

Target

TNPSC

WEEKLY

CURRENT AFFAIRS
(ENGLISH)

For TNPSC Group I, II/IIA,
IV & VAO Exams

March Week 3, 2022



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Tamil Nadu News

2022-23 - 'Year of Millets'

- Tamil Nadu government announced that, the year 2023 is declared as the 'Year of Millets'.
- This step is taken to reduce dependence on other States for millets and pulses, the cultivation of the same would be promoted.
- It is also needed for nutritional security of the State.
- Besides, short-term pulses also will fetch good profits for farmers

Source: the Times of India

Anna Maru Malarchi Thittam (Anna Renaissance Project)

- Tamil Nadu government has reactivated the Anna Renaissance Project.
- Aim is to bring out **holistic development of village Panchayats** by providing all necessary minimum needs and basic amenities, infrastructure and to improve the living standard of people.
- The scheme will focus on the Participatory Planning and implementation through Village Panchayat for covering key sectors like:
 - Potable Drinking Water, Education, Health care, Nutrition, Housing and Street Lights, Roads and Lanes, Public Distribution System, etc.

Source: Daily Thanthi

Kalaingar All Villages Integrated Agricultural Development Programme (KAVIADP)

- KAVIADP will be implemented in a span of five years to ensure **overall agricultural development** and self sufficiency in all the villages of Tamil Nadu.
- The scheme will be implemented in 2,500 Village Panchayats in the current year i.e. 2021-22.
- It will be implemented by integrating all the schemes of Department of Agriculture and allied sectors with an outlay of Rs.1245.45 crore.
- The special feature of this scheme is that all the services are available in one place from the start of crop production by the farmers till they are taken to the market for sale.

Source: New Indian Express

TN School dept & Cognizant MOU

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Tamil Nadu government's School Education Department and Cognizant.
- It is towards creating **technical infrastructure in government schools**.
- It will also provide resources to simplify technical education and train teachers

Source: The hindu

Telugu translation of Thirukkural

- Recently CM of Tamil Nadu released the Telugu translation of former Chief Minister M. **Karunanidhi's Thirukkural Urai** by Professor Jayaprakash
- Also the Telugu translation of novelist **Sundara Ramaswamy's Oru Puliyamarathin Kathai** by Gowri Kirubanandan was released.
- The Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and the Hyderabad Book Trust jointly published these books under the **Thisaithorum Dravidam Project**.

Source: The hindu

DLF Downtown at Taramani

- Realty major DLF announced an investment of around Rs 550 crore to construct a one-million-square-feet office building for Standard Chartered Global Business Services' largest campus globally.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin laid the foundation stone of the office campus in 'DLF Downtown' project at Taramani.

DLF Downtown-Chennai project

It is spread over 27 acres and comprising 6.8 million square feet area.

It is being developed by DLF Cyber City Developers Ltd (DCCDL) with an investment of Rs 5,000 crore. Once DLF Downtown is completed and operational, DLF will have a footprint of about 14 million square feet of commercial workspaces in the city, making it the second-largest market after Gurugram.

Source: The economic times

Lokayuta in Tamil Nadu

- Recently selection committee meeting to select members of Lokayukta was held.
- It is established in Tamil Nadu, under the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta and Deputy Lokayukta Act-2018.
- Lokayukta is an anti-corruption authority or ombudsman.

Lokayukta

A Lokayukta of the state is appointed to office by the state Governor

Selection committee consisting of:

- 1) State Chief Minister,
- 2) Speaker of Legislative Assembly,
- 3) Leader of Opposition or leader of largest opposition party in State Legislature,
- 4) Chairman of Legislative Council and
- 5) Leader of Opposition of Legislative Council

Advanced robotic surgery center

- An advanced robotic surgery centre has been set up at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), **Omandurar**.
- A Rs. 35-crore worth equipment for robotic surgery was installed and a fully modular operation theatre has been readied at a cost of Rs. 50 lakh.
- Except for Central government institutions such as Jipmer, no State government hospital has such a centre.
- Advanced centres would help in the treatment of cancers.

Source: the hindu

Ice cream factory

- Tamil Nadu's second Aavin ice-cream plant was inaugurated in **Madurai** recently.
- First factory is situated in **Chennai**.

Source: Times of India

Tamil Nadu on Focus – Some facts**Village Panchayats**

- Totally **12,525** village panchayats are there in Tamil Nadu
- The state has 8th highest number of village panchayats.

First woman in cabinet

- **Maragatham Chandrasekhar**, from Tamil Nadu was the first woman from state since independence to be part of union government. She was appointed as deputy minister in the health and family welfare department in 1952.

Taking Thirukkural abroad

- Constantine **Joseph Beschi**, the Italy born Jesuit priest known by his Tamil name **Veeramamunivar**, was the first person to translate Thirukkural into a European language. He translated Arathupal and Porutpal of thirukkural into latin in the early 18th century.

