

March - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Geneva International Motor Show (Gims), which was scheduled to be organized between March 5 to 15, is now cancelled in an attempt to restrict the fast-spreading coronavirus.
- ❖ Muhyiddin Yassin becomes the prime minister of Malaysia.
- ❖ Dutee Chand (Odisha) wins 2nd gold at Khelo India University Games.
- ❖ The Kerala High Court ruled that strikes, rallies and gheraos that affect regular classes should not be held on the campuses of schools and colleges.
- ❖ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) lowered its India's GDP growth forecast to 5.1 per cent from the earlier projection of 6.2 per cent for 2020 on concerns of impact of deadly coronavirus on the domestic as well as the global economy.
- ❖ The World Health Organization raised its global risk assessment for the new coronavirus to “very high” from “high” as some countries struggle to contain the pathogen.

TAMIL NADU

6th Phase of Keezhadi Excavation

- ❖ The sixth phase of Keezhadi excavations was started on February 19th, 2020.
- ❖ A small section of limestone wall was unearthed during this excavation near Thirupuvanam in Sivagangai district.
- ❖ The previous five phases of excavations undertaken at Keezhadi unearthed nearly 13,000 artefacts.
- ❖ Artefacts found during the fourth phase had revealed that the Sangam Era was much older than previously thought, dating back to 6th century BC.

NATIONAL

Renewable Energy Management Centres (REMCs)

- ❖ Power Minister R K Singh launched 11 REMCs to the nation for renewable energy integration.
- ❖ He also inaugurated the Northern Region Renewable Energy Management Centre (NR-REMC) in this occasion.

- ❖ The REMCs are equipped with artificial intelligence based renewable energy forecasting and scheduling tools and provide greater visualization and enhanced situational awareness to the grid operators.

RaIDer-X

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and IISc Bangalore recently unveiled a new explosive detection device named RaIDer-X.
- ❖ RaIDer-X was recently showcased during the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED)- 2020 on March 01st.
- ❖ It can detect explosives from a specific range and inform the operator.

DRDO

- ❖ DRDO is the R&D wing of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- ❖ It equips the Indian armed forces with modern technology to achieve self-sufficiency in state-of-the-art defence technologies and defence systems.
- ❖ It was established in the year 1958.



Unemployment rate

- ❖ India's unemployment rate rose to 7.78% in February and this is the highest since October 2019.
- ❖ This data is released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- ❖ This may rise further if the economy continues to suffer because of supply chain disruptions arising from the coronavirus contagion.



WiFi on flights services

- ❖ The Central government has given its nod to introduce in-flight WiFi services soon.
- ❖ This service will be given to passengers on the flight after the permit by the Pilot-in-Command.
- ❖ The passengers onboard can avail in-flight WiFi services for their devices that are on airplane mode or flight mode.
- ❖ This can only be availed once the flight has taken off and all the doors are closed.
- ❖ The usage of internet service in-flight shall be certified by the Director-General.

INTERNATIONAL

US postponed ASEAN

- ❖ The United States has decided to postpone a meeting with leaders of Southeast Asian countries it had planned to host on March 14.
- ❖ President Donald Trump had invited leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to meet in Las Vegas.
- ❖ The decision comes due to the growing fears that the coronavirus will spread in the United States.

Scotland to end 'period poverty'

- ❖ Scotland may become the first country in the world to end 'period poverty' by passing the Period Products Bill.
- ❖ This Bill aims to make sanitary products free for women of all age groups in the country.
- ❖ To note - free menstrual products are already available to students in high schools, colleges and universities in Scotland.

