

EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-MARCH 10, 2023

TAMIL NADU

- **On March 9, the Tamil Nadu cabinet - decided to reintroduce the bill banning online games and gambling in the assembly**
- ✓ A cabinet meeting headed by Chief Minister MK Stalin decided to draw up a fresh draft of the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Gambling and Regulation of Online Games Bill, which Governor R N Ravi had returned.
- ✓ The bill will be adopted again and sent back to the governor for assent, under Article 200 of the Constitution.
- ✓ Under Article 200 of the Constitution (powers of the governor regarding assent), if the bill is passed again by the assembly with or without amendment and re-presented to the governor for assent, the governor shall not withhold assent.
- ✓ The bill is expected to be passed in the upcoming session starting March 20.
- ✓ The Tamil Nadu government has enacted the legislation under entry 34 (betting and gambling), 1 (public order), 6 (public health) and 33 (theatres and dramatic performances) of list II-state list in the seventh schedule of the Constitution.
- ✓ The Governor cited Entry 33 and claimed that for the 'skilled games' category, the State legislature has no competence and has sent back the Bill
- ✓ The government had already clarified that the law is to ban online gambling and it has got nothing to do with 'skilled games.'
- ✓ The state legislative assembly unanimously passed the Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Online Games Bill on October 19.
- ✓ Betting and gambling are subjects mentioned under Part II of the State list, which means that the state government can formulate local laws to regulate such activities.
- ✓ Currently, there is only one law that regulates gambling in India – The Public Gambling Act, 1867.
- ✓ According to this legislation, the state governments can frame their own laws by adopting the 1867 Act.

- On March 9, the state government - released a new M-sand/crushed sand policy aimed at promoting their usage, regulate their quarries and prevent damage to river ecosystems.



- ✓ Chief Minister MK Stalin released the policy in the presence of state Water Resources Minister Duraimurugan at the Secretariat .
- ✓ The policy seeks to enable M-sand/crushed sand manufacturing units in the state to become compliant with relevant statutes, rules and regulations.
- ✓ It insists that integrated or standalone M-stand units meeting the existing criteria of Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board would only be allowed to establish/operate the unit.
- ✓ The units would be allowed to establish and operate only after obtaining the Consent to Establish and Consent to Operate from TNPCB.
- ✓ As per the policy, it is mandatory for all M-sand/crushed sand manufacturers to mandatorily obtain BIS certification for their products.
- ✓ The government will establish a single-window portal and a centralised system to monitor the activities of M-sand and crushed sand units.
- ✓ As per the new policy, the pollution control board, public works department, mines, and other departments will be merged to ensure that quarry owners receive speedy clearance for their licences.
- ✓ Under the new policy, all crusher units must be registered with the Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health under the Factories Act of 1948.
- ✓ Officials of the public works department and department of geology will be conducting periodical checks every six months of the quarries to ensure the quarries follow the norms.
- ✓ Besides, the government will issue star rating for quarries and crushing units for compliance with environment safeguards, water conservation, adherence to rules, welfare of workers.
- ✓ Further, waste should be disposed of in a scientific manner or used to make bricks.

- ✓ Once in six months, the sand should be tested at NABL-certified labs and a report submitted to the PWD, department of geology and mining and TNPCB.
 - ✓ The units will be given a chance to convert to advanced technologies to enhance quality of their products and get registered under the Tamil Nadu Prevention of Illegal Mining, Transportation and Storage of Minerals Mineral Dealers Rules, 2011
 - ✓ The policy's objective is to enable M-sand or crushed sand having greater compressive strength, adhering to the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) prescribed standard, as an easy and cost-effective alternate building material to river sand.
 - ✓ At present, there are 378 licensed crushed stone sand manufacturing units in the state, while many other quarries are operating without licences.
 - ✓ Manufactured sand (popularly known as M-sand) or crushed sand is produced by crushing rock quarry stones and small quantities of granite into sand-sized particles
 - ✓ The M-sand, which has been found to be a better and cheaper alternative to river sand in the construction industry, has been approved by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)
- **On March 9, Health minister Ma Subramanian – released a study on chronic kidney diseases by the Institute of Community Medicine, Madras Medical College on the eve of International Kidney Day**
- ✓ The study indicated that the prevalence of chronic kidney disease (stage 3 or more) is 8.7% in Tamil Nadu with no difference in gender
 - ✓ The disease, predominantly seen in rural areas, is mostly silent as only 6.8% of patients with chronic kidney disease had symptoms
 - ✓ According to the study, about 52% of the people covered under study had mild damage to the kidney, 39.4% had moderate damage.
 - ✓ The TN study was conceived by the Institute of nephrology and funded by the National Health Mission.
- **The health department - launched 'punnagai' (smile) oral health screening programme for students at a government school in Nandanam.**