The great Indian survey

- The great trigonometrical surveys, carried out in the 19th Century to survey the subcontinent in full begin in Madras.
- Lieutenant **Colonel William Lambton** began to work on April 10th 1802.
- A nearly 8 Mile long plain near Saint Thomas Mount was measured as baseline

Pioneering novelist

- **Vai. Mu. Kothainayaki ammal** born in 1891 was a pioneering women novelist from Tamilnadu.
- Who wrote more than hundred novels between 1924 and 1950.
- She edited Jagan Mohini, a monthly magazine.

The river problem - Koovum and Adyar

- Successive government have tried to restore the Koovum and Adyar went in vain
- An 1865 report on the drainage in Madras prepared by **Captain Hector Tulloch** records the mixing of sewage and stagnant water in the last miles of the river due to their inability to drain into the sea most of the Year.

Source: The Hindu

National

Consumer empowerment week

- Department of Consumer Affairs is organizing "Consumer Empowerment Week" from 14th to 20th March 2022.
- The theme for this year is "Fair Digital Finance".
- Rural outreach programmes in 75 villages will be conducted to create consumer awareness.
- The outreach programmes will create awareness about various initiatives of interest to the local populace like National Consumer Helpline (NCH), features of Consumer Protection Act 2019, BIS standards, purchase of hallmarked gold jewellery and use of proper weights and measures.
- A virtual conference on e-commerce will be organized.
- A quiz will be organized in collaboration with MyGov.

15th March - World Consumer Rights Day

World Consumer Rights Day is an annual international event

Source: Pib

25 Years of TRAI Act

- To commemorate the 25 years journey of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, a seminar on "25 Years of TRAI Act: Way Forward for Stakeholders (Telecom, Broadcasting, IT, AERA and Aadhaar)", was organized.

The TRAI

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) is a regulatory body set up by the Government of India under Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997

It is the regulator of the telecommunications sector in India

TRAI's mission is to create and nurture conditions for the growth of telecommunications in India.

Source: Pib

India's first medical city

- The state government of Maharashtra has announced to set up the country's first medical city named as 'Indrayani Medicity' in Pune
- It will provide all kinds of specialised treatment under one roof.
- It will also provide medical education and research facilities
- The Medicity will have about 24 separate hospital buildings, each housing one department.

Source: Hindustan times

India relocates embassy in Ukraine to Poland

- India has decided to temporarily relocate its embassy in Ukraine to Poland in view of the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Ukraine.
- The decision to move out of Ukraine came after the Russian attacks on the western Ukrainian town of **Lviv** near the Polish border.



Source: The Hindu

The Kashmir Files

- The entertainment tax on the movie 'Kashmir Files' is exempted in the states of Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- The film is based on the exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from the Valley in 1990.

STATE	ENTERTAINMENT TAX
Maharashtra	45%
Uttar Pradesh	60%
Karnataka	30%
West Bengal	30%
Assam	15% for tickets below Rs.20 20% for tickets above Rs.20
Tamil Nadu	15% (All Tamil films are tax-free in the state)
Rajasthan, J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab	0%
Jharkhand	110% (Nil for Jharkhand Films)

Entertainment tax

Entertainment tax varies from state to state as it comes under the purview of the state governments. Article 246 in the Indian constitution mentions all the information about entertainment tax.

Source: The Economic times

UDAN-RCS scheme

- Daily flight between the **Indore-Gondia-Hyderabad route** under RCS-UDAN scheme was flagged-off recently.
- Fly Big airlines was the route under the UDAN RCS-4.0 bidding process.
- With this, 409 routes would be operationalised under the UDAN-RCS scheme.

RCS-UDAN

UDAN means "Common citizen of the country flies"

It is a regional airport development programme and part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) of upgrading underserved air routes.

Its goal is to make air travel affordable and widespread

Source: PIB

Population Census Rules

- The Centre amended Census Rules, 1990 for the upcoming Census and National Population Register (NPR).

What are the key changes?

- To include "**electronic form**" and "**self-enumeration**" in the schedule of questions to be asked during census enumeration.
- Self-enumeration' means filling-up, completion and submission of census schedule by respondents themselves.
- Gives powers to the enumerator to ask questions regarding the Census and makes it obligatory for respondents to answer, with certain exceptions
- "Electronic form shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (r) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (21 of 2000)."
- In Rule 5, which also deals with publishing Census statistics through publications of magnetic media, the word "media" has been replaced with "**electronic or any other media**".
- Rule 8 has an addition: "print media, electronic media, social media", to the list of modes for ensuring wide publicity for the exercise. The earlier list only included radio, audio-visuals and posters

Source: PIB

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

- India at UNSC proposed to ensure full and effective implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) in a letter and spirit.
- It has made statement after emerging reports of biological activities relating to Ukraine.

