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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ A book on Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi was published by The Hindu Group of Publications (launched at Sri Ramanasramam, Tiruvannamalai).
  - It has been titled, 'Who Am I, Bhagavan Sri Ramana Maharshi, 1879-1950.'

## **NATIONAL**

### **Ayush Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat Mission**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved Ayush Health and Wellness Centre under Ayushman Bharat Mission.
- ❖ The centres will help to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
- ❖ The centres will also help in reducing out of pocket expenditure as it will operate on “self-care” model.
- ❖ It also aims to integrate with SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) as that advised by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented by the National Health Authority operating under Ministry of Health and Farmer Welfare.

### **Medical Device Park Scheme**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the Medical Device Park Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme aims to boost the domestic manufacturing of medical devices in the country.
- ❖ It includes setting up of medical device parks in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Every park is to receive Rs.100 crores.
- ❖ The parks will help to reduce imports and also increase standard of medical testing.
- ❖ Also, the scheme will help to reduce cost of production.
- ❖ India is the fourth largest market for medical devices in Asia.
- ❖ However, the domestic medical devices industry in India is very small.
- ❖ India's domestic medical devices stand at 2% of the global industry.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Country-by-Country Report**

- ❖ The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has developed an Action Plan called “Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan 13”.
- ❖ This is to ensure that a multinational enterprise would report its profit correctly where it is earned.
- ❖ The Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action 13 report provides a template for multinational enterprises (MNEs) to report annually and for each tax jurisdiction.
- ❖ This report is called the Country-by-Country (CbC) Report.
- ❖ CBC contains,
  - Aggregated country-by-country information relating to the global allocation of income, the taxes paid, and certain other indicators of a multi-national company.
  - A list of all the constituent entities of the multi-national company operating in a particular jurisdiction and the nature of the main business activity of each constituent entity.

### **CDRI – India and UK**

- ❖ The United Kingdom is to co-chair India led CDRI (Global Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure).
- ❖ The CDRI was established by PM Modi at the G20 meet held in 2017.
- ❖ It will aim in building strong climate resilient infrastructures that will reshape construction in core sectors such as energy, transportation, telecommunication and water.
- ❖ India is a world leader in adopting preventive measures to avoid human deaths due to disasters.
- ❖ India’s “Zero Casualty Approach” has gained several praises all over the world including United Nations.



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Huntingtin disease

- ❖ A team of scientists from National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) in Pune have observed that the pathogenic Huntingtin protein causes a decrease in the overall protein production in cells.
- ❖ Huntingtin disease is a progressive genetic disorder.
- ❖ It affects the brain and causes
  - uncontrolled movements,
  - impaired coordination of balance and movement,
  - a decline in cognitive abilities,
  - difficulty in concentrating and memory lapses,
  - mood swings and
  - personality changes.
- ❖ It is caused by a mutation in a gene called HTT gene (huntingtin gene).
- ❖ The HTT genes are involved in the production of a protein called huntingtin.
- ❖ They provide the instruction for making the protein.
- ❖ When the genes mutate, they provide faulty instructions leading to production of abnormal huntingtin proteins and these form into clumps.
- ❖ The clumps disrupt the normal functioning of the brain cells, which eventually leads to death of neurons in the brain, resulting in Huntington disease.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Bengaluru's Water Conservation Score

- ❖ Karnataka's capital Bengaluru — high on the list of India's water-stressed districts.
- ❖ This is a cause of concern for the Union government's Jal Shakti Abhiyaan (JSA) initiative.
- ❖ The initiative addresses the water and irrigation needs of 255 water-stressed districts across the country.
- ❖ Bengaluru received an abysmal 200th rank in terms of water conservation work done under JSA, with a score of a mere 11 percentage.
- ❖ Laws were placed since 2008 that mandate construction of rainwater harvesting structures in all public spaces and residence buildings.



