

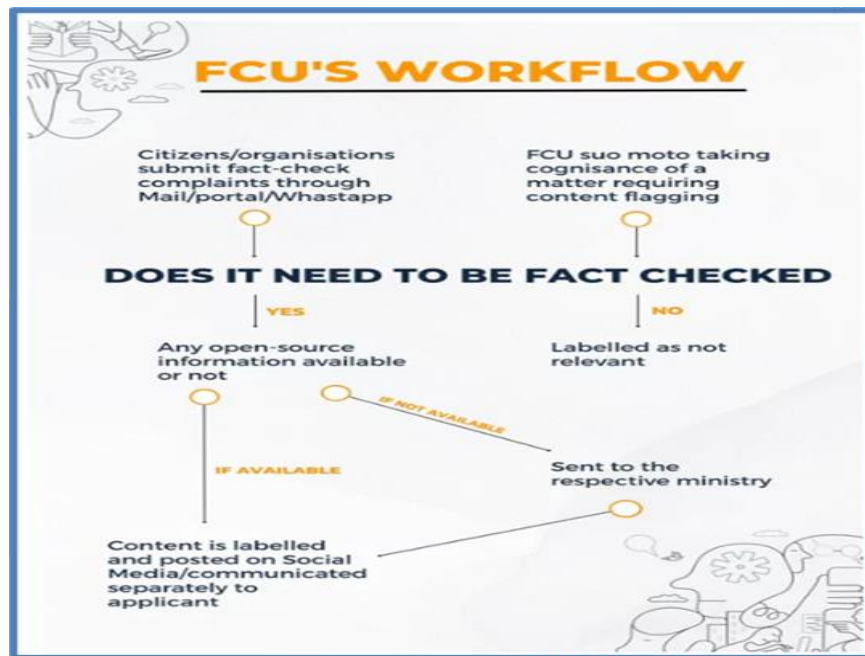
March - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Dr. Sultan Al Jaber of UAE, the President of COP28 (2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference), received the CERAWeek Leadership Award.
- ❖ The 3rd edition of North East Games 2024 kick-started in Sovima, Nagaland.
- ❖ Grid Controller of India Limited (GRID-INDIA) has achieved a significant milestone by being conferred with the status of Miniratna Category-I central public sector enterprise.
- ❖ India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) powered bus inaugurated and operated by Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation.

NATIONAL

SC on fact checking unit



- ❖ The Supreme Court stayed the operation of the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules.
- ❖ This rule empowered the government to identify “fake news” on social media platforms through a “Fact Check Unit” (FCU).
- ❖ The Union Electronics and IT Ministry had notified the FCU as a statutory body under the Press Information Bureau.

- ❖ It has a power to flag what it believes is false information related to the central government and its agencies on social media sites.
- ❖ Earlier, the Bombay High Court held that the “state cannot coercively classify speech as true or false and compel the non-publication of the latter.
- ❖ It is argued that, these rules violative of Article 14, Article 19(1)(a) and (g), and Article 21 of the Constitution, and Section 79 and the Information Technology Act, 2000 (IT Act).

FLNAT Test



- ❖ The government conducted the Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Test (FLNAT) as part of Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram across 23 states.
- ❖ The assessment comprises three subjects – Reading, Writing, and Numeracy – each carrying 50 marks, totalling 150 marks.
- ❖ The FLNAT assesses Reading, Writing, and Numeracy skills, to evaluate the foundational literacy and numeracy skills.
- ❖ New India Literacy Program, popularly known as ULLAS is a centrally sponsored scheme for the period 2022-2027.
- ❖ ULLAS stands for - Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society.

Start-up Mahakumbh 2024

- ❖ A three-day “Startup Mahakumbh” event was organised by the government to bolster the startup ecosystem and attract investments in the sector in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is serving as a dynamic platform for all stakeholders in the country's startup ecosystem.

- ❖ The event, aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship nationwide, has attracted significant interest from the leading investors, innovators, and aspiring entrepreneurs.



INTERNATIONAL

ISA 29th Session



- ❖ The Council of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) commenced the first part of its 29th session recently at Kingston, Jamaica.
- ❖ The ISA is an autonomous international organization established in 1994.
- ❖ It was established under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of UNCLOS.

- ❖ It organizes and controls all mineral-resources-related activities in the Seabed Area for the benefit of humankind as a whole.
- ❖ The seabed and ocean floor and the subsoil thereof, beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

2024 Summit for Democracy

- ❖ The third Summit for Democracy (S4D3) was held in Seoul, South Korea.
- ❖ The summit, held outside the United States for the first time, aimed to champion and spread the idea of democracy globally.
- ❖ Theme of the event is “Democracy for Future Generations.”
- ❖ This year's summit agenda has focused on digital threats to democracy, including misinformation, artificial intelligence, and deep fakes.
- ❖ U.S. President Joe Biden established the summit in 2021.



