

January - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Sri Lankan bowler Lasith Malinga has decided to retire from franchise cricket.
 - He was a part of the Mumbai Indians franchise in the Indian Premier League since 2008.
- ❖ The Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa recently launched Avalokana software.
 - The software will enable the state government to access data on expenditures and sanctions incurred on 1,800 programmes.

TAMIL NADU

Portraits in Tamilnadu Assembly

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamilnadu said that the life-size portraits of Omandurar Ramaswamy Reddiar, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai and Paramasivan Subbarayan would be unveiled in the Assembly soon.

S.No	Portrait	Unveiled on	Unveiled by
1	C. Rajagopalachari	24 June 1948	Jawaharlal Nehru
2	Mahatma Gandhi	23 August 1948	C. Rajagopalachari
3	Thiruvalluvar	22 March 1964	Zakir Hussain
4	C. N. Annadurai	6 October 1969	Indira Gandhi
5	K. Kamaraj	18 August 1977	Neelam Sanjiva Reddy
6	Periyar E. V. Ramasamy	9 August 1980	Jothi Venkatachalam
7	B. R. Ambedkar	9 August 1980	Jothi Venkatachalam
8	U. Muthuramalingam Thevar	9 August 1980	Jothi Venkatachalam
9	Muhammad Ismail Sahib	9 August 1980	Jothi Venkatachalam
10	M. G. Ramachandran	31 January 1992	J. Jayalalithaa
11	J. Jayalalithaa	12 February 2018	P. Dhanapal
12	S. S. Ramaswami Padayachi	19 July 2019	Edappadi K. Palaniswami

- ❖ Earlier he unveiled a portrait of freedom fighter SS Ramasamy Padayatchiyar in the State Assembly hall in July 20th in 2019.
- ❖ SS Ramasamy Padayatchiyar's portrait is the 12th to be unveiled in the House.



- ❖ SS Ramasamy Padayatchiyar founded the Tamil Nadu Toilers Party in 1952.
- ❖ In 1954, he became a minister in the Cabinet headed by the late K Kamaraj.
- ❖ Portraits of Thiruvalluvar, Mahatma Gandhi, BR Ambedkar, Periyar, Rajaji, K Kamaraj, Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar, Arignar Anna, Quaid-e-Milleth, MG Ramachandran and J Jayalalithaa were unveiled since 1948.

NATIONAL

Aadhaar review petitions

- ❖ The Supreme Court, in a majority view, has dismissed a series of petitions seeking a review of its 2018 judgment.
- ❖ The 2018 Judgement uphold the Lok Sabha Speaker's certification of Aadhaar law as a Money Bill and its subsequent passage in Parliament.
- ❖ It was enabling the money bill to get cleared without getting the assent of a majority in the Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ Section 7 of Aadhaar Act provided that the expenditure for subsidy, services or benefits under welfare schemes would be met from the Consolidated Fund of India.
- ❖ Because of this, the bill was qualified to be categorised as a money bill.

INTERNATIONAL

15 executive orders - USA

- ❖ Joe Biden on the first day of his administration signed 15 executive orders.
- ❖ He is undoing the key policies of his predecessor Donald Trump over the last four years.
- ❖ The first executive order signed by President Joe Biden was on COVID-19, aimed at boosting the federal response to the coronavirus crisis.
- ❖ The order mandates masks to be worn and social distancing be kept on Federal property.
- ❖ Some of the other major orders include halting the construction of Trump's border wall with Mexico, recommitment to Paris Climate Accord, ended the Muslim travel ban.
- ❖ He has also halted the US withdrawal from World Health Organisation.
- ❖ He also revoked the presidential permit that was granted to the Keystone XL Pipeline project.

- ❖ The keystone pipeline system is an oil pipeline system in the United States and Canada.
- ❖ He has also signed an executive order, revoking the Trump administration's plan to exclude non-citizens from the census count.

