

March - 13

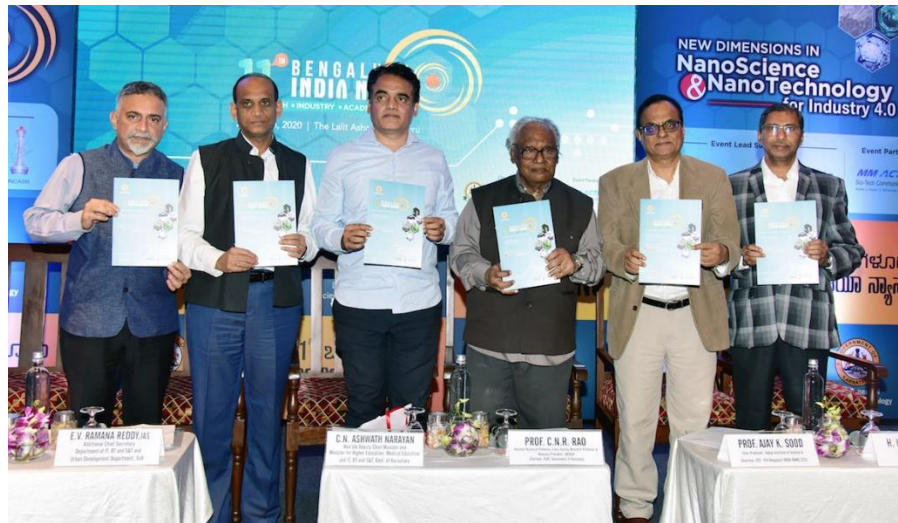
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Maharashtra Cabinet approved the proposal to rename Mumbai Central Station to Nana Shankarseth.
 - It is the Central Railways operating under Ministry of Railways that has the final say in the name change.

NATIONAL

INDIA Nano 2020

- ❖ INDIA Nano conference and exhibition was held in Bengaluru
- ❖ It showcased technologies and products developed by academia and companies in nanotechnology.
- ❖ It is organized by the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of Karnataka and Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR).
- ❖ JNCASR is an autonomous institution of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.



SC verdict on Right to Property

- ❖ The Supreme Court has reiterated that forcible dispossession of a person of his private property without due process of law is a violation of human rights.



- ❖ In a recent judgment, the court stressed that right to property is both a human right and a constitutional right — the latter under Article 300A of the Constitution.

Rise in Coal imports

- ❖ India's thermal coal imports rose 12.6% to nearly 200 million tonnes in 2019.
- ❖ Imports of thermal coal is mainly used for power generation.
- ❖ Indonesia is accounted for nearly 60% of India's thermal coal imports
- ❖ However, imports of coking coal which is used mainly in the manufacturing of steel fell marginally.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of the coal in the World while China is the first.
- ❖ China and India are also two of the world's biggest importers.
- ❖ The world's two largest coal consuming countries are also the world's two most populous nations: China and India.
- ❖ Other top producers of coal, such as Australia, the US and Indonesia, have excess capacity to export after satisfying their domestic demands.

Revoking the suspension

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has passed a resolution revoking the suspension of seven Congress members with immediate effect.
- ❖ The suspension was to remain in place for the rest of the Budget Session which ends on April 3.
- ❖ The resolution was moved by Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal and passed by a voice vote in the Lok Sabha.

Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897

- ❖ The Centre has asked states and Union Territories to invoke the provisions of Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, so that Health Ministry advisories are enforceable.
- ❖ It is routinely enforced across the country for dealing with outbreaks of diseases such as swine flu, dengue, and cholera.