India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations - **T.S. Tirumurti**

Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC)

It is a treaty that prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological weapons.

The treaty came into force in 1975.

The treaty prohibiting bioweapons has 183 signatories, including the United States, Russia, and Ukraine

Source: The Hindu

AK 203 and Sig sauer 716

- Due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, implementation of the deal for 6.1 lakh Ak-203 assault rifles signed with Russia will be delayed.
- Over 6.1 lakh Ak-203 assault rifles will be manufactured by a Joint Venture, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL), at **Korwa, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh**.

- Also procurement of 72,400 SIG-716 assault rifles from Sig Sauer (USA) is likely to be dropped, due to delay in delivery.

Source: The Hindu

Mukhyamantri Chaa Srami Kalyan Prakalpa

- Launched by **Tripura**.
- Special scheme for bringing the 7000 **tea garden workers** of Tripura under the social security net.
- It will ensure housing, ration and financial support to the tea garden workers.
- Key Components of the Scheme
 - Provide drinking water, electricity, shelter, education and healthcare amenities to each and every family.
 - Social pension to all eligible families, social allowance, Maternal and Child Health Care assistance to be given, ensure health insurance as per their ability,

Source: Business Standard

Drone school

- The first drone school was inaugurated in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- It was launched with the aim to create an ecosystem for drone operations in the country.
- The aim of the school will be to provide a head start in the use of drones to provide employment opportunities to the youngsters.

Drone Rules 2021:

With the intention to liberalise policy regimes for Drones, the Drone Rules 2021 was introduced with the due suspension of the earlier existing Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Rules, notified in March 2021. The Drone Rules were issued by the Ministry of Civil Aviation on August 26, 2021. The rules are said to be built on the premise of trust, self-certification and non-intrusive monitoring.

Source: times of India

Atal innovation Mission and Augmented reality

- Recently, Atal Innovation mission (AIM) partnered with Snap company to promote Augmented Reality (AR) skill development among Indian youth.
- It is anticipated around 12,000 instructors will be trained linked with the Atal Tinkering Labs on Augmented Reality.
- Snap Inc. also announced collaboration with the Atal Incubation Centers (AICs) to support the Indian start-up ecosystem.
- Snap will be hosting special workshops aimed to introduce young women in India to AR as part of AR hackathon.

Augmented Reality

Augmented reality (AR) is a technology that lets people superimpose digital content (images, sounds, text) over a real-world environment.

Augmented reality enhances the world you are in. You remain in the same world, except that you see additional objects on display that you can even interact with.

Source: Business Standard

SIKHS – KIRPAN

- The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security revoked its order of restricting Sikh employees working at airports from carrying kirpans.
- According to an initial internal order, all Sikh employees working at the airports were restricted to carry kirpans to work (airport).
- The para restricting entry of Sikh employees inside the airport carrying kirpan of specified size has been deleted.

Kirpan:

Kirpans is a religious curved dagger.

It was part of a religious decree issued by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699.

The word kirban in the Punjabi word has two roots. Kiruba means "grace" and Ann means "respect" or "dignity".

5 k's of Sikhs:

A person following Sikhism has to carry the following: Kesh (uncut hair), Kangha (a wooden comb), Kara (a iron bracelet), Kachera (cotton underpants) and Kirpan (an iron dagger)

Article 25

Article 25 of the Indian Constitution deems the carrying of a kirpan by Sikhs to be included in the profession of the Sikh religion and not illegal.

Source: Times of India

Bharatmala Pariyojana

- The government's flagship programme for national highways, Bharatmala Pariyojana (BMP) Phase-I, — initially proposed to be completed by 2022 — will now be completed by 2027

Background:

- The government's ambitious infrastructure programme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on October 24, 2017.
- Under BMP Phase-1, 34,800 km of national highways are supposed to be built or upgraded.
- The targeted deadline back then was five years, at an estimated outlay of Rs. 5,35,000 crore.

Source: Hindustan Times

Foreigners Rights in India

- The Union government has urged the Supreme Court to help lay down a law with a "long-lasting" implication for the country on the subject of **Foreigners' Right to approach local courts** for relief after violating their visa conditions.
- The government's request came during the hearing of petitions filed by foreign nationals who were charged with violating COVID-19 guidelines by participating in a religious congregation in New Delhi during peak COVID outbreak.

Fundamental rights available only to Citizens

- 1) Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of race, religion, caste, gender or place of birth (Article 15).
- 2) Equality of opportunity in matters of public employment (Article 16).
- 3) Protection of freedom of Speech and expression, Association, Assembly, Movement, Residence, Profession (Article 19)
- 4) Protection of the culture, language and script of minorities (Article 29).
- 5) Right of minorities to establish and administer educational institutions (Article 30).