World's Oldest Cave Painting

- ❖ The world's oldest known cave painting was discovered in the limestone cave of Leang Tedongnge of Indonesia.
- ❖ The painting made using red ochre pigment depicts a wild boar endemic to the Sulawesi island of Indonesia.
- ❖ The painting of the Sulawesi warty pig seems to be the world's oldest surviving representational image of an animal.



Salvator Mundi painting

- ❖ Italy recently recovered a sixteenth century copy of “Salvator Mundi”.
- ❖ It is the world most expensive painting of Leonardo da Vinci.
- ❖ The painting depicts Jesus in Renaissance dress making the sign of cross with his right hand.
- ❖ Leonardo da Vinci was an Italian polymath.

- ❖ Polymath is an individual whose knowledge spans a substantial number of subjects.



ECONOMY

Section 32 A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

- ❖ The Supreme Court recently upheld the validity of Section 32 A of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
- ❖ Under its judgement, the apex court pronounced that the successful bidders for a corporate debtor will be immune from any investigations conducted by an investigating agency (like Enforcement Directorate or other statutory bodies such as SEBI).
- ❖ The Section 32A provides immunity to the corporate debtor and its property.

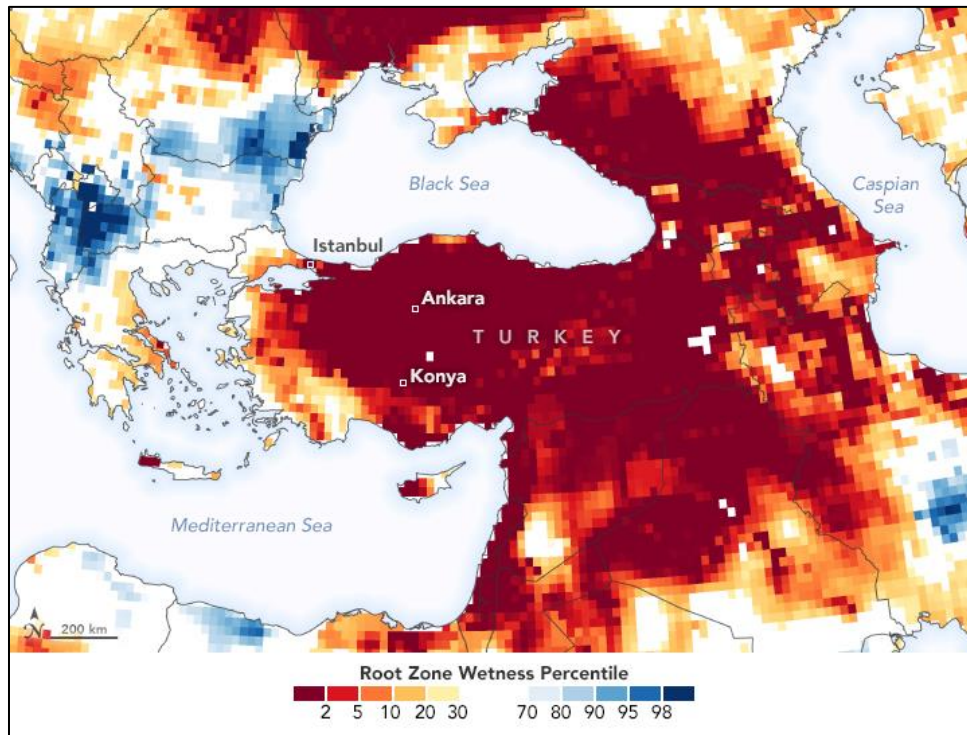
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Quantum Computing Applications Lab

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has announced the establishment of a Quantum Computing Applications Lab in partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- ❖ The move will give select researchers; scientists access to Amazon's Bracket cloud-based quantum computing service.

