

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – FEBRUARY 2020

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## **TNPSC BITS**

- ❖ The 48-day annual rejuvenation camp for elephants from various temples and mutts was all set to conclude at Thekkampatti in Mettupalayam.
  - The annual camp, organised by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department since 2003, was introduced by former chief minister Jayalalithaa.
- ❖ After Mumbai, the Amazon India private e-commerce firm has set up its second pick up kiosk in Kolkata's Sealdah Railway Station.
- ❖ The UN has appointed Gita Sabharwal of India as the Resident Coordinator in Thailand.
  - The UN Resident Coordinator is the highest-ranking representative of the UN development system at the country level.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organization is preparing 500 low cost satellite launch vehicles in next 5 years.
  - These vehicles are capable of carrying satellites weighing 500 kg.
- ❖ Vidya Bal - The Veteran Feminist, Social Activist and writer passed away on January 30, 2020.
  - In 2016, she approached Mumbai High Court demanding enforcement of law to allow women in all Hindu Religious places.
- ❖ National Emergency was declared in Pakistan to fight against Locusts in the India - Pakistan border.
  - By the end of January 2020, the Indian border of Gujarat and Rajasthan were attacked the agriculture lands by desert locusts from Pakistan and Iran.
- ❖ The Oxford University Press has named 'Samvidhaan' (constitution) as the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year (HWOTY) for 2019.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned a 3rd high-speed interceptor boat C-448 in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The country's first and biggest 'walk-through' aviary was inaugurated in Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo also known as Byculla Zoo in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Dr. Partap Chauhan, the pioneer of Ayurvedic Telemedicine, has been conferred with Prestigious Ayurveda Ratan Award 2020 in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ As per the report by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), China is the world's second largest producer of weaponries.
  - China is only behind the United States and ahead of Russia.





- ❖ Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani appointed as a new Prime Minister of Qatar.
  - He is the successor of Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani who has resigned from the post.
- ❖ India banned exports of all kinds of personal protection equipment, including clothing and masks used to protect people from air borne particles due to outbreak of deadly coronavirus.
- ❖ Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has allocated Rs 100 crore for the preparation of the G20 Presidency meet, which will be held in India in 2022.
- ❖ Canada's Christine Sinclair became all-time top goal scorer in international soccer.
  - Sinclair now has 185 international goals, surpassing American player Wambach's total of 184.
- ❖ Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi was appointed as Iraq's new Prime Minister. It was a result of 2019 Iraqi protests or Tishreen Revolution or October Revolution.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Dr Ambedkar Law University (TNDALU) has decided to expand the 'learn and earn' programme through All India Reporters (AIR) Research Cafe.
  - The programme will enable law students to earn up while pursuing their course.
- ❖ President inaugurates Udyanotsav in Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
  - The Mughal Gardens will remain open for the general public from 4th of February to the 10th of March.
- ❖ Harmeet Desai - clinched his maiden national men's singles table tennis title in the UTT 81<sup>st</sup> National Table Tennis Championship.
  - The event was held at the Saroornagar Indoor Stadium in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ The world's largest solar telescope has revealed its first detailed image of the sun.
  - The Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope (DKIST) is the world's largest solar telescope.
- ❖ Manipuri footballer Bala Devi made history by becoming the first Indian woman footballer to bag a professional contract from a foreign club.
  - She was signed by Scottish football giant Rangers FC on 18-month contract along with 13 others.
- ❖ Pakistan and Somalia have declared locust emergencies recently.
- ❖ According to Economic Survey 2019-20, India has the Second largest Emerging Green Bond Market after China.



- India has joined the International Platform on Sustainable Finance (IPSF) in 2019 to scale up environmentally sustainable investments.
- ❖ Central government plans to bar domestic Reverse Osmosis systems in places where tap water meets Bureau of Indian Standards norms.
- ❖ Finance Minister announced that the government was abolishing an anti-dumping duty on imports of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA).
- ❖ ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Izatnagar, develops classical Swine Fever (CSF) Cell culture Vaccine.
  - CSF is one of the most important diseases of pigs causing high mortality.
- ❖ NASA's Christina Koch returned to Earth safely after completing the longest-ever single spaceflight by a woman.
  - She spent 328 days (11 months) on the International Space Station (ISS).
- ❖ Western Railways launched out branding of electric locomotives for the first time.
  - This will help the Railways earn additional revenue of 1.05 crores.
- ❖ The VIMSAR, a major public healthcare center for western Odisha and parts of Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, has many death cases of farmers.
  - The reason behind these deaths is the consumption of Paraquat — a herbicide used in agricultural fields.
- ❖ The Ministerial-level Defence dialogue 2020 between India and South Korea was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government, for the first time, will use drones for mapping villages.
  - This will replace the land survey work, done either manually or with the help of satellite images.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir administration renamed Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department (PHE & IFC) as the 'Jal Shakthi Department'.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology- Hyderabad had found a molecule called "AIM-4" that can help in the treatment of rare neurodegenerative disease called "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" (ALS) known as "Lou Gehrig's disease".
- ❖ Lord J is the 1st and only Anonymous singer in the world, launches his Autobiography Book "Lord J: Lord of Anonymity".
- ❖ As per the RTI query has revealed that for every 100 anganwadi (or day-care centre) beneficiaries in India, only 7 belong to urban areas.
- ❖ Union Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh has announced to create 10 more defence attaches (DA) posts to 10 different countries.



