

March – 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas has joined international celebrities with Oprah Winfrey and Meryl Streep in USA Today's list of "50 most powerful women in entertainment".
 - USA Today is an internationally distributed American daily, and is the most circulated newspaper in America.
- ❖ Haryana forest and wildlife department, which has taken the initiative to set up Sparrow Rescue and Research Centres (SRRC) in the country, is celebrating World Sparrow Day for the first time.
 - The event will be held at Bir Shikargah wildlife sanctuary in Panchkula.
- ❖ Six months after the sworn into office, Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Henry Céant was resigned from office after the passing of No confidence motion.

NATIONAL

FSSAI Draft Regulations

- ❖ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is expected to announce the draft Food Labelling regulations.
- ❖ New regulations indicate that packaged food items across the country will carry large red labels specifying if the food is high on fats, sugar or salt (HFSS).
- ❖ They aim to address claims like pure, real, natural and sugar-free which are labelled on the food products.
- ❖ If >10% of the energy in the food is coming from sugar, it will have a red symbol.
- ❖ Red label will also be mandatory if trans-fat provides more than 1% of Energy.

National Noise Pollution Map

- ❖ National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to prepare a noise pollution map and remedial action plan to solve the issue across the country.
- ❖ NGT had said the absence of implementation of noise pollution norms affects health of citizens, especially infants and senior citizens.

- ❖ All state Police departments are directed to procure within Noise monitoring devices in consultation with respective state pollution boards.

National Green Tribunal

- ❖ National Green Tribunal has been established on 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act 2010.
- ❖ A judge of the Supreme Court of India or Chief Justice of High Court are the Chairperson or judicial member of the Tribunal.
- ❖ Current chairperson of the NGT is Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, the retired Supreme Court Judge.
- ❖ NGT was created for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- ❖ Principal Bench of the NGT has been established in the New Delhi.

Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction

- ❖ 3rd Indo-Japan Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Delhi.
- ❖ The objective of the workshop was to enhance collaboration between research institutes, cities and the private sector in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ❖ The collaboration between India and Japan is to be strengthened in the areas of
 - Early Warning Systems,
 - Build-back-better approach in constructions, capacity development,
 - Science & Technology application,
 - Institution strengthening.
- ❖ In India, NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) is the nodal agency for disaster management.
- ❖ NDMA's primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.

Parrot fish

- ❖ Parrot fish (*Bolbometopon muricatum*) is an important component of coral reef ecosystem, but is highly endangered globally now.



- ❖ This species of fish is threatened in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It is categorized as 'vulnerable' in the Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ Incidental catch by fishers, spear-fishers and degradation of coral reef are potential threats to the species.
- ❖ Protection of coral cover along the existing protected marine areas in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is necessary for conservation of the endangered Parrotfish.

ENVIRONMENT

First Otter Census in UP

- ❖ For the first time, Uttar Pradesh is taking a census of Otters in its protected areas (Pilibhit Tiger Reserve).
- ❖ Otters are an important part of the forest ecosystem.



- ❖ A healthy population of otters means the water bodies of the reserve are pollution-free.

- ❖ Clean water bodies mean a healthy ecosystem of the forest.
- ❖ Three species of otters are found in India.

| Otter Species Native to India | IUCN Status |
|---|--------------------|
| Eurasian Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>) | Near Threatened |
| Smooth-coated Otter (<i>Lutra perspicillata</i>) | Vulnerable |
| Small-clawed Otter (<i>Aonyx cinereus</i>) | Vulnerable |

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sri Ramakrishna Birth Anniversary

- ❖ In a bid to conserve environment, the Ramakrishna Math and Ramakrishna Mission has decided to do away with its practice of having a firework display as part of the birth-anniversary celebrations of Sri Ramakrishna.
- ❖ Instead of fireworks, cultural activities like folk theatres “yatra” and the famed Chhau dance - a folk dance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Global Recycling Day - March 18

- ❖ Global Recycling Day is observed annually across the world on March 18.
- ❖ It aims to help recognise, and celebrate the importance of recycling plays in preserving the precious primary resources.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 Global Recycling Day was ‘Recycling into the Future’.



UN French Language Day - March 20

- ❖ UN French Language Day is observed annually on 20th March.
- ❖ This event was established by UNESCO in 2010.
- ❖ It aims to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization.
- ❖ French is an official language in 29 countries.
- ❖ It as well is an official language of all United Nations agencies and a large number of international organizations.
- ❖ March 20 is also recognized by the International Organization of La Francophonie as the International Day of La Francophonie.

World sparrow day - March 20

- ❖ World Sparrow Day is celebrated on 20th March every year.
- ❖ This day is designated to raise awareness of the sparrow and then other common birds to urban environments, and of threats to their populations.
- ❖ The theme for World Sparrow Day is “I LOVE Sparrows”.
- ❖ It is an international initiative by the Nature Forever Society of India in collaboration with the Eco-Sys Action Foundation (France) and numerous other national and international organisations across the world.



International Day of Happiness - March 20

- ❖ The International Day of Happiness is celebrated worldwide every March 20.
- ❖ It was founded by United Nations special advisor Jayme Illien.



- ❖ It aims to inspire, mobilize, and advance the global happiness movement.
- ❖ UN General Assembly passed a resolution which was initiated by Bhutan and proclaimed 20th March as the International Day of Happiness in July 2012.
- ❖ The first ever international day of happiness was celebrated on March 20, 2013.
- ❖ United Nations International Day of Happiness (UNIDO Happiness) launched the “TEN Steps to Global Happiness” challenge campaign for this year celebration.

MISCELLANEOUS

#FridaysForFuture movement

- ❖ Following the thousands of youth in 123 countries around the world as part of the #FridaysForFuture movement, India saw some of its first school strikes against climate change.
- ❖ It was inspired by 16-year-old Swedish student, climate activist, and now Nobel Prize nominee, Greta Thunberg.



- ❖ She protests every Friday outside the Swedish Parliament to urge leaders to fight climate change.
 - ❖ In India, students skipped schools in Delhi-NCR region.
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