

March - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The European Parliament has declared whole of the European Union as “LGBTIQ Freedom Zone”.
- ❖ Trivendra Singh Rawat resigned as the Uttarakhand chief minister.
 - Tirath Singh Rawat took oath as the new chief minister of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched Mera Ration Mobile App.
 - This will benefit the ration card holders who move to new places in search of livelihood.

NATIONAL

OBC Reservation

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that the reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) is only ‘statutory’, unlike the ‘constitutional’ reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ It also said that if the reservation for SCs and STs were to consume the entire 50% of seats of SCs/STs/OBCs in the concerned local bodies, the question of providing further reservation to OBCs would not arise.
- ❖ The quantum of reservation for OBCs ought to be local body specific.
- ❖ A dedicated Commission has to be set up to conduct empirical inquiry into the nature and implications of the backwardness qua local bodies, within the State.
- ❖ The proportion of reservation required to be provisioned local body wise would be specified in light of recommendations of the Commission.

12 PSUs for Privatization

- ❖ NITI Aayog submitted its first list of about 12 public sector undertakings (PSUs) to be privatised.
- ❖ This list will now be reviewed by Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Core Group of Secretaries on Divestment (CGD)
- ❖ The CGD is headed by cabinet secretary.



INTERNATIONAL

NDC Synthesis Report

- ❖ The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has released its Initial Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Synthesis Report.
- ❖ The United Kingdom and the European Union are the only regions among 18 of the world's biggest emitters that have significantly increased their greenhouse gas reduction targets.
- ❖ Nationally determined contributions are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of the long-term goals of Paris Agreement.
- ❖ NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Fifth annual democracy report

- ❖ Fifth annual democracy report, titled 'Autocratisation goes viral', has been released by Sweden's organisation Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) Institute.
- ❖ The report summarises the state of democracies of the world against the backdrop of developments that have taken place over the past decade.
- ❖ India's position has been downgraded from "the world's largest democracy" to an "electoral autocracy".

		CHANGE	LDI 2010	LDI 2020	REGIME TYPE 2010	REGIME TYPE 2020
1	Poland	-0.34	0.83	0.49	Liberal Democracy	Electoral Democracy
2	Hungary	-0.32	0.68	0.37	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
3	Turkey	-0.29	0.40	0.11	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
4	Brazil	-0.28	0.79	0.51	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Democracy
5	Serbia	-0.27	0.51	0.24	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
6	Benin	-0.26	0.55	0.29	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
7	India	-0.23	0.57	0.34	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
8	Mauritius	-0.23	0.73	0.50	Liberal Democracy	Electoral Democracy
9	Bolivia	-0.18	0.41	0.231	Electoral Democracy	Electoral Autocracy
10	Thailand	-0.17	0.34	0.17	Electoral Autocracy	Closed Autocracy

ECONOMY

B2C e-commerce index 2020

- ❖ The UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index measures an economy's preparedness to support online shopping.
- ❖ Switzerland is the highest ranked country in the index.



- ❖ India ranks 71 in UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index 2020.

Top 10 economies in the UNCTAD B2C E-commerce Index 2020

2020 Rank	Economy	Share of individuals using the Internet (2019 or latest)	Share of individuals with an account (15+, 2017)	Secure Internet servers (normalized, 2019)	UPU postal reliability score (2019 or latest)	2020 Index value)	Index value change (2018-19 data)	Rank 2019
1	Switzerland	97	98	92	97	95.9	0.6	2
2	Netherlands	96	100	94	93	95.8	0.1	1
3	Denmark	97	100	100	81	94.5	0.1	6
4	Singapore	89	98	94	97	94.4	-0.3	3
5	United Kingdom	96	96	84	98	93.6	0.1	4
6	Germany	93	99	90	91	93.4	-0.1	9
7	Finland	95	100	88	91	93.4	-0.1	5
8	Ireland	88	95	92	98	93.4	0.7	7
9	Norway	98	100	84	88	92.6	-0.1	8
10	China, Hong Kong SAR	92	95	88	92	91.8	0.3	14

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Fugaku Supercomputer

- ❖ The Japanese scientific research institute called RIKEN and Fujitsu started developing the “Fugaku” six years ago.
- ❖ It is the world’s most powerful supercomputers.
- ❖ Fugaku has been named after an alternative name for Mount Fuji.
- ❖ This supercomputer has been developed with the aim of making the device core of the computing infrastructure of Japan.

