

March – 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ India abstained, along with 14 other countries, voting on a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council condemning Israel for violence in Gaza.
- ❖ Union Ministers Piyush Goyal and Dr Hasrsh Vardhan are among the seven Indians who have been named in the 'World's 100 Most Influential People in Climate Policy for 2019' for taking steps in order to combat climate change.
 - Sunita Narain, the editor of the fortnightly magazine, Down To Earth also finds place in the same list.

TAMIL NADU

Vandalur Zoo - Zoo School

- ❖ For the first time in India, Zoo School at Arignar Anna Zoological Park has launched a special education YouTube channel called “Arignar Anna Zoological Park – Zoo School”.
- ❖ The initiative was taken to educate and create interest for the students and the general public about wildlife and its conservation.
- ❖ The You tube channel was launched on International Forests Day which was celebrated on 2019, March 21.

NATIONAL

JKLF banned under UAPA

- ❖ India has banned separatist Yasin Malik’s Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) under the anti-terror law, Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA).
- ❖ JKLF is spearheading the separatist ideology in the Kashmir valley and has been at the forefront of the separatist activities and violence since 1988.
- ❖ It is also alleged that JKLF was involved in murders of Kashmiri Pandits in 1989 which led to their exodus from the valley.

Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967

- ❖ UAPA is an anti-terrorist law aimed at effective prevention of unlawful activities in India.

- ❖ UAPA provides necessary powers to the investigating agencies to act against activities which harm the integrity and sovereignty of India.
- ❖ It imposes reasonable restrictions on the exercise of freedom of speech and expression, to assemble peaceably without arms and to form associations.

INTERNATIONAL

Financial Grant to Nepal

- ❖ As part of Development Partnership Programme, the Government of India had extended a financial grant of 35.5 million rupees to Nepal.
- ❖ This was used for the construction of the three storied building, the Siddheswar Education Public Campus at Ramechhap district.
- ❖ The newly built infrastructure will boost learning environment of students and improve access to education to the needy, poor and marginalised Nepalese students.

ECONOMY

India's GDP forecasts

- ❖ Fitch Ratings agency cut India's economic growth forecast for the next financial year starting April 1, 2019.
- ❖ It has projected GDP Growth up to 6.8 per cent revised down from its previous estimate of 7 per cent.
- ❖ This is due to weaker than expected momentum in the economy.
- ❖ Fitch Ratings observes that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has adopted a more market friendly monetary policy stance.
- ❖ RBI has taken such steps because of below-target inflation rate and easier global monetary conditions than previously envisaged.
- ❖ Fitch notes that a positive oil price outlook and expectations of 'accelerating food prices' in the coming months should support rural households' income and consumption.

RBI defers Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS)

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deferred the implementation of new accounting rules, Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) for banks till further notice.
- ❖ RBI has delayed the introduction of these tough new accounting rules for the second time.
- ❖ If these accounting standards come into effect immediately India's state-run banks would have had to increase provisions by as much as 1.1 trillion rupees (\$16 billion) in the fiscal first quarter ending June 30.
- ❖ This will be a huge burden for the banks which already struggle with large quantum of bad loans.
- ❖ The new accounting standards would require banks to make 'provisions' immediately when they judge that a loan is likely to default, rather than waiting for the borrower to start missing payments.
- ❖ Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) shall not be required to apply Ind AS and shall continue to comply with the existing Accounting Standards.

Indian Accounting Standards

- ❖ Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) is a new set of accounting norms which converge with the International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- ❖ IFRS 9 accounting standard was developed in the aftermath of 2008 Financial crisis to prevent collapse of banks.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

PRISMA Satellite of Italy

- ❖ A European Vega rocket carried a new Earth-observation satellite into orbit for the Italian Space Agency named PRISMA.
- ❖ PRISMA is an Italian acronym for Hyperspectral Precursor of the Application Mission.
- ❖ The satellite will operate in a sun-synchronous orbit.



- ❖ This means that it circles the Earth in such a way that the sun is always in the same position as the satellite takes pictures of the planet below.
- ❖ The main purpose of PRISMA is to study the interaction between atmosphere, biosphere and hydrosphere, observation of global climate change and effects of human activities on ecosystems.

STATES

Kochi-Muziris Biennale

- ❖ The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an international exhibition of contemporary art held in Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ It is the largest art exhibition in India and the biggest contemporary art festival in Asia.



- ❖ The Kochi-Muziris Biennale is an initiative of the Kochi Biennale Foundation with support from the Government of Kerala.
- ❖ This art exhibition is unique because in addition to art display in closed spaces and galleries, art forms are exhibited in open spaces.

SPORTS

SAFF Women's Football championship

- ❖ India won their fifth consecutive SAFF Women's Football championship defeating hosts Nepal 3-1 in the finals.

- ❖ The 2019 SAFF Women's Championship was the 5th edition of the biennial international women's football championship contested by the national teams of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- ❖ India, Nepal, Maldives, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are the participating countries.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Achievers – March 24

- ❖ The International Day for achievers is celebrated every year on March 24.
- ❖ It is celebrated to pay to tribute to achievers in any field for their outstanding achievements.
- ❖ These achievers of their field could be scientists, teachers, doctors, engineers, social workers or students.
- ❖ These are the people who reach their goals with strong determination irrespective of their age, sex, education, colour and caste.

.....