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TN CA 21 MArch 2024

International Day of Forests	Context: • The International Day of Forests is celebrated every year on 21st March • This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the vital role forests play in our lives.
	About: • International Day of Forests was established by resolution of the United Nations General Assembly on November 28, 2013.
	 Key points: Forests are viewed as the lungs of the planet. Trees filter the air by decreasing CO2 and helping maintain a balance in the environment. They are fundamental for sustaining life on the planet and play a significant part in battling climate change. In any case, the danger of deforestation and degradation threatens the survival of forests around the world.
	Theme: • This year's theme is "Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World." • It highlights the critical role of innovation and technology in protecting our forests.
IIT-M develops electric standing wheelchair	Context: • Scientists at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) have developed an indigenously designed electric standing wheelchair named "NeoStand". • This wheelchair offers users the ability to comfortably switch between sitting and standing positions, addressing health concerns associated with prolonged sitting and improving accessibility. Key features of NeoStand include: • Improved health: Standing functionality helps reduce the risk of secondary health



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	complications that can arise from restricted movement. • Enhanced accessibility: The compact design allows for easy maneuvering in tight spaces. • Affordable: NeoStand is priced at ₹89,990, making it a relatively affordable option for users.
T.N. bans manual processing of patta transfers	 The Tamil Nadu government has digitized the process of issuing and transferring land ownership records (pattas) for "Grama Natham" lands. Manual processing is now banned with immediate effect in 146 taluks where digitization is complete. Residents can now apply and track patta transfers online. This move aims to improve efficiency and transparency in land record management.
Rs 30 cr allocated for upgrading milk dairies in TN	 The Tamil Nadu government has allocated ₹30 crore to modernize milk processing by installing automatic packing machines in six Aavin dairy plants across the state. This initiative aims to streamline operations and expedite milk delivery to consumers. The funds will be used to upgrade plants in Chennai (Sholinganallur, Madhavaram, Ambattur) and three other locations (Coimbatore, Tiruchy, Madurai) operated by District Co-operative Milk Producers' Unions. The money comes from the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) scheme. About: The Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) is a scheme launched by the Government of India in 1995-96. It is managed by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
World Sparrow Day	Context: • World Sparrow Day is celebrated on March 20th every year



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It is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of conserving sparrows and other common birds in urban environments.

About:

- The Nature Forever Society of India, along with other organizations around the world, started World Sparrow Day in 2010.
- The idea hatched during a casual discussion at the Nature Forever Society in India, founded by conservationist Mohammed Dilawar.
- Inspired by efforts to save the house sparrow, they proposed a day to raise awareness about the decline of these common birds.

Theme 2024:

- The theme for World Sparrow Day 2024 is "I Love Sparrows".
- This theme highlights the special connection between humans and sparrows.

IUCN Status: Endangered