- ✓ Health minister Ma Subramanian and Minister of School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi inaugurated “Smile-School Children's Dental Care Programme” on March 9
- ✓ A mobile dental clinic was also set up at the school to conduct a dental check up of the students and provide required treatment.
- ✓ The health department, along with the school education department, has started the programme called Smile, which will be useful for screening school children and creating awareness about oral diseases, tooth decay, gum problems and finding solutions.
- ✓ Through this project, at least 4.5 lakh students studying in 6th, 7th and 8th classes in corporation, government and aided schools will be given dental check-ups.
- ✓ Going forward, the ‘Smile’ programme will be expanded to other schools across the state.
- ✓ Under the programme, dental health workers will visit schools and teach students how to brush their teeth and maintain oral hygiene.
- ✓ As per the statistics available, up to 60% of children in the 5-15 age group across India suffer from oral health problems such as plaque accumulation, visible caries, gum inflammation, bad breath, and gum bleeding.

STATES

- **The Madhya Pradesh government - will give seven more days of casual leave (CL) a year to women government employees in addition to the 13 they are entitled to already.**



EXTRA LEAVE

HARYANA: Women employees get 20 casual leaves a year. Men get 10, but they become eligible for 20 days after completing 20 years of service

PUNJAB: 20 days of CL a year for women employees. Men get 10 days in the first 10 years of service, 15 days between 10 and 20 years, and 20 days after 20 years

ANDHRA PRADESH: 5 extra CL for female employees—15 for men and 20 for women—since March 2021

TELANGANA: Women allowed special casual leave on Women's Day, beginning this year

- ✓ CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced this on the eve of International Women's Day
- ✓ The extra leave was granted as female employees do multi-task, managing both household and office work.
- ✓ At 20 CL, Madhya Pradesh will be on a par with Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh—the other states with as many days of CL for women employees in the country.

NATIONAL

- **The two hill districts of Rudraprayag and Tehri in Uttarakhand - have been ranked first and second respectively among 147 districts from across the country which have the “maximum exposure to landslide risk in the country”**
- ✓ This was revealed in the ‘Landslide Atlas’ report prepared by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ✓ The Landslide Atlas of India used the satellite data of ISRO to map all seasonal and event-based landslides like the Kedarnath disaster in 2013 and landslides triggered due to Sikkim earthquake in 2011.
- ✓ The NRSC has also developed a mobile app — FLIM — to collect data of landslides from the field to develop a landslide warning system.

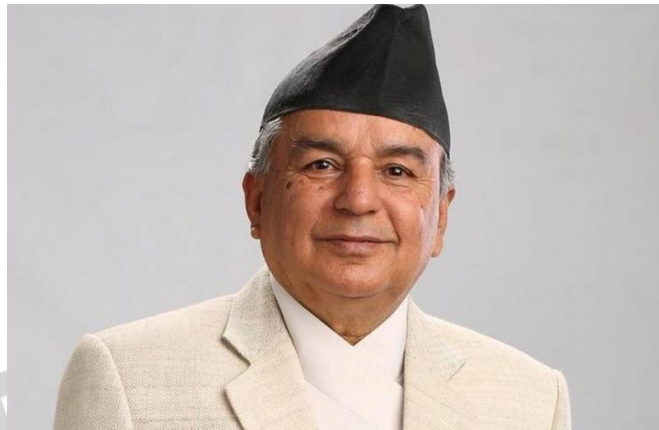


- ✓ Rudraprayag district that houses the Kedarnath shrine has 32 chronic landslide zones, with the maximum located on NH-107 that leads to the holy town, according to the District Emergency Operation Centre.
- ✓ Similarly, Tehri district has over two dozen landslide zones, including Totaghati which has been identified as a “very chronic landslide site”.
- ✓ The ISRO database covered landslide vulnerable regions in 17 states and two UTs of India in the Himalayas and Western Ghats.
- ✓ Among the 10 most landslide prone districts, four are in flood prone areas of Kerala, two in Jammu and Kashmir and two in Sikkim.

