

February - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Gita Sen, an Indian feminist scholar, activist has won the prestigious Dan David Prize 2020 under “present” category.
- ❖ Website of exercise MILAN 2020 (www.milan2020.org.in) has been launched in Visakhapatnam.
 - Exercise MILAN is being conducted biennially by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command since 1995.
- ❖ The Government of India appointed Rajiv Bansal as CMD (Chairman & Managing Director) of Air India.
- ❖ Boxer Amit Panghal has ranked world No. 1 in International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) ranking for Olympic qualifiers.
 - In the women’s rankings Indian Boxer Mary Kom Occupies 5th spot.
- ❖ 79-million-year-old fossils of new Thanatotheristes found in Canada.
 - Tyrannosaurs were one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs.
- ❖ Rajindra Kumar Pachauri, former Chairman and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), passed away in New Delhi.
 - Pachauri received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007.

NATIONAL

Cha-Chai art work

- ❖ The Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa inaugurated a Cha-Chai art-work installation at the National Museum.
- ❖ The Cha-Chai art work inaugurated was a teapot art work.
- ❖ The 5 pm tea is a family tradition of the Portuguese.
- ❖ The long-lasting connection between Portugal and India shines through tea or chai.
- ❖ This Cha-Chai art work was made of iron railings.



Nagpur Oranges Export to Dubai

- ❖ The first consignment of Nagpur Oranges was sent to Dubai from Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The oranges were sent in refrigerated containers.
- ❖ In the state of Maharashtra, around 40 hectares of land is under cultivation of Nagpur oranges.
- ❖ The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) selected Nagpur district as a cluster for oranges under Agriculture Export Policy.

India's 1st Energy-Neutral stations

- ❖ The Indian South-Central Railways zone becomes India's first to have 13 energy-neutral stations.
- ❖ The number is highest amongst all the zones across the Indian Railways network.
- ❖ energy-neutral railway stations are capable of meeting 100% energy requirements through solar photovoltaic panels which have been commissioned at the station buildings.



INTERNATIONAL

56th edition of Munich Security Conference

- ❖ The 56th edition of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) has recently commenced in Germany's southern city, Munich.
- ❖ MSC is an annual conference on the international security policy that takes place since 1963.
- ❖ The theme of this year's conference is selected to be "Westlessness."
- ❖ Indian External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar has represented India in the conference.

Judgement on Netherland's Digital Identification Scheme

- ❖ In a first anywhere in the world, a court in the Netherlands has ruled against a digital identification mechanism.
- ❖ This mechanism is known as SyRI (System Risk Indicator).
- ❖ This judgement was given to prevent data privacy and human rights concerns.

About SyRI

- ❖ The Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs developed SyRI in 2014.
- ❖ Aim of the SyRI was to remove those who commit fraud and receive government benefits.
- ❖ Similar to the Supreme Court's Aadhaar judgment setting limits on the ID's usage, the Hague Court attempted to balance social interest with personal privacy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA's new missions on solar system

- ❖ NASA Selects Four Possible Missions to Study the Secrets of the Solar System. They are,
 1. DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging Plus).
 - DAVINCI+ will analyse Venus' atmosphere.
 2. Io Volcano Observer (IVO).
 - IVO would explore Jupiter's moon.
 3. TRIDENT.

- Trident would explore Triton, a unique and highly active icy moon of Neptune.
- 4. VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy).
 - VERITAS would map Venus' surface to determine the planet's geologic history.

India's 11th Antarctic Expedition

- ❖ The South African oceanographic research vessel SA Agulhas has started its journey to Antarctic Ocean from Port Louis (Mauritius).
- ❖ This is the 11th expedition of an Indian mission to the Southern Ocean, or Antarctic Ocean.
- ❖ The first mission took place between January and March 2004.
- ❖ The data's given by this expedition crew will be analysed through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCOPR) in Goa.
 - NCOPR works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Currently, the research vessel was located at Prydz Bay, in the coastal waters of "Bharati".
 - Bharati is India's third station in Antarctica.
 - Other two station are Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri.

ENVIRONMENT

Yara Virus

- ❖ Researchers have discovered an unusually small virus in a lake in Brazil.
- ❖ The virus has been named Yara virus after 'Yara', a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology.
- ❖ The Yara virus infects amoeba.
- ❖ It has genes that have not been described before.
- ❖ The Yara virus does not infect human cells.

