

March - 11

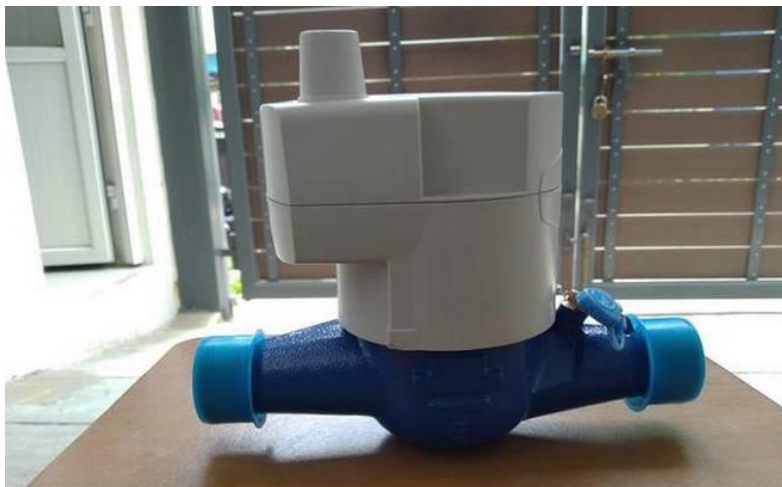
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The scheduled India - U.S. Military Cooperation Group (MCG) dialogue, has been cancelled in view of coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ For the first time a combination of two drugs, which is widely used for controlling HIV infection, was administered on an elderly Italian couple undergoing treatment at a Jaipur hospital for Covid-19.
 - The medicine was the combination of lopinavir and ritonavir drugs.
- ❖ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is no longer the richest man in Asia, owing to the recent freefall in oil prices.
 - According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Chinese billionaire Jack Ma, the founder of e-commerce major Alibaba Group has toppled Ambani to get the top spot in Asia.

TAMIL NADU

Digital water meters

- ❖ Chennai Metro water has accelerated the process to fit digital water meters with automated meter reading (AMR) in commercial buildings to ensure the judicious use of water among consumers in the city.
- ❖ The project is being taken up with funding under the Smart City Mission.
- ❖ This is to encourage consumers to pay according to their use and track water consumption.



50 Years of Tamizh State song

- ❖ A poem written by the late Prof. P. Sundaram Pillai, Professor of History in the Travancore University, and a noted Tamil scholar, has been adopted as the prayer song for Tamil Nadu Government functions.
- ❖ It is a two-stanza verse beginning with “Neerarum kadaludutha...” from Prof. Sundaram Pillai’s play, “Manonmaniam”.
- ❖ Only the first six-line stanza is to be used for the purpose of the State prayer song.
- ❖ An announcement about the prayer song was made by the Chief Minister, Mr. M. Karunanidhi on March 10, 1970.

NATIONAL

Congress members suspended

- ❖ The Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla suspended seven Congress members of Parliament (MPs) from the Lower House for gross misconduct.
- ❖ The decision was to suspend Gaurav Gogoi, T.N. Prathapan, Dean Kuriakose, R. Unnithan, Manicka Tagore, Benny Behanan, and Gurjeet Singh Aujla for the rest of the budget session.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha passed a motion as they had snatched papers from the Speaker’s table with disregard for House rules.

7 women who 'handled' PM Modi's social media

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi's social media handle was taken over by seven women achievers to tell their astounding stories to the world.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over his accounts on various platforms to seven woman achievers from different fields to share their life journeys and messages on the International Women's Day.
- ❖ The women chosen to use Modi's accounts are tabulated below,

Name	Service
Sneha Mohandoss	works to eradicate hunger
Malvika Iyer - who survived a gruesome bomb blast that blew off her hands	a motivational speaker, disability activist and model
Arifa Jaan	who promotes traditional crafts of Kashmir



Kalpana Ramesh	a water conservator
Vijaya Pawar	who promotes handicrafts from the Banjara community of rural Maharashtra
Kalavati Devi	who collects money to build toilets
Veena Devi	growing mushrooms under her bed due to lack of space.

INTERNATIONAL

Gender Social Norms Index

- ❖ The first Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI), published by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), analysed data from 75 countries, collectively home to more than 80% of the global population.
- ❖ According to the index, about half of the world's men and women feel that men make better political leaders.
- ❖ And over 40% feel that men make better business executives and that men have more right to a job when jobs are scarce.

