

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 9,2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On March 8, Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi - has returned a bill passed by the assembly meant to ban online gambling and regulate online games**
- ✓ The Governor has returned the proposed law - Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gaming and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2022 - stating that the State legislature 'lacked legislative competence.'
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Law Minister S Regupathy presented a bill in the state assembly to ban online gambling games on October 19, 2022.
- ✓ The Bill was introduced for banning online gambling platforms including Rummy and Poker.
- ✓ The state assembly had passed the bill, after around 20 people died by suicide following losses in online gambling
- ✓ On October 7, Governor Ravi promulgated an ordinance to prohibit online gambling and to regulate online gaming in the state.
- ✓ Earlier in September, Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the ordinance to ban online gambling.
- ✓ The DMK, after it came to power, framed the bill on the basis of recommendations by a specially constituted committee under former judge Justice K Chandru.
- ✓ The bill also classifies a set of popular online games as "games of chance" controlled by computer algorithms.
- ✓ It proposes that those who participate in online gambling could be fined Rs 5,000, or be sentenced to jail for up to three months, or both.
- ✓ Those who advertise such games could be jailed for up to a year, while persons organising them could be imprisoned for three years
- ✓ The adoption of the Bill was necessitated after the Madras High Court had struck down on August 3, 2021 the provisions of the Tamil Nadu Gaming and Police Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 which banned wager or placing bet in cyber space.
- ✓ The state has recorded 44 suicides in the last three years due to alleged loss of money in online gambling

- ✓ The Governor is yet to give assent to 20 bills passed by the state assembly, including bills seeking to remove him as the Chancellor of state universities.
 - ✓ In February last year, he had returned a Bill to the Assembly for reconsideration after it passed a proposal to exempt Tamil Nadu students from taking the National Entrance cum Eligibility Test, or NEET, for admission to undergraduate medical courses.
 - ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin has written to President Droupadi Murmu, asking her to intervene and ensure that the Governor abides by the Constitution and the advice of his government.
- **On March 8, Chief minister M K Stalin - presented the Avvaiyar Award 2023 to R Kamalam Chinnasami, a 90-year-old writer and social worker based in Ooty at an International Women's Day programme held at Ethiraj College for Women in Chennai.**



- ✓ The CM presented the Girl Child Empowerment Award 2022-23 to Class XI student M Ilampirai from Salem district for inventing new equipment to prevent deaths during repairing lifts in multi-storey buildings.
 - ✓ He also gave the first prize for improving child sex ratio for the year 2023 to Tiruvallur Collector Alby John Vergheese, while the Collectors of Nagapattinam and Namakkal were give second and third prizes respectively.
 - ✓ The Avvaiyar award comprises a medal, cash prize of Rs. 1 lakh and a certificate.
 - ✓ Hailing from Nilgiris district, R Kamalam Chinnasamy retired after serving as a Tamil teacher for 33 years in a government high school at Kallakorai near Ooty and has penned many poems and authored 43 books
 - ✓ She completed teacher training in Erode and started her career as the headmaster in a government primary school and was later promoted as a high school teacher.
- **Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) department - has launched its version of 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme**
- ✓ Under the new scheme, four grams of gold 'thali' and marriage assistance, totally worth Rs.50,000, will be provided to poor couples.



- ✓ The department issued an order in this regard on February 16, as per which 13 items including thali are provided as marriage assistance.
 - ✓ The assistance includes household articles like bureau, cot, mattress, mixer, grinder and utensils.
 - ✓ After the DMK government assumed office, Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya memorial marriage assistance, known commonly as 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme, was discontinued and was rechristened as Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiya memorial education assistance scheme or 'Pudhumai Penn' scheme.
 - ✓ The 'Thalikku Thangam' scheme was not in practice even during the last months of the AIADMK regime as funds for the scheme was not allotted in the last three years of the AIADMK government.
 - ✓ The scheme, which was initially implemented by the social welfare department, has been now revived by the HR and CE department.
 - ✓ The scheme was announced in the assembly last year.
 - ✓ The number of beneficiaries is restricted to 500 couples with the donations from devotees being used for the purpose.
- **A total of 421 birds of 63 species - were spotted during the two-day annual bird census held at the Guindy National Park in Chennai recently.**

GUINDY NATIONAL PARK BIRD CENSUS



Orange-breasted Green pigeon clicked by Dr.Sripriya Rajan

Species found at Guindy National Park

- Orange-breasted green pigeon
- Blue-throated blue flycatcher
- Tickell's blue flycatcher
- Asian brown flycatcher
- Brown-breasted flycatcher
- Black-naped Monarch
- Chestnut-winged cuckoo
- Forest wagtail

2023

63 species of birds

421 total number of birds

Among the raptors

- Booted eagles, in pale morph and dark morph, were sighted
- Oriental Honey buzzards were found in good numbers

- ✓ The orange-breasted green pigeon, chest nut-winged cuckoo and forest wagtail were the three new species spotted at the park this year.
- ✓ Last year, 403 birds were spotted during the annual census.
- ✓ Last year the Malayan heron, Black-naped oriole and Black-headed cuckoo shrike which were spotted which last year was not in sight this year.