Root zone moisture

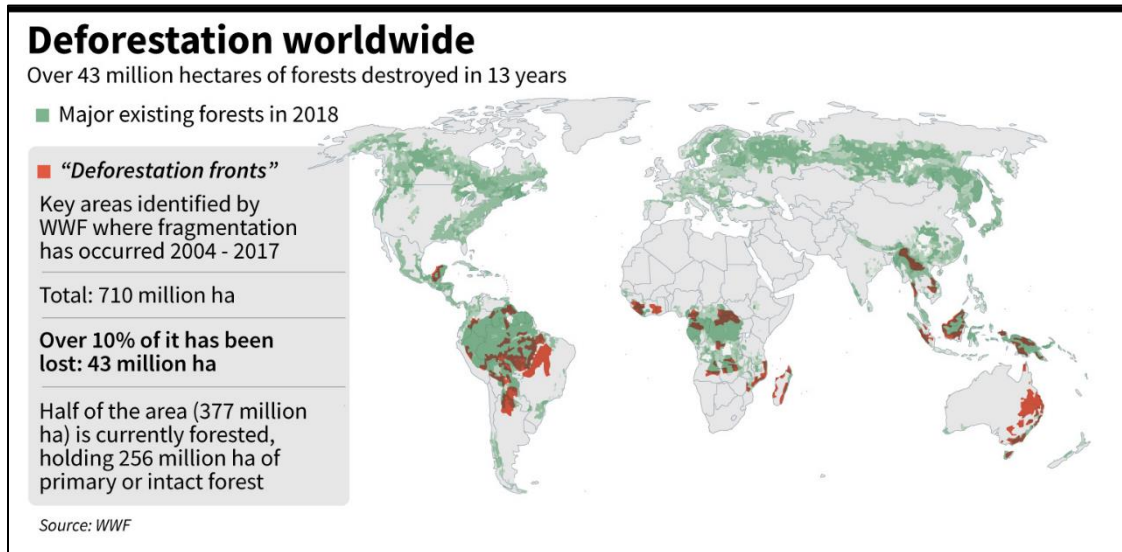
- ❖ NASA recently released the estimates of soil moisture in the root zone such as the top 39 inches of soil.
- ❖ Accordingly, the Konya Plains had the lowest “root zone moisture”.
- ❖ The Konya Plains is located in Turkey.
- ❖ It received 38% less rainfall in 2020 as compared to 2019.
- ❖ This is the main reason for the region to become the lowest “root zone moisture” area in the world.
- ❖ The estimate was done based on the GRACE-FO satellite data.



ENVIRONMENT

WWF Report

- ❖ It said that more than 43 million hectares of forest have been lost in a little over a decade in just a handful of deforestation hotspots.
- ❖ It found that just 29 sites across South America, Africa and South East Asia were responsible for more than half of the global forest loss.
- ❖ Brazilian Amazon and Cerrado, Bolivian Amazon, Paraguay, Argentina, Madagascar, along with Sumatra and Borneo in Indonesia and Malaysia were among the worst affected.



STATES

Ratle Hydro Power Project

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the investment to the Ratle Hydro Electric Project.
- ❖ Ratle Hydro Electric Project is located on river Chenab in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

₹5281.94 Crore for 850 MW Ratle Hydro Power Project Approved



A new Joint Venture Company to be incorporated between NHPC* and JKSPDC** for construction of the project, located on river Chenab in J&K



GoI to provide a grant of ₹776.44 crore for equity contribution of JKSPDC & NHPC to invest ₹808.14 crore



Will result in direct & indirect employment to around 4000 persons in J&K; the project to be commissioned within a span of 60 months



UT of J&K to get free power worth ₹5289 crore and ₹9581 crore through levy of Water Usage Charges during the project life of 40 years

SPORTS

1st ever Khelo India winter games

- ❖ The Khelo India Zanskar Winter Sports Festival began at Zanskar, Kargil district of Ladakh.
- ❖ It aims to promote Zanskar as a destination for winter tourists in Ladakh.
- ❖ It aims to promote Ladakh as a centre for Ice Hockey.

