

February - 23

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister addressed a Workshop on ‘COVID-19 Management: Experience, Good Practices and Way Forward’ with nearly 10 Neighbouring Countries.
 - He called for making a regional air ambulance agreement among neighbouring countries for “medical contingencies”.

NATIONAL

Role in State’s quota decisions

- ❖ The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has no role in the choices made by the Tamil Nadu government with regard to the provision of reservation for specific castes or communities in State government jobs and admissions.
- ❖ The Centre was responding to a petition challenging the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Sc and ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act – 1993.
- ❖ It provides 69% reservation in the State.

Centre’s stand

- ❖ Inclusion or exclusion of any caste/community in the State List of SEBCs is the subject matter of the State government, and the Government of India has no role in the matter.
- ❖ It referred to the Constitution (One hundred and second Amendment) Act of 2018, which details the difference in the procedure for inclusion or exclusion of castes and communities in the State List for SEBCs and the Central List.
- ❖ The power to identify and specify SEBCs lies with Parliament only with reference to the Central List.
- ❖ Under the newly-inserted Article 342A of the Constitution (One hundred and second Amendment) Act of 2018, the President notifies the SEBCs in a State after consultation with the Governor.

First woman to be hanged

- ❖ For the first in the history of independent India, a woman, convicted for killing seven members of her family.
- ❖ She was tried and awarded death by all the courts.



- ❖ She will be hanged at Mathura jail.
- ❖ Mathura jail is the only one India which has the provisions for hanging a woman convict.
- ❖ The first female hanging house was built in Mathura jail almost 150 years ago.
- ❖ But no woman has been executed there since Independence.
- ❖ A woman from Lucknow called Ramshri was sentenced to death earlier on April 6, 1998.
- ❖ But her death sentence was commuted into life imprisonment.

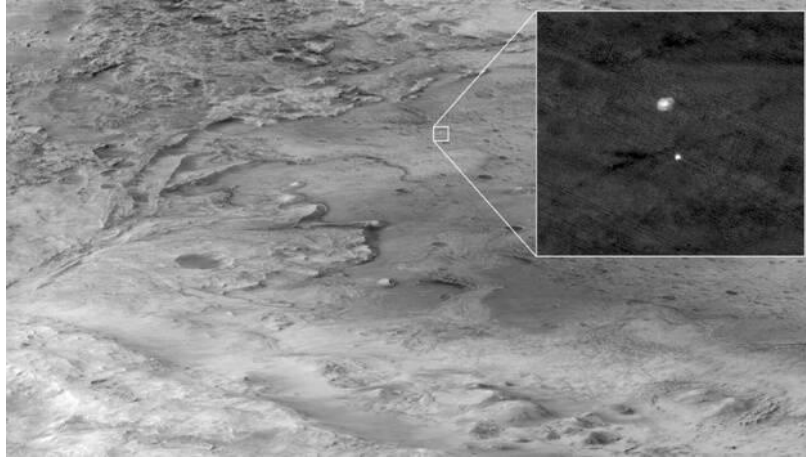
Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2021

- ❖ This year the Kumbh Mela will be organized from April 1 to April 30, 2021.
- ❖ The last Kumbh Mela was celebrated in Haridwar of Uttarakhand from Makar Sankranti.
- ❖ Kumbh Mela is held at four places at an interval of 12 years in India.
- ❖ There are 3 types of Kumbh namely Purna Kumbh Mela, Ardh Kumbh Mela and Maha Kumbh Mela.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Landing of Perseverance in Mars

- ❖ The USA's Nasa sent rover Perseverance successfully landed on the surface of Mars.
- ❖ The Perseverance will also collect samples of Martian Rocks from the Red Planet.
- ❖ After landing, two of the Hazard Cameras (Hazcams) captured views from the front and rear of the rover
- ❖ It sent photos of mars, including a high-resolution colour selfie taken during its landing.
- ❖ A key objective for Perseverance's mission on Mars is astrobiology, including the search for signs of ancient microbial life.
- ❖ It will carry Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.
- ❖ This is the first time NASA will fly a helicopter on another planet or satellite.



