

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 4, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- On March 3, Chief minister M K Stalin – launched a pilot project to convert 10 villages in Tamil Nadu as ‘climate smart villages’ at the first meeting of the Tamil Nadu Governing Council on Climate Change at Secretariat in Chennai



- ✓ Ten villages have already been identified near tourist spots by the Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Department to be converted into climate resilient villages in coordination with the World Resources Institute (WRI).
- ✓ The initiative will concentrate on promoting renewable energy such as solar, and treating and reusing of wastewater among other initiatives.
- ✓ The meeting was attended by the council members, which includes economist Montek Singh Ahluwalia, environmentalist Erik Solheim, coordinator Poovulagin Nanbargal G Sundarajan among others

- ✓ During the meeting, the CM announced that the climate literacy movement would be launched soon to create awareness on climate change, among students, entrepreneurs and the general public.
 - ✓ Also, the government would plant palmyra seeds to prevent sea erosion; and release data on the carbon emissions of various sectors/departments as part of a goal to reduce carbon emission in Tamil Nadu before the national target of 2070.
 - ✓ The chief minister said it was a matter of concern that Tamil Nadu ranked 36th among the 50 regions in the world facing high climate risk.
 - ✓ The state was one of the first to prepare its own climate change action plan and allocate Rs. 500 crore for it in the last budget, he said.
 - ✓ Further, it was planned to enhance the forest cover in the state from the present 21% to 33% by the next year, through the Tamil Nadu green movement.
 - ✓ This program was launched a few months ago and 2.80 crore trees have been planted till date.
 - ✓ The state government has been taking various measures in addressing climate change, including forming the Green Climate Company, launching Tamil Nadu Green Mission, Tamil Nadu Wetland Mission, and the proposed Wetland Conservation Centre.
- **A team of researchers from Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru college of agriculture and research institute - has developed a new rice variety that can survive floods.**
- ✓ The researchers developed the rice variety with the financial assistance from the department of biotechnology, government of India.
 - ✓ The average yield of this variety is 6,850kg per hectare under normal conditions and 3,600kg per hectare under submerged conditions
 - ✓ Flash floods usually affect low-lying areas, thereby reducing rice productivity in the samba/ thaladi season, resulting in huge economic loss to the farmers.
 - ✓ The aim of the project was to develop a variety that is suitable for flood-prone areas with 'great submergence tolerance' level and simultaneously giving high yield.
 - ✓ The researchers have developed the new rice variety by crossing ADT 46*3 crop through marker-assisted backcrossing (MABC).
 - ✓ The central variety release committee has recommended the new rice variety for cultivation in the flood-prone areas in Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

NATIONAL

- **On March 3, the Ayodhya Development Authority (ADA) - gave final sanction for the construction of Ayodhya mosque mandated by the Supreme Court in Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi verdict.**
- ✓ The construction of the mosque did not start in the last two years even though the Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation submitted the maps with the ADA in May 2021.

- ✓ Islamic Cultural Foundation is the trust tasked with developing the Ayodhya masjid and community facilities
- ✓ The mosque construction work got delayed due to no-objection certificates sought by ADA.
- ✓ Further delay was caused due to the change of land use as the allotted land was for agricultural purposes.
- ✓ On November 9, 2019, the Supreme Court had ordered allotment of 5 acres of suitable land to the UP Sunni Central Waqf Board in the acquired area under the Ayodhya Act, 1993 or at any appropriate, prominent place in Ayodhya.
- ✓ Following the order, the Ayodhya administration had allotted the said 5 acres of land in Dhannipur village of Sohawal tehsil, about 25km from the Ayodhya town.

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

- **The foreign ministers of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue or Quad - held a meeting in New Delhi on March 3**



- ✓ The meeting was chaired by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar
- ✓ It witnessed the participation of Foreign Ministers of Australia, Penny Wong and Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.
- ✓ The foreign ministers exchanged views on recent developments in the Indo-Pacific region and regional issues of mutual interest, guided by their vision of a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific
- ✓ They discussed China's aggressive actions across the region, including the situation in the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait.
- ✓ The Quad ministers announced the formation of a counter-terrorism working group which will work with partners in the Indo-Pacific to counter new and emerging forms of terrorism, radicalisation to violence and violent extremism
- ✓ They also decided to engage more closely with the Indian Ocean Rim Association, a grouping of 23 members which includes India and Australia

- ✓ On maritime security, the ministers said that the Quad Maritime Security Working Group meeting will be hosted by the US in Washington DC this month
 - ✓ In a joint statement at the conclusion of the meeting, the foreign ministers said they underscored the need for a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine in accordance with international law
 - ✓ India remains the only Quad country to have not condemned Russia's actions in Ukraine
 - ✓ Earlier in February, the Quad grouping has launched a public campaign 'Quad Cyber Challenge' to improve cyber security across their nations.
 - ✓ The campaign invited Internet users across the Indo-Pacific and beyond to become part of the challenge and practice "safe and responsible" cyber habits.
- **The first meeting of the G20 anti-corruption working group (ACWG) - concluded in Gurugram on March 3**



- ✓ The three-day meeting of the G20 ACWG was attended by over 90 delegates from 20 member countries, 10 invitee countries and nine international organisations
- ✓ It focused on several key areas pertaining to asset recovery, fugitive economic offenders, formal and informal channels of cooperation for information sharing, institutional frameworks for combating corruption and mutual legal assistance, among others

DEFENCE

- **The Indian Army - has started testing jetpack suits that can be strapped on to soldiers to enable them to quickly fly across various kinds of difficult terrain.**
- ✓ The Indian Army has placed an order for 48 such jetpack systems with the British company Gravity Industries, which has developed the product, under emergency procurement through the fast track procedure (FTP).
 - ✓ The demonstration of the jetpacks was carried out at the Indian Army Airborne Training School (AATS) in Agra recently



- ✓ A jetpack suit is a personal flight technology that allows a person to fly using small but powerful engines attached to his/her body.
- ✓ The suit typically consists of three small jet engines attached to the arms and back of a specially designed suit, which allows the wearer to control their movements and direction of flight.
- ✓ The jetpacks can be used to reach critical and difficult locations and perhaps could also be used for rescue operations in natural calamities.
- ✓ The Indian Army Airborne Training School (AATS) in Agra imparts training in aerial delivery and air transportation of men and material
- ✓ It also carries out research and trials about air portability and para-dropping of various types of equipment.

SPORTS

- **On March 3, Craig Fulton - was named the chief coach of the Indian men's hockey team.**



- ✓ The two-time Olympian is the ninth foreign coach to be appointed since 2004, when Gerhard Rach took charge.
- ✓ The South African replaces Australian Graham Reid, who prematurely terminated his contract following India's joint ninth-place finish at the World Cup in January.

- ✓ Fulton comes with an impressive track record, with his last assignment being that of assistant coach of Olympic champions Belgium, who finished runners-up at the World Cup.
- ✓ The 2015 FIH Coach of the Year is expected to take over at the end of the month
- ✓ With 195 international caps, Fulton has the required expertise to guide the Indian team.