Source: The Hindu

Clean Ganga

- The water quality of two stretches of the Ganga passing through Bihar and Uttarakhand, which were polluted earlier, has now improved and is of bathing standard with the biological oxygen demand (BOD), according to official data.
- The Ganga river water quality comparison between 2015 and 2021, the BOD level of the river flowing through Uttarakhand (Haridwar to Sultanpur) and Bihar (Buxar to Bhagalpur) is below 3 mg per litre, which falls in the unpolluted category.
- Not much change was seen in the BOD level of the river flowing through West Bengal between 2015 and 2021.

National Ganga River Basin Projects (NGRBP)

- 1) The current focus of world bank funded National Ganga River Basin Projects (NGRBP) of NMCG is on five major states on the main stem of river Ganga namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal
- 2) Under the Namami Gange Programme, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is carrying out water quality assessment of the River Ganga at 97 locations in five states through respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs)

Biological Oxygen Demand

- 1) The BOD is an important parameter for assessing water quality.
- 2) It deals with the amount of oxygen consumption by biological organisms.
- 3) The lower the value, the better the water quality.

Source: The economic times

Delimitation commission – JAMMU & KASHMIR

- The Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission released its draft report recently.
- The delimitation commission was constituted in March 2020.
- The commission is headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.

Delimitation

Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of an Assembly or Lok Sabha seat to represent changes in population over time.

Kanya Shiksha Pravesh Utsav

- Launched by Ministry of women and child development in partnership with ministry of Education and UNICEF.
- The campaign aims to enhance enrollment and retention of girl students In the 11-14 years age group in schools.
- To be rolled out under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.
- Over 4 lakh out-of-school adolescents girls to be identified as primary beneficiaries.



Source: Pib

First passenger train engine arrives in Manipur

- An engine arrived at the newly-constructed **Khongshang railway station** in Manipur's Noney district as part of a trial run for the first passenger train.
- The 111-km **Imphal-Jiribam railway line** being constructed at an estimated cost of about Rs. 14,322 crore.
- The project will connect Imphal with the country's broad gauge network.
- The **world's highest bridge pier** is also being constructed near **Khumji in Noney** as part of the project.
- The 141-meter-high bridge will surpass the 139-meter Mala-Rijeka viaduct in Montenegro.
- Women performed traditional dances of the **Rongmei tribe** to welcome the engine in Thingou and Khongshang.

Source: Hindustan times

Women in Police

- According to Bureau of Police Research and Development, women police personnel constitute 10.3% of the police force all across India.
- Bihar possesses the highest percentage of women police personnel that is 25.30%, followed by Himachal Pradesh that has 19.15% and then Chandigarh at 18.78%.
- The **highest numbers of women inspectors are in Tamil Nadu**, 1055, followed by 425 in Maharashtra and 286 in Odisha.

Source: PIB

Right to life vs Religious practice

- Recently, the Supreme Court agreed to examine an appeal by the Hindu Dharma Parishad against an order of the Madras High Court, which said the right to practise religion was subservient to the right to life.
- The High Court had upheld to not to open religious places during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It had observed that when the right to life was threatened, the right to practise religion could take a back seat.

Right to Freedom of Religion (Articles 25 – 28)

There is freedom of conscience, profession, practice and propagation of religion. The State has no official religion. Every person has the right to freely practice his or her faith, establish and maintain religious and charitable institutions

Protection of Life and Personal Liberty: Article 21 declares that no person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law. This right is available to both citizens and non-citizens.

Source: the hindu

PM-Poshan & Samagra Shiksha fund

- Recently, a Parliamentary committee specified that there is a trend of gross under-utilisation of funds to run PM-Poshan and Samagra Shiksha schemes, that forms the backbone of education in the country.
- Out of total allocation of Rs 40,576 crore under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, only Rs 23,572 crore was spent.

• PM-Poshan

- This scheme provides one cooked meal in Government and Government-aided schools for students upto class 8.
- The scheme replaced the Mid-day Meal Scheme.
- It was launched for an initial period of five years (2021-22 to 2025-26).

• Samagra Shiksha fund

- It is an integrated scheme for school education covering students from pre-school to class XII.
- It aims to deliver inclusive, equitable, and affordable school education.

- It subsumes the three Schemes of:
 - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)
 - Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)
 - Teacher Education (TE).

Source: the Indian express

MGNREGA

- A Parliamentary Standing Committee has asked the Union Ministry of Rural Development to withdraw the caste-based wage payment provisions under MGNREGS and restore the single Fund Transfer Order (FTO) without segregating beneficiaries on caste lines.
- National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005
 - It was officially launched on **2nd February 2006**
 - The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act was passed on 23rd August 2005.
 - Provision of at least **100 days of work** that provides guaranteed wage in a financial year

Source: the Indian express

India's First Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Train

- It will run on the **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor**.
- Designed by the National Capital Regional Transport Corporation (NCRTC)
- It will also be the first in the country to have a business or 'premium' coach on a regional corridor
- RRTS is the first-of-its-kind system in which trains, with a design speed of 180 kmph.



