

March-31

NATIONAL

International Solar Alliance and India

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) signed Host Country Agreement in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Agreement will give ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose of movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.
- ❖ ISA shall be deriving its status, privileges and immunities as per Article 10 of the Framework Agreement.



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.

Draft policy on Defense Production

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has released draft policy on defence production that aims to make India one of the top five manufacturers of defence platforms with active participation of public and private sectors.
- ❖ At present, India is one of the world's largest importer of military equipment and weapons.
- ❖ The Objectives of Policy on defence production is to
 - ✓ Make India one of top five manufacturers of defence platforms with active participation of public and private sectors.
 - ✓ Make India self-reliant in defence production as well as fulfil demand of friendly countries.
 - ✓ Achieve turnover of Rs.1,70,000 crore in military goods and services by 2025 by promoting domestic defence industry.
- ❖ Followings are mentioned in Draft policy on defence production
 - ✓ Licensing process for defence industries will be liberalised
 - ✓ list of items requiring for licences will be reviewed and pruned.
 - ✓ All applications for licences for defence industries will be disposed off in 30 days.

E-Tribes India

- ❖ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED), under Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched E-Tribes India banners on e-commerce platforms.
- ❖ TRIFED also launched its websites-www.tribesindia.com, www.trifed.in and Retail Inventory Software and M-commerce app as part of Digital India Initiative.

- ❖ TRIFED also launched TRIFED's Handbook for Retail Trade of tribal products and quarterly magazine 'Tribes Haat' was also launched.
- ❖ To ensure the availability of tribal products over large area TRIFED has entered into agreements with e-commerce platforms like Amazon, Snapdeal, Flipkart and Paytm.
- ❖ On the request of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Commerce has also for sale of tribal products through TRIFED on Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED)

- ❖ TRIFED is multi-State Cooperative Society under Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It is headquartered in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was established in August 1987 by then Ministry of Welfare under Multi State Cooperative Societies Act 1984 (which has now been replaced by Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002).

INTERNATIONAL

Win Myint - Myanmar's New President

- ❖ Myanmar's parliament picked a close ally of de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi as the country's new president.



- ❖ Due to health problems Htin Kyaw resigned the president post recently. Then Win Myint, a week ago resigned his post as the lower house speaker. Then he

was chosen as president by both chambers of the parliament where Suu Kyi's ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) party holds a comfortable majority.

- ❖ The president is the head of state and government in Myanmar, and under Myanmar's constitution it has far-reaching powers.
- ❖ However, Htin Kyaw's role was more ceremonial because Suu Kyi has been Myanmar's de facto leader since April 2016.
- ❖ Aung San Suu Kyi's party got a huge victory in the 2015 election which held after a massive struggle. Because of the foreign citizenship holding of Suu her sons she couldn't become a president of Myanmar.
- ❖ Then she became a national advisor and her close ally Htin Kyaw become president.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

New Planet K2-229b

- ❖ Scientists using Kepler 2 telescope have discovered hot, metallic, Earth-sized planet named K2-229b orbiting dwarf star located 260 million light years away.
- ❖ They had employed Doppler spectroscopy technique also known as 'wobble method' to discover and characterise this faraway planet.
- ❖ The planet is almost 20 per cent larger than Earth but has a mass which is over two-and-a-half times greater. It reaches a day side temperature of over 2000 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ K2-229b orbits this star every fourteen hours. It has same high density that of Mercury-like planets.