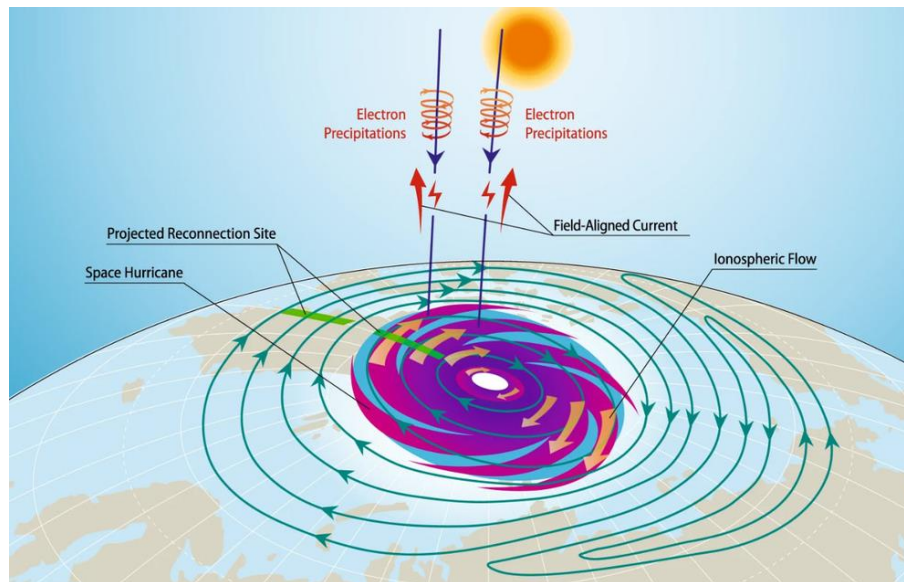
Hydrogen from Brown Coal

- ❖ A Japanese-Australian venture has started producing hydrogen from brown coal.
- ❖ The project aims to show that liquefied hydrogen can be produced commercially and can be safely exported overseas.
- ❖ The initial plan is to create the first international supply chain for liquefied hydrogen.
- ❖ Brown coal is considered the lowest rank of coal due to its relatively low energy content.

ENVIRONMENT

Space hurricane

- ❖ The Scientists have confirmed the existence of space hurricanes high above the north pole
- ❖ The Scientists from China discovered this for first time ever.
- ❖ Previously, it was believed, space hurricanes were a theoretical phenomenon.
- ❖ A space hurricane is a form of environmental phenomenon where instead of wind and rain, charged electrons and plasma make up the majority of the storm.



STATES

1% concession in stamp duty

- ❖ The Maharashtra government's budget for 2021-22 offered one per cent concession in stamp duty if property is transferred in a woman's or women's name.
- ❖ In case of a joint ownership, the concession in stamp duty would not be given if there is a man as a joint owner with the woman i.e. "Both should be women".

First world skill centre

- ❖ India's first World Skill Centre was inaugurated in Bhubaneswar.



- ❖ World Skill Centre is being established under the Odisha Skill Development Project assisted by the Asian Development Bank with ITE Education Services, Singapore as a knowledge partner.
- ❖ World Skill Centre will act as the Centre for Industry Partnership and landing point for industries in Odisha for their employment needs.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

King Bhupol world soil day 2020 award

- ❖ Bhopal-based Indian Institute of Soil Science of the India Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has been awarded the prestigious King Bhumbol World Soil Day 2020 Award.
- ❖ The award was conferred by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome.
- ❖ The prestigious global award was conferred to the ICAR for its commitment to raising awareness of the importance of healthy soils.

SPORTS

10000 international runs

- ❖ Mithali Raj on became the first Indian woman to score 10,000 runs in international cricket across all formats.
- ❖ Mithali achieved the milestone during India vs South Africa third ODI in Lucknow.
- ❖ Mithali became only the second women's cricketer to achieve the feat.
- ❖ England's Charlotte Edwards was the first female cricketer to reach the milestone.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Glaucoma Week 2021

- ❖ Glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness worldwide.
- ❖ World Glaucoma Week is a global joint initiative between the World Glaucoma Association and the World Glaucoma Patient Network.
- ❖ The goal is to alert everyone to have regular eye (and optic nerve) checks in order to detect glaucoma as early as possible.
- ❖ World Glaucoma Day is observed every year on March 12.



- ❖ Glaucoma is one of the leading causes of irreversible blindness.
- ❖ But with early treatment, the damage may get limited and sight may be saved.