Source: The hindu

Zero out carbon

- **Mumbai**, Maharashtra set out target of zero out carbon emissions by 2050.
- It is the **first city in South Asia** to set target of zero out carbon emission by 2050.
- Mumbai's target is 20 years ahead of India's target to reach net zero emissions by 2070.

Source: the economic times

Bhagavad Gita – In Academic syllabus

- In Gujarat, the Bhagavad Gita will be part of the school curriculum for classes 6 to 12 from the 2022-23 academic year.

- The idea is to cultivate a sense of pride and connection with tradition.

Source: the hindu

Digital Water bank

- India's first digital water bank '**Aqverium**' was inaugurated in **Bengaluru**.
- The Digital water data bank is a curated list of water data from all institutions and sources, that will help tackle some common development challenges.
- The Digital water data bank also provides insights and evidence from research and analytics thereby providing fundamental reliable information for tackling water pollution.

Source: the print

World Peace Center

- India's first 'World Peace Center' will be established in **Gurugram**
- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti organisation established by Ambassador of Peace, Eminent Jainacharya Dr Lokeshji will establish it.

Source: the print

Gender Samwaad

- Over 3000 State Mission employees and members of SHGs from 34 states logged in to attend the third edition of 'Gender Samwaad,'.
- It was organized by Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NRLM**), Ministry of Rural Development.
- It's a national virtual effort run by the DAY-NRLM to raise awareness about the mission's activities around the country via the **perspective of gender**.
- **Promotion of food and nutrition security through women's collectives'** was the focus for this edition.
- The event was held as part of the Amrit Mahotsava's Iconic Week commemoration theme of '**Naye Bharat ki Naari**.'

Source: PIB

International

UN launches biodiversity talks on deal to protect nature

- Recently, UN biodiversity negotiations began in **Geneva**.
- It is held to hammer out a global deal to better protect nature that is due for approval in end of 2022.
- Almost 200 countries are due to adopt a global framework this year to safeguard nature by mid-century from the destruction wrought by humanity, with a key milestone of 30 percent protected by 2030.
- The Geneva meeting will announce new dates for COP 15.

Convention on biodiversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a legally binding treaty to conserve biodiversity has been in force since 1993.

It has 3 main objectives:

- 1) The conservation of biological diversity.
- 2) The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
- 3) The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.

Source: UN.org

SIPRI Report

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released its latest report on Trends in International Arms Transfer, 2021.
- **India and Saudi Arabia emerged as the largest importers** of arms between 2017-21.
- 85% of India's overall imports were from three countries. Russia (46%), France (27%), and the USA (12%).
- USA, with 39% share, retained its standing as the world's largest arms exporters during 2017-21.
- **India was 23rd largest exporter** during 2017-21, with a share of just 0.2% of the global exports

Source: Sipri.org

India and Sri Lanka

- Recently India has extended a **\$1 billion credit facility to Sri Lanka**. To help President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's government cope the current economic crisis.
- The "short term concessional loan facility" will be provided by State Bank of India.
- The Indian side has provided a **\$500-million line of credit for purchasing fuel**.
- A currency swap of \$400 million under the SAARC facility was also provided.
- India's NTPC last week signed an agreement for setting up a solar plant in Sampur in the eastern province of Trincomalee.

Source: the Indian express

Mahatma Gandhi Green Triangle

- As part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, a "Green Triangle" named after Mahatma Gandhi was jointly inaugurated in **Madagascar's capital Antananarivo**.
- The word green in the plaque signifies their commitment to sustainable development and saving the environment.

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

It is a Government of India initiative to honour and celebrate **75 years of advanced India** and the magnificent history of its culture, people, and accomplishments.

On 12th March 2021, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.' The event happened in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

It will complete after a year on 15th August 2023.

Source: the Indian express

Science & Technology

Vincov-19 COVID Drug

- The first indigenous drug to treat COVID-19 is named as 'Vincov-19'
- CSIR-Centre for Cellular & Molecular Biology (**CCMB**), **VINS** Bioproducts, and the University of Hyderabad (**UoH**) has collaborated to create the drug 'Vincov-19.'
- Recently Vincov-19 completed it's clinical trails, it is expected to be made public soon.

Source: The Hindu

YUVIKA programme

- YUVIKA: **YU**va **VI**gyani **K**Aryakram or **Y**oung scientist program
- ISRO organize YUVIKA to impart basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger students with a preference to rural areas.
- The programme is also expected to encourage more students to pursue in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) based research.

