

January - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The US Department of State has unveiled new rules aimed at restricting “birth tourism,” in which women travel to the United States to give birth so their children can have U.S. citizenship.
 - Birth tourism refers to the practice of traveling to another country for the purpose of giving birth in that country.

NATIONAL

Enemy properties

- ❖ A Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Home Minister will monitor the disposal of over 9,400 enemy properties, which the government estimates are worth about Rs 1 lakh crore.
- ❖ Properties that were left behind by the people who took citizenship of Pakistan and China are known as Enemy Properties.
 - There are 9,280 such properties left behind by Pakistani nationals and 126 by Chinese nationals.
- ❖ Under the Defence of India Rules framed under The Defence of India Act, 1962, the Government of India took over the properties and companies of those who took Pakistani nationality.
- ❖ The Enemy Property Act, enacted in 1968, provided for the continuous vesting of enemy property in the Custodian of Enemy Property for India.
- ❖ Some movable properties too, are categorised as enemy properties.
- ❖ The 2017 amended Act expanded the definition of the term “enemy subject”, and “enemy firm” to include
 - the legal heir and successor of an enemy, whether a citizen of India or a citizen of a country which is not an enemy;
 - and the succeeding firm of an enemy firm, irrespective of the nationality of its members or partners.

3rd Apex Conference of Smart City

- ❖ The 3rd Apex Conference of the Smart Cities was organized on January, 2020 at Andhra University Convention Center, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organized an Apex Conference on Smart Cities Project.
- ❖ Amaravati ranked first among all 100 smart cities in spending the funds released by the Union government under the Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ Seven different awards have been conferred upon smart cities under seven themes.
- ❖ These cities include
 - Visakhapatnam and Ahmedabad from among round-1 cities,
 - Vadodara, Ranchi and Kanpur from among round-2 cities,
 - Sagar, Amaravati and Rajkot from among round-3 cities and
 - Erode from among round-4 cities.
- ❖ 1st Apex Conference, Bhopal, 2018.
- ❖ 2nd Apex Conference, New Delhi, 2019.
- ❖ 3rd Apex Conference, Visakhapatnam, 2020.



INTERNATIONAL

Polio comeback in many countries

- ❖ Polio has made a comeback in countries such as the Philippines, Malaysia, Ghana, Myanmar, China, Cameroon, Indonesia and Iran, mostly as vaccine-derived polio infection.
- ❖ All these countries had wiped the virus out at various times during the last couple of decades.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

International Summit on Women in STEM

- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology (Ministry of Science & Technology) organized an International Summit on Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in New Delhi in January 2020.
- ❖ The overall aim was to boost the participation of women in the STEM fields for the development of a scientific career.
- ❖ Theme of the summit is “Visualizing the Future: New Skylines”.
- ❖ The objective of the summit was to showcase successful women in the field of STEM.

ENVIRONMENT

Pavagada Solar plant – Karnataka

- ❖ The first phase Shakti Sthala solar park having total capacity of 2,050 megawatts (MW) is now fully operational in drought-prone Pavagada region of Tumkur district, Karnataka.
- ❖ It is claimed that world’s largest solar park.
- ❖ The park ties in with the Central Government’s scheme to generate 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar power by 2020.
- ❖ It has been executed within record time of two years, with zero land acquisition.
- ❖ The project has been developed by the Karnataka Solar Park Development Corporation Limited (KSPDCL), a joint venture between the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and the Karnataka Renewable Energy (KREDL).

New archaeon in sambhar lake

- ❖ Scientists at the National Centre for Microbial Resource — National Centre for Cell Science (NCCR-NCCS) have discovered a new archaeon (a kind of microorganism) in Sambhar Salt Lake in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Archaea (singular archaeon) are a primitive group of microorganisms that thrive in extreme habitats such as hot springs, cold deserts and hypersaline lakes.
- ❖ They are also known for producing antimicrobial molecules and for antioxidant activity with applications in eco-friendly waste-water treatment.
- ❖ The new archaeon discovered in Sambhar Lake has been named *Natrialba swarupiae* after Dr Renu Swarup, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology for her initiative in supporting microbial diversity studies in the country.

About NCMR - NCCS:

- ❖ National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR) was started as Microbial Culture Collection (MCC) in 2009.
- ❖ It comes under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India.
- ❖ Its mandate is to preserve and catalogue the diversity of bacteria.

STATES

1st Innovation festival

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh state council for science & Technology (APSCS&T) with partnership with National Innovation Foundation organised the 1st ever Innovation festival at Itanagar.



- ❖ The two days festival aims to encourage the cultural innovation among the people and students of Arunachal Pradesh.

India's 1st Super Fab Lab

- ❖ CM of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated India's 1st Super Fab Lab facility at the Integrated Startup Complex of the Kerala Startup Mission (KSUM).
- ❖ The lab will function in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States, will work in enhancing the hardware industry.
- ❖ It is the only such facility outside the United States.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

1st Ganga - Volga Dialogue of civilizations 2020

- ❖ The 1st edition of Ganga-Volga Dialogue of Civilizations 2020 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is conducted based on the theme of “Connectivity”, between India & Russia.
- ❖ The dialogue aims to provide a platform for enhancing the special and privileged bilateral partnership between India & Russia.

2019 Harit Ratna Award

- ❖ Vice Chancellor of Tamil Nadu Agriculture University N Kumar was honoured with Harit Ratna Award 2019 at the 5th National Youth Convention.
- ❖ The award was given by All India Agricultural Students Association (AIASA).

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Holocaust Remembrance Day - January 27

- ❖ The United Nations Department of Global Communications marked the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of Holocaust.
- ❖ This year, 2020 marks 75th anniversary of the day.
- ❖ The Day was officially announced in November 2005 at the United Nations General Assembly.



- ❖ This International Day marks the ending of world war II.
- ❖ Theme: 75 Years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice

- ❖ The day also marks the anniversary of Liberation of Auschwitz.
- ❖ The holocaust was the genocide of the European Jews between 1941 and 1945.

MISCELLANEOUS

Bharat Parv 2020

- ❖ Bharat Parv, 2020, the programme to celebrate the Spirit of India, started at Red Fort in New Delhi and will be continued till 31st January, 2020.
- ❖ Theme of the Program is “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” & “Celebrating 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi”.
- ❖ The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourist places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of ‘Dekho Apna Desh’.