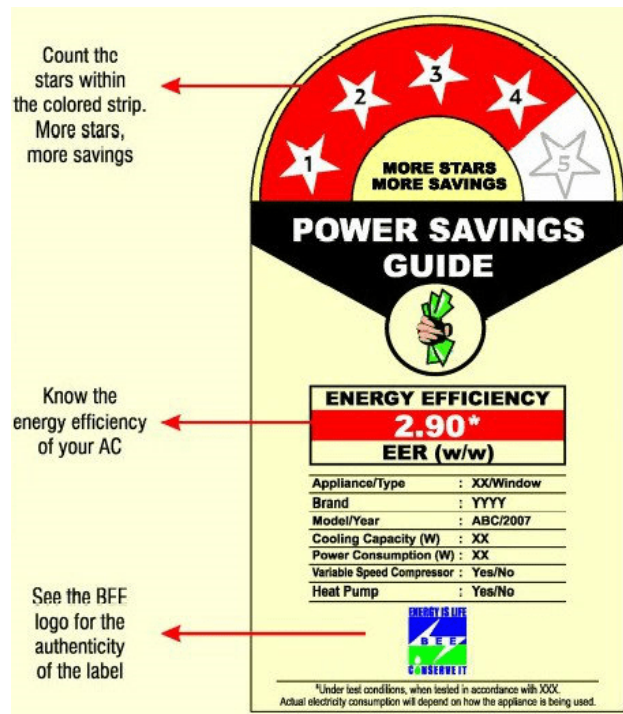
BEE launches star rating programme

- ❖ Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), launched star rating programme for Deep Freezer and Light Commercial Air Conditioners (LCAC) during the recent event.
- ❖ The Star Labelling Programme has been formulated by as part of its mandate, under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

- ❖ The Star Rating gives energy efficiency of an appliance. Higher the star rating lower is the energy consumed.
- ❖ Also Urja Dakshata Information Tool (UDIT), a first ever initiative taken by BEE with World Resources Institute (WRI) was launched during this event.

Urja Dakshata information tool

- ❖ UDIT is a user-friendly platform that explains the energy efficiency landscape of India across industry, appliances, building, transport, municipal and agriculture sectors.
- ❖ UDIT will also showcase the capacity building and new initiatives taken up by the Government across the sectors.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Red pandas

- ❖ The Chinese Academy of Sciences have discovered that the red panda species are actually two separate species based on their genetic study.
- ❖ They have found divergence between the two species - Chinese red pandas and Himalayan red pandas - in three genetic markers in an analysis of DNA.
- ❖ This recognition could help us in the conservation of the endangered mammal.



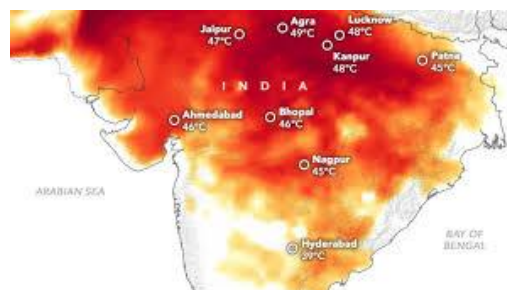
ENVIRONMENT

Heat waves in India

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department has announced that months of March, April and May are to be warmer than normal.
- ❖ Average maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than normal by 0.5 degree Celsius over most of the meteorological subdivisions from central India and some subdivisions from north-west India.

Heat Waves

- ❖ According to the World Meteorological Organization, a Heat wave occurs when the daily maximum temperature of 5 consecutive days exceeds average maximum temperature by 5 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ During a heat wave, the weather is excessively hot and also highly humid.
- ❖ Heat waves usually occur in oceanic countries.



Eco-sensitive zone

- ❖ The Centre declared the National Chambal Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh, as eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).

- ❖ The Sanctuary acts as a home to Gangetic dolphins and 75 percent population of critically endangered species Gharial lives here.

ESZ

- ❖ The Eco-Sensitive Zones are protected areas that act as “shock absorbers”.
- ❖ They are governed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.



STATES

Sonbhadra Gold Mines

- ❖ The Geographical Survey of India (GSI) provided estimates for the amount of gold that can be extracted from a site in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The total gold that can be extracted is found to be 160 kg.
- ❖ GSI arrived at this estimate by two basic processes,
 - by the study of rocks, and drilling of the ground. Laboratory analysis of the rocks indicates the possibility of these containing a particular mineral. And,
 - another indicator is the age of the rocks, which is determined by radiometric dating processes.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Vu Ve Swaminathan World Tamil Award

- ❖ TM Abdul kadar, former Tamil department head of Islamiah College, Vaniyambadi has been honoured with Vu Ve saminathan World Tamil Award.
- ❖ The topic given for the competition, for the year 2019 was 'Silapthikarathil Arakotpaadu'.

