

March – 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book 'Fulfilling Bapu's Dreams – Prime Minister Modi's Tribute to Gandhiji' from Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev.

NATIONAL

International Solar Alliance

- ❖ India hosted the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit in New Delhi.
- ❖ A three-page 'Delhi Solar Agenda' issued at the end of the conference.
- ❖ In this agenda ISA reiterated its commitment to the 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development.

PM Modi's 10-point action plan to promote solar power

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday listed out 10 action points at the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance, to bring about a solar revolution worldwide. They include:



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Ensuring that cheap and improved solar technology is easily available▶ Increasing the percentage of solar energy in countries' national energy mix▶ Encouraging innovation for development of solutions to problems/challenges▶ Ensuring concessional and risk-free funding for solar projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ Developing regulatory aspects and norms to speed up adoption of solar technologies, solutions▶ Consultancy support for bankable solar projects in developing nations▶ Ensuring efforts to propagate solar revolution stress on partnerships and assimilation▶ Ensuring creation of a network of centres of excellence that takes into account local circumstances and factors▶ Ensuring solar energy policies are seen in the context of development that will help in achieving Sustainable Development Goals.▶ Making the ISA secretariat a strong and professional body |
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- ❖ Also the agenda, states that countries will work to increase share of solar energy in the final energy consumption in their respective national energy mix to tackle global challenges of climate change.
- ❖ India also announced its \$1.4 billion assistance for developing 27 solar projects in 15 countries.
- ❖ As per the agenda the member countries will consider off-grid solar applications to cater to the energy requirements of poorer and remote communities.



ISA

- ❖ The ISA is an Indian initiative, jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India and the president of France on November 2015 in Paris, on the side-lines of COP-21, the UN climate conference.
- ❖ The International Solar Alliance is alliance 121 countries, most of them being sunshine countries, which come either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.
- ❖ The primary objective is to collectively work for efficient exploitation of solar energy to reduce dependence on fossil-based fuels.
- ❖ The Headquarters is in India with its Interim Secretariat being setup in Gurgaon.
- ❖ The agreement will become operational after at least 15 countries have ratified it.
- ❖ It is also expected to mobilise \$1 trillion for funding solar energy projects by 2030.
- ❖ The institutional structure of ISA consists of an Assembly, a Council and a Secretariat.

We for Development

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a two-day National Legislators Conference in New Delhi.
- ❖ Hosted by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, the two-day conference is based on the theme “We for development”.
- ❖ The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged.
- ❖ Role of public representatives in development and optimum use of resources were the subjects on agenda for discussions.
- ❖ The government has identified 115 most backward districts and termed them “aspirational”.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has called for posting young IAS officers as district magistrates in “aspirational” districts.



INTERNATIONAL

Juniper Cobra

- ❖ Juniper Cobra is a U.S., European Command bilateral exercise.
- ❖ The exercise is part of a routine training cycle, designed to improve coordination between the U.S. forces and the Israel Defense Force.
- ❖ The focal point of Juniper Cobra remains is to provide integrated ballistic missile defense to counter regional threats to Israel and maintaining U.S. support of Israel's military activities.

Elie Wiesel Award

- ❖ The US Holocaust Memorial Museum invalidated the prestigious Elie Wiesel Award that was presented to Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi in 2012.
- ❖ The museum stated that the lack of action by Myanmar State Counsellor, and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, against the genocide committed by the military against the Rohingya community was the primary reason behind them stripping her of the award.
- ❖ It has been reported that over 7,00,000 Rohingyas have fled the country in an attempt to escape the atrocities committed by the country's military against the minority community.





STATES

Pink Electricity Zone

- ❖ On International Women's Day (march 8), Madhya Pradesh West Power Distribution Company (MPWPDC) started a 'Pink Electricity Zone' managed by women staffers.
- ❖ It is India's first pink electricity zone
- ❖ Assistant engineer, junior engineer, line supervisor, lineman, metre readers, accountant, computer operators of the zone are all women.
- ❖ The Pink Electricity Zone comprises 25 women staffers who would look after the energy maintenance work of 13,000 power connections.

WE Hub

- ❖ The Telangana government has launched Women Entrepreneurs Hub (WE Hub) to encourage women entrepreneurs on International Women's Day celebrations.
- ❖ WE-Hub is India's first state-led incubator exclusively for women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It would provide access to capital, mentorship and enabling environment to women entrepreneurs to start a business.
- ❖ Six MoUs were signed at the WE-Hub launch event. The six MoUs will help to promote women entrepreneurship through co-incubation programs, workshops and social innovation programs.

Floating Lab - Loktak Lake

- ❖ The Institute of Bio resources and Sustainable Laboratory (IBSD), Imphal has set up a floating laboratory in northeast India's largest freshwater lake, Loktak to constantly monitor its water quality and eventually improve it.
- ❖ A study will be carried out to convert the water plants into organic fertilizer along with studying the quality of life of the lake dwellers, and providing recommends for improving their life.
- ❖ This venture will be helpful in conservation and sustainable development of the lake thereby improving the life of the lake dwellers drastically.


