

Courses

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

22 March 2022

International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

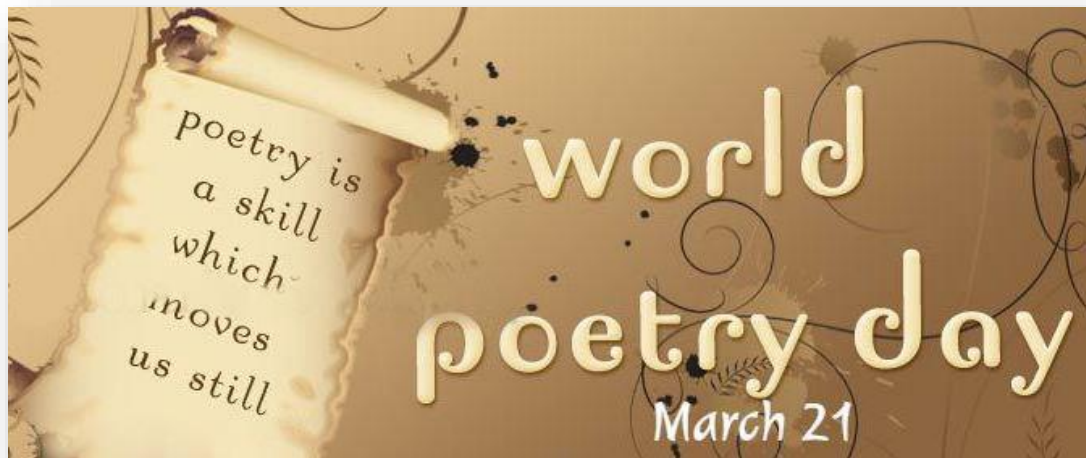
- The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March.
- On that day, in 1960, police opened fire at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid pass laws; 69 people were killed, and 180 were injured. Proclaiming the day in 1966, the United Nations General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.
- Theme 2022: Voices for action against racism



INTERNATIONAL
DAY FOR
THE
ELIMINATION OF
RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION
MARCH 21

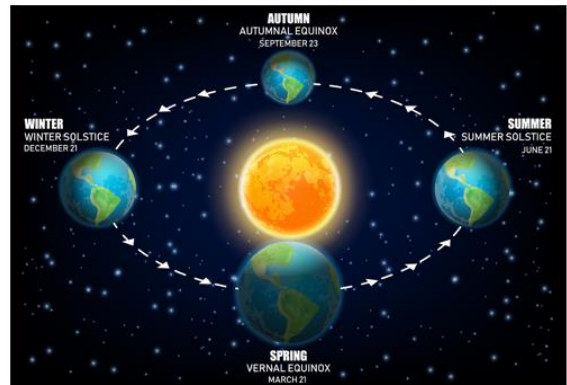
World Poetry Day

- World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March and was declared by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999, "with the aim of supporting linguistic diversity through poetic expression and increasing the opportunity for endangered languages to be heard".
- Its purpose is to promote the reading, writing, publishing, and teaching of poetry throughout the world and, as the original UNESCO declaration says, to "give fresh recognition and impetus to national, regional and international poetry movements".



Nowruz Celebrations Across The World

- Nowruz ('new day') is the Persian-language term for the day of the Iranian New Year, also known as the Persian New Year.
- It begins on the spring equinox and marks the beginning of Farvardin, the first month of the Solar Hijri calendar (an Iranian calendar used officially in Iran and Afghanistan).
- The day is celebrated worldwide by various ethnolinguistic groups and falls on or around the date of 21 March on the Gregorian calendar.
- The day of Nowruz has its origins in the Iranian religion of Zoroastrianism and is thus rooted in the traditions of the Iranian peoples; however, it has been celebrated by diverse communities for over 3,000 years in Western Asia, Central Asia, the Caucasus, the Black Sea Basin, the Balkans, and South Asia.
- Presently, while it is largely a secular holiday for most celebrants and enjoyed by people of several different faiths and backgrounds, Nowruz remains a holy day for Zoroastrians, Bahais, and some Muslim communities.
- While Nowruz has been celebrated since the reform of the Iranian calendar in the 11th century CE to mark the new year, the United Nations officially recognized the "International Day of Nowruz" with the adoption of Resolution 64/253 by the United Nations General Assembly in February 2010.



