

## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 8, 2022

### TAMIL NADU

- On March 7, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin - laid the foundation stone for India's first ever international furniture park coming up in Tuticorin at an outlay of about Rs 1,500 crore



- ✓ The facility, expected to commence operations in the first phase, would generate 1.50 lakh new jobs and boost economic activity in southern districts
- ✓ In the second phase of expansion, expected to take place in 10 years, the park would further generate 3.50 lakh jobs at an investment of Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,500 crore
- ✓ The government chose Tuticorin to set up the furniture park since the coastal city was not only the second largest port in the state, but also ranks third at the national level in terms of export and import trade
- ✓ During his speech, the CM noted that Tuticorin was also the Gateway for ships arriving from various South East Asian countries, Australia, New Zealand
- ✓ The proposed park will be spread over 1,156 acres of land in the SIPCOT Industrial Complex in Meelavattan and South Veerapandiyapuram in the Tuticorin district

- ✓ The park is located at a distance of 13 kms from Tuticorin VOC port, 17 km from Tuticorin airport and 132 km from Madurai international airport.
  - ✓ The industrial complex will be home to about 100 furniture manufacturing units, once set up fully
  - ✓ Eight companies signed memorandum of understanding to set up facilities at the furniture park at an investment of Rs 2,845 crore to generate 11,450 new jobs.
  - ✓ Proposed in the Revised Budget, the Furniture Park, recently got clearance from the State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA)
  - ✓ During the launch event, MoUs were also signed in the presence of the Chief Minister for 33 new industrial projects worth Rs 4,755 crore, which would provide employment for 17,476 people
  - ✓ A new web portal for the investment promotion agency, Guidance Tamil Nadu, [www.investingintamilnadu.com](http://www.investingintamilnadu.com) was also launched by the Chief Minister on the occasion
- **Tamil Nadu chief minister M K Stalin - inaugurated a 22MW floating solar power project of SPIC at Tuticorin on March 7**



- ✓ The project, estimated to generate 42 million units of electricity per annum, has been established at a cost of Rs 150.4 crore.
- ✓ The solar park is part of SPIC's Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) strategy to produce sustainable renewable energy.
- ✓ The floating solar plant, believed to be the one of country's largest, has a capacity of 25.3 MW DC/22 MW AC and has been set up on a 75-acre pond to support SPIC's power needs.
- ✓ The floating solar park is capable of producing more power than the traditional land based solar parks
- ✓ It is because water cools the panels while producing power and it also prevents the evaporation of priceless water, by conserving 60% of the water and reducing environment pollution
- ✓ Floating solar power plants, which involve series of panels placed on floating structures on water, are an emerging technology to combat the climate crisis.

- ✓ During the occasion, the chief minister also announced a desalination plant with a capacity of 30 MLD (million litres per day) for the SIPCOT complex in Tuticorin.
- **Three women from Tamil Nadu - will receive the Nari Shakti Puraskar from President Ram Nath Kovind at a special ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on March 8, International Women's Day.**



- ✓ While Jaya Muthu and Tejamma, artisans of Toda embroidery, will be conferred the award for 2020, psychiatrist and researcher Dr Thara Rangaswamy will receive the award for 2021.
- ✓ Jaya Muthu and Tejamma, from the Nilgiris, have been creating shawls and garments with intricate Toda embroidery since their schooldays
- ✓ Dr Thara is co-founder and vice chairman of Chennai-based Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF).
- ✓ This year, 28 awards (14 each for the year 2020 and 2021) are being conferred on 29 individuals
- ✓ The award ceremony for 2020 could not be held in 2021 due to Covid-19 pandemic





- ✓ The awardees include social entrepreneur Anita Gupta, organic farmer and tribal activist Ushaben Dineshbhai Vasava, innovator Nasira Akhter, Intel-India head Nivruti Rai, Down syndrome-affected Kathak Dancer Saylee Nandkishor Agavane, first woman snake rescuer Vanita Jagdeo Borade and mathematician Neena Gupta.
- ✓ 'Nari Shakti Puraskar' is an initiative of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
- ✓ It acknowledges the exceptional contribution made by individuals and institutions, to celebrate women as game changers and catalyst of positive change in the society
- ✓ The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2020 are from fields as diverse as entrepreneurship, agriculture, innovation, social work, arts and crafts, STEMM, and wildlife conservation, etc.
- ✓ The winners of the Nari Shakti Puraskar for the year 2021 are from the fields of linguistics, entrepreneurship, agriculture, social work, arts and crafts, Merchant Navy, STEMM, education and literature, disability rights, etc.