STATES

- **Senior BJP leader, Dr. Manik Saha - was sworn-in as the new Chief Minister of Tripura for the second consecutive time on March 8**



- ✓ Dr. Saha was administered the oath of office by Governor Satyadeo Narayan Arya in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at a grand ceremony in Swami Vivekananda Ground in Agartala
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda and the party's top leaders attended the oath-taking ceremony
- ✓ The Chief Ministers of Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim — Himanta Biswa Sarma, N Biren Singh, Pema Khandu and Prema Singh Tamang — were the other notable attendees of the ceremony.
- ✓ In all, eight ministers from the BJP and one from its ally IPFT were inducted into the cabinet.
- ✓ The BJP won 32 seats in the 60-member House in the recent assembly elections in Tripura, while its ally IPFT managed to secure one seat.
- ✓ Manik Saha had been made chief minister earlier in 2022, replacing Biplab Kumar Deb

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has brought cryptocurrency trading, safekeeping and related financial services under the ambit of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act**
- ✓ The Union finance ministry issued a gazette notification to this effect on March 7

- ✓ Henceforth, Crypto exchanges and intermediaries dealing with virtual digital assets (VDA) will be required to gather KYC details of their clients and users of the platform.
- ✓ Besides, exchanges will have to report suspicious activity to the Financial Intelligence Unit India.
- ✓ As per the notification, entities dealing in VDA will be considered “reporting entity” under PMLA
 - ✓ It means that banks, financial institutions, entities engaged in real estate & jewellery sectors as well as casinos are ‘reporting entities’ now.
- ✓ Under this law, every reporting entity is required to maintain a record of all transactions, including the record of all cash transactions of more than 10 lakh.

INTERNATIONAL

- **On March 8, Denmark - inaugurated a new project titled ‘Greensand’ project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres beneath the North Sea and became the first country in the world to bury CO₂ imported from abroad.**



- ✓ The CO₂ graveyard, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is established on the site of an abandoned oil field.
- ✓ The project is being implemented by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea
- ✓ Under the project, it is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO₂ per year by 2030.
- ✓ In December, the project received an operating permit to start its pilot phase.
- ✓ The carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects aim to capture and then trap CO₂ in order to mitigate global warming.
- ✓ Around 30 projects are currently operational or under development in Europe.
- ✓ But unlike other projects that store CO₂ emissions from nearby industrial sites, Greensand distinguishes itself by bringing in the carbon from far away.
- ✓ First captured at the source, the CO₂ is then liquefied — in Belgium in Greensand’s case — then transported, currently by ship but potentially by

pipelines, and stored in reservoirs such as geological cavities or depleted oil and gas fields.

- ✓ At Greensand, the carbon is transported in special containers to the Nini West platform, where it is injected into an existing reservoir 1.8 kilometres under the seabed.
- ✓ Danish authorities are looking to hit carbon neutrality by 2045
- ✓ The North Sea is particularly suitable for this type of project as the region already has pipelines and potential storage sites after decades of oil and gas production.
- ✓ Near the Greensand site, France's TotalEnergies is also exploring the possibility of burying CO₂ with the aim of trapping five million tonnes per year by 2030.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **On March 7, the US consulate, Chennai – said that the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) landed in Bengaluru on a US Air Force C-17 aircraft from Nasa-JPL in California**



- ✓ NISAR, an Earth-observation satellite, is being jointly developed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ It is expected to be launched in January 2024 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Andhra Pradesh into a near-polar orbit and will operate for a minimum of three years.
- ✓ It is a Low Earth Orbit (LEO) observatory, which will map the entire globe in 12 days, sampling Earth on an average in every 6 days
- ✓ NISAR will be the first radar of its kind in space to systematically map Earth, using two different radar frequencies (L-band and S-band) to measure changes in our planet's surface less than a centimeter across.
- ✓ Synthetic aperture radar (SAR) refers to a technique for producing fine-resolution images from a resolution-limited radar system
- ✓ The synthetic aperture radar (SAR) payloads mounted on integrated radar instrument structure (IRIS) and the spacecraft bus are together called 'an observatory'.

- ✓ NISAR will provide a wealth of data and information about the Earth's surface changes, natural hazards, and ecosystem disturbances, helping to advance our understanding of Earth system processes and climate change.
- ✓ The mission will provide critical information to help manage natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, enabling faster response times and better risk assessments.
- ✓ NISAR data will be used to improve agriculture management and food security by providing information about crop growth, soil moisture, and land-use changes.
- ✓ The mission will provide data for infrastructure monitoring and management, such as monitoring of oil spills, urbanization, and deforestation.
- ✓ NISAR will help to monitor and understand the impacts of climate change on the Earth's land surface, including melting glaciers, sea-level rise, and changes in carbon storage.

DEFENCE

- **The first-ever joint military exercise between Indian Army and French Army, FRINJEX-23 – was held at Pangode Military Station in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**



- ✓ The exercise was conducted on March 7 and 8, 2023
- ✓ India was represented by Indian Army troops based in Thiruvananthapuram, while France was represented by the French 6th Light Armoured Brigade.
- ✓ The exercise focused on enhancing inter-operability, coordination, and cooperation between both the armed forces at the tactical level.
- ✓ It involved joint humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and setting up an Internally Displaced Population (IDP) camp

