

March - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to start 'Resham Keet Bima' insurance scheme for protecting its sericulturists.
- ❖ Asia's largest tulip garden, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, opened in Srinagar.
 - The garden has over 1.5 million (15 lakh) tulips of various colours and hues.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference in New Delhi.
- ❖ The United States passed a resolution to recognise the McMahon Line as the international boundary between China and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People occurs annually on March 20 throughout the globe.
- ❖ Since 2010, The UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20 March.
 - This day marks the creation of the Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation.

TAMIL NADU

Appreciation for 'The Elephant Whisperers' team



- ❖ The Tamil documentary "The Elephant Whisperers" created history at the 95th Academy Awards by becoming the maiden Indian production to win in the Documentary Short Subject category.

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister gave away Rs one crore incentive to Kartiki Gonsalves, director of Academy Award-winning documentary.
- ❖ Bomman and Bellie, the couple acted in the Documentary gets awarded with Rs 1 Lakh each as a token of appreciation.
- ❖ The Chief Minister has also ordered the payment of ₹1 lakh each to all the 91 mahouts and cavadis at the Mudumalai and Anamalai elephant camps in Tamil Nadu.

Reduction in TB deaths

- ❖ The initiative, TN-KET (Tamil Nadu Kasanoi Erappila Thittam, meaning TB death-free project) began in April 2022.
- ❖ In 2,500-odd public healthcare facilities that diagnosed TB in 30 districts.
- ❖ It has already achieved significant reduction in the number of early TB deaths.
- ❖ Nearly 70% of all TB deaths among notified TB patients take place in the first two months after diagnosis.
- ❖ Deaths within two months of TB diagnosis (early TB deaths) have reduced from more than 600 in April 2022 to less than 350 in December 2022.
- ❖ Also, the average time to death after diagnosis doubled from less than 20 days before April to 40 days in July 2022.
- ❖ In December 2022, we reached the 90%-90%-90% goal at State level.

Saving lives by cutting down delay, beginning treatment

The TN-KET (Tamil Nadu-Kasanoi Erappila Thittam) initiative began in April 2022 in 2,500-odd public healthcare facilities that diagnosed tuberculosis in 30 districts

- The heart of the initiative is the 'Differentiated TB Care' aimed at assessing whether people with TB need ambulatory care or admission in a health facility to manage severe illness at the time of diagnosis
- Nearly 70% of all TB deaths among notified TB patients take place in the first two months after diagnosis
- Preliminary assessment of patients based on just three conditions was sufficient for quick identification at diagnosis and referral for admission in a hospital
- This resulted in admission of people with severe TB illness in a hospital on the same day of diagnosis, thus increasing the chances of saving lives



Lacking: Most PHCs, many taluk and block-level healthcare facilities lack clinical and diagnostic capacity

- Around 150 nodal inpatient care facilities have been identified, and nearly 900 beds earmarked for people with TB who are severely ill
- In December 2022, the State achieved 90% triaging of patients, 90% referral and confirmation of severe illness, and 90% admission among confirmed

Tamil Nadu's 18th wildlife sanctuary

- ❖ During the Tamil Nadu Budget 2023-24, creation of new wildlife sanctuary in Erode district called 'Thanthai Periyar Animal Sanctuary' was announced.
- ❖ This is the 18th wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ There are two existing wildlife sanctuaries in the district - Vellode Birds Sanctuary and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (STR).
- ❖ In the proposed sanctuary, the animal populations would mainly comprise elephants, tigers, leopards, panthers, wild boars, and deer.
- ❖ There are 21 different mammals, 139 bird species and 118 types of butterflies that would also inhabit.

NATIONAL

Literacy rate in India

Literacy rates for those aged 7 or more (%)										
State/UT	Male	Female	Person	Gender Gap (% pts)	State/UT	Male	Female	Person	Gender Gap (% pts)	
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2	2.2	Chhattisgarh	85.4	68.7	77.3	16.7	
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7	11.3	J&K	85.7	68	77.3	17.7	
Uttarakhand	94.3	80.7	87.6	13.6	Odisha	84	70.3	77.3	13.7	
Himachal	92.9	80.5	86.6	12.4	Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2	12.9	
Assam	90.1	81.2	85.9	8.9	Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3	18.3	
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8	12.3	MP	81.2	65.5	73.7	15.7	
Punjab	88.5	78.5	83.7	10	Uttar Pradesh	81.8	63.4	73	18.4	
Tamil Nadu	87.9	77.9	82.9	10	Telangana	80.5	65.1	72.8	15.4	
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4	14.7	Bihar	79.7	60.5	70.9	19.2	
West Bengal	84.8	76.1	80.5	8.7	Rajasthan	80.8	57.6	69.7	23.2	
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4	16.7	Andhra	73.4	59.5	66.4	13.9	
					India	84.7	70.3	77.7	14.4	

- ❖ According to the World Bank India report, only 1 of 11 girls was literate at the time of India's independence, about nine percent.
- ❖ At present, the women's literacy rate has jumped to 77%.
- ❖ India's male literacy rate stands at 84.7%.
- ❖ As per the National Sample Survey report, Kerala is the most literate state in the country with 92.2%.
- ❖ It is followed by union territory Lakshadweep (91.85%).
- ❖ The third-most literate state in the country is Mizoram (91.33%).
- ❖ Bihar has the lowest literacy rate in India at 61.8%, followed by Arunachal Pradesh at 65.3% and Rajasthan at 66.1%.
- ❖ However, around 12.6% of students drop out of school in India.
- ❖ 19.8% discontinued education at the secondary level.

