

March - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe, the former international swimmer, becomes the first woman and the African president of the International Olympic Committee in its 130-year-old history.
- ❖ The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has facilitated the first-ever export of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore.
- ❖ The Indian navy has launched Tavasya, the second frigate under Project 1135.6 Additional Follow-on Ships.
 - The first ship Tripura was launched on July 2024.
- ❖ The World Poetry Day 2025 is celebrated globally on March 21 to highlight the significance of poetry as a universal medium of expression.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Green School Scheme



- ❖ Three government schools in Nagapattinam district have been selected under the Green School Scheme.
- ❖ This Tamil Nadu government's initiative is aimed at addressing climate change through student involvement and sustainable practices.
- ❖ The scheme is being implemented in phases across the State, includes the Nagapattinam district for the first time this year.
- ❖ The three schools selected under the scheme are

- Thirukkuvalai Government Higher Secondary School, Nagapattinam Town
- Agarakkadambanur Government Higher Secondary School, and
- Government Model Higher Secondary School, Thopputhurai.

NATIONAL NEWS

PFRDA Regulations – 2025

	Old Pension Scheme (OPS)	National Pension Scheme (NPS)	Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)
Guaranteed pension	Yes	No	Yes
Pension amount	50% of last drawn basic pay + DA	Market-linked, depends on fund performance	50% of average basic pay over the last 12 months
Government contribution	Not applicable	14% of basic pay + DA	18.5% of basic pay + DA
Employee contribution	Not applicable	10% of basic pay + DA	10% of basic pay + DA
Inflation protection	Yes	No	Yes
Lump sum payment	No	No	1/10th of the monthly pay (basic + DA) for every 6 months of service completed
Minimum pension*	₹9,000	No	₹10,000

- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has issued the regulations for the operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) under the National Pension System (NPS).
- ❖ The PFRDA (the Operationalisation of the Unified Pension Scheme under NPS) Regulations, 2025 were formally notified recently.
- ❖ The newly announced regulations are set to take effect from April 1, 2025.
- ❖ The choice to enrol in UPS must be made within three months from April 1, 2025.
- ❖ Once opted for, the decision will be considered final and cannot be reversed.
- ❖ The guidelines specify that three categories of central government employees will be eligible for enrolment under the UPS:
 - Existing central government employees who are in service as of April 1, 2025
 - Employees who already covered under the National Pension System (NPS).
 - New recruits who join central government services on or after April 1, 2025.

Disclosure of Form 17C – ECI

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has offered to engage with the petitioners demanding the immediate disclosure of authenticated voter turnout records.
- ❖ A case filed in SC to challenge ECI's reluctance to publish Form 17C.

- ❖ 17C is a key electoral document that records votes cast at each polling station.
- ❖ Part I of it contains details such as the number of electors assigned to a polling station, registered voters, electors who did not vote, and total votes recorded on EVMs.
- ❖ Part II includes candidate-wise vote counts and is signed by polling agents before being checked by the returning officer.
- ❖ The Polling agents receive a copy of Form 17C at the end of polling, but ECI has historically not made it publicly available online.

²[FORM 17C
[See rules 49S and 56C(2)]]

PART I.—ACCOUNT OF VOTES RECORDED

Election to House of the People/Legislative Assembly of the State/Union territory.....
fromConstituency.

Number and Name of Polling Station :

Identification Number of voting machine used at the Polling Station :

control unit

balloting unit

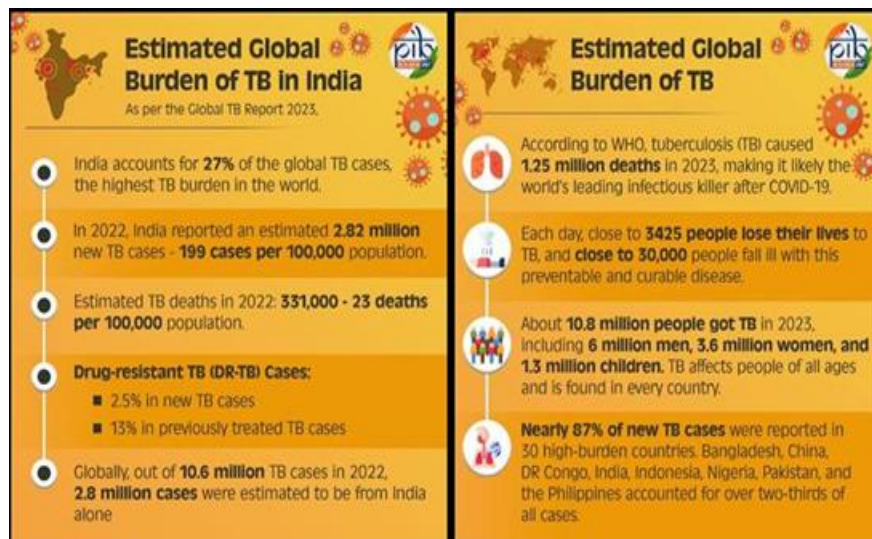
Printer (if used)