ENVIRONMENT

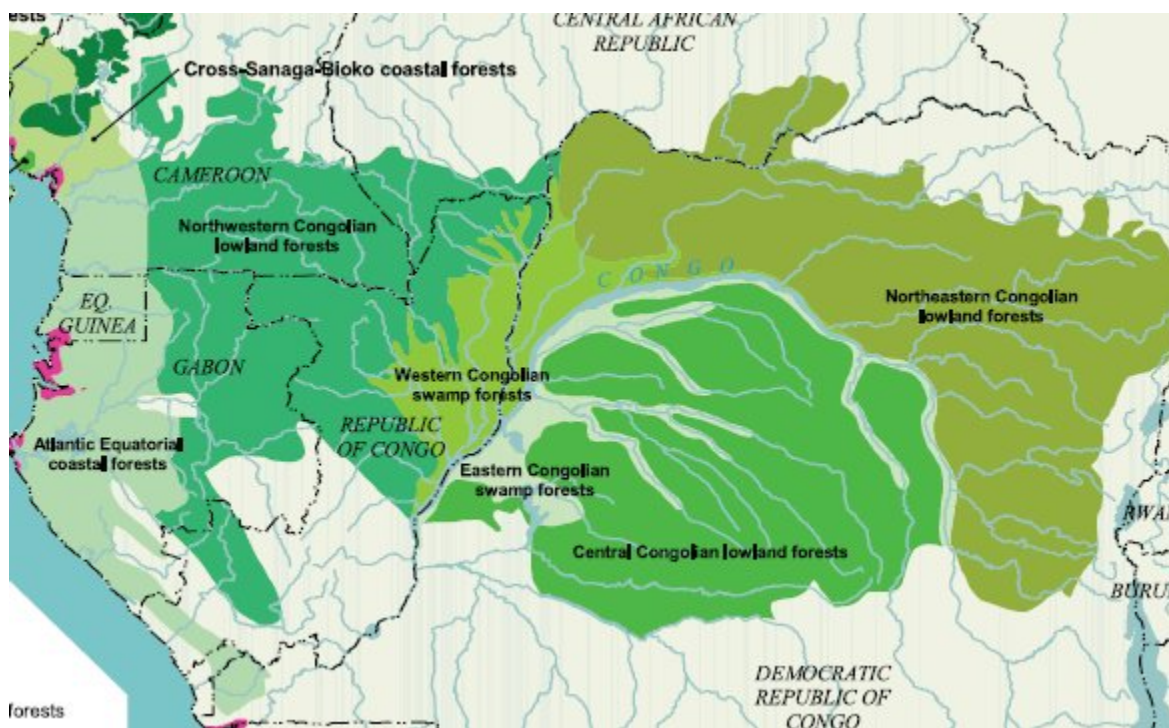
Brazzaville Declaration

- ❖ The Brazzaville declaration was signed jointly by Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Republic of Congo and Indonesia to promote better management and conservation of the world's largest tropical Peatlands-Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin.
- ❖ The declaration was signed to conserve the region from unregulated land use and prevent its drainage and degradation.

- ❖ It has been signed on the side-lines of Third Partners Meeting of Global Peatlands Initiative held in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo.



- ❖ They are globally important carbon store. The unregulated exploitation of peatlands can potentially be detrimental to environment and to climate, as it could release carbon emissions that have been locked in for millennia.





- ❖ Peatlands are wetlands that contain mixture of decomposed organic material, partially submerged in layer of water, lacking oxygen.
- ❖ Their high carbon content makes them uniquely vulnerable to incineration if they are drained.
- ❖ The Cuvette Centrale region in Congo Basin is world's largest natural tropical peatlands. It stores three years equivalent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

STATES

Madhavpur Mela in Gujarat

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Culture for the first time had organised Madhavpur Mela in Madhavpur Ghed in Porbandar District of Gujarat under the banner of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat.
- ❖ Its purpose is to bring various parts of country especially the North-East, close to each other culturally.
- ❖ Madhavpur Mela of Gujarat shares its connect to Mishmi Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Madhavpur Mela is celebrated by cultural fair held every year. And it is usually commencing on Ram Navami.

SPORTS

ISSF Junior World Cup

- ❖ Muskan Bhanwala clinched the gold medal in women's 25m pistol. By this India pipped China to the top of the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia.
- ❖ The Indian shooter Muskan Bhanwala won gold in finals by beating China's Qin Sihang and Thailand's Kanyakorn Hirunphoem, who respectively took silver and bronze in the pistol event.
- ❖ It's the first ISSF medal for Muskan Bhanwala and China's Qin Sihang.
- ❖ The Indian shooters Muskan, Manu Bhaker and Devanshi Rana won gold medal in team category.
- ❖ Muskan's medal was India's fourth individual gold in this historically prestigious tournament.



- ❖ Indian shooter Anish won two gold in this tournament.
- ❖ With this medal, Muskan and Anish have become the only siblings in the world to have won gold in the same edition of Junior World Cup.
