

March – 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kazakhstan has renamed its capital Astana to Nursultan in honor of its outgoing President Nursultan Nazarbayev.
- ❖ Tiger Woman is the English version of Bengali historical novel ‘Shardulsundori’ and it talks about love, the Great Bengal Circus and India's first female trapeze artist, the central character of the novel.
 - ‘Shardulsundori’ was authored by Sirsho Bandopadhyay and translated by Arunava Sinha.
- ❖ SpiceJet is the first Indian budget carrier to join the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which has over 290 airlines as members.
- ❖ A three-day conclave on India-Africa Project Partnerships was organized by the Ministry of Commerce in association with Confederation of Indian Industry and EXIM Bank of India.
- ❖ Bihar Diwas (Bihar Day) is observed every year on March 22, it marked the formation of the state of Bihar.
 - It was on this day when the British carved out the state from Bengal Presidency in 1912.

TAMIL NADU

Special Election Expenditure observer

- ❖ Election Commission of India has appointed former IRS officer Madhu Mahajan as special expenditure observer in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ She will supervise and monitor measures taken to curb illegal distribution of cash and freebies.
- ❖ Her role is to ensure that stringent and effective enforcement action is undertaken based on intelligence inputs and complaints received through the C-VIGIL app and Voter Helpline ‘1950’.
- ❖ Action will be taken against persons/entities trying to induce voters by distributing cash, liquor & freebies etc.

NATIONAL

Control over Election Manifestos

- ❖ Election Commission of India (ECI) has now made the release of election manifestos a part of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and has barred political parties from releasing election manifestos in the last 48 hours before polling.
- ❖ ECI has also said that manifestos for both single and multiphase elections shall not be released during the prohibitory period, as prescribed under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ Section 126 of the RP Act, 1951 embodies "election silence", which prohibits any form of the election campaign in the last 48 hours leading up to voting.

Voluntary code of Ethics

- ❖ Social media platforms and the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) presented a 'Voluntary Code of Ethics' for the General Election 2019 to the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ Election commission together with social media platforms have developed a notification mechanism.
- ❖ Under this mechanism, the electoral body can notify them of the violations under Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

OSIRIS-REx and Asteroid Bennu

- ❖ NASA's Osiris - REx mission detected particle plumes ejecting off of the surface on January 6, followed by additional plumes over the last two months.
- ❖ This makes Bennu an active asteroid that is regularly ejecting material into space, which is rare.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

NAVROZ Celebration

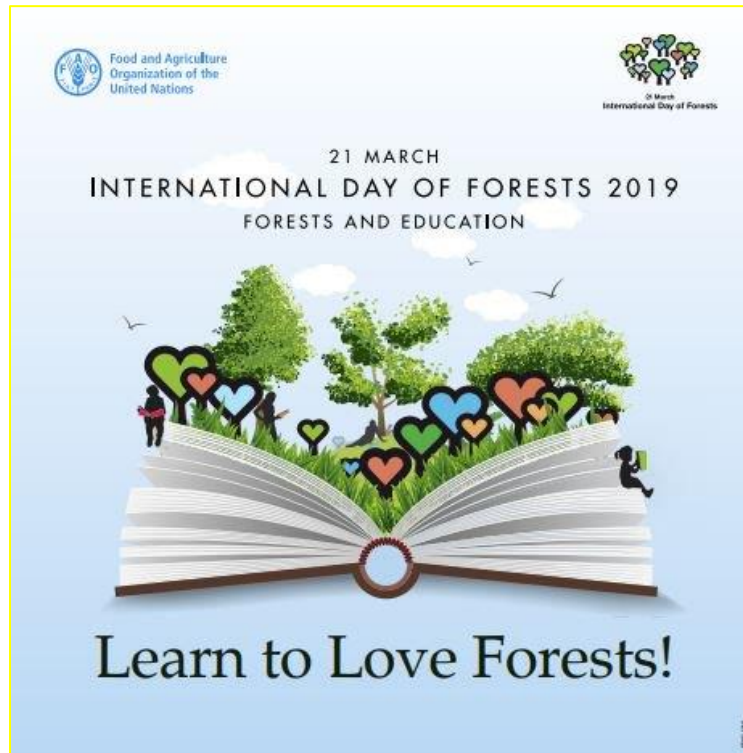
- ❖ Navroz is the Iranian New Year celebrated by several ethnolinguistic communities around the world.
- ❖ It is also the day of the Spring equinox (March 21) and the rituals are performed based on the movements of the sun during the course of the day.
- ❖ March 21 is also considered the day, the most important King of Zoroastrianism, King Jamshid was crowned as the King of Persia.
- ❖ In India Parsis who follow Zoroastrianism celebrates Navroz.
- ❖ Balban introduced the Nauroz in India to impress the nobles and people.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Forests - March 21

- ❖ Every year on 21st of March is to be observed as the International Day of Forests.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of forests to people and their vital role in poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, and food security.

