



Zero discrimination Day

(Times of India)

Context:

- Zero discrimination Day is observed on the 1st of March every year by the United Nations and other affiliated international institutions.
- Its main aim is to highlight the dire need to take measures to end the inequalities.
- The objective is to make an egalitarian society irrespective of income, sex, age, health status, occupation, disability, sexual orientation, drug use, gender identity, race, class, ethnicity, and religion.

Concern:

- According to a report of **UNAIDS**, inequality is increasing for more than **70% of the global population**.
- It runs the risk of **classification among the people and straining the economic and social development**.
- Especially this year, due to **Covid-19** the effect on the **vulnerable people is the most**.
- Even when the vaccine is available in sufficient numbers, **having access to that seems a pale dream**.

The theme for the 2021 event:

- **Ending inequality is the theme for this year's event.**

Extra info:

- It was launched by UNAIDS director Michel Sidibé on World Aids Day in 2013.
- First observed on March 1, 2014, the event is important to organizations such as UNAIDS that work in fighting discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

National Science Day

(Indian Express)

Context:

- National Science Day is observed every year on the 28th of February.
- This day is celebrated as a significant development in science by the Indian scientist C V Raman who pioneered the discovery of the Raman Effect.
- He has been bestowed with the Nobel Prize for this discovery. Since then, the 28th of February is being observed as the National Science Day to honor the tremendous discovery of CV Raman.

The theme of 2021:

- This year's theme,

Future of STI: Impacts on Education, Skills, and Work.

- It aims to galvanize the students to attain hands-on exposure in the field of science.

Activities in the event:

- The activities of National Science Day consist of public speeches, science movies, science exhibitions, events based on science themes, concepts.
- The government felicitates scientists who have devoted their life immensely in the field of science to honor the anniversary of India's greatest scientific discovery Raman effect.

ISRO puts Brazil's Amazonia-1, 18 other satellites into orbit (GS-3 Technology, The hindu)

Context->ISRO commercial arm NewSpace India Ltd sent the satellite

About PSLV: Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is the workhorse launch

vehicle of ISRO since 1994. It is the 1st operational launch vehicle and most reliable launch vehicle of india.. The PSLV is primarily developed to launch remote sensing satellites into sun synchronous orbits. PSLV is a 4-stage launch vehicle that uses an alternate combination of liquid and solid fueled rocket stages.

- 1st & 3rd stages are solid-fueled,
- 2nd & 4th stages are liquid fueled.
- Strap-on motors used in the solid stage i.e. 1st stage of PSLV in order to provide additional thrust to the rocket
- PSLV can deliver payloads of up to:
 - 3,250kg to LEO (Low Earth Orbit)
 - 1600 kg to SSO (Sun Synchronous orbit)
 - 1400 kg to GTO (Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit)

- India's Space History

- 1980 India successfully launched its own Rohini-1 satellite
- Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV) rocket from the Sriharikota
- 1992 The Indian-built INSAT-2 geostationary communications and meteorological satellite
- In 1993 A larger Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) debuted in September, but it was a failed attempt to attain orbit. Its individual elements were successful.
- In 2001 The first launch GSLV rocket was successful, it is mainly used to send satellite in the geostationary orbit.
- GSLV can boost a 2.5-ton satellite., it can also place large communications and weather satellites in high stationary orbits.
- In 2011 Nano-satellite weighing 3 kg developed by IIT Kanpur, and Nano-satellite weighing 10.9 kg developed by SRM University were sent by PSLV.

Blazing a trail
ISRO's first launch of 2021 in numbers

- 19 satellites, including Brazil's earth observation satellite Amazonia-1, were carried by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-CS1
- 13 satellites were from the U.S.
- 5 satellites, including the Satish Dhawan Satellite from the Chennai-based Space Kidz India, were built by students
- 78th mission from Sriharikota
- 1st dedicated launch by the NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a PSU set up under the Department of Space in 2018
- 53rd flight of ISRO's workhorse launch vehicle PSLV

■ ISRO has till date launched 342 foreign satellites from 34 countries

■ Amazonia-1, with a mission life of four years, will monitor deforestation in the Amazon region

■ The Satish Dhawan Satellite has an engraving of PM Narendra Modi on the top panel to show solidarity and gratitude for the astmanirbhar initiative and space privatisation

Deep impact: PSLV-CS1 lifting off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Sunday. •PTI

More about Big Government than Big Tech (GS-2 Governance, GS-3 Technology, The Hindu)

Context: Government issues new regulation under IT act.

About the regulation:

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Identify 'first originator' of content that authorities consider anti-national
- Appoint grievance officer, resolve complaints in 15 days
- File monthly compliance report on complaints received, action taken

DIGITAL NEWS

- Follow Press Council of India, Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act norms.
- Self-regulatory bodies to oversee adherence to Code of Ethics
- I&B Ministry to form panel, oversight mechanism

OTT PLATFORMS

- Self-classify content into five age-based categories: U (universal), U/A 7+ (years), U/A 13+, U/A 16+, and A.

- Parental locks for any content classified as U/A 13+ or above.
- Age verification mechanism for content classified as 'A' (adult)

Issues in regulation:

- Government regulations are like law and they bypass the parliament.
- Final power with the executive remains a concern.
- Government can do a blanket ban according to its own understanding.

Why necessary

- Big tech companies are not listening to the government as is the case of twitter.
- Influence of Australia to maintain sovereignty.

- superseding rules are issued under Section 79 of IT act.
- Because of the origin of content on the OTT platform they were showing misdeeming things to the public.

State of Environment Report

(General Studies Paper- 3, Environment

Source- PRS India)

Context-

Recently the Centre for Science and Environment has released the State of Environment Report, 2021.

Key Findings of Report-

- India is all set to lead in a pandemic generation
- 375 million children likely to suffer long lasting impacts which range from –
- Underweight
- Stunting
- Increased child mortality
- Losses in education and work productivity

Increased School Dropouts-

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, over 500 million Children were forced out of school globally and India accounted for more than half of them

Rise in Extreme Poverty

- Covid 19 has made the world's poor poorer

- **Over 115 million additional people might get pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic and most of them live in South Asia**

Pollution Levels worsened-

- **India's Air, water and land have become more polluted in the year between 2009 to 2018**
- **Due to Air pollution Sixty seven million Indians died due in 2019**
- **Tarapur in Maharashtra emerged as the most polluted cluster**

Sustainable Development Ranking-

In terms of Sustainable Development India Ranked 117 out of 192 countries and was now behind all South Asian nations except Pakistan.

-Khyati Khare

Plutus IAS