- ✓ Rajouri and Pulwama (J&K); Kozhikode, Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram (Kerala); and South Sikkim and East Sikkim (Sikkim) are the other high risk districts, according to the Landslide Susceptibility Zonation Map.
- ✓ As many as 64 districts of the northeast figured in the list of 147 districts.
- ✓ India is the third most landslide prone countries in the world after Colombia, Tajikistan and Nepal, where every year the loss of lives per 100 sq km due to landslides is more than one

INTERNATIONAL

- **On March 9, Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress - was elected as the new president of Nepal**



- ✓ This is the third presidential election in Nepal since the country became a republic in 2008
- ✓ The President is elected by an Electoral College consisting of the members of the Federal Parliament (House of Representatives and the National Assembly) and the Provincial Assembly.
- ✓ Backed by ruling alliance and supported by nine political parties, Poudel defeated veteran communist leader Subash Chandra Nembang who was solely backed by the CPN-UML.
- ✓ Poudel is a common candidate of eight-party alliance that included Nepali Congress and the CPN (Maoist Center)
- ✓ He received the vote of 214 lawmakers of parliament and 352 provincial assembly members.
- ✓ The total number of voters for the election of the President is 882, consisting of 332 Members of the Parliament and 550 members of the provincial assemblies of the seven provinces.
- ✓ Poudel, 79, the former speaker and deputy prime minister and veteran democratic leader has been active in politics since six decades.
- ✓ President Bidya Devi Bhandari's tenure will end on March 12.
- ✓ The first president of Nepal was Ram Baran Yadav, who served as the Nepalese President from 2008-2015

SPORTS

- Jolly Rovers CC - regained the prestigious Rajah of Palayampatti Shield in the TNCA First Division 2022-23 League that concluded on March 9



- ✓ Jolly Rovers, which last won the Shield two years ago, clinched the top prize for a record-extending 22nd time after picking up 50 points from 11 league matches
- ✓ Nelson (43 points) finished runner-up in the 12-team competition to bag the SR Jagannathan Trophy
- ✓ Swaraj CC (15 points) and Madras CC (9 points), which came 11th and 12th respectively, were relegated to the Second Division.

INTERNATIONAL DAY

- International Kidney Day – March 9

KIDNEY HEALTH FOR ALL

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED, SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE!

World Kidney Day

#worldkidneyday #kidneyhealthforall
www.worldkidneyday.org

World Kidney Day is a joint ISN IFKF-WKA Initiative

- ✓ The day is observed every year to raise awareness about the importance of kidneys for good health and to minimise the prevalence and effect of renal disease
- ✓ It is observed across the world every year on the second Thursday of March.
- ✓ The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) together observed the day in 2006 for the first time with the theme "Are Your Kidneys OK?"
- ✓ Theme 2023 - "Kidney Health for All - Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable"

WHO REPORT ON SODIUM INTAKE

- **The World Health Organisation (WHO) - has released a report stating that the world is well behind its goal on cutting down sodium intake by 30%, by the year 2025**



- ✓ Sodium is a key component of the common salt we consume daily.
- ✓ In the first-of-its-kind WHO global report on sodium intake reduction, WHO has stated that a salt intake of less than 5 grams (approximately 2g sodium) per person per day is recommended to prevent cardiovascular diseases, the leading cause of death globally.
- ✓ The report says the estimated global average salt intake is 10.8 grams per day, more than double the WHO recommendation of less than 5 grams per day in adults.
- ✓ In the year 2013, a total of 194 member countries of WHO had committed to the target of reducing salt intake by 30% within 2025, while only 5% have implemented comprehensive sodium-reduction policies
 - ✓ According to WHO, only 9 countries - Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Lithuania, Malaysia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Spain and Uruguay – have comprehensive sodium-reduction policies
- ✓ India has mandatory declaration of sodium on pre-packaged food but no other mandatory measure, WHO said.
- ✓ The WHO also recommends front-of-package labelling that helps consumers select products lower in sodium
- ✓ Sodium is an essential nutrient, but consuming too much increases a person's risk of heart disease, stroke and premature death, accounting for nearly 2 million deaths around the world each year