

March - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bihar Day (Bihar Diwas) is observed every year on March 22, marking the formation of the state of Bihar.
 - It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal in 1912.

NATIONAL

National Aquifer Mapping Programme

- ❖ The Jal Shakthi Ministry informed that the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is implementing the mapping programme.
- ❖ The CGWB was established in 1970.
- ❖ It is a statutory body constituted under the Environment (Protection) act, 1986.

Defence Procurement Procedure 2020

- ❖ The Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh launched the draft of new Defence Procurement Procedure.
- ❖ The new procedure aims to increase the indigenous manufacturing.
- ❖ The Defence Procurement Procedure is the process that is followed to simplify procurement of defence equipment.
- ❖ The new procedure aims to increase Indigenous Content ratio.
- ❖ The ratio is the percentage of content of the defence equipment built in India.
- ❖ The procedure has introduced “Buy Global” category.
- ❖ Under this category, only minimum necessary is to be bought from abroad.
- ❖ Leasing has also been introduced as a new category for acquisition in addition to existing ‘Buy’ & ‘Make’ categories.
- ❖ This is to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.

Swavalamban Express

- ❖ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) said that it will launch Swavalamban Express Train on June 5 this year for budding entrepreneurs.

- ❖ The Swavalamban Express will travel to 11 cities covering 7,000 km in 15 days. This is a part of its umbrella mission Swavalamban.
- ❖ Under this mission, youths will board the train with an idea and they shall get down with effective business plan after a series of experimental learning.



Tech For Tribals program

- ❖ TRIFED Launches transformational “Tech For Tribals” program in partnership with Institutes of National Importance (INIs) to develop Tribal entrepreneurship.
- ❖ It aims to transform 5 crore Tribal Entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It is supported by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSME.
- ❖ It also aims at capacity building and imparting entrepreneurship skills to tribal forest produce gatherers enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana (PMVDY).
- ❖ It will ensure higher success rate of the Tribal Entrepreneurs by enabling and empowering them to run their business with marketable products with quality certifications.

VanDhan Scheme

- ❖ The Van Dhan Scheme is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and TRIFED.
- ❖ It seeks to improve tribal incomes through value addition of tribal products.
- ❖ Locally the Kendras are proposed under this scheme.



- ❖ They are to be managed by a Managing Committee (an SHG) consisting of representatives of Van Dhan SHGs.

INTERNATIONAL

G7 summit 2020

- ❖ The US President Donald Trump has cancelled an in-person G7 Summit and is to conduct the summit through video conferencing.
- ❖ The G7 organization is made up of the largest economies of the world namely France, Canada, US, UK, Italy, Japan and Germany.
- ❖ The G7 Groupings believe that though China is the second largest economy in the world, it relatively has low level of wealth per head population.
- ❖ This means that China is not an advanced economy according to the G7 members.

World Cities Summit

- ❖ The World Cities Summit was recently postponed due to the threat of Corona Virus.
- ❖ The summit that is to be held in Singapore has been postponed to June 20, 2021.
- ❖ The Summit is an international conference that brings together policy makers to identify innovative solutions to cities that are facing challenges.
- ❖ This year the summit was to be held under the theme - Liveable and Sustainable Cities: Adapting to a Disrupted World

Note

- ❖ The World Cities Summit is biennial.
- ❖ It acts as a common platform for industry experts and government leaders to address sustainable city challenges.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Hydroxychloroquine

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research had constituted a National Task Force to fight against COVID-19.

- ❖ The task force has recommended the use of Hydroxychloroquine to treat Corona Virus.
- ❖ The drug is usually prescribed to malaria patients.
- ❖ Both South Korea and Italy have been using the drug to contain the spread of COVID-19.
- ❖ The US has also confirmed the efficiency of the in curing the disease in its early stages.

Fossil of “Elpistostege” - examined

- ❖ The Paleontologists of Canada have linked human hands to the fins of fish.
- ❖ The researchers examined a fossil of “Elpistostege”.
- ❖ The Elpistostege represents the pivotal stage of transition of fish into land vertebrates.
- ❖ The Elpistostege was completely aquatic.
- ❖ It had a crocodile-like body, flat triangular head, numerous teeth around jaws.
- ❖ The four-limbed animals that evolved from these Elpistostege were called tetrapods.
- ❖ The Elpistostege lived during Devonian period.
- ❖ The Devonian Period spans for 60 million years and is around 419 million years ago.
- ❖ It is named after the place Devon, England where the rocks of the era were first found.





National Super Computer Mission

- ❖ The National Super Computer Mission was launched in 2015.
- ❖ Under this mission, Three more Super Computers are to be installed at IIT-Kanpur, IIT-Hyderabad and JN Centre for Advanced Scientific Research by April 2020.

About

- ❖ The mission is jointly operated by Ministry of Electronics and IT, C-DAC, Ministry of Science and Technology and IISc, Bengaluru.
- ❖ Today India has 5 Super Computers that are ranked within top 500 list of Super Computers in the World.
- ❖ The Super Computer (Pratyush) at Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology India is ranked 39th in the World.
- ❖ So far under the mission, “Param Shivay” was installed in IIT Bhuvaneshwar, Param Brahma and Param Shakti installed in IISER, Pune and IIT-Kharagpur.

ENVIRONMENT

Normal Monsoon rains for India

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department announced that the El Nino Weather Phenomenon is to remain neutral this year between May and July.
- ❖ This will bring in normal rains to India during South West Monsoon.
- ❖ The Indian Monsoon is greatly affected by the El Nino and La Nina Weather Phenomenon.
- ❖ The neutral event of the weather phenomenon is addressed as ENSO Oscillation.
- ❖ The ENSO phenomenon strengthens the trade winds that give good rains to India during Monsoon.
- ❖ Therefore, India receives good rainfall when ENSO is neutral.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Down syndrome Day – March 21

- ❖ Down syndrome occurs when an individual has an extra partial (or whole) copy of chromosome 21.



- ❖ In December 2011, the United Nations General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day
- ❖ This year the theme is "We Decide".



World Water Day – March 22

- ❖ It is about focusing attention on the importance of fresh water.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Water and Climate Change'.
- ❖ The UN World Water Development Report (WWDR) is released each year around World Water Day.
- ❖ UN-Water is the convener for World Water Day.
- ❖ The first World Water Day, designated by the United Nations, was in 1993.



Martyr's Day – March 23

- ❖ Every year, March 23rd is celebrated as Shaheed Diwas or Martyr's Day.
- ❖ The Day is observed to commemorate the courage and heroism of three great young leaders Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru.



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