

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 3, 2022

TAMIL NADU

- The Tamil Nadu government - has appointed retired IAS officer P W C Davidar to inquire into implementation of smart city projects across the state.

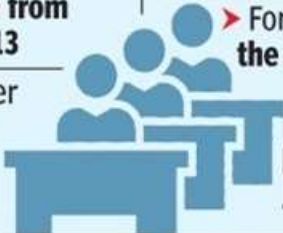


- ✓ According to an order issued by chief secretary Irai Anbu, the one-man committee will look into 10 different aspects of smart city projects
- ✓ These include whether the selection of work was in accordance with the mission guidelines, whether rules were followed in awarding contracts and the quality of work done.
- ✓ The committee will also look at major shortcomings in product development and deviation.
- ✓ The commission's office will be on the premises of the directorate of municipal administration.
- ✓ The committee has been given the responsibility to submit the inquiry report to the government within three months from the date the inquiry committee takes charge
- ✓ All departments and officials have been told to cooperate with the inquiry.
- ✓ As per the government order, 644 projects were sanctioned at a cost of ₹10,651 crore.

- ✓ Of them, 257 costing ₹1,327 crore had been completed and work was underway on 339 projects costing ₹7,947.5 crore.
 - ✓ Smart city projects include cycling tracks, lake restoration projects, smart LED street lights, smart classrooms, stormwater drains and pedestrian plazas.
 - ✓ In January, Chief Minister M K Stalin had blamed the flooding in T Nagar on faulty implementation of smart city projects.
 - ✓ The smart city project was announced in 2015 and the first list of top 20 cities was published in 2016 in which Chennai and Coimbatore were included.
 - ✓ In the second and third rounds, Madurai, Salem, Vellore, Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Trichy, Tirupur, Thanjavur and Puducherry were included.
- **The Tamil Nadu Directorate of Government Examinations (TNDGE) - has released the schedule for the Class 10 and Class 12 state board exams for this year**
- ✓ As per the schedule released by school education minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi on March 2, Class 12 exams will be held from May 5 to 28, while Class 10 board exams will begin on May 6 and end on May 30.

EXAM SCHEDULES AT A GLANCE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students to write Class XII board exams from May 5 to 28 8.4L ➤ Students will write Class XI board exams from May 9 to 31 8.4L ➤ Students to write Class X board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> exams from May 6 to 30 Over 9.5L ➤ Exams for Classes VI to IX to be held from May 5 to 13 ➤ For lower classes, May 13 would be 	<p style="text-align: center;">last working day</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Next academic year will begin on June 13 ➤ For Class XI, the academic year will begin on June 24
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- ✓ The minister said around nine lakh class 10 students, 8.49 lakh class 11 students, and 8.36 lakh class 12 students will be appearing for the exams
- ✓ For Class 11, practical exams will be conducted from April 25 to May 2, board exams from May 9 up to May 31 and results will be announced on July 7.
- ✓ The practical exams for all these classes will be conducted from April 25 to May 2.
- ✓ The class 12 board examination results will be declared tentatively on June 23, class 11 on July 7, and class 10 on June 17
- ✓ Students can check the Tamil Nadu board exam time table on the official website - tnschools.gov.in.
- ✓ Apart from this, for all the classes from 6 to 9 under the Tamil Nadu state common board, the exams will be conducted from May 5 to May 13 and the results will be declared on May 30
- ✓ The last working day for students of classes 1 to 5 will be May 13.

- ✓ The academic year 2022-2023 will begin from June 13 except for standard 11 for whom classes will start from June 24.

