

March – 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ RMS Queen Mary 2, the largest transatlantic ocean cruise liner visited the Chennai port.
- ❖ Germany has initiated a move at the European Union to designate the Chief of Jaish-e-Mohammed, Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.
 - This move comes days after China blocked a motion at the UN Security Council to ban him.

NATIONAL

Amendments on Indian Forest Act- 1927

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has finalised the first draft of the comprehensive amendments to the Indian Forest Act-1927 (IFA).
- ❖ This draft has been prepared based on the inputs of a core committee constituted by the Ministry.
- ❖ The amendments also specifically deal with the Forest Rights Act, 2006 (FRA).
- ❖ It also introduces a new category of forests - production forest.
- ❖ This amendment has increased the focus towards,
 - Conservation, enrichment and sustainable management of forest resources.
 - Matters connected with safeguarding ecological stability.

Lokpal Members

- ❖ Former Supreme Court judge, Pinaki Chandra Ghose was appointed as India's first Lokpal, also known as the anti-corruption ombudsman by the President of India.
- ❖ The President also appointed 8 other members



Judicial Members	Non-Judicial Members
Dilip B. Bhosale (Former Chief Justice)	Archana Ramasundaram (First woman Chief of SSB)
Pradip Kumar Mohanty (Former Chief Justice)	Dinesh Kumar Jain (Former Maharashtra Chief Secretary)
Abhilasha Kumari (Former Chief Justice)	Mahender Singh (Former IRS officer)
Ajay Kumar Tripathi (sitting Chief Justice of Chhattisgarh)	Indrajeet Prasad Gautam (Former IAS officer)

33rd India- Indonesian Coordinated Patrol

- ❖ The 33rd edition of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo Corpat) was held at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ This also coincides with 70 years of India-Indonesia diplomatic ties.
- ❖ The coordinated patrol aims to underscore
 - India's peaceful presence and solidarity with maritime neighbours,
 - To ensure good order in the maritime domain,
 - Consolidate interoperability
 - Strengthen the existing bonds of friendship between India and Indonesia.
- ❖ As part of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) program, Indian Navy has been assisting Indian Ocean Countries and involves in capacity building program.

INTERNATIONAL

Kazakhstan's President resignation

- ❖ Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev has suddenly resigned after nearly 30 years in office.
- ❖ 78-year-old leader has ruled the central Asian nation ever since it emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.
- ❖ He is the only leader that independent Kazakhstan has ever known.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

First blockchain-based digital currency

- ❖ Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Barbados-based fintech company, Bitt Inc have signed a pact to conduct a blockchain-issued Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- ❖ It is a pilot project within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU).
- ❖ This is the first of its kind in the world and will involve a securely minted and issued digital version of the EC dollar (DXCD).
- ❖ Also, EC Dollar will be the world's first digital legal tender currency to be issued by a central bank on blockchain.

Hydrogen fuel from seawater

- ❖ Stanford scientists have invented a way to generate hydrogen fuel from seawater using solar power.



- ❖ They find a new way of separating hydrogen and oxygen gas from salt water.
- ❖ Since the process also produces breathable oxygen, divers or submarines could bring devices into the ocean and generate oxygen down below without having to surface for air.
- ❖ Hydrogen is an attractive option for fuel because it does not emit carbon dioxide.
- ❖ Splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen with electricity is called as electrolysis.

STATES

i-help initiative

- ❖ Assam chief electoral officer Mukesh Sahu launched the 'i-help' initiative at Janata Bhawan in Guwahati.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of the office of the chief electoral officer, Assam and Common Service Centres (CSC), Assam to promote digital electoral literacy in the State.
- ❖ CSCs are internet-enabled access points spread throughout the country delivering various government and non-government digital services (e-Services) to the citizens.
- ❖ The entire programme is being launched under the Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) in the state and it is geared to ensure that no voter is left behind.

Special stamp cover on Ice Stupa

- ❖ The Indian Department of Post on March 18, 2019 released a 'special stamp cover on Ice Stupa'.



- ❖ It was released by Jammu and Kashmir's Chief Postmaster during a function organised at the Ice Stupa site at Gangles Village in Leh.

- ❖ These special stamps aim to create awareness about depleting glaciers and affect the ecology around the Himalayas.

“Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior” - mobile App

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Public Health of Gandhinagar (IIPHG) has launched a mobile application – “Conquer Exam, Be a Warrior”.
- ❖ It created this app in collaboration with National Mental Health Program, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of Gujarat.
- ❖ This application creates awareness as well as help students to analyse their weak points and overcome from the exam pressure by providing assistance.
- ❖ At present the app is launched in English language only but in coming days it will be incorporated with Hindi, Gujarat and Marathi language.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Windham-Campbell Prize

- ❖ Journalist and writer Raghu Karnad won the Windham-Campbell Prize in the non-fiction category for his debut book.
- ❖ The book name is “The Farthest Field: An Indian Story of The Second World War”.
- ❖ Karnad is one of the 8 winners chosen across four categories—fiction, non-fiction, drama and poetry for this year.
- ❖ Karnad is the second Indian to receive the prestigious prize.
- ❖ Jerry Pinto won it for his novel “Em And the Big Hoom” in 2016.

Windham-Campbell Prize

- ❖ Windham-Campbell Prize is administered by the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University in the US and was established in 2013.
- ❖ This award was constituted in memory of Sandy Campbell, who was the partner of writer Donald Windham.

SPORTS

Indian Wells Masters 2019

- ❖ The professional tennis tournament Indian Wells Masters 2019 also known as BNP Paribas Open held in California, United States.
- ❖ Winners list are

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Dominic Thiem (Austria)	Roger Federer (Switzerland)
Women's Singles	Bianca Andreescu (Canada)	Angelique Kerber (German)
Men's Doubles	Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatia) Horacio Zeballos (Argentina)	Lukasz Kubot (Poland) Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
Women's Doubles	Elise Mertens (Belgium) Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)	Barbora Krejčíková (Czech Republic) Katerina Siniakova (Czech Republic)

Asian wrestling championship

- ❖ United World Wrestling (UWW) has taken away the Junior Asian Wrestling Championship from India.
- ❖ It also asked all its affiliated federations to stop dealing with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) due to the country's diplomatic tension with Pakistan.
- ❖ India had agreed to host the re-scheduled junior Championship in July after original hosts Lebanon withdrew.
- ❖ But now UWW has shifted the junior Asian championship from India to Thailand.

MISCELLANEOUS

Vijit visit to Indonesia

- ❖ Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vijit' became the first-ever Coast Guard ship to visit Sabang, Indonesia.
- ❖ It is highlighting the close maritime proximity between India and Indonesia and strengthening cooperation in the area of maritime security between India and Indonesia.
- ❖ This visit of the coast guard ship follows from the first-ever-visit of Naval Ship INS Sumitra to Sabang in July 2018.