- Total number of electors assigned to the Polling Station
- Total number of voters as entered in the Register for Voters (Form 17A)
- Number of voters deciding not to record votes under rule 49-O
- Number of voters not allowed to vote under rule 49M
- Test votes recorded under rule 49MA (d) required to be deducted—

(a) total number of test votes to be deducted :	Total No.	Sl. No.(s) of elector(s) in Form 17A
.....
(b) candidates(s) for whom test vote(s) cast :	Sl. No.	Name of candidate
.....
.....

1. Ins. by Notifin. No. S.O. 230(E), dated the 24th March, 1992.
2. Subs. by Notifin. No. S.O. 2470(E), dated the 14th August, 2013.

NITI Aayog's TB-Free Target – Gujarat

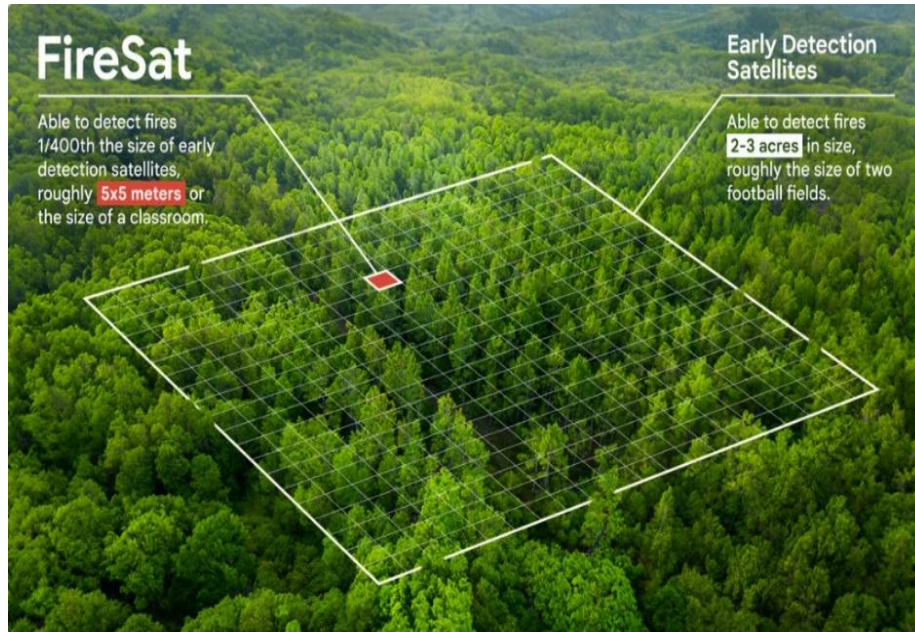


- ❖ Gujrat has achieved 95% of the tuberculosis registration target and 90% of the treatment target set by the Niti Aayog for 2024.

- ❖ Gujarat was given a target to identify and register 1,45,000 TB patients in 2024, and it registered 1,37,929 patients during the year.
- ❖ 1,31,501 patients were treated for tuberculosis during the period.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

FireSat Initiative



- ❖ This Google-backed initiative is aimed at using satellites to detect and prevent wildfires before they escalate, has moved one step closer to its goal.
- ❖ The FireSat project's first satellite was successfully placed into low Earth orbit (LEO).
- ❖ This satellite is the first of more than 50 in a first-of-its-kind constellation.
- ❖ It is designed to use AI to detect and track the wildfires as small as a classroom (roughly 5×5 meters).

