

March - 26

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Agriculture-Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Pannerselvam said that the Government is to implement Tamil Nadu Millet Mission for a period of five years.
 - The millet festivals would be celebrated to create awareness among consumers and increase millet cultivation.
- ❖ Bombay Jayashree was chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2023 by Music Academy.

TAMIL NADU

TN Agriculture Budget



- ❖ Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister M.R.K. Pannerselvam presented the 2023-2024 Agriculture Budget.
- ❖ The Agriculture Budget for 2022-23 increased the allocation for agriculture and allied sectors to ₹33,007.68 crore.
- ❖ It is slightly higher than the ₹32,775.78 crore in the revised estimate for 2021-22.
- ❖ The government will take steps to achieve 126 lakh MT of foodgrain production in 2022-23.
- ❖ Rs 2,337 crore allocated as the state government's share of premium subsidy for crop insurance.

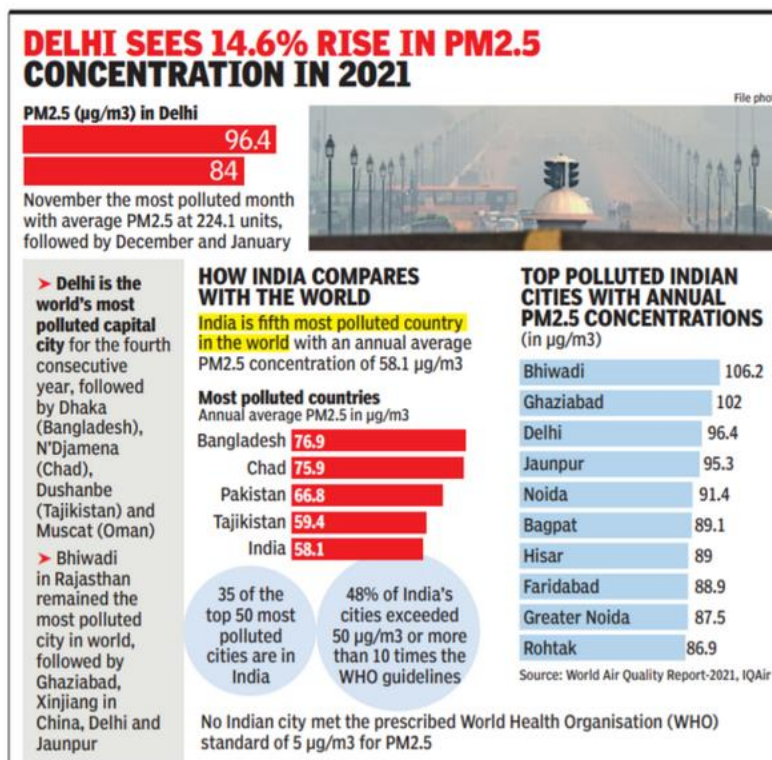


- ❖ The 'Kalaigarin All Village Integrated Agriculture Development Programme' was announced in the first agriculture budget.
- ❖ Cooperative crop loan to the tune of Rs 14,000 crore will be given to farmers.
- ❖ Interest-free cooperative loan of Rs 1,500 crore will be given to farmers for goat rearing, dairying, poultry and fisheries activities.
- ❖ Rs 744 crore will be allocated for the implementation of the micro irrigation scheme.
- ❖ Rs 450 crore will be spent to cover 53,400 hectares under micro irrigation in the group of villages where agriculture is affected due to water shortage.
- ❖ The Nammazhvar award will be given to farmers who practise and promote organic farming and hand-hold fellow organic farmers.
- ❖ The award of Rs 5 lakh and a citation will be given on Republic Day.
- ❖ A new regional startup hub is to be created in Thanjavur by the Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission to promote agrotechnological innovations in the Cauvery delta region.
- ❖ A scheme to stabilise the supply of onion and tomato throughout the year will be launched.
- ❖ An additional 20 per cent subsidy is to be provided for small and marginal farmers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ Kits containing perennial fruit seedlings such as mango, guava, jackfruit, amla, acid lime, and custard apple will be distributed to 10 lakh households.
- ❖ The beautification of government botanical gardens will be done at Yercaud and horticultural park and Madhavaram in Chennai.
- ❖ Around 150 farmers will be taken on an overseas tour to countries like Israel, Netherlands, Thailand, Egypt, Malaysia, Philippines etc to teach them about the high-yielding technologies.
- ❖ Farm tourism is to be promoted in association with the education department for school students.
- ❖ A specific cluster development scheme at cost of Rs 130 crore for bananas in the Theni district will be provided.
- ❖ One scientist from agricultural colleges, research centres or Krishi Vigyan Kendras is set to be appointed as officer-in-charge for each block.
- ❖ Desiltation in rivers, canals and drainage channels in the Cauvery delta command area at an estimated cost of Rs 90 crore.
- ❖ Food parks will come up at Tindivanam, Theni and Manapparai in Trichy district.
- ❖ The production of jaggery will be encouraged to benefit the sugarcane farmers.
- ❖ 3,000 solar pumps will be set up under the chief minister's scheme.