World Down Syndrome Day

- World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) is marked each year on March 21, beginning in 2006. The 21st day of March (the 3rd month of the year) was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.
- Every year on March 21, World Down Syndrome Day is observed to create awareness about Down syndrome. It is a condition in which a child is born with an extra 21st chromosome.
- **Down syndrome:**
- The estimated incidence of Down syndrome is between 1 in 1,000 to 1 in 1,100 live births worldwide. Each year, approximately 3,000 to 5,000 children are born with this chromosome disorder.
- It occurs when an individual has an extra partial (or whole) copy of chromosome 21. It is not yet known why this syndrome occurs, but Down syndrome has always been a part of the human condition. It exists in all regions across the globe and commonly results in variable effects on learning styles, physical characteristics and health.
- Adequate access to health care, to early intervention programmes, and to inclusive education, as well as appropriate research, are vital to the growth and development of the individual.
- In December 2011, the General Assembly declared 21 March as World Down Syndrome Day (A/RES/66/149). The General Assembly decided, with effect from 2012, to observe World Down Syndrome Day on 21 March each year. In order to raise public awareness of Down syndrome, the General Assembly invites all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental

organizations and the private sector, to observe World Down Syndrome Day in an appropriate manner.



International Day Of Forests

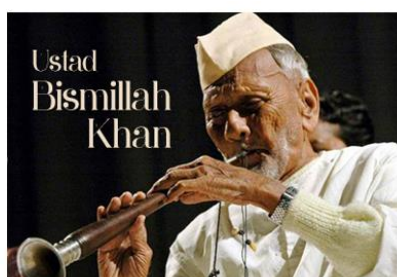
- The International Day of Forests was established on the 21st day of March, by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2012.
- Each year, various events celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests, and trees outside forests, for the benefit of current and future generations.
- Countries are encouraged to undertake efforts to organize local, national, and international activities involving forests and trees, such as tree planting campaigns, on the International Day of Forests.
- The Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization, facilitates the implementation of such events in collaboration with governments, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and international, regional, and subregional organizations.
- International Day of Forests was observed for the first time on March 21, 2013.
- The theme for 2022 is Forests and Sustainable Production and Consumption.



Ustad Bismillah Khan Remembered On His Jayanhti

- Bismillah Khan (21 March 1914 – 21 August 2006), often referred to by the title Ustad, was an Indian musician credited with popularizing the shehnai, a reeded woodwind instrument.

- While the shehnai had long held importance as a folk instrument played primarily schooled in traditional ceremonies, Khan is credited with elevating its status and bringing it to the concert stage.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honor, the Bharat Ratna, in 2001, becoming the third classical musician of India after M. S. Subbalakshmi and Ravi Shankar to be awarded the Bharat Ratna.



All England Open Badminton Championship

- In Badminton, World No.1 Viktor Axelsen defeated Lakshya Sen 21-10, 21-15 in the men's singles final of All England Open Badminton Championship in Birmingham last night. Axelsen defeated Sen in a match that lasted for 53 minutes.
- In the first game, Axelsen had won the first six points before Sen tried to close the gap. However, the Olympic gold medallist was too precise with his shot-selection as he took the first game with ease. In the second game, Sen looked slightly better, but Axelsen showed great composure to the game and match.
- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the nation is proud of Lakshya Sen. In a tweet, Mr Modi said, Lakshya Sen has shown remarkable grit and tenacity and put up a spirited fight.
- The Prime Minister conveyed best wishes to him for his future endeavours. Mr. Modi expressed confidence that he will keep scaling new heights of success.