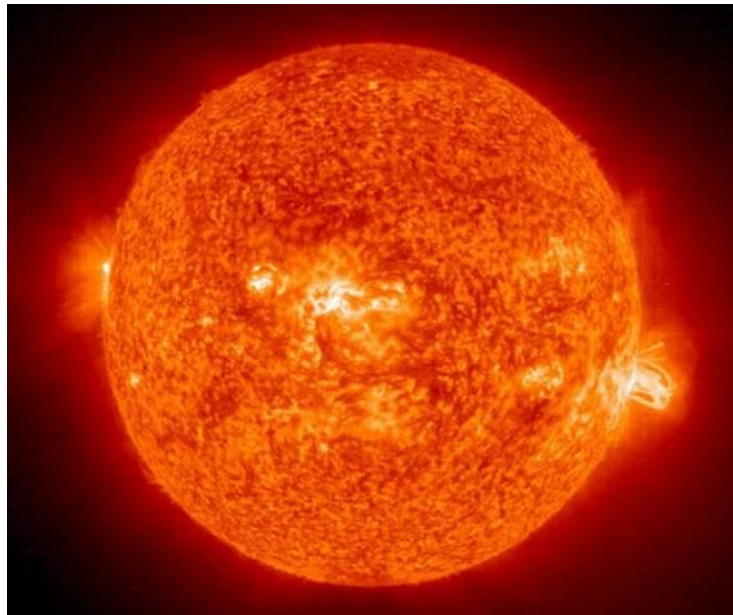
Trends in International arms transfers 2019

- ❖ According to new data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the largest exporters of arms during the past five years were the United States, Russia, France, Germany and China.
- ❖ According to the report, India is the second largest arms importer in the world.
- ❖ The report says that Russia is the largest supplier to the Indian market between 2015-19.
- ❖ The new data shows that the flow of arms to the Middle East has increased, with Saudi Arabia clearly being the world's largest importer.
- ❖ SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- ❖ It is established in 1966 at Sweden.
- ❖ SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

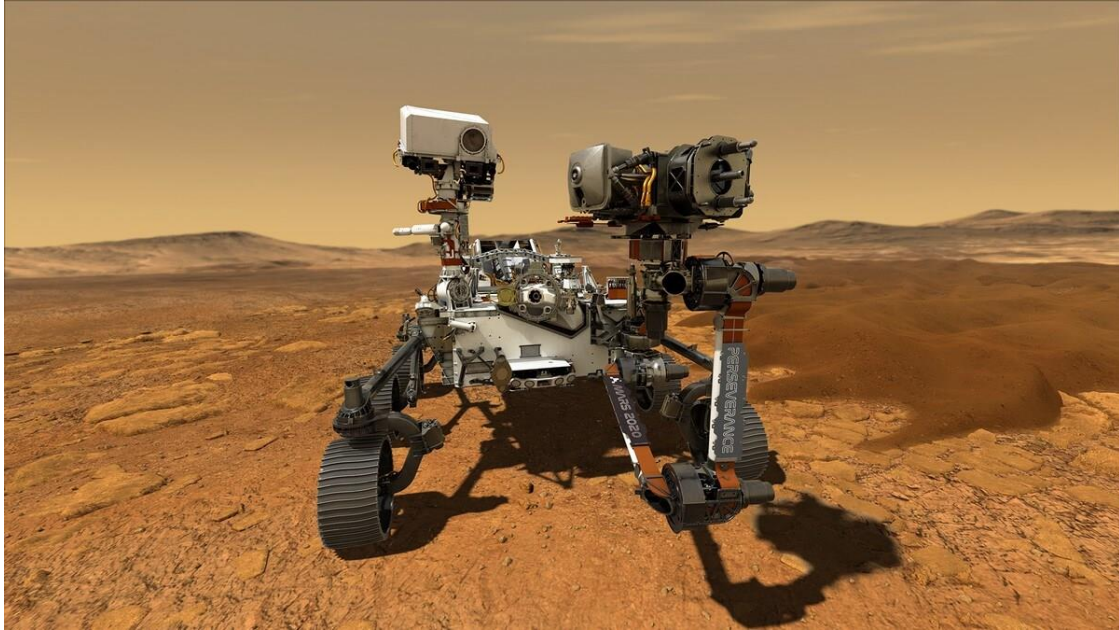
Sunspots

- ❖ The sunspots identified by researchers from IISER Kolkata herald the start of a new solar cycle.
- ❖ There are signs that cycle 25 has just begun.
- ❖ Sun spots are relatively cooler spots on the Sun's surface.
- ❖ Their number waxes and wanes in cycles that last 11 years approximately.
- ❖ Sunspots occur in pairs, with a leader and a follower.
- ❖ They originate deep within the Sun and become visible when they pop out.
- ❖ Their number is not constant but shows a minimum and then rises up to a maximum and then falls again in what is called the solar cycle.
- ❖ So far, astronomers have documented 24 such cycles, the last one ended in 2019.
- ❖ From our safe distance of about 148 million km, the Sun appears to be sedate and constant.



NASA's next Mars rover - Perseverance

- ❖ NASA's next Mars rover is named as Perseverance.
- ❖ The six-wheeled robotic explorer will be to collect Martian samples for eventual return to Earth.
- ❖ The name was suggested by seventh-grader Alex Mather as part of a naming contest for U.S. schoolchildren.