## NATIONAL

- **The government - launched a new nation-wide campaign 'Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav' on the eve of the International Women's Day**



- ✓ The campaign is being launched by the Ministry of women and child development (MoWCD) in partnership with the ministry of education (MoE) and Unicef India
- ✓ It aims to bring out-of-school girls back into the formal education system through a convergence model between MoWCD and MoE
- ✓ The campaign has been launched with the objective of enhancing enrolment and retention of an estimated four lakh out-of-school adolescent girls between 11-14 years of age in school.

- ✓ Union minister of women and child development, Smriti Zubin Irani, minister of state, MoWCD, Mahendrabhai Munjpara, and minister of state, ministry of education Annpurna Devi were present during the launch
  - ✓ The initiative intends to build on the existing schemes and programmes for Girl Children like Schemes for Adolescent Girls (SAG), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) and the National Education Policy (NEP)
  - ✓ The campaign will be rolled out under the umbrella of MoWCD's BBBP initiative
  - ✓ The data on out-of-school girls are compiled based on their visits to anganwadi centres for nutrition, nutrition education and skilling.
- **On March 7, the Election Commission - announced elections on March 31 to fill 13 vacancies in the Rajya Sabha, which are falling vacant in April 2022**
- ✓ The vacant seats are spread across six states - five in Punjab, three in Kerala, two in Assam, and one each in Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Nagaland
  - ✓ According to the Election Commission, the tenure of Punjab MPs would get over on April 9, while members from the other five states were retiring on April 2.
  - ✓ Congress leaders A K Antony from Kerala and Anand Sharma from Himachal Pradesh, and SAD leaders Naresh Gujral and Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa are among those who will retire in April.
  - ✓ The notification for the biennial elections will be issued on March 14, last day of nominations being March 21, while the counting will be held on the day of polling from 5 pm onwards.
  - ✓ A total of 73 out of 75 Rajya Sabha seats are going to be vacant this year
  - ✓ The prominent one who are going to retire in July include P Chidambaram (Congress) from Maharashtra, Piyush Goyal (BJP) from Maharashtra, Ambika Soni (Congress) from Punjab, Kapil Sibal (Congress) from Uttar Pradesh, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (BJP) from Jharkhand, Praful Patel (NCP) from Maharashtra, Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) from Maharashtra and Satish Chandra Mishra (BSP) from UP.
  - ✓ The seven nominated members of the Upper House who are going to retire include Subramanian Swamy, Mary Kom, Swapna Dasgupta, Roopa Ganguly, Suresh Gopi and Narendra Jadhav in April, and Sambhaji Chhatrapati in May.
- **India's public service broadcaster Prasar Bharati - has tied up with the Over the Top platform, Yupp TV**



- ✓ The association seeks to widen the reach of Doordarshan India in newer regions including the Middle East, US, UK and Australia, among other places.
  - ✓ The agreement between Yupp TV and Prasar Bharati is part of the broadcaster's "vision" to expand the global reach of Doordarshan's DD India and to showcase India's culture and values to the world.
  - ✓ With the tie-up, DD India is now available on the OTT platform of Yupp TV in the USA, UK, Europe, Middle East, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand
  - ✓ Through Yupp TV, one can watch live TV channels "anytime, anywhere" in the world at an affordable cost
- **The Ministry of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) – observed its iconic week as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' initiative from February 28 till March 6, 2022**
- ✓ As part of the celebrations, the MSME ministry has planned a series of commemorative events and activities
  - ✓ 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is an initiative to celebrate and commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements
  - ✓ During the iconic week, the ministry launched a clinical test of the national level awareness programme – Sambhav.
  - ✓ Under the initiative, around one lakh students from 1,300 colleges came up with entrepreneurship concepts.
  - ✓ Further, the ministry of MSME launched an Entrepreneurship Promotion Drive in 46 aspirational districts across 9 states
  - ✓ The Ministry has also released a special issue of Laghu Udyog Samachar covering various programmes, schemes, events and opinions on the MSME sector showcasing 75 success stories of entrepreneurs.
  - ✓ Towards the end of the week, the Ministry organized a mega International Conference on Plastic Waste Management attended by prominent experts on the subject

## SPORTS

- **India's Rhythm Sangwan and Anish Bhanwala - won the gold medal in the 25m rapid fire pistol mixed team event on the concluding day of the ISSF World Cup in Cairo on March 7**
- ✓ The Indian duo emerged victorious over Thailand in the gold medal match.
  - ✓ Meanwhile, in the women's 25m pistol team event final, India defeated Singapore to clinch their third gold of the ISSF World Cup 2022.
  - ✓ Rahi Sarnobat, Esha Singh and Rhythm Sangwan defeated the Singaporean trio of Xiu Hong, Shun Xie and Ling Chiao Nicole Tan in the gold medal match-up.
  - ✓ This was Esha Singh's second gold and third medal of the ongoing World Cup