STATES

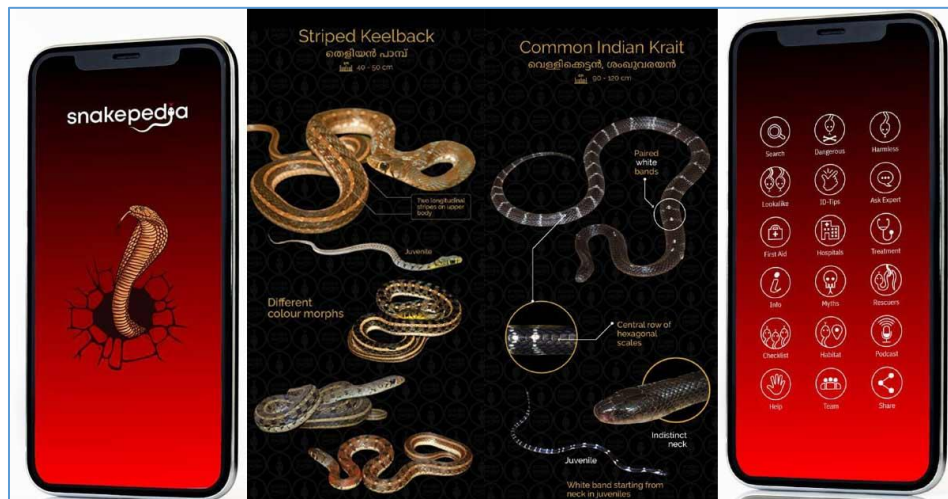
Tree City of the World

- ❖ Hyderabad city (Telangana's Capital) has been recognised as a '2020 Tree City of the World'.
- ❖ This recognition given by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).
- ❖ Hyderabad has earned recognition in the Foundation's second year of the programme along with 51 other cities in the world.
- ❖ Most of the cities were from countries – USA, UK, Canada, Australia etc.
- ❖ It is the only City in India to get this recognition so far.

MAKING EVERY STEP COUNT	
<p>5 STANDARDS TO BE ELIGIBLE UNDER CATEGORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The city has a written statement delegating responsibility for care of trees within municipal boundary to staff member or group of citizens—called a tree board ➤ It has in place a law that governs management of forests, trees 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It has an updated inventory so that effective long-term plan for planting trees can be established ➤ It has a dedicated annual budget for routine implementation of tree management plan ➤ It holds annual celebration of trees to raise awareness among residents

Snakepedia mobile app

- ❖ A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in Kerala have launched a mobile application named “Snakepedia”.
- ❖ It will present all relevant information on snakes, to help the public as well as doctors in treating snake bites.
- ❖ The main aim of the app is to help the public identify snakes, avail proper treatment on time for snakebites, bust myths about snakes, and protect snakes as well as snakebite victims.



Package for Maa Samaleswari Shrine

- ❖ The state government of Odisha, has launched the development work for the SAMALEI Project.
- ❖ SAMALEI stands for Samaleswari Temple Area Management and Local Economy Initiatives.
- ❖ It aims to offer the divine experience to tourists & devotees.
- ❖ The project involves the development of 108 acres of land in & around the 16th century shrine of Maa Samaleswari, the presiding deity of western Odisha.

Pugalur - Thrissur power transmission project






- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurates the 320 KV Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) - Thrissur (Kerala) power transmission project.
- ❖ It is a Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project.

- ❖ It has India's first HVDC link featuring state-of-the-art VSC technology.
- ❖ This VSC based system features integration of HVDC XLPE (cross-linked polyethylene) cable with overhead lines.
- ❖ This line saves right-of-way as well as has 35-40% less land footprint compared to conventional HVDC system.



SPORTS

200 wickets of left-handers

MOST WICKETS OF LEFT-HAND BATSMEN IN TESTS				
				
R ASHWIN	MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN	JAMES ANDERSON	GLENN McGRATH	SHANE WARNE
WICKETS				
200	191	190	172	172
% OF TOTAL WICKETS				
51.2%	23.9%	31.1%	30.6%	24.3%

- ❖ Ravichandran Ashwin has become the first player in the 143-year history of Test cricket to take 200 wickets against left-handed batsmen.



- ❖ He achieved this feat during India's second Test against England at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.
- ❖ Ashwin has picked 391 wickets till now in his career.
- ❖ The second most successful bowler in Test cricket against left-handed batsmen is Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (191).