- ❖ Still the city has been under considerable stress over depleting water sources and immense pollution in its several lakes.
- ❖ Also, Karnataka's 2017 wastewater policy also advocates for interventions similar to those described under JSA and allocates a 20 per cent reuse target.
- ❖ None of these was reflected in the Bengaluru district's scorecard that gave it a zero on all fields except for uploading details of five conservation sites.

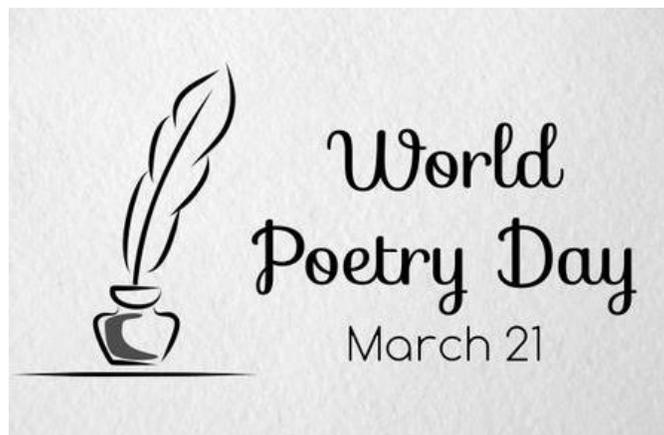
## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Global Recycling Day – March 18

- ❖ The Recyclables are called the “Seventh Resource”.
- ❖ This year's theme is Recycling Heroes.
- ❖ They help to save 700 million tonnes of Carbon-Dioxide every year.
- ❖ The Global Recycling Day is being organized by Global Recycling Foundation.

### World Poetry Day – March 21

- ❖ It celebrates one of humanity's most treasured forms of cultural and linguistic expression and identity.
- ❖ UNESCO first adopted 21 March as World Poetry Day during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999.
- ❖ It aims to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.



### International Day of Nowruz – March 21

- ❖ It is the Iranian New Year and also known as the Persian New Year.



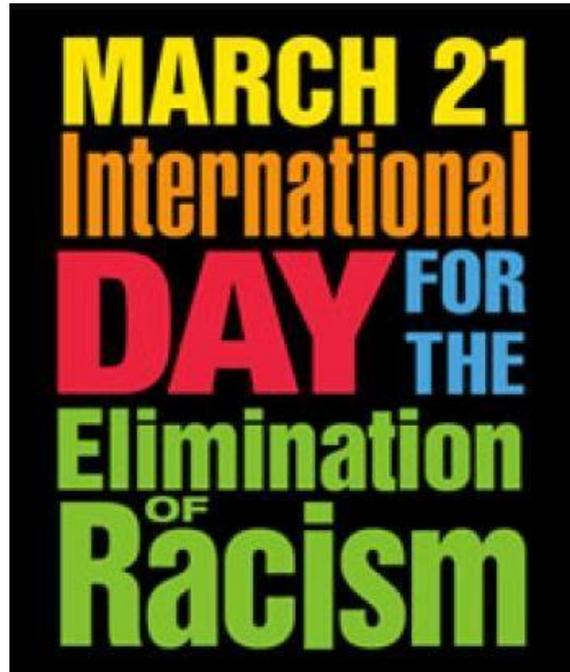
- ❖ Nowruz marks the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox, which usually occurs on 21 March.
- ❖ The United Nations officially recognized the "International Day of Nowruz" with the adoption of UN resolution in 2010.

### **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly reiterates that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and have the potential to contribute constructively to the development and well-being of their societies.
- ❖ This year, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is focused on the midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent undertaken by the Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- ❖ 2020 Theme - Recognition, justice and development: The midterm review of the International Decade for People of African Descent

#### Background

- ❖ On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws.
- ❖ Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.





## **International Day of Forests – March 21**

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 March the International Day of Forests (IDF) in 2012.
- ❖ The day is celebrated by the joint partnership of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is Forests and Biodiversity.