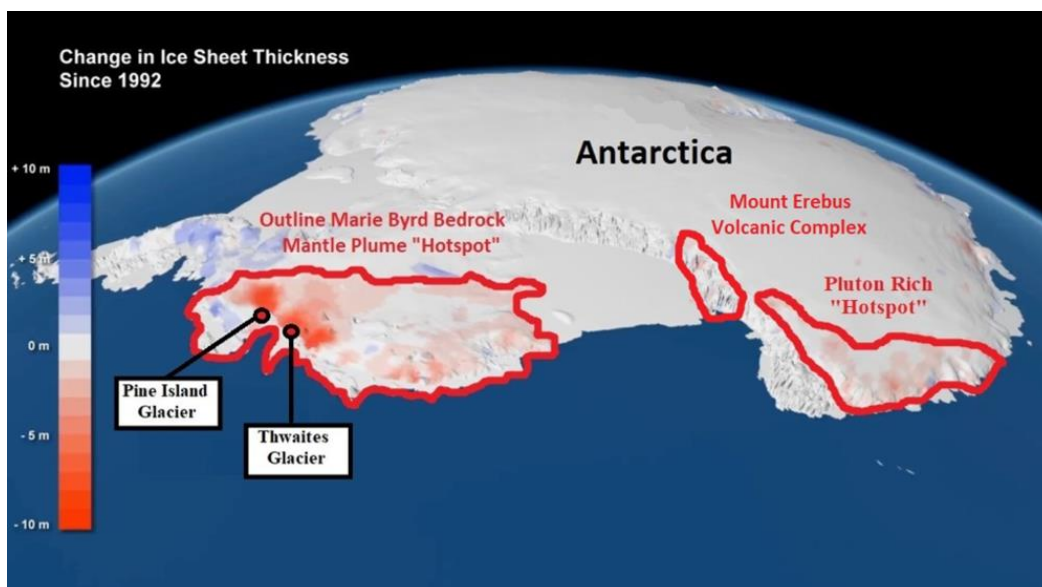


Melting of Thwaites Glacier

- ❖ A new study has detected the presence of warm water at a vital point beneath the Thwaites glacier as the cause of its melting.
- ❖ The study has observed that the temperature of the water at the grounding zone of the glacier is two degrees higher than the freezing point of the water.

Thwaites Glacier

- ❖ Thwaites Glacier is 120 km wide, fast-moving glacier located in Antarctica.
- ❖ Its melting already contributes 4% to global sea-level rise each year.
- ❖ Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.





Antarctica recorded the hottest temperature

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization announced that for the first time in record Antarctica has recorded its hottest temperature ever, 20.75 Degree Celsius.
- ❖ So far, the highest was 18.3 Degrees Celsius that was recorded in January 1982.
- ❖ The higher temperatures were influenced by shifts in El Nino and Ocean Currents.
- ❖ Antarctic region stores more than 70% of world's fresh water.
- ❖ If it melts, the sea level will increase by 50 to 60 metres.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020

- ❖ The following persons will be presented with the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.
 - American immunologist and oncologist Dr. Carl H June and
 - Pharmaceutical company Novartis CEO Dr. Vasant Narasimhan.
- ❖ Genome Valley Excellence Award was instituted in 2004.
- ❖ This award is presented to recognize and honour eminent individuals & organisations for their exceptional contribution to the life science research & public health.

SPORTS

Womens T20I Tri-Series 2020

- ❖ Indian women's cricket team played Women's T20I Tri-Series 2020 in Australia.
- ❖ In this match, Australia won the title by 11 runs and captured the title.
- ❖ The Indian team was led by Harmanpreet Kaur.
- ❖ The Australian team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning.

MISCELLANEOUS

Future of Earth 2020 report

- ❖ “The Future of Earth, 2020” report has been released by the South Asia Future Earth Regional Office, the Divecha Centre for Climate Change and the Indian Institute of Science.
- ❖ The report has been prepared with the aim of
 - Reducing carbon footprint and
 - Halting global warming below 2 degree Celsius by 2050.
- ❖ The report lists five global risks. They are,
 1. Climate change
 2. Extreme weather
 3. Biodiversity loss
 4. Food crisis
 5. Water crisis
- ❖ During 2019, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached more than 415 ppm.
- ❖ The five years from 2014 to 2018 were the warmest recorded over land and ocean since 1880.