Narendra Modi ✓
@narendramodi

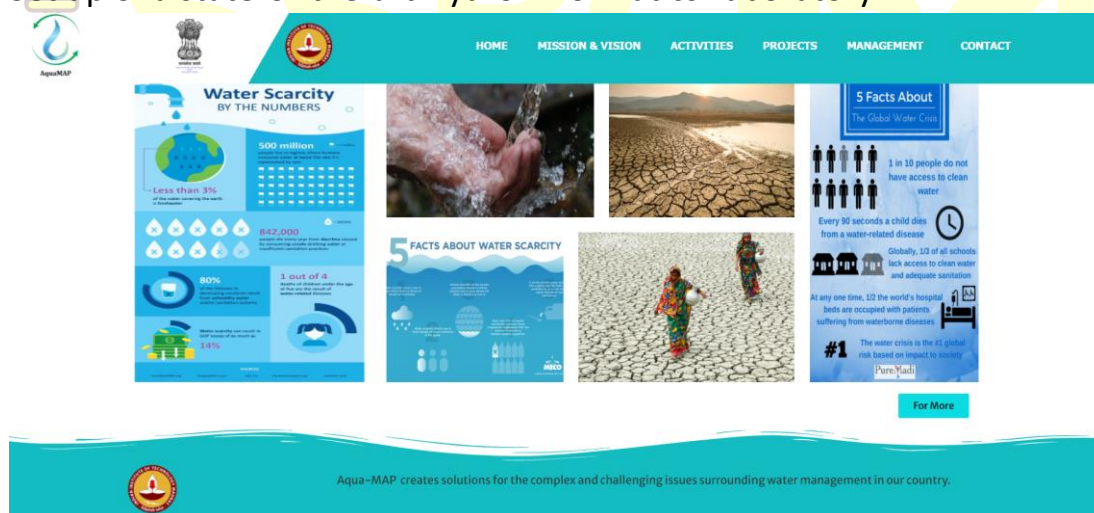


Proud of you @lakshya_sen! You've shown remarkable grit and tenacity. You put up a spirited fight. Best wishes for your future endeavours. I am confident you will keep scaling new heights of success.



AquaMAP Water Management And Policy Centre

- Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, the Principal Scientific Adviser India, and Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director IIT Madras, inaugurated the new water management and policy center, AquaMAP, at IIT Madras and launched its website.
- AquaMAP aims at providing solutions for complex and challenging water problems by designing and evolving smart and optimal water management practices and implementing them in the field, at different locations across the country, as a scalable model by leveraging best practices in management and innovative technologies. AquaMAP is a national water center and IIT Madras is collaborating with IIT Dharwad around the broad theme of 'Data Science for Water Security and Agriculture Sustenance'.
- **The key activities of AquaMAP include:**
- Field (in villages and towns) implementation of water technologies and management practices
- Identify grand challenges in water/wastewater management for focused attention
- Set up of a state-of-the-art Hydro-Informatics Laboratory



5th Edition Of Women Transforming India Awards

- NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is organizing the 5th edition of the Women Transforming India Awards (WTI) on 21 March 2022.
- This year, as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav to celebrate 75 years of India's independence, the WTI Awards will be conferred on 75 women achievers to celebrate their contribution towards a 'Sashakt Aur Samarth Bharat'.
- NITI Aayog started the Women Transforming India Awards in 2016.

- The Women Transforming India Awards is NITI Aayog's annual initiative to highlight the commendable and ground-breaking endeavors of India's women leaders and change-makers.
- Applications for the WTI Awards '21 were invited from 1 October 2021 to 21 February 2022, under one or more than one of the following seven categories:
 - Public and Community Service
 - Manufacturing Sector
 - Non-manufacturing Sector
 - Financial Products enabling Economic Growth
 - Climate Action
 - Promote Art, Culture, and Handicrafts
 - Digital Innovation
- The 75 awardees represent different regions and sectors and have been selected through an elaborate process spanning several months. The awardees have been selected on the basis of nominations received on WEP and through shortlisting by a search-and-select committee.
- **About Women Entrepreneurship Platform:**
- Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) is an aggregator portal that aims to catalyze the entrepreneurial ecosystem for women and address information asymmetry. To build a vibrant ecosystem for women-led enterprises, the platform works to strengthen industry linkages and increase awareness of existing programs and services.
- To date, more than 900 women entrepreneurs have been benefitted through 77 programs and events hosted on the platform.
- The platform played an active role during Covid-19 by conducting webinars to provide business support to women entrepreneurs and through its Masking It Up campaign, whereby women-led small businesses in India that were adversely impacted were supported.



2nd India-Australia Virtual Summit

- **Highlights:**
- The second India-Australia Virtual Summit was held. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison took stock of progress made on various initiatives under the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The leaders discussed views on regional and international issues.
- In his opening remarks at the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that in the last few years the relation between India and Australia have made remarkable progress. He said, both nations have very close cooperation in several areas including Trade and investment, Defense and security, education and innovation, science and technology.
- Mr Modi said, the bilateral collaboration has also grown rapidly in many other areas, such as critical minerals, water management, renewable energy and Covid-19 research. He welcomed the announcement of the establishment of Center of Excellence for Critical and Emerging Technology Policy in Bangalore.
- Mr Modi said, the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, CECA will be important for our economic ties, economic revival and economic security. He said, on this agreement, significant progress has been made in a very short time. Mr Modi said, both the nation have also good cooperation in QUAD. He said, our collaboration reflects the commitment to free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- Prime Minister Modi also thanked his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison for taking the initiative to return ancient Indian antiquities. He said, many of the antiquities are over hundreds of years old which were taken out of the country illegally from the states like Rajasthan, West Bengal, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh.
- Prime Minister Modi expressed his condolences on the destruction caused by severe flooding in New South Wales and Queensland, and the resultant loss of lives. He thanked Mr Morrison for taking care of the Indian community, including the Indian students, in Australia during Covid-19 pandemic.
- Both the leaders also appreciated the increasing strategic convergence between the two countries as fellow democracies with shared values and common interests, which include a free, open, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific.
- A Joint Statement was issued on the occasion covering various aspects of the deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both sides also agreed to establish annual summits between the Prime Ministers under the

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, thus adding a special dimension to the bilateral relationship.