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

George VI Ice Shelf - dozens of new species

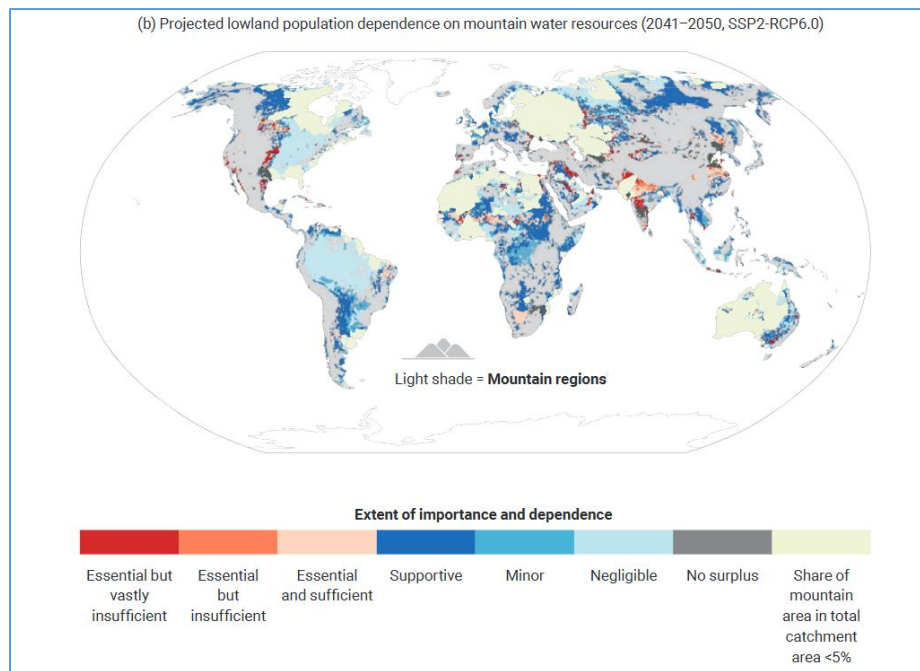
- ❖ Scientists may have discovered dozens of new species, on the newly exposed seafloor left behind by the A-84 iceberg that broke away from the George VI Ice Shelf.
- ❖ The new species includes giant sea spiders, octopi, and corals.

- ❖ They Used the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) SuBastian to explored the seafloor and found flourishing ecosystems at depths of up to 1,300 metres.



REPORTS AND INDICES

UN World Water Development Report 2025



- ❖ The United Nations ‘World Water Development Report 2025 – the Mountains and Glaciers: Water Towers’ was released by UNESCO.
- ❖ The Asia-Pacific region is home to some of the world’s highest mountains and most extensive glacier systems — and is among the most vulnerable to climate change.
- ❖ Retreating glaciers threaten the food and water supply of 2 billion people around the world.
- ❖ The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region is experiencing the most dramatic losses due to climate change — retreating 65 per cent faster in 2011-2020 than in the previous decade.

- ❖ If temperatures rise between 1.5°C and 4°C, mountain glaciers worldwide are projected to lose 26 to 41 per cent of their total mass by 2100, compared to 2015 levels.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Justice Yashwant Varma

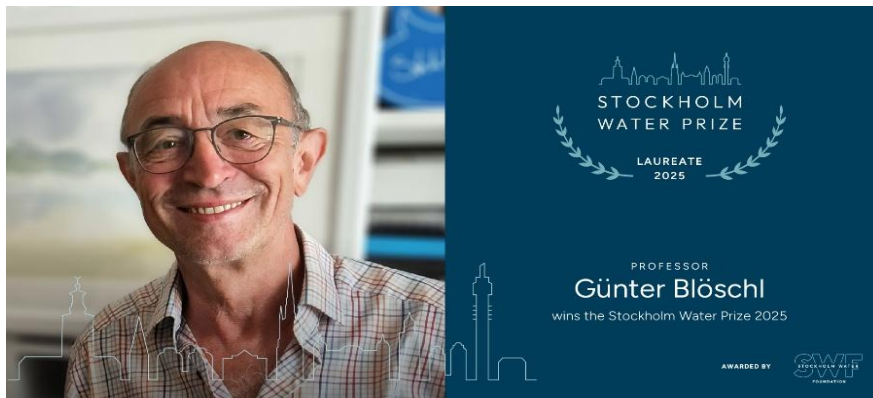


- ❖ The Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna initiated an unprecedented three-member in-house inquiry into the conduct of Delhi High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma.
- ❖ Meanwhile, Justice Varma's judicial work has been withdrawn.
- ❖ The internal inquiry of the judiciary follows a process that is distinct from that of impeachment under the Constitution.
- ❖ It is not necessary that a complaint against a judge is made only by or to the parliamentarians.
- ❖ The CJI or Chief Justice of an HC may also be called upon to examine a complaint against a judge.
- ❖ Once the inquiry has been concluded, the committee will submit its report to the CJI.
- ❖ If the committee decides that the allegations are serious enough to initiate the removal proceedings, the CJI will advise the concerned judge to resign or retire voluntarily.