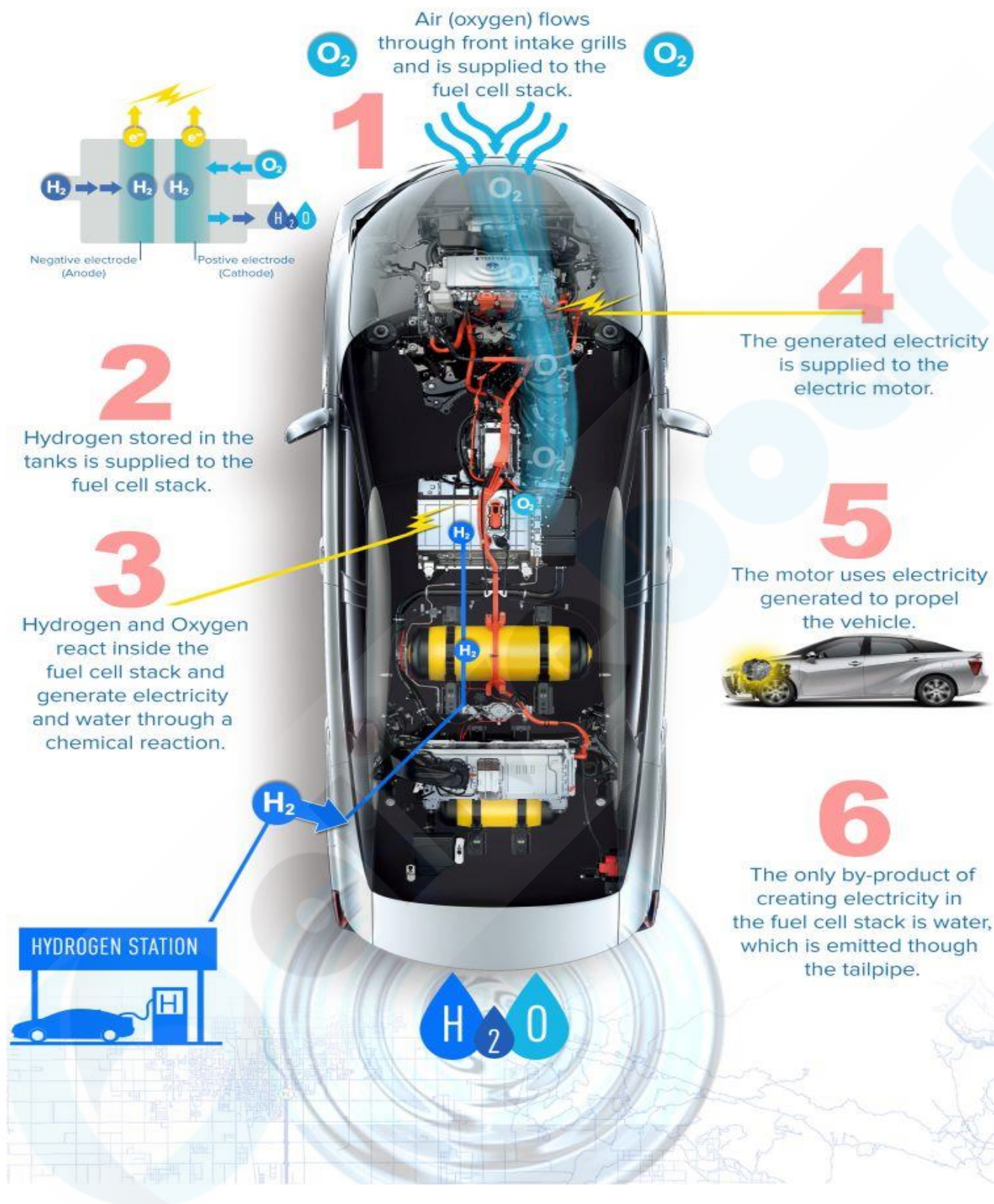
Source: ISRO website

India's first Hydrogen based fuel cell e-car

- Toyota Kirloskar Motor Pvt Ltd and International Center for Automotive Technology (ICAT) are conducting a Pilot Project to study and evaluate the world's most advanced Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle (FCEV) **Toyota Mirai** which runs on hydrogen, on Indian roads and climatic condition
- It is a first of its kind project in India which aims to create a Green Hydrogen based ecosystem in the country.