President Kovind Confers Padma Awards 2022

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented Padma Awards at the Civil Investiture Ceremony-I held at Rashtrapati Bhavan this evening. Mr. Kovind presented Padma Vibhushan to CDS General Bipin Rawat and Radhey Shyam Khemka posthumously. Daughters of General Rawat, Kritika and Tarini and Khemka's son Krishna Kumar received the awards.
- Veteran leader Ghulam Nabi Azad, Tata Sons Chairman N. Chandrasekharan, Paralympics Medalist Devendra Jhajharia, former Comptroller and Auditor General Rajiv Mehrishi, Managing Director of the Serum Institute of India Cyrus Poonawalla, welfare activist Sachchidanand Swami, Classical vocalist Rashid Khan received the Padma Bhushan. Singer Gurmeet Bawa was given the award posthumously.
- Fifty-Four people were given Padma Shri Awards.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Apartheid Is A System Of Racial Segregation Existed In
A. USA

- B. South Africa
- C. Sudan
- D. Mexico

ANSWER: B

2. International Day For The Elimination Of Racial Discrimination

- A. January 21
- B. February 19
- C. March 21
- D. April 15

ANSWER: C

3. In South Africa, Human Rights Day Is Celebrated On

- A. March 21
- B. June 21
- C. September 22
- D. December 23

ANSWER: A

4. International Human Rights Day

- A. January 26
- B. May 14
- C. November 18
- D. December 10

ANSWER: D

5. World Poetry Day Is Celebrated By

- A. UNICEF
- B. UNESCO
- C. UNGA
- D. UNDP

ANSWER: B

6. World Poetry Day

- A. March 21
- B. June 21

- C. September 22
- D. December 23

ANSWER: A

7. The Day Of Nowruz Is Mainly Celebrated By

- A. Zoroastrians
- B. Muslims
- C. Christians
- D. Jews

ANSWER: A

8. 1st Sultan Introduced Famous Persian Festival Of Nouroz

- A. Qutubuddin Aibak
- B. Iltutmish
- C. Giyasuddin Balban
- D. Alauddin Khalji

ANSWER: C

9. Which Sultan Introduce Practices Of Sijda Paibos

- A. Balban
- B. Razia Sultana
- C. Iltutmish
- D. Firoz Shah Tughlaq

ANSWER: A

10. World Down Syndrome Day

- A. March 21
- B. June 21
- C. September 22
- D. December 23

ANSWER: A

11. An Animated Short Film, Created To Recognize World Down Syndrome Day In 2021

- A. Freebird
- B. Freedom Till Dawn

- C. The Box
- D. The Artist

ANSWER: A

12. International Day Of Forests

- A. March 21
- B. June 21
- C. September 22
- D. December 23

ANSWER: A

13. United Nations Forum On Forests Was Established In

- A. 1998
- B. 2000
- C. 2002
- D. 2007

ANSWER: B

14. HQ Of Food And Agriculture Organization

- A. Rome
- B. Geneva
- C. Paris
- D. London

ANSWER: A

15. Classical Musician Of India Who Didn't Get Bharath Ratna

- A. M. S. Subbalakshmi
- B. Ravi Shankar
- C. Bismillah Khan
- D. Hariprasad Chourasia

ANSWER: D

16. Bismillah Khan Is Well Known For

- A. Sarod
- B. Sahnai
- C. Sarangi

D. Tabla

ANSWER: B

17. Principal Scientific Adviser To The Government Of India

A. A V Nageswaran

B. S Somnath

C. R Chidambaram

D. K VijayRaghavan

ANSWER: D

18.1st Principal Scientific Adviser To The Government Of India

A. Vikram Sarabai

B. Satish Dhawan

C. APJ Kalam

D. H J Bhabha

ANSWER: C

19. NITI Aayog Is A

A. Statutory Body

B. Constitutional Body

C. Extra Constitutional Body

D. Quasi-Judicial Body

ANSWER: C

20.1st Chairmen Of Niti Aayog

A. Amitab Kant

B. Rajiv Kumar

C. Arvind Panagariya

D. Narendra Modi

ANSWER: D

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