- ❖ If the judge does not abide by the CJI's advice to resign or retire, the CJI will inform the President and the Prime Minister of the committee's finding that the removal proceedings should be initiated.

Stockholm Water Prize 2025

- ❖ The Hydrologist Günter Blöschl, a pioneer of water engineering of Austria, has been awarded the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize.
- ❖ His work has transformed the understanding of floods and their relationship with climate change.
- ❖ This is awarded by the Stockholm Water Foundation in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.



Partnership for Healthy cities summit – 2025



- ❖ This Summit was co-hosted by the Bloomberg Philanthropies, the World Health Organisation (WHO), Vital Strategies, and the City of Paris.

- ❖ The Partnership for Healthy Cities is a global network of 74 cities working to prevent non-communicable diseases and injuries.
- ❖ Cordoba (Argentina), Fortaleza (Brazil) and Manchester (UK) were recognised by the WHO this year for their achievements in preventing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination 2025 - March 21

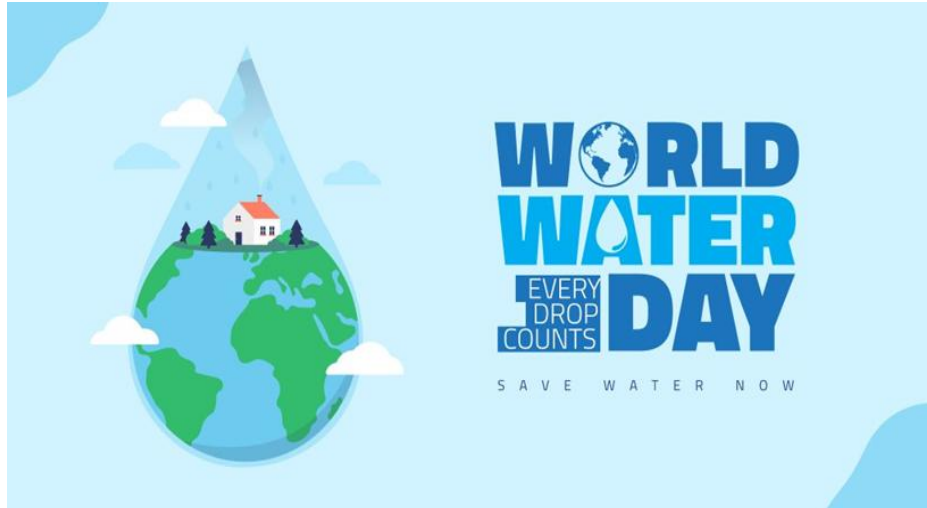
- ❖ This day is observed in memory of the tragic Sharpeville Massacre of in South Africa.
- ❖ On that day, in 1960, the police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration against the apartheid "pass laws".
- ❖ This year 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).
- ❖ This landmark treaty was adopted by the UNGA on December 21, 1965.



World Water Day 2025 - March 22

- ❖ It raises awareness of the status of the water resources around the world and encourages action to solve urgent water-related issues.
- ❖ "Glacier Preservation" is the theme for 2025.

- ❖ The Glaciers and ice sheets store approximately 70% of the world's freshwater, making them vital to global water consumption and security.



World Tuberculosis (TB) Day 2025 - March 24

- ❖ The World Tuberculosis (TB) Day is observed every year on March 24th to raise awareness about the need to eliminate TB.
- ❖ The day marks the discovery of the TB-causing bacterium by Dr. Robert Koch in 1882.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Yes! We Can End TB: Commit, Invest, Deliver".
- ❖ India's goal to eliminate TB by 2025 is one of the world's most ambitious health missions.
- ❖ Under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP), India has also strengthened its TB response with advanced diagnostics.