• Fuel cell electric technology

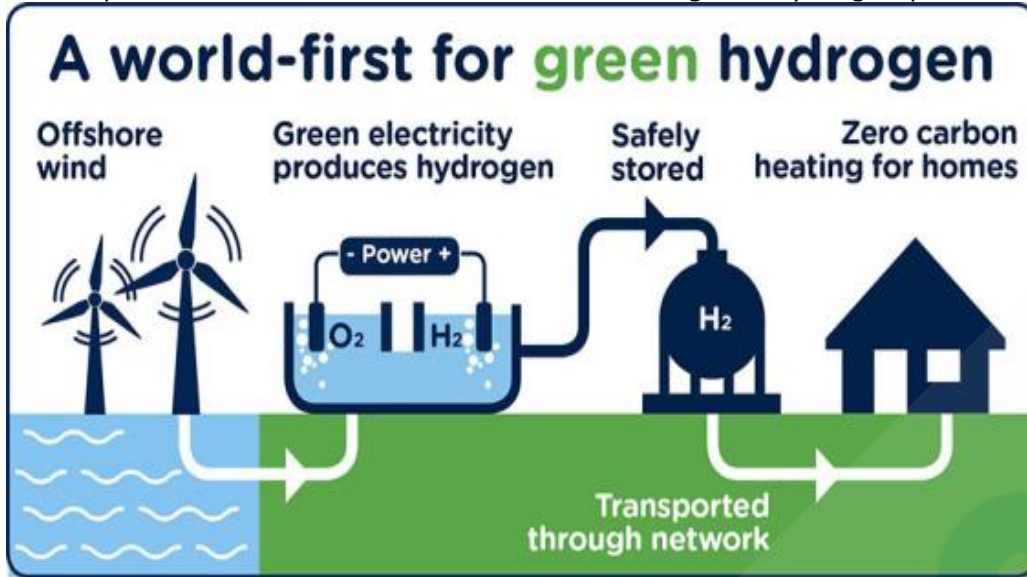
- A fuel cell generates electricity by forcing a fuel to react with oxygen
- Electricity is generated in a fuel cell through a chemical reaction between the hydrogen fuel and oxygen. This happens by supplying hydrogen to the anode, or negative electrode and ambient air to the cathode or positive electrode.
- It produces no emissions other than water by converting hydrogen into electricity.



Green hydrogen

- Green hydrogen is defined as hydrogen produced by splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen using renewable electricity.
- It may be used to decarbonize sectors which are hard to electrify, such as steel and cement production, and thus help to limit climate change.

- India plans to manufacture five million tonnes of green hydrogen per annum by 2030



Source: the economic times

Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

- Recently ISRO has successfully completed the ground test of the solid fuel-based booster stage (SS1) of its new Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).
- The Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) is a small-lift launch vehicle being developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) .
- SSLV is a three-stage all solid vehicle and has a capability to launch up to 500 kg satellite mass into 500 km Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and 300 kg to Sun Synchronous Orbit (SSO).

Low Earth orbit

A low Earth orbit (LEO) is an orbit around Earth with an altitude above Earth's surface from 160 kms to 1,000 kilometers

Most satellites, the Space Shuttle, the International Space Station and the Hubble Space Telescope are also present in LEO.

Sun-synchronous orbit

A satellite in a Sun-synchronous orbit would usually be at an altitude of between 600 to 800 km.

The satellite always visits the same spot at the same local time – for example, passing the city of Paris every day at noon exactly.

Personalities & Places

Gabriel Boric

- Gabriel Boric Font sworn in as **36th** and current President of Chile.
- Serving since 11 March 2022.
- He is the **youngest** president in Chile's history and second-youngest state leader in the world.

Source: Hindustan Times

Mina Swaminathan

- Recently passed away.
- She was a pioneer in the field of early childhood education and an activist deeply involved in the study and practice of gender equality.
- She also chaired the committee that recommended what became the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS).
- Her **contribution to ICDS**, particularly in Tamil Nadu, setting up mobile training teams – a unique innovation, travelling widely across the state and working with ICDS frontline workers.

Source: The hindu

Madhabi Puri Buch

- She was recently appointed as chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India.
- She is **1st women chairperson of SEBI**.
- At 56, she is the **youngest** chairperson ever headed SEBI
- She is also the **first non-IAS individual** since 2002 as well as the first person from the private sector to lead the markets watchdog.

Source: business standard

Miss World-2021

- **Karolina Bielawska** is crowned as Miss World 2021. She is from Poland
- Indian-American **Shree Saini** was crowned the first runner-up.
- This is the 70th edition of the pageant that held at San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Source: the Indian express

Important Dates

International Day Of Mathematics

- International day of mathematics - March 14
- It is also known as the **Pi Day** because the mathematical constant π (pi) can be rounded down to 3.14.
- It aims to educate people about the essential role of mathematics.
- The theme for 2022 IDM is "Mathematics Unites!".

Source:unesco.org

International Day to Combat Islamophobia

- The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution to proclaim **March 15** as the International Day to Combat Islamophobia every year, starting from 2022.
- It was introduced by Pakistan's ambassador Munir Akram on behalf of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- The main objective of International Day to Combat Islamophobia will be curtailing systematic hate speech and discrimination against Muslims.

Source:UN.org

World contact day

- World Contact Day has been celebrated for the last 68 years on March 15.
- It was initiated by The International Flying Saucer Bureau (I.F.S.B.) in 1952 by Albert K. Bender.
- The day brings all **alien** life enthusiasts together to attempt to contact extraterrestrial beings.

