

March - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister released a book titled 'Tamil Nadu Fiscal Management: Antiquity and Continuity', which chronicles the State's financial management from the Sangam Age to the present day.
- ❖ A state-of-the-art research facility for the fluid and thermal science has been commissioned at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) recently.
- ❖ The Keel Laying ceremony of the second of the five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for Navy was held at L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the new permanent campus of the North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach (NECTAR) was laid in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- ❖ India's first-ever auction of exploration licences, a significant reform aimed at unlocking the nation's untapped critical and deep-seated mineral resources, was held in Goa.
- ❖ The Valueatics Re has received the insurance regulator IRDAI nod to commence reinsurance business in India and became the first private reinsurer in India to be granted a reinsurance license.
- ❖ WHO released a report, "Compassion and primary health care", which recognises compassion as a transformative force in primary health care.
- ❖ The 353rd Governing Body meeting of the International Labour Organisation is held in Geneva, Switzerland.

NATIONAL NEWS

Raisina Dialogue 2025



- ❖ The 10th edition of the annual Raisina Dialogue is inaugurated in New Delhi.

- ❖ The central theme for Raisina Dialogue 2025 is “Kālachakra – People, Peace and Planet.”
- ❖ It witnessed an impressive gathering of participants from around 125 countries.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of External Affairs as a “flagship Indian international dialogue”.
- ❖ The Raisina Dialogue aims to bring together leaders and thinkers from around the world.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health



The infographic features a portrait of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the left. The background shows a modern hospital ward with patients in beds. Logos for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, and myGov are visible in the top right. The main title is 'PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' and the subtitle is 'Pan-India Health Infrastructure Scheme for World-Class Facilities'. Below this, four key points are listed with icons: 1. Creation & improvement of long-term public healthcare infrastructure (cross and clock icon); 2. Health infrastructure in each district, making them self-reliant (hospital icon); 3. Comprehensive capacity building through increased investment (gears icon); 4. Outlay of Rs 64,180 crore over 5 years (percent sign icon).

- ❖ The committee has recommended the consolidation of all the AYUSH drug-related standard-setting processes under a single independent drug controller in alignment with the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- ❖ The committee has identified a need to increase the reach of AYUSH initiatives like Arogya Fair and Ayurveda Parv.
- ❖ It encourages collaboration with first-world countries to promote AYUSH among the Indian diaspora and local populations.

Astra BVRAAM

- ❖ India has successfully test fired beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM) Astra from LCA Tejas AF MK1 off Odisha coast.

- ❖ The missile has been designed to destroy targets at varying range and altitudes.
- ❖ It can be engaged against both short-range targets (up to 20 km) and long-range targets (up to 100 km) using alternative propulsion modes.



Pratibimb Module



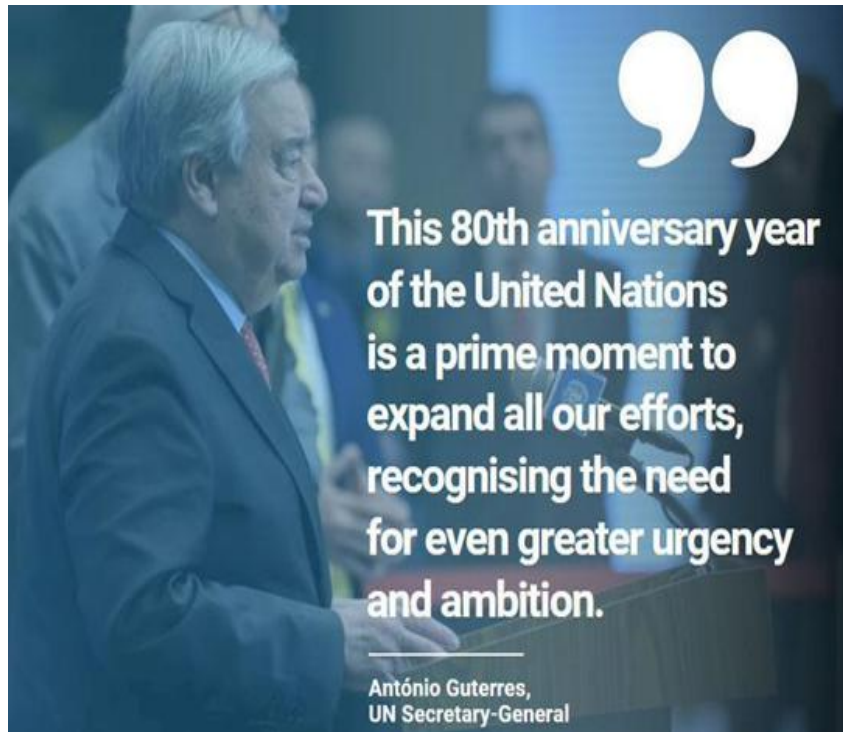
- ❖ The 'Pratibimb' module was launched by the Union Home Ministry's Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), which tracks the locations of criminals.
- ❖ 'Pratibimb' is a crime-mapping tool that tracks the cybercriminals and crime infrastructure across India.