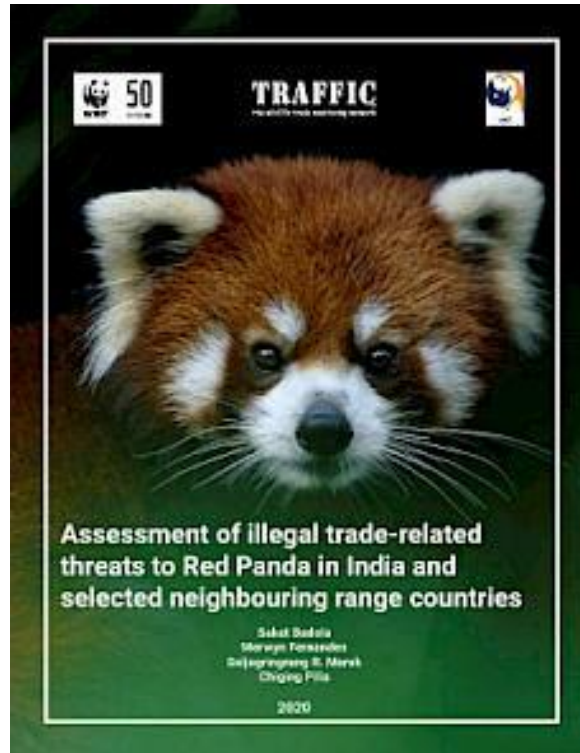
ENVIRONMENT

Status of red panda by Traffic

- ❖ A report of TRAFFIC titled “Assessment of illegal trade-related threats to Red Panda in India and selected neighbouring range countries” has looked at a ten-year period from July 2010 to June 2019 and analysed poaching and illegal trade of the species.
- ❖ The red panda is a small arboreal mammal found in the forests of India, Nepal, Bhutan and the northern mountains of Myanmar and southern China.
- ❖ In India, it is found in Sikkim, western Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling district of West Bengal and parts of Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is also the state animal of Sikkim.

TRAFFIC

- ❖ TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.
- ❖ It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ TRAFFIC's headquarters is located in Cambridge, United Kingdom.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Avvaiyar award

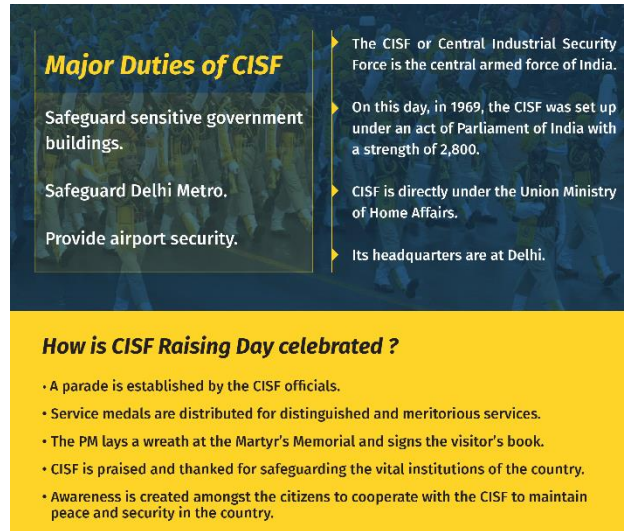
- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami honoured R. Kannagi from Tiruvannamalai, with the Tamil Nadu government's Avvaiyar award for the current year,
- ❖ The award was given recognising her work for the uplift of rural women for over 18 years.
- ❖ Ms. Kannagi, a burial ground assistant, is popular among the women's Self-Help groups (SHGs) in Tiruvannamalai district.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day – March 10

- ❖ 50th Raising Day of the CISF was celebrated this year.
- ❖ CISF was established on 10 March 1969.
- ❖ It is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in India.

- ❖ It is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and not the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Director-General of CISF is Rajesh Ranjan, IPS.
- ❖ CISF protects the country from some vital installations in the aerospace, nuclear, government, and private sectors.
- ❖ It also plays a major role in Disaster Management.



Major Duties of CISF

- Safeguard sensitive government buildings.
- Safeguard Delhi Metro.
- Provide airport security.

The CISF or Central Industrial Security Force is the central armed force of India.

On this day, in 1969, the CISF was set up under an act of Parliament of India with a strength of 2,800.

CISF is directly under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.

Its headquarters are at Delhi.

How is CISF Raising Day celebrated ?

- A parade is established by the CISF officials.
- Service medals are distributed for distinguished and meritorious services.
- The PM lays a wreath at the Martyr's Memorial and signs the visitor's book.
- CISF is praised and thanked for safeguarding the vital institutions of the country.
- Awareness is created amongst the citizens to cooperate with the CISF to maintain peace and security in the country.