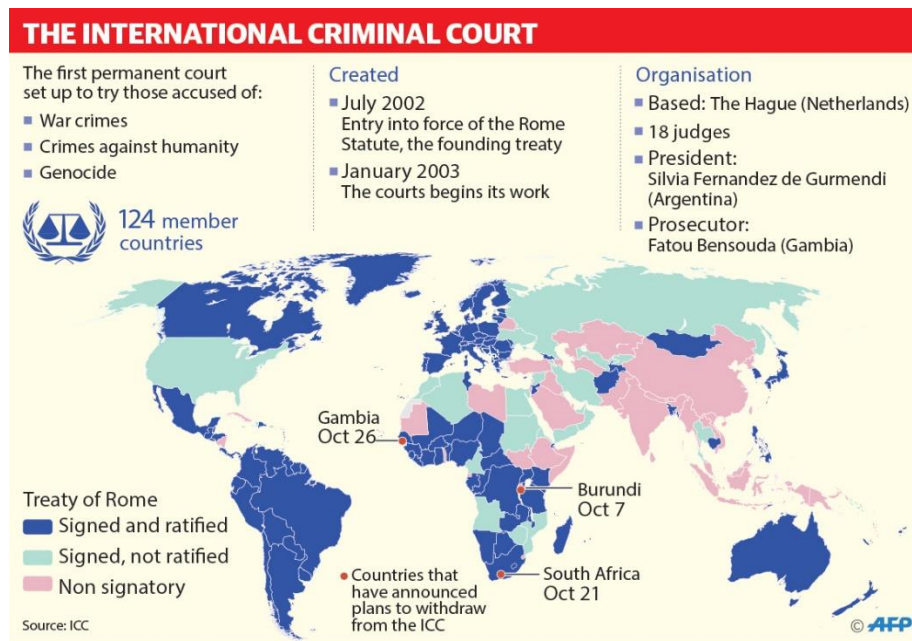
INTERNATIONAL

A New era for girls: Report

- ❖ “A New era for girls: Taking stock on 25 years of progress” is a report recently unveiled by UNICEF, Plan International and United Nations Women.
- ❖ The report reveals that though the rate of drop-outs for girls in schools has decreased from 20% to 13.5% from 2008 to 2018, a greater empowerment has not taken place.
- ❖ It also states that many girls still face an unequal violent environment and one in every 20 girls in the age group of 15-20 has experienced rape, both within and outside marriage.
- ❖ The report mentions a term called “learning crisis”; this means, even when girls are in school, many do not receive a quality education.

International Criminal Court (ICC)

- ❖ The ICC gives go-ahead to probe Afghanistan’s alleged war crimes.
- ❖ It came just days after the signing of a “historic peace deal” between Washington and the Taliban.



- ❖ The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- ❖ It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.



- ❖ Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

YUva Vigyani Karyakram

- ❖ It was launched by Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ❖ It is a special programme for School Children, in tune with the Government's vision "Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan".
- ❖ The Program is primarily aimed at imparting basic knowledge on Space Technology, Space Science and Space Applications to the younger ones with the intent of arousing their interest in the emerging areas of Space activities.

Coronavirus – pandemic

- ❖ The World Health Organization has finally declared the novel coronavirus a 'pandemic'.
- ❖ Earlier, on January 30 the WHO declared it was a "Public Health Emergency of International Concern".
- ❖ COVID-19 is a respiratory infection.
- ❖ COVID-19 is the official name given to the virus by the World Health Organization.
- ❖ Before WHO officially named the virus, it was also referred to as coronavirus, the novel coronavirus and 2019-nCoV (to indicate the year when the virus was first detected).

Outbreak, Epidemic and Pandemic

- ❖ An outbreak is understood to be a sudden rise in the cases of a disease in a particular place.
- ❖ An endemic disease is a disease that is always present in a certain population or region.
- ❖ Epidemic is a large outbreak of disease that attacks many peoples at about the same time and may spread through one or several communities
- ❖ A pandemic is "the worldwide spread of a new disease".
- ❖ There is no specific number of countries that a disease must touch for WHO to classify it as a pandemic.

ENVIRONMENT

Gaur back in Valmiki Reserve

- ❖ Gaur (*Bos Gaurus*), the largest extant bovine in the world, have not only returned to Bihar's Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR), but are also breeding there due to an increase in grassland cover.
- ❖ VTR was set up in the early 1990s.
- ❖ It is spread over 899 square kilometres in Bihar's West Champaran district, bordering Nepal's Chitwan National Park to its north and Uttar Pradesh to its west.
- ❖ The Gaur species is listed as 'vulnerable' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species since 1986.



STATES

Agreement on Climate Resilient Rain-Fed Agriculture

- ❖ The Government of India, Government of Himachal Pradesh and the World Bank today signed a loan agreement to improve water management practices.
- ❖ It will increase agricultural productivity in selected Gram Panchayats (Village Councils) in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The project will improve upstream water sources in forests, pastures and grasslands and ensure sufficient water is available for sustainable agriculture in Himachal Pradesh and in downstream states.

SPORTS

Olympic flame 2020

- ❖ The Olympic flame for the 2020 Tokyo Games was lit in ancient Olympia in Greece.

- ❖ Greek Olympic shooting champion Anna Korakaki was the initial torch-bearer, the first time a woman has been chosen for the role.



- ❖ This will be the second time that Japan and specifically Tokyo has hosted the Summer Olympic Games.
- ❖ The first was in 1964.
- ❖ It is making Tokyo the first city in Asia to host the summer Games twice.
- ❖ Overall, these will be the fourth Olympic Games to be held in Japan, which also hosted the Winter Olympics in 1972 (Sapporo) and 1998 (Nagano).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Kidney Day 2020 – March 12

- ❖ On every second Thursday in the month of March, the World Kidney Day is celebrated.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Kidney health for everyone everywhere - from prevention to detection and equitable access to care".