- ❖ The state government will distribute 10 lakh palm seeds to increase the number of the state tree – palmyra.
- ❖ Rs 3 crore will be allocated for Turmeric and ginger cultivation.
- ❖ The defunct cooperative NPKR Ramasamy Coop sugar mills at Mayiladuthurai will be reopened.
- ❖ Special zone for tur dal cultivation will be set up in Salem and Krishnagiri districts.
- ❖ New mobile app will be developed to provide all the required information to farmers.
- ❖ Soil testing centre will be established at the cost of Rs 75 lakh at Mayiladuthurai.

REPORTS AND INDICES

5th Annual World Air Quality Report 2022

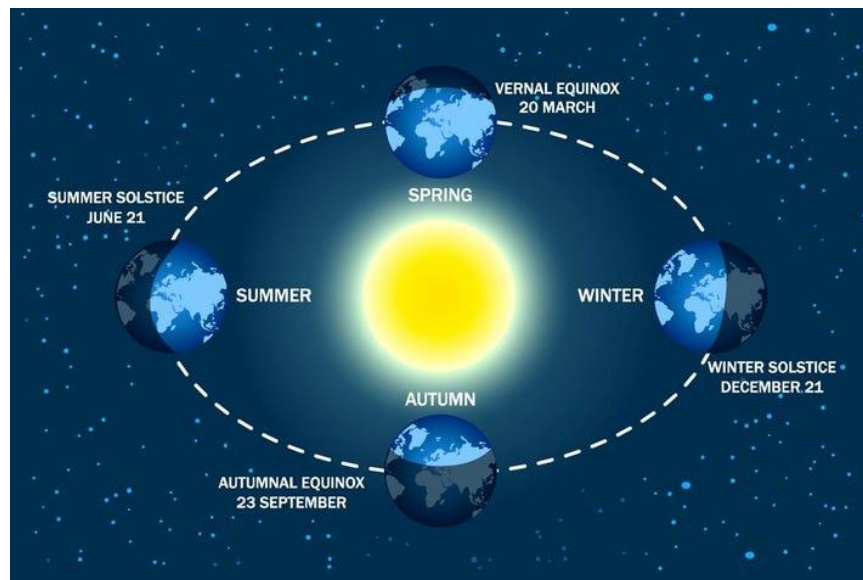


- ❖ The 5th Annual World Air Quality Report was released by IQAir.
- ❖ It states that roughly 60% of cities in India included in the report recorded annual PM2.5 levels at least seven times higher than the WHO guidelines.
- ❖ The average PM2.5 level in 2022 was 53.3 µg/m3.
- ❖ It is only slightly lower than 58.1 µg/m3 in 2021.

- ❖ Bhiwadi in Rajasthan was the most polluted city in the country with PM levels of 92.7.
- ❖ Delhi is the most polluted metropolitan city with PM levels of 92.6.
- ❖ India has ranked eighth in the list of countries with the worst air quality index.
- ❖ It is dropped from the fifth spot the previous year.
- ❖ Lahore in Pakistan jumped more than 10 places to become the city with the worst air in the world in 2022.
- ❖ 12 of the 15 most polluted cities in Central and South Asia are in India.
- ❖ The PM2.5 levels in Bengaluru went up from 29 to 31.5 micrograms/cubic metre.
- ❖ In Hyderabad the increase was from 39.4 to 42.4 micrograms/cubic metre.
- ❖ Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai saw a marginal drop in the level of pollutants by a few micrograms.
- ❖ Kolkata remained the same.
- ❖ The US Pacific territory Guam had cleaner air than any country, with a PM2.5 concentration of 1.3.
- ❖ Canberra of Australia had the cleanest air for a capital city, with 2.8.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Spring equinox - March 21



- ❖ The Spring Equinox 2023 also called the vernal equinox is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere.

