

April - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Railways will run 'Oxygen Express' trains transporting liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders across the country via green corridors to meet growing demand from states.
 - Green corridors are being created to ensure fast movement of these trains.
- ❖ The Tourism and Culture Minister Prahalad Singh Patel inaugurated the first-ever online exhibition on Ramayana, the epic by Maharishi Valmiki.
 - The exhibition will be showcasing 49 miniature paintings collections of the National Museum in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited will be establishing four oxygen plants in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha.
 - The medical oxygen plant will be set up at Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh), Kalol (Gujarat), and Paradeep (Odisha).
- ❖ The first 'Oxygen Express' departed from Navi Mumbai to ferry liquid oxygen for Maharashtra from the Vishakhapatnam steel plant in Andhra Pradesh.

TAMIL NADU

Champions of Change Award 2020 - MK Stalin

- ❖ MK Stalin, Leader of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, was awarded the 'Champions of Change Award - 2020'.
- ❖ The award was presented on behalf of the Interactive Forum on Indian Economy.
- ❖ It was given at a ceremony held at the Taj Resort & Convention Centre, Goa.
- ❖ The award is given for his social welfare programs.

NATIONAL

EatSmart Cities Challenge

- ❖ It was launched by the Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry.
- ❖ The Challenge is envisioned as a competition among cities to recognize their efforts in adopting and scaling up various initiatives under Eat Right India.
- ❖ The challenge is open to all Smart Cities, capital cities of States/UTs, and cities with a population of more than 5 lakh.



ECONOMY

Mega Food Park

- ❖ Italy recently launched the first “Mega Food Park” at Fanidhar in the Mehsana district of Gujarat.
- ❖ It is the first Italian-Indian Food Park project launched in the country.
- ❖ The Mega Food Park is a scheme implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing.
- ❖ The main aim of the scheme is to establish direct linkage from farms to processing and consumer markets.

ENVIRONMENT

Sulphur dioxide from Caribbean volcano

- ❖ The sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions from a volcanic eruption in the Caribbean (from La Soufriere volcano eruption) reached India on April 16, 2021.
- ❖ It was sparking the fear of increased pollution levels in the northern parts of the country and acid rain.
- ❖ It was confirmed by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ The Scientists have also found evidence for the entry of sulphate aerosol particles in the stratosphere, the second layer of the Earth’s atmosphere.
- ❖ The aerosols increase the reflection of radiation from the Sun back into space, cooling the Earth’s lower atmosphere or troposphere.
- ❖ The largest source of SO₂ in the atmosphere is the burning of fossil fuels by power plants and other industrial facilities.

Disc-footed bat

- ❖ Meghalaya has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs.
- ❖ It was recorded in Meghalaya's Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ The disc-footed bat has raised Meghalaya's bat species count to 66, the most for any State in India.



Light Pollution

- ❖ The Researchers recently found that Light pollution from satellites 'poses threat' to astronomy.
- ❖ Artificial satellites and space junk orbiting the Earth can increase the brightness of the night sky.
- ❖ The overall brightness of the night sky will be increased by more than 10 per cent above natural light levels across the planet.
- ❖ Such light pollution could hinder astronomers' ability to make observations of our universe.
- ❖ There are more than 9,200 tonnes of space objects in orbit around the Earth.
- ❖ The space junk not only poses a collision risk but, together with other space objects, is contributing to light pollution.
- ❖ The sunlight, reflected and scattered from space objects, can appear as streaks in observations made by ground-based telescopes.
- ❖ This research is the first to assess the overall impact of space objects on the night sky.
- ❖ Earlier the effect of individual satellites and space debris affecting astronomers' images of the night skies was analysed.
- ❖ The researchers belong to the Comenius University in Slovakia.



Norms for Thermal Power Plants (TPP)

- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has amended these norms now.
- ❖ It had notified the emission norms for particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen in 2015.
- ❖ These had to be complied with by power stations in 2017.
- ❖ It now allows thermal power plants within 10 kilometres of the National Capital Region (NCR) and in cities with more than 10 lakh population to comply with new emission norms by the end of 2022
- ❖ Major pollutants from coal-fired power plants are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and particulate matter (PM).
- ❖ TPPs account for more than 60 per cent of total industrial emissions of particulate matter; 45 per cent of SO₂; 30 per cent of NO_x; and more than 80 per cent of mercury, in the country.
- ❖ These are also responsible for 70 per cent of the total freshwater withdrawal by all industries.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Charles Geschke

- ❖ Charles Geschke, Adobe's co-founder, died at the age of 81 in California of the USA.
- ❖ He aided the development of the world's most widely used file format, the Portable Document Format (PDF).

- ❖ Geschke co-founded Adobe in 1982 along with John Warnock.
- ❖ Geschke was widely known as Chuck.
- ❖ In the 1990s, Warnock spearheaded the project called the “Camelot Project”.



Actor Vivek

- ❖ Tamil actor Vivek recently passed away at 59.
- ❖ In 2009, the Government of India awarded Vivek the Padma Shri award for his contribution to the arts.
- ❖ His nickname Chinna Kalaivanar was as compared with NS Krishnan.
- ❖ In 2010, Vivek launched Green Kalam, under the guidance of former President of India A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ He had been appointed an ambassador for the Plastic Pollution Free Tamil Nadu campaign.



SPORTS

2021 Senior Asian Wrestling Championships

- ❖ It was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan.
- ❖ This is the 34th edition.
- ❖ India won 14 medals to stand in the third spot on the medal table.
- ❖ The medals include 5 Gold, 3 Silver and 6 Bronze Medals.
- ❖ Iran and Kazakhstan topped the medal tally with 17 medals each.