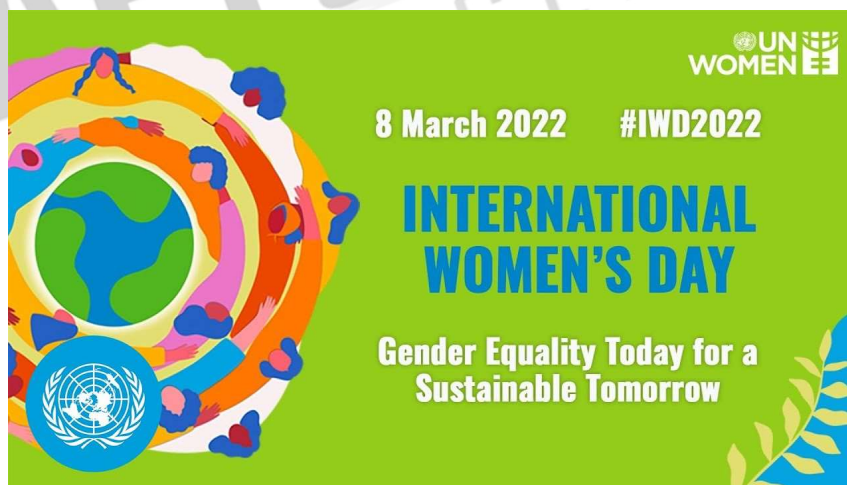
- ✓ Earlier, Esha had won the women's 10m air pistol team event alongwith the silver in the women's 10m air pistol individual event.



- ✓ With these wins, India topped the medal's tally with four gold, two silver and one bronze at the year's first ISSF World Cup
- ✓ Norway came second with three gold, one silver and two bronze medals while France were third with three gold medals
- ✓ Last week, Saurabh Chaudhary clinched India's first gold medal in the World Cup
- ✓ Over 500 athletes from 60 nations took part in the Cairo World Cup, while shooters from 22 nations won the medals

## INTERNATIONAL DAY

### ➤ International Women's Day – March 8



- ✓ The Day is celebrated every year to promote women's rights and honour their achievements across the political, economic, social and cultural fields
- ✓ Theme 2022- 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'
- ✓ This year's campaign is represented by the #BreakTheBias hashtag, that intends to promote a "gender equal world", which is "free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination"
- ✓ The Day owes its origin in 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

- ✓ Later, the Socialist Party of America first organised National Women's Day in New York on February 28, 1909 as per the suggestions of labour activist Theresa Malkiel
- ✓ The day was celebrated on the last Sunday of February until 1913
- ✓ International Women's Day was first celebrated in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19, 1911, following the agreement at the second International Conference of Working Women at Copenhagen due to the efforts of early 20th century Marxist from Germany Clara Zetkin.
- ✓ Zetkin proposed at a conference that Women's Day be celebrated in every country on February 28
- ✓ On the eve of World War I campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on February 23, the last Sunday in February.
- ✓ Soon, the International Women's Day was agreed to be marked annually on March 8 as per the Gregorian calendar (February 23 of Julian calendar).
- ✓ In 1913, the date was changed to March 8, and it continues to be celebrated every year.
- ✓ The most consequential International Women's Day protest took place in Russia on March 8, 1917 to demand the end of food shortages and World War I.
- ✓ The United Nations started celebrating women's day for the first time in 1975 and in 1977, the UN General Assembly proclaimed March 8 as International Women's Day for women's rights and world peace
- ✓ The UN announced its first annual theme "Celebrating the past, Planning for the Future in 1996
- ✓ Purple, green, and white are the colors of International Women's Day.
- ✓ Purple signifies justice and dignity, Green symbolizes hope and White represents purity
- ✓ These colors were taken from the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in the UK in 1908.
- ✓ On February 13, National Women's Day is held in India to commemorate Sarojini Naidu's birth anniversary.
- ✓ Ministry of Women and Child Development has been celebrating International Women's Day Week from March 1 through various events and social media campaigns covering several themes related to women's empowerment and safety
- ✓ This event is being organized in partnership with the Bureau of Police Research and Development
- ✓ On the eve of the day, International Women's Day Conference for Women Police Delegates from various states and UTs will be held
- ✓ Earlier, on March 2, the Ministry has launched Street Manoraksha Project in collaboration with NIMHANS, Bengaluru to focus on psycho-social well-being and mental health of women across the country