NATIONAL

- **The Centre - has approved the proposal for continuation of the seven existing sub schemes under the Umbrella Scheme 'Relief and Rehabilitation of Migrants and Repatriates'.**
- ✓ The approval has been given for the period 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a total outlay of Rs.1,452 crore.
- ✓ The approval will ensure that assistance under the Umbrella Scheme continues to reach beneficiaries through the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ✓ The scheme enables migrants and repatriates to earn a reasonable income and to facilitate their inclusion in mainstream economic activities.
- ✓ The Government, at different points in time, started these seven schemes to provide assistance for different categories of beneficiaries.
- ✓ The 7 sub schemes include Grants-in-Aid to the Government of West Bengal for infrastructure development in 51 erstwhile Bangladeshi enclaves in India situated in Cooch Behar District and resettlement of 922 returnees from erstwhile Indian enclaves in Bangladesh.
- ✓ It also includes a scheme that provides Relief and Rehabilitation for displaced families of Pakistan Occupied Areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb, while another provides relief assistance to Sri Lankan Tamil refugees
- ✓ The other schemes provided relief to Brus lodged in relief camps in Tripura; enhanced relief to 1984 Anti-Sikh Riot Victims; and financial assistance and other facilities to families of affected civilian victims of terrorist violence including militancy; insurgency, communal and Left Wing Extremism violence, and cross border firing and victims of mine/IED blasts on Indian Territory.
- ✓ The Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC) gets grants-in-aid under a scheme.

INDIA AND NEIGHBOURS

- **India - abstained from voting against Russia at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on March 2 at the 11th emergency special session and fourth plenary meeting on the ongoing Russian military operation in Ukraine.**
- ✓ India has been maintaining their neutral stance in all these resolutions, in the context of Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- ✓ The resolution was co-sponsored by nearly hundred member states which was titled "Aggression against Ukraine"
- ✓ The resolution passed by the UNGA strongly warned Russia for invading Ukraine and demanded that there should be an immediate, complete and unconditional withdrawal of all Russian forces.

- ✓ The resolution in the United Nations General Assembly consisting of 193 members was adopted and saw 141 nations supporting the resolution, 35 nations abstaining and 5 nations voting against it
- ✓ The resolution required a 2/3 majority to be adopted in the General Assembly.
- ✓ Besides Russia, the five countries that voted against the resolution were Belarus, North Korea, Eritrea and Syria.
- ✓ The larger South Asian countries – India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh – abstained, while, the small nations, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives, voted for the resolution.
- ✓ This is the fourth Ukraine-related vote that India has abstained from voting in the past week in various UN bodies
- ✓ On February 25, India had abstained from the draft resolution in the United Nations Security Council, which Russia vetoed.
- ✓ Further, on February 27, India abstained on a procedural resolution in the UN Security Council that called for an emergency special session of the General Assembly to discuss the conflict in Ukraine.
- ✓ On February 28, India again abstained from a vote in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to hold an urgent debate on Ukraine that will also consider a resolution for a probe into alleged human rights violations.
- ✓ Eight years ago, the UN General Assembly had adopted a resolution on Russia's annexation of Crimea, after the Security Council failed to act due to the Russian veto.
- ✓ The resolution had been voted in favour by 100 countries, while 58 abstained and 11 voted against.
- ✓ India and China had both abstained in the voting of the resolution, adopted by UNGA in March 2014.

APPOINTMENTS

- **The department of space (DoS) - has appointed Umamaheswaran R, the current Isro scientific secretary, as the new director of the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)**



- ✓ The HSFC is responsible for implementation of Gaganyaan and also to pursue activities for sustained human space flight missions.
- ✓ HSFC was headed by S Unnikrishnan Nair who was recently appointed director Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Isro's main rocket development centre.
- ✓ HSFC's Gaganyaan responsibilities include end-to-end mission planning, development of engineering systems for crew survival in space and crew selection and training.
- ✓ The Centre is taking support from existing Isro centres to implement the first development flight of Gaganyaan, whose project director is R Hutton.
- ✓ Umamaheswaran, who is scheduled to take charge of HSFC on March 3, joined Isro's VSSC in 1987.
- ✓ He played key roles in system integration, checkout and avionics of PSLV, GSLV & GSLV-Mk III.

