

March – 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Washington became the first state to set up its own net-neutrality requirements after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules that banned internet providers from blocking the contents in online traffic.

NATIONAL

Rajya Sabha panel of presiding officers

- ❖ Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu nominated JD(U) MP from Bihar Kahkashan Parveen on the panel of presiding officers for conducting proceedings of the House.
- ❖ She is the first woman on the panel in recent times.
- ❖ According to the House rules, the chairman nominates from amongst the members up to six vice-chairmen or presiding officers who chair the proceedings in absence of the chairman and the deputy chairman.
- ❖ The panel of vice-chairmen or presiding officers includes Satyanarayan Jatiya (BJP), Tiruchi Siva (DMK), TK Rangarajan (CPM), Bhubaneswar Kalita (Cong), Basawaraj Patil (BJP) and Sukhendu Sekhar Ray (TMC).

EBRD - INDIA

- ❖ India will become the 69th member of EBRD. The shareholders of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) have given their approval for India's membership in the international financial institution.
- ❖ After India becomes the 69th member of EBRD, Indian companies can undertake joint investments in regions in which the EBRD operates Reconstruction and Development work.
- ❖ The decision is followed by Indian government's application to seek the EBRD membership back in December 2017.

EBRD

- ❖ EBRD is an international financial institution founded in 1991 and headquartered in London.

- ❖ It is owned by 65 countries and two EU institutions, and US is the biggest shareholder.
- ❖ Besides Europe, member countries of the EBRD are also from other continents
 - North America - Canada and US
 - Africa - Morocco
 - Asia - Japan, China, South Korea
 - Australia.
- ❖ EBRD's core operations pertain to private sector development in their countries of operation.
- ❖ The minimum initial investment towards the membership of EBRD will be approximately one million Euros.
- ❖ The EBRD is not to be confused with the European Investment Bank (EIB) which is owned by EU member states and used to support EU policy.

Delhi airport

- ❖ According to the latest Airport Service Quality (ASQ) 2017 rankings released by Airports Council International, Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport is the best airport in the world in terms of passengers' experience.
- ❖ With 63.5 million passengers flying through the Delhi airport in 2017, it has surpassed Changi in terms of passenger growth.
- ❖ It is now the seventh busiest airport in Asia and among the top 20 busiest airports across the world.
- ❖ ASQ Survey is the world's benchmark measure of airport excellence and it is the only worldwide programme to survey passengers at the airports on their day of travel.
- ❖ The programme measures passengers' views on 34 key performance indicators.

INTERNATIONAL

Nile festival - 6th Indian edition

- ❖ Sixth edition of the India by the Nile (IBN) festival 2018 is being held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ The sixth edition will be running from March 6 to March 17 showcasing multidisciplinary performances.
- ❖ It is the biggest foreign festival in Egypt and encourages artistic collaborations between the two countries.
- ❖ This year, the festival will also bring two new events, a fashion show and screening of the Indian movies.
- ❖ The festival is organised by the Embassy of India in Egypt and the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture in collaboration with entertainment company Teamwork Arts.



Italy's First Black Senator

- ❖ An Italian man of Nigerian origin, who is the chief immigration spokesman for the far-right League party, has been elected as the country's first black senator.
- ❖ Tony Iwobi was elected in the industrial city of Brescia in northern Italy, which a major immigration hub.

- ❖ He used the campaign slogan #StopInvasion, a reference to the more than 690,000 migrants who have landed on Italian shores from North Africa since 2013.
- ❖ Italy's general election left the country with a hung parliament in which no single party or coalition commands an overall majority
- ❖ The League, led by Matteo Salvini, was the winning party in the right-wing alliance that took the most votes but fell short of an overall majority.

STATES

International Yoga Festival 2018

- ❖ Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat on March 1 inaugurated the week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF) in Rishikesh's Parmarth Niketan.
- ❖ International Yoga Festival was started in the year 1999 in Rishikesh, Parmarth Niketan Ashram.
- ❖ Since its inception yoga festival is being celebrated every year.
- ❖ The 2010 edition considered as a most successful event as it witnessed a maximum number of participants.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

'Pride of Birmingham' award

- ❖ Indian-origin Birmingham man Harry Athwal was selected for this year's 'Pride of Birmingham's Outstanding Bravery Award'.
- ❖ He was awarded for risking his life in order to help a fatally injured young boy in the 2017 Barcelona terror attack.
- ❖ Athwal is among 11 winners who will be presented with their awards at a ceremony at the University of Birmingham.
- ❖ The annual awards, organised by the Birmingham Mail newspaper and TSB Company.
- ❖ It is conferred to recognise the people's courage, caring, compassion and social responsibilities.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Women's Day - 08 March

- ❖ International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8 every year to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations.
- ❖ This year, the UN theme for International Women's Day, is "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives".
- ❖ The UN celebrated its first official International Women's Day on 8 March during International Women's Year in 1975.