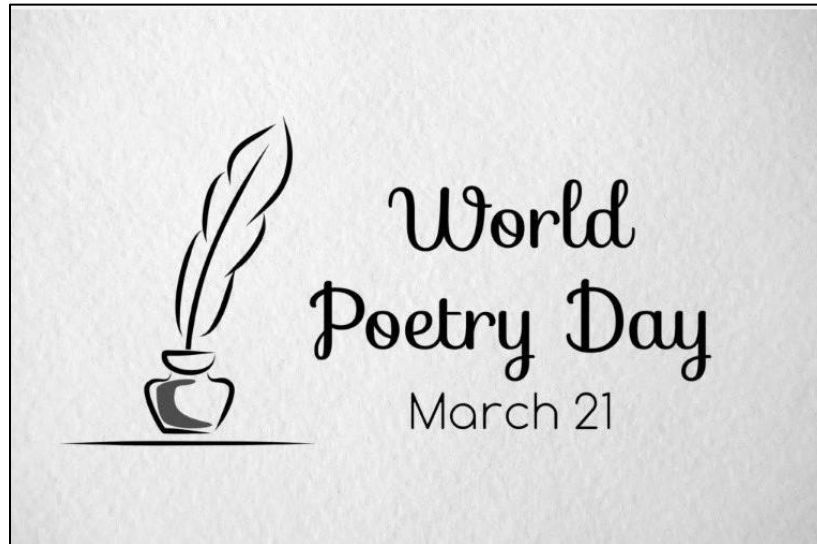
- ❖ International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.



- ❖ International Day of Forests was observed for the first time on March 21, 2013.
- ❖ The theme of this year observance is “Forests and Education”.

World Poetry Day- March 21

- ❖ World Poetry Day observed every year March 21st to recognize the unique ability of poetry.
- ❖ Its purpose is to promote the reading, writing, publishing, and teaching of poetry throughout the world
- ❖ UNESCO first adopted 21 March as World Poetry Day during its 30th General Conference in Paris in 1999.
- ❖ It aims to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard.



World Down Syndrome Day- March 21

- ❖ World Down Syndrome Day observed every year March 21st globally.
- ❖ This day established by the United Nations in 2012 to raise awareness and promote the rights of those with Down syndrome also known as Trisomy 21.

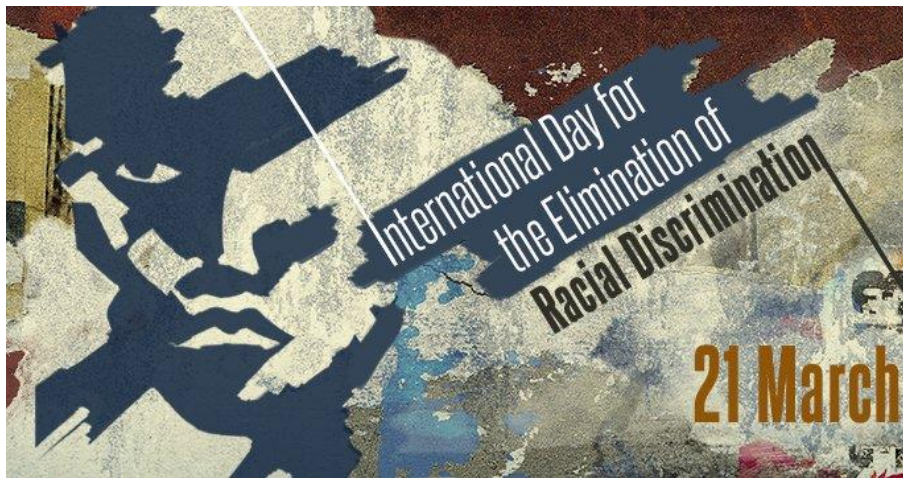


- ❖ It's a genetic disorder that arises from a defect involving chromosome 21.
- ❖ In fact, the role of chromosome 21 that led to the selection of March 21 as the observance day for Down Syndrome.

- ❖ The disorder is associated with slow physical growth, unique facial features, and intellectual disability.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21

- ❖ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March.
- ❖ On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws" in Sharpeville, South Africa.



- ❖ UN General Assembly while Proclaiming the Day in 1966, called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
- ❖ The theme of the 2019 observance is “Mitigating and countering rising nationalist populism and extreme supremacist ideologies”.

World Puppetry Day - March 21

- ❖ World Puppetry Day is observed annually on 21st March globally.
- ❖ This idea came from the puppet theater artist Javad Zolfaghari from Iran.
- ❖ Creating a day for the Puppetry was first discussed by the UNIMA members during the 18th Congress, in Magdeburg, in the year 2000.
- ❖ The official date March 21st proposal from Dadi Pudumjee was approved in 2002 at the UNIMA Council Meeting in Atlanta.
- ❖ The first International Message was delivered in New Delhi in 2003 and gained popularity. It's now celebrated all over the world.



MISCELLANEOUS

World Happiness Report 2019

- ❖ United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network has released the World Happiness Report 2019.





- ❖ This report ranks countries on six key variables that support well-being: income, freedom, trust, healthy life expectancy, social support, and generosity.
- ❖ India has witnessed a sustained drop with a 140th place this year compared with the 133rd place in 2018.