- ❖ Till now, it has led to the arrest of 6,046 accused, 17,185 linkages, and 36,296 cyber investigation assistance requests.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

UN80 Initiative

- ❖ The UN80 Initiative' was launched on the 80th anniversary of the UN by Secretary - General Antonio Guterres.
- ❖ This initiative aims to address the shrinking resources, streamline operations, and enhance the organization's ability to deliver on its mandates effectively.
- ❖ It will identify efficiencies, review existing mandates, and implement structural changes within the UN system.



ECONOMY NEWS

ISRO's income since 2015

- ❖ India has generated foreign exchange revenue worth USD 143 million through launching foreign satellites during the period from 2015 to 2024.
- ❖ From January 2015 to December 2024, a total of 393 foreign satellites and three Indian customer satellites have been launched on a commercial basis.

- ❖ India has launched satellites of 34 countries so far, including those of developed countries.
- ❖ Of the total 393 foreign satellites that were launched, 232 were for the US and 83 for the UK.

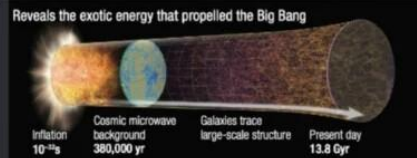


SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

SPHERE^x Space Telescope – NASA

SPHERE^x Addresses NASA's Three Core Astrophysics Goals

Probe the origin and destiny of the Universe.
SPHERE^x maps the large-scale three dimensional distribution of galaxies to study the inflationary birth of the Universe.



Explore whether planets around other stars could harbor life.
SPHERE^x surveys water and key ingredients for life in interstellar ices through the early stages of star and planet formation.



Explore the origin and evolution of galaxies.
SPHERE^x traces the total light emitted over cosmic time from the first stars to modern galaxies.



- ❖ A NASA telescope was launched to explore the origins of the universe and to scour the Milky Way galaxy for hidden reservoirs of water.

- ❖ The SPHEREx mission (the short for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer).
- ❖ It will map the entire sky four times over two years.
- ❖ SPHEREx will map the universe while detecting two kinds of cosmic light, optical and infrared.
- ❖ It will also identify water- and life-forming molecules, also known as biogenic molecules (such as carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen), in the Milky Way galaxy,

Chandrayaan-5 Mission



- ❖ The Centre has recently accorded the approval for the ambitious Chandrayaan-5 mission to study the Moon.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-5 mission would carry a 250 kg rover to study the Moon's surface.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-1, successfully launched in 2008, made chemical, mineralogical and photo-geologic maps of the Moon.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019 concluded when its lunar lander crashed on the moon's surface.
- ❖ The Chandrayaan-3 mission was successfully made soft-land on the moon's south pole region on August 23, 2023.

- ❖ The Chandrayaan-4 mission is expected to be launched in 2027.
- ❖ It will aim to collect samples of the lunar soil from the moon and bring the back to the earth for further study.

Vikram 3201 and Kalpana 3201

- ❖ The ISRO and the Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) in Chandigarh have jointly developed two cutting-edge 32-bit microprocessors specifically designed for space applications.
- ❖ Vikram 3201 is India's first fully indigenous 32-bit microprocessor qualified for use in the harsh conditions of launch vehicles.
- ❖ Kalpana 3201 is designed to be compatible with open-source software toolsets and has been tested with flight software.