- ❖ The literacy rate in rural India is 67.77% as compared to 84.11% in urban India.

Groundwater: A Valuable but Diminishing Resource” Report

- ❖ This report was tabled in Parliament by the Standing Committee on Water Resources.
- ❖ Of the total annual extractable groundwater resource of 398 billion cubic metres (BCM) in the country till 2020, 245 BCM was being extracted.
- ❖ It indicated there was a decrease in the overall level of groundwater extraction from 63.3 per cent in 2017 to 61.6 per cent in 2020.
- ❖ Groundwater levels in Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and 20 other cities dipped by more than 20 metres from 2017 to 2020.
- ❖ Haryana’s Faridabad has become 100 per cent dependent on groundwater use.
- ❖ Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, which are extracting 97%, 90% and 86% of groundwater, respectively.
- ❖ Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are also significant users of groundwater for irrigation as they are using approximately 89%, 92% and 90%, respectively.

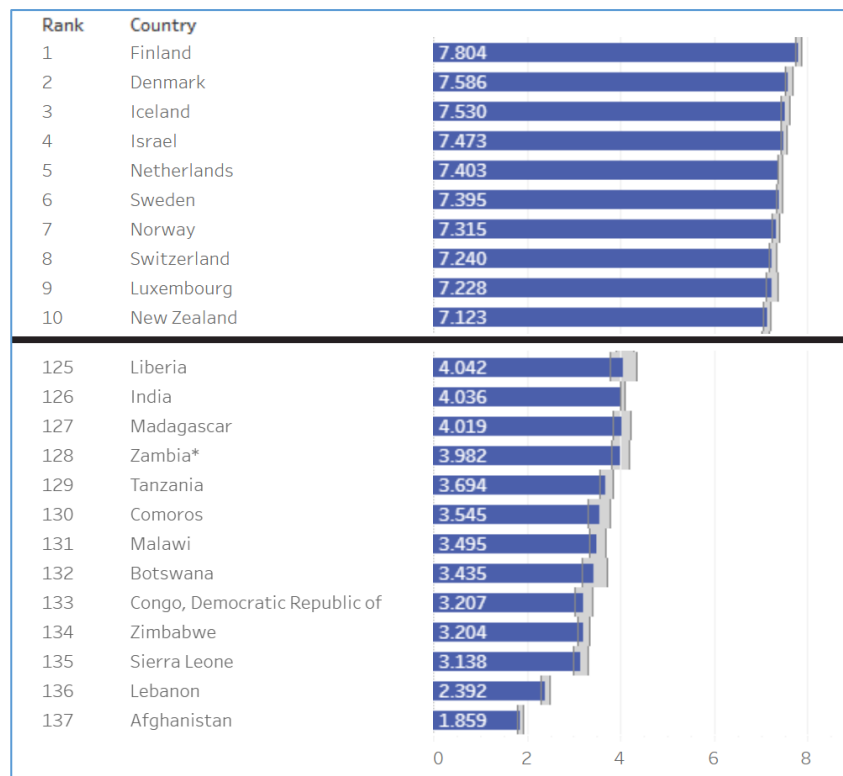
GROUNDWATER USAGE			
State	Irrigation (IN BCM)	Extraction (IN BCM)	Share in irrigation (%)
Punjab	32.80	33.85	96.90
Haryana	10.47	11.61	90.18
Assessment units from 2017-2020			
State	Improvement	Deteriorated	No change
Punjab	5	11	122
Haryana	13	15	113

REPORTS AND INDICES

The World Happiness Report 2023

- ❖ This is the 10th year of the World Happiness Report.

- ❖ It is published by the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- ❖ Finland has maintained its position as the world's happiest country for the sixth consecutive year.
- ❖ Six different factors go into determining a country's happiness quotient.
- ❖ These include GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and low corruption.
- ❖ India's rank improved from 136th (2022) to 126th in 2023 Report.
- ❖ India is still behind close neighbours like Sri Lanka (112), Pakistan (108), Nepal (78) and China (64).
- ❖ The war raged Ukraine was positioned at 92 and Taliban ruled Afghanistan stood in the list at the last spot (137th).



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Happiness - March 20

- ❖ It was first observed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2012.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of people all over the world.

- ❖ This year's theme is: 'Be Mindful. Be Grateful. Be Kind'.



World Sparrow Day - March 20



- ❖ It is designated to raise awareness about sparrow conservation and protection, as their numbers are declining globally.
- ❖ The first commemoration of the day occurred in 2010.
- ❖ The goal of the day is to educate people about the value of sparrows in the ecosystem, their role in pollination, and their importance in pest control.
- ❖ The theme of 2023 is "I Love Sparrows",

World Oral Health Day - March 20

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about the significance of oral health.

- ❖ It also tries to educate individuals about the different oral hygiene practices that one should be following on daily basis.
- ❖ In the year 2021, a three-year-long theme was launched for the day as "Be Proud of Your Mouth."