Barberton Greenstone Belt

- ❖ The Scientists have found signs of some of the earliest known earthquakes in 3.3-billion-year-old rocks.
- ❖ The rocks provide early evidence of plate tectonics, which explains Earth's crust as split into large plates that glide across the mantle.
- ❖ The rocks also point to what conditions may have been like when life first evolved.
- ❖ This discovery has made while investigating the Barberton Greenstone Belt, a complex geological formation in southern Africa.
- ❖ The belt is remarkably similar to much younger rocks in New Zealand.

- ❖ They have experienced earthquake-triggered submarine landslides along the Hikurangi subduction zone.
- ❖ The Barberton Greenstone, named after its greenish hue, provides one of the most extensive geological records for Earth between 3.2 billion and 3.6 billion years ago.



ENVIRONMENT

The Global E-waste Monitor 2024

- ❖ The world has produced a whopping 62 billion kg of electronic waste (e-waste) in 2022.
- ❖ It contained 31 billion kg of metals, 17 billion kg of plastics and 14 billion kg of other materials (minerals, glass, composite materials, etc).
- ❖ That number is projected to rise to 82 billion kg in 2030.
- ❖ In 2010, the world generated 34 billion kg of e-waste.
- ❖ Of this 62 billion, 13.8 billion kg is documented as 'formally collected and recycled in an environmentally sound manner.
- ❖ This figure was 8 billion kg in 2010.
- ❖ 18 billion kg is handled mostly by the informal sector in low- and lower-middle-income countries.
- ❖ A whopping 58,000 kg of mercury and 45 million kg of plastics containing brominated flame retardants are released into the environment every year.

- ❖ Europe (17.6 kg), Oceania (16.1 kg) and the Americas (14.1 kg) generated the highest amount of e-waste per capita in 2022.
- ❖ Countries in Asia generate almost half of the world's e-waste (30 billion kg)



IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Recycling Day 2024 - March 18

- ❖ It is a day to promote recycling and conservation by educating people about the status of essential resources.
- ❖ The Global Recycling Foundation was established in 2018 to promote recycling and conservation worldwide.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Keeping Promises: A Commitment to Sustainability”.



International Day for Digital Learning 2024 - March 19

- ❖ This day was celebrated for the first time in 2024 by UNESCO members.
- ❖ It recognises the value of digital learning in addressing educational challenges & promoting sustainable development.

- ❖ In 2005, just 16% of the global population was connected to the Internet.
- ❖ As of 2023, that number had risen to 67%.
- ❖ Only 40% of primary schools are connected to the Internet and 70% of rural populations in sub-Saharan Africa lack electricity.

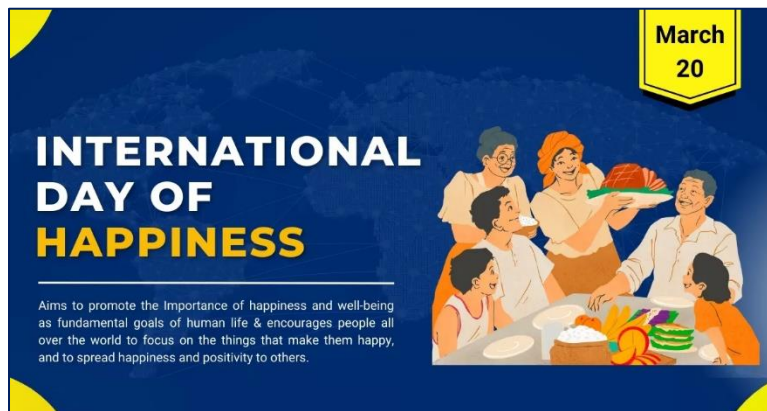


Learning is a continuous process and the true learner always looks avenues to learn anytime, anywhere.

International Day For Digital Learning

19th March, 2024

International Day of Happiness 2024 - March 20



- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) first declared this special day in 2013.
- ❖ It aims to honour the happiness and well-being as universal objectives and aspirations shared by people everywhere.
- ❖ The day's goal is to make the world a kinder and happier place by encouraging people to practise simple, daily happiness habits.

- ❖ This year's theme is "Reconnecting for Happiness: Building Resilient Communities".

World Oral Health Day 2024 - March 20

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness around oral health and its intricate link with the overall health.
- ❖ This day was first celebrated September 12, 2007, on the birthday of World Dental Federation Founder Dr Charles Godon.
- ❖ Oral diseases that are highly preventable affect 3.5 billion people all over the world.
- ❖ The 2024 campaign's theme is - A happy mouth is....a happy body.