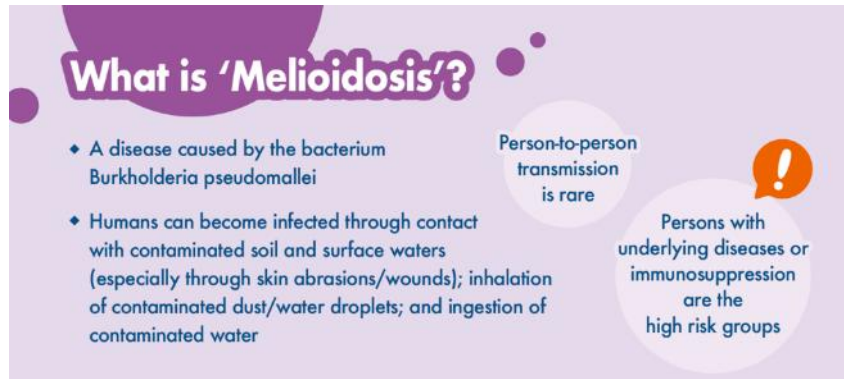


STATES' NEWS

Melioidosis in Odisha

- ❖ The Mapping the occurrence of melioidosis in Odisha shows that infections are seasonal and tend to be highest during heavy rainfall, high humidity, high cloud cover, and low sunlight conditions.
- ❖ Melioidosis can be considered an 'environmentally driven infectious disease.
- ❖ It is an emerging tropical disease caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*.

- ❖ It is a rare disease globally, and ubiquitous in the south and southeast Asia, including India.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

RBI - Digital Transformation Award 2025



- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has bagged the 2025 Digital Transformation Award of the Central Banking Award announced by the London-based Central Banking.
- ❖ The RBI was selected for this accolade in recognition of its Pravaah and Sarthi digital initiatives.
- ❖ The Sarthi system, named after the Hindi word for 'charioteer', was launched in January 2023 to digitise all of RBI's internal workflows.



- ❖ It enables employees to securely store and share documents, improving record management and enhancing data analysis through reports and dashboards.
- ❖ The Pravaah system, meaning 'smooth flow' in Hindi, was introduced in May 2024.
- ❖ This platform allows external users to submit regulatory applications digitally, seamlessly integrating with the Sarthi database for processing within the RBI's offices.

Hockey India Annual Awards 2024

Category	Details
Special Tribute	1975 World Cup-winning team
Goalkeeper of the Year	Savita Punia (Baljit Singh Award)
Defender of the Year	Amit Rohidas (Pargat Singh Award)
Midfielder of the Year	Hardik Singh (Ajit Pal Singh Award)
Forward of the Year	Abhishek (Dhanraj Pillay Award)
Upcoming Player (Women U-21)	Deepika (Asunta Lakra Award)
Upcoming Player (Men U-21)	Arajjeet Singh Hundal (Jugraj Singh Award)
Lifetime Achievement Award	1975 World Cup Winning Team (Major Dhyan Chand Award)

- ❖ The Indian hockey celebrated its centenary alongside the golden jubilee of India's historic 1975 Men's Hockey World Cup win.
- ❖ Harmanpreet and Savita won the Balbir Singh Sr Award for Player of the Year in the men's and women's categories, respectively.
- ❖ The victorious squad from 1975 was honoured with the Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ Prasar Bharati has been honoured with the Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution 2024 in New Delhi.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

CAR T-Cell Therapy for Cancer

- ❖ The clinical trial results of India's first CAR T-cell therapy worked for nearly 73 per cent of patients.
- ❖ This is the first clinical trial of a CAR T-cell therapy from India to be published in an international journal.
- ❖ CAR T-cell therapy, or chimeric antigen receptor T-cell therapy, trains the body's own immune cells to identify and destroy cancer cells.

- ❖ This treatment is designed for the specific types of blood cancer and is given to patients whose cancer has either relapsed or not responded to first-line treatment.
- ❖ For any CAR T-cell therapy, a patient's immune T-cells are collected by filtering their blood.
- ❖ These cells are then engineered in a lab to add receptors that can bind with the cancer cells.
- ❖ These cells are then multiplied and infused in the patient.

