

March - 10

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated the New Delhi World Book Fair 2021-Virtual Edition organized by the National Book Trust (NBT).
 - The theme of this Book Fair is 'National Education Policy-2020'.
- ❖ The all-women crew of onboard Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) vessel MT Swarna Krishna created history and started its journey from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) at Navi Mumbai.
 - This is the first time in the world maritime history that a ship is being sailed by all women officers.
- ❖ Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has won the gold medal in the women's 53-kg category at Ukraine wrestling event held at Kyiv, Ukraine.
 - She is the only Indian woman wrestler to have qualified for the Tokyo Games.
- ❖ The Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry launched the field assessments for the Swachh Survekshan 2021.
 - It is the annual cleanliness survey of cities (covers 4,242 cities) that culminates in a ranking.
- ❖ Karnataka has launched the country's maiden Engineering Research & Development (ER&D) Policy.
- ❖ Anindya Dutta has penned a new book titled "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis", a chronicle of Indian Tennis.
- ❖ India described Sri Lanka 'Priority One' partner in the defence sector.

NATIONAL

FSSAI guidelines on GMO Crops

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued an order setting the permissible limit for genetically modified organisms (GMO) in imported food crops at 1%.
- ❖ It amounts to an advocacy for zero presence of GMO in food and some other consumables.



- ❖ The task of regulating GMO levels in imported consumables was initially with the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) under the Union environment ministry.
- ❖ Now it is under the control of the FSSAI of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare since 2006.
- ❖ In GMO, genetic material (DNA) is altered or artificially introduced using genetic engineering techniques.



**FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS
AUTHORITY OF INDIA**

Inspiring Trust, Assuring Safe & Nutritious Food

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India

INTERNATIONAL

Economic Freedom Index 2021

Top 10 Countries			
RANK	COUNTRY	OVERALL	CHANGE
1	Singapore	89.7	0.3
2	New Zealand	83.9	-0.2
3	Australia	82.4	-0.2
4	Switzerland	81.9	-0.1
5	Ireland	81.4	0.5
6	Taiwan	78.6	1.5
7	United Kingdom	78.4	-0.9
8	Estonia	78.2	0.5
9	Canada	77.9	-0.3
10	Denmark	77.8	-0.5

- ❖ The Heritage Foundation, a US Conservative think-tank, recently launched the “Economic Freedom Index”.
- ❖ In the index, Singapore has topped the global ranking for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ The second place was obtained by New Zealand and third place was Australia.

Swarnim Vijay Varsh

- ❖ ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ commemorates 50 years of Bangladesh's liberation war against Pakistan in 1971.
- ❖ INS Sumedha is an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel and Kulish is an indigenously built guided missile corvette.
- ❖ They are visiting Bangladesh to commemorate the ongoing ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’.
- ❖ This is the first time that any Indian Naval Ship is visiting the port of Mongla to pay homage to the Bangladeshi and Indian combatants who laid down their lives during the Liberation War of 1971.
- ❖ It is also aimed to reiterate India’s firm resolve and commitment to maintain peace, stability and good order in the region, in line with SAGAR - Security and Growth for all in the region.

Desert Flag





- ❖ The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated for the first time in the multinational exercise called “Desert Flag” in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force is participating in the Exercise along with air forces of United Arab Emirates, United States of America, France, Saudi Arabia, South Korea and Bahrain.
- ❖ The “Desert Flag” exercise is a multinational exercise that involves the participation from ten countries such as France, United States (US), Bahrain, South Korea, Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sindhu Netra satellite

- ❖ It was launched aboard Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) PSLV-C51 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It will boost India's surveillance capabilities to monitor activities of both military warships and merchant shipping in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- ❖ It will also help in carrying out surveillance in specific areas such as the South China Sea or near the Gulf of Aden and the African coast.

ENVIRONMENT

Exotic Earthworm

- ❖ An exotic and highly invasive earthworm — *Amyntas alexandri* of the Megascolecidae family — has been collected and reported for the first time from Karnataka.
- ❖ Its original home is believed to be Southeast Asia.

Fishing Cat survey

- ❖ The first-ever survey of the fishing cats in and around the Chilika lake in Odisha started.
- ❖ Fishing cats are elusive nocturnal mammals.
- ❖ They are generally found in the marshy wetlands of northern and eastern India and on the mangroves of the east coast.
- ❖ Chilika Lake is a brackish water lagoon.

- ❖ The lake is located at the mouth of the Daya River flowing into the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It is Asia's largest and world's second-largest lagoon after the New Caledonian barrier reef.
- ❖ The lake is the largest wintering ground for migratory waterfowl found anywhere on the Indian subcontinent.
- ❖ In 1981, Chilika Lake became the first Indian wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- ❖ The major attraction at the Chilika lake is Irrawaddy dolphins.



STATES

Transgender Community Desk

- ❖ The Cyberabad Police has launched India's first-ever Transgender Community Desk' at the Gachibowli Police Station in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ This desk is the first-of-its-kind gender-inclusive community policing initiatives in the country.
- ❖ Earlier in April 15th 2014, the Supreme Court recognised the transgender community as a third gender along with male and female.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Jan Aushadhi Diwas – March 7

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness and providing thrust to the use of generic medicines.

- ❖ The first Jan Aushadhi Diwas was celebrated on 7th of March 2019.
- ❖ 1st March to 7th March is celebrated as ‘Janaushadhi Week’ across the nation with the theme of “Jan Aushadhi – Seva Bhi, Rozgar Bhi”.
- ❖ Janaushadhi Kendras is the world’s biggest retail pharma chain.
- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana initiative aims at providing quality medicines at an affordable price to the general public.



International Women’s Day – March 8



- ❖ This year’s theme is “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”.



- ❖ The United Nations began celebrating International Women's Day in the International Women's Year, 1975.
- ❖ In 1977, the United Nations General Assembly invited member states to proclaim March 8 as the UN Day for women's rights and world peace.

