rafale aircraft was scheduled to participate at Exercise Vayu Shakti for the first time
- ✓ The exercise had started in 1953 and the last edition conducted in 2019

## OBITUARY

- **Australia's legendary legspinner Shane Warne – passed away in Koh Samui, Thailand following a suspected heart attack on March 4 at the age of 52**



- ✓ Warne claimed 708 Test wickets in a 15-year career for Australia between 1992 and 2007, and was also an ODI World Cup winner in 1999.
- ✓ He was the second highest wicket taker in Test history and only Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralitharan has more wickets than him with 800 wickets.
- ✓ Warne also took 293 One-Day International wickets and made more than 300 appearances for Australia across all formats
- ✓ He has also bagged more Ashes wickets than any other bowler in history and was part of five Ashes-winning teams during his career
- ✓ Warne, one of cricket's all-time greats, almost singlehandedly revived the art of legspin in the early 1990s.
- ✓ Affectionately known as 'Warnie', he made his Test debut at the SCG in 1992 against India and gained international fame when he delivered the ball of the century in 1993 Ashes tour to Mike Gatting, former England Captain
- ✓ In 2008, he was recruited by Rajasthan Royals to captain their franchise in the inaugural season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), and won the title for the franchise with 19 wickets at 21.26 in the course of the campaign.
- ✓ Warne retired from Australia duty in 2007 following a 5-0 series win at home to arch-rivals England.

### KEY CAREER MILESTONES

**1** Only player to manage the triple of 3000 runs, 500-plus wickets and 100 catches in Tests.

**708** His wickets' tally at 25.41 runs apiece in 145 Tests is the highest by an Australian bowler and the second highest in Test annals behind Muralitharan's tally of 800 at 22.72 in 133 Tests.

**359** Wickets' tally at 22.85 runs apiece in the

third and fourth innings (combined) is a world record in Tests.

**510** Wicket-aggregate at an average of 22.47 in 92 Tests recorded by him in a winning cause is a world record in Tests.

**8/71** Career-best figures in an innings were recorded in England's second innings at Brisbane in November 1994.

**17** Number of Man of the Match awards received by him in

Tests - an Australian record. Just two players could manage more such awards than him - Jacques Kallis (23) and Muralitharan (19). Wasim Akram also got 17 awards.

**96** Number of wickets at 22.02 in 15 Tests in 2005 bagged by him is a world record for most wickets by any bowler in a calendar year.

**12/128** His career-best figures in a Test match (7/56 + 5/72) were registered against South Africa at Sydney in January 1994.

**8** Number of times he has captured 50 wickets or more in a calendar year - a world record

**8** Number of Player of the series awards received by him in Tests - an Australian record - a tally bettered only by three players - Muralitharan (11), R Ashwin (9) and Jacques Kallis (9).

**3154** Runs' tally at an average of 17.32 in 145 matches, including 12 fifties, is a record in Tests without posting a century.

—Stats: Rajesh Kumar

- ✓ In 2007, Cricket Australia and Sri Lanka Cricket named the Test series between the two sides the Warne-Muralitharan Trophy in the duo's honour.
- ✓ In 2013, the year he retired from the game completely, he was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame.
- ✓ Warne was named as one of Wisden's Five Cricketers of the Century, alongside Donald Bradman, Garfield Sobers, Jack Hobbs and Vivian Richards.
- ✓ The shocking news comes hours after the death of another icon of Australian cricket, former wicketkeeper Rod Marsh, who also suffered a heart attack earlier this week at the age of 74.
- ✓ Marsh was regarded as one of Australia's finest wicketkeepers and formed a prolonged and prolific wicket-taking partnership with pace bowler Dennis Lillee.



- ✓ A left-handed batter, he was the first Australian wicketkeeper to score a century in Test cricket
- ✓ He later led the national cricket academies in Australia and in England and was the inaugural head of the International Cricket Council's world coaching academy in Dubai.
- ✓ In 2014, he was appointed as Australia's chairman of selectors and held the position for two years.
- ✓ Marsh and Lillee made their Test debuts in the 1970-71 Ashes series against England and retired after a Test against Pakistan in 1984.
- ✓ Both finished with 355 dismissals, records at the time for a wicketkeeper and for a fast bowler.

## GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION - REPORT

### A short history of Chennai Corporation's rich legacy

#### A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHENNAI CORPORATION

**1687-1692**

Under Governor Elihi Yale's regime, the institution of mayor and Corporation of Chennai took shape

**Sept 29, 1688**

The corporation was entrusted with power to decide petty cases, levy tax on people to recover the costs of building schools, town halls and a jail

➤ Sir Josiah Child, one of the directors of the East India Company was responsible for the formation of Greater Chennai Corporation, on the model of Dutch Government in the East Indies

➤ The Parliamentary Act of 1792 gave the corporation power to levy municipal taxes in the city

➤ The Municipal Act has been amended from time to time, introducing major changes in the constitution and powers of the Corporation

➤ The Madras Municipal Corporation Act, 1919 (as amended) provides basic Statutory authority for the administration now

#### PRESENT

➤ The Council is headed by a Mayor, and meets at least once a month. The executive wing is

headed by the Commissioner. There are Deputy Commissioners and various Heads of Departments and 15 zonal officers, at present

#### FIRST MAYOR:

Nathaniel Higginson was nominated the first mayor on September 29, 1688

**What happened in the first council meeting?**

➤ Corporation was inaugurated and the Mayor and others took oaths

➤ Higginson served for six months, and was succeeded by Littleton

#### Changes:

➤ From 1886 onwards, a president was appointed to head the corporation and

#### perform duties of a mayor

➤ First president of the Corporation was Lt Col G M J Moore

➤ In 1916, T Vijayaraghavacharya became the first full-time president of the Corporation

➤ P Theagaraya Chetty of the Justice Party, appointed in 1919, was the first to represent a political party

➤ In 1933 Kumararajah Muthiah Chettiar, president of the council,

amended the City Municipal Act of 1919 and recreated the office of Mayor

**Corporation suspended**  
(December 1, 1973 - October 25, 1996)

➤ In 1996, M K Stalin, became the 37th mayor

**Corporation suspended**  
(25 October 2016 - 2 March 2022)

#### SALIENT FEATURES OF COUNCIL HALL

➤ Mayor's chair is made of teak wood

➤ The hall represents an Indo-Saracenic style of architecture

➤ The hall was last renovated in 2011. At that time, it had 155 seats, and was later expanded to 200 seats later



FROM THE ARCHIVES: Ma Subramaniam when he was the mayor(2006-2011)