Source: national today

National Vaccination Day

- The National Vaccination Day/**National Immunization Day**, is celebrated every year on March 16.
- It is celebrated to convey the importance of vaccination to the entire nation.
- The day was first observed in the year 1995, the year on which India started Pulse Polio Programme.

Source: Financial express

World Glaucoma Day

- March 12 is observed as World Glaucoma Day.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness about the glaucoma disease.
- Glaucoma: It is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness, but with early treatment, the damage may get limited and sight may be saved.

Source: Indian express

Sports

Chess Olympiad

- The 44th FIDE Chess Olympiad will be held in **Mahabalipuram** later this year.
- Tamil Nadu would host the international event
- This is the second major global event of the chess game to be held in India after the 2013 World Championships.

Source: the Indian express

Highest wicket taker in women's world cup history

- **Jhulan Goswami** has become the all-time highest wicket-taker in the history of the ICC Women's World Cup.
- Goswami has become the first-ever Women's bowler to take **250 wickets** in ODI cricket history.
- Against **England**, she trapped Beaumont in front of stumps to pick her 250th ODI wicket.

Source: Hindustan Times

Yoga as a sport

- Yoga is soon to be introduced in schools in **Saudi Arabia** as part of the sports curriculum.
- This step has been taken due to its significance for mental and physical health.

Source: the times of India

Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship

- India won gold at the 16th Asian Women's Junior Handball Championship in **Almaty (Kazakhstan)**.
- India **defeated Thailand** in their last league match to win gold
- The result also earned them a qualification for the Women's Junior World Handball Championship, scheduled to be held in Slovenia.
- India's **Chetna Sharma** was named best goalkeeper. **Bhavana Sharma** was adjudged the Player of the Tournament as well as the best centre back.

Books & Authors

Modi@20

- 'Modi @ 20: Dreams Meet Delivery'
- It is a special book to commemorate the 20 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in public life.
- Edited by BlueKraft Digital Foundation and is being published by Rupa Publications.
- Chapters written by home Minister Amit Shah, minister of external affairs S. Jaishankar, national security advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval, Nandan Nilenkani, Arvind Panagariya, Ashok Gulati, Sudha Murthy, the late Lata Mangeshkar, PV Sindhu and Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.

Source: Hindustan times

Monsoon

- **Sahitya Akademi** published a book-length poem 'Monsoon' by Indian poet-diplomat **Abhay K.**
- Monsoon is a poem of 150 stanzas of 4 lines each that commences its journey in Madagascar and follows the path of the monsoon invoking the rich flora and fauna, languages, cuisine, music, monuments, landscapes, traditions, myths and legends of the places through which monsoon travels and acts as a messenger to carry the poet's message from Madagascar to his beloved in Srinagar in the Himalayas.

Sahitya Akademi was established on 12th March in 1954. Its logo was designed by Satyajit Ray himself. The first book published by the Academy was Bhagwan Buddha by D.D. Koshambi in 1956. It was a translation from Marathi into Hindi.

Source: the print

Awards

GD Birla Award

- Professor Narayan Pradhan has been selected for the 31st GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
- It is awarded for his outstanding contribution in the field of material sciences.
- Instituted in 1991, the award recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science.
- It carries a cash prize of Rs.5 lakh.

Source: The Hindu

Tamil Scholars Award

- Tamil scholars who have contributed to the development of the Tamil language and literature and the upliftment of the Tamil community have been honored with a total of 21 awards.
- Awarded by Government of Tamil Nadu

Awards	Receipt of Award
Ayyan Thiruvalluvar Award for the year 2022	(late) Mr. M. Meenakshi Sundaram
Thantaiperiyar Award	K. Thirunavukarasu
Annal Ambedkar Award	Justice Chandru
Anna Award	Nanjil Sampath
Kamarasar Award	Dr. Kumari Ananthan
Mahakavi Bharathiar Award	Bharathi Krishnakumar
Pavender Bharathi Dasan Award	Pulavar Senthalai Gauthaman
Muthamil police constable K.A.P. Viswanatham Award	Dr. M. Rasendran
Kambar Award	Mrs. Bharathi Bhaskar
Sollin Selvar Award	Surya Xavier
G.U Pope Award	A.S. Panneerselvan
Umarupulavar Award	Na.Mammadu
Elango Adigal Award	Nellai Kannan
Devanayap Pawanar Award	Ku. Arasanthiran
Singaravelar Award	Poet Madhukur Ramalingam
Maraimalai Adigalar Award	Suki Sivam
Arutperunjyothi Vallalar Award	Dr. Ira. Sanjeevirayar
Ayodhidasar Panditar Award	Gnana Aloysius
Chief Minister's Computer Tamil Award for the year 2020	Dr. V. Dhanalakshmi
C.P. Adiththanan thingal Award	Uyirmei thingalelidhal

Source: Tn.gov

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