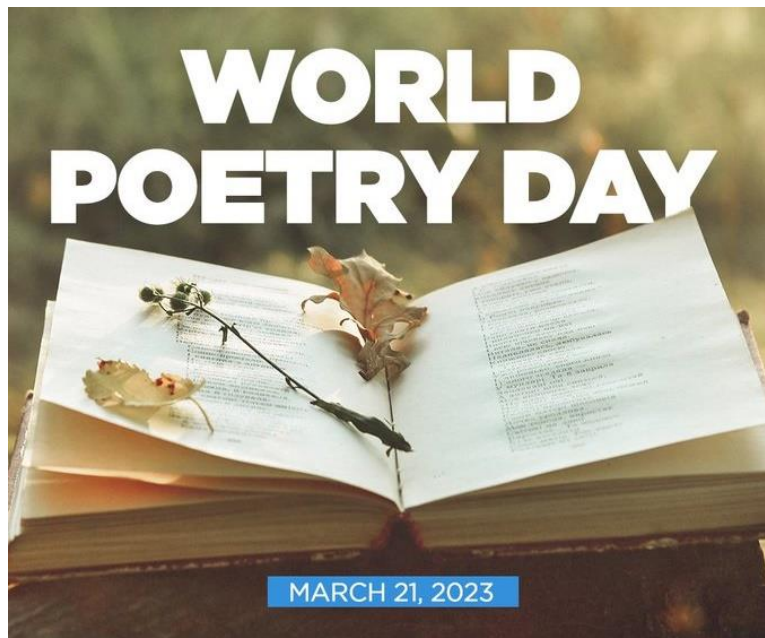
- ❖ On this day, Sun is exactly above the Equator and day and night are of equal length.
- ❖ The Persian New Year, Nowruz, also falls on the first day of spring.

World Down Syndrome Day - March 21

- ❖ The day is celebrated in an effort to raise awareness about Down syndrome and to advocate for the rights, inclusion, and well-being of people with Down syndrome.
- ❖ The date was selected because Down syndrome is caused by the presence of a third copy of the 21st chromosome, and 21/3 (March 21st) represents this genetic condition.
- ❖ This day was first observed on March 21, 2006.
- ❖ It was officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in 2011.
- ❖ The Theme for 2023 is "With Us Not For Us".

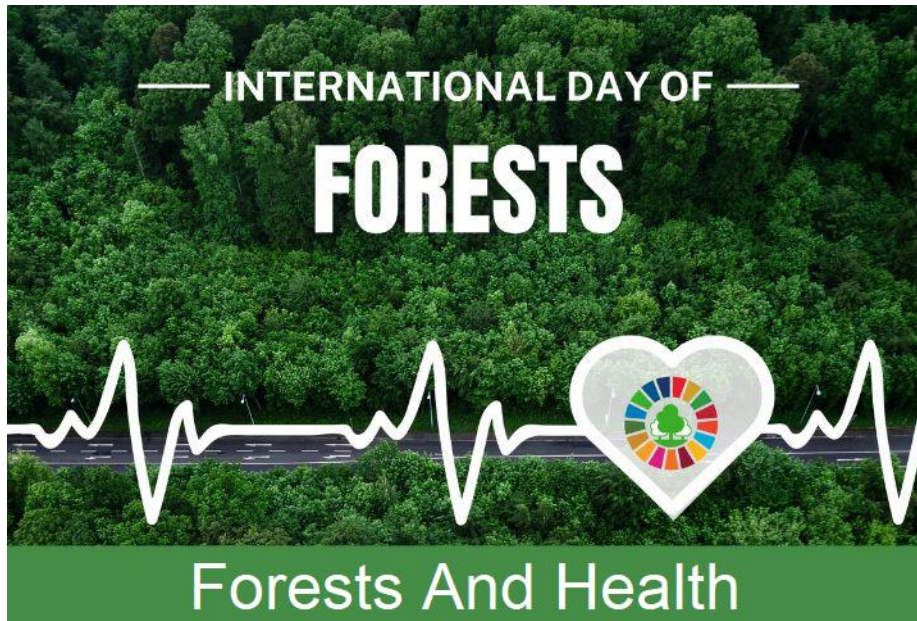


World Poetry Day - March 21



- ❖ The day was first adopted by UNESCO in 1999 at the 30th General Conference in Paris.
- ❖ It is an occasion to honour the poets, revive oral traditions of poetry recitals, and promote the reading, writing, and teaching of poetry.
- ❖ It aims to support “linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard”.

International Day of Forests - March 21



- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) established World Forestry Day in 1971.
- ❖ The day was established to create and raise awareness of the importance of forests for people and the planet.
- ❖ In 2011, the United Nations declared the years 2011 to 2020 as the International Decade of Forests.
- ❖ In the year 2012, the International Day of Forests was established.
- ❖ The theme for 2023 is 'Forests and Health.'

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21

- ❖ On that day, in 1960, police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws.
- ❖ On October 26, 1966, the UN General Assembly designated this day.



❖ Theme of this year is : 75th anniversary of UDHR - an impetus to combat racism.