- This has been done to strengthen India's defence diplomacy.
- ❖ The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has sanctioned 39 Mega Food Parks and 298 Integrated Cold Chain Projects in India.
  - The food parks and the cold chain projects have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- ❖ G7 countries has announced to work with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the European Union (EU) and People's Republic of China, in order to tackle the recent outbreak of Novel Coronavirus (nCoV).
- ❖ Steel producer of India, JSW steel has appointed Indian cricketer Rishabh Rajendra Pant as its brand ambassador.
- ❖ American Greek economist and Chief Economist of the World Bank (WB) Pinelopi Koujianou Goldberg (57-years) announced her resignation.
- ❖ Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Bal Thackeray presented an award for lifetime achievement to senior journalist Dinkar Keshav Raikar for his contribution to journalism.
- ❖ Jeff Weiner became the Executive Chairman (EC) of LinkedIn.
  - LinkedIn is the professional networking company owned by Microsoft.
- ❖ Duff & Phelps published the celebrity brand evaluation report for 2019.
  - Indian cricket Captain Virat Kohli has retained the top position for the third consecutive time.
- ❖ The Kerala government has declared novel coronavirus epidemic as "state emergency" after 3 people were tested positive in the southern India state.
  - The decision was taken by the State Disaster Management Authority.
- ❖ Third edition of the SBI Green Marathon held in Besant Nagar, Chennai.
  - Runners were given organic t-shirts to promote a clean and green city.
- ❖ A new cricket stadium of international standards was inaugurated at Valapadi in Salem by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- ❖ The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on E-Governance was held in Mumbai to transform governance using digital technologies.
  - The conference adopted Mumbai Declaration.
- ❖ An Iranian rocket Simorgh, or 'Phoenix', failed to put the Zafar 1 communications satellite into orbit due to a low speed.
- ❖ The Advanced Institute for Integrated Research on Livestock and Animal Sciences to come up at Thalaivasal in Salem district.
  - This institute is touted to be biggest in south Asia.





- ❖ Vellore city corporation received a Central government's award for better management of solid waste.
  - The award was given for the first time under 'smart city mission for water and sanitation' sector for setting up and successful implementation of 'micro compost centres'.
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> round of India – Russia Military Industrial Conference was held at the DefExpo 2020.
- ❖ The Second National Judicial Pay Commission has filed the Report covering the subject of Pay, Pension and Allowances, in the Registry of the Supreme Court.
  - It was headed by Justice (Retd) J P.Venkatrama Reddi, former Judge of Supreme Court.
- ❖ WHO launched global research forum to mobilize international action in response to the novel coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ World Day of the Sick is the feast day of Roman Catholic church which was celebrated on February 11.
  - This day was instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1992.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has named the new coronavirus disease as 'Covid-19'.
  - The new name is taken from the words "corona", "virus" and "disease", with 2019 representing the year when it emerged.
- ❖ G. Narayanan, a senior ISRO hand from Kerala, has taken over as chairman and managing director (CMD) of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL).
  - NSIL is the newly formed commercial arm of the Indian Space agency.
- ❖ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has launched a global campaign calling on people all over the world to cover the distance travelled by refugees each year.
  - This Campaign is known as 2 Billion Kilometres to Safety Campaign.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India extended the deadline for one-time restructuring of GST-registered MSME borrower account, by further one year to March 31, 2021.
  - The restructuring was to be implemented before March 31, 2020, as per the RBI's earlier guidelines.
- ❖ The Puducherry Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) 2019, the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR).
- ❖ Indian captain Virat Kohli has retained his top position in ICC Men's test ranking 2020.



- ❖ The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre developed a new bullet proof jacket called Bhabha Kavach.
  - The jackets are to be used by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- ❖ Bottled drinking water has come under a price cap in Kerala, with the State fixing a ceiling of ₹13 per litre.
  - Including bottled water in the list of essential commodities enables price control.
- ❖ The Government of India has launched a School Health Ambassador Programme under Ayushman Bharat-Health & Wellness Centres.
  - This initiative has been jointly rolled out by the Ministries of Health & Family Welfare and Human Resource Development.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Service Institute are renamed as Sushma Swaraj Bhavan and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service respectively.
- ❖ Hubei province has been the epicentre of the outbreak of COVID-2019 (the disease caused by the novel coronavirus).
  - The capital of the province is Wuhan which is located in Central China.
- ❖ Indian and Portugal Prime Ministers have signed seven agreements to boost cooperation in a range of areas.
  - The areas are investment, transport, ports, culture, industrial and intellectual property rights, etc.
- ❖ During the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Climate Services (ICCS), the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has announced that India is planning a 'decadal forecast' system.
  - The 6<sup>th</sup> ICCS conference was held at the Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.
- ❖ The committee headed by NITI Aayog vice chairman Rajiv Kumar has to prepare policy prescriptions for an integrated social protection framework.
  - Social protection is defined as the set of policies and programmes designed to reduce poverty and vulnerability.
- ❖ Maharashtra has made singing the national anthem 'compulsory' in all the colleges in the State from February 19.
  - February 19 is the birth anniversary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- ❖ The double taxation avoidance agreement between India and Sri Lanka was amended on February 12.



- ❖ A Japanese man Chitetsu Watanabe has become the world's oldest male at 112 years and 344 days, according to Guinness Book of World Records.
  - The World's oldest living woman is also a Japanese, Kane Tanaka, a 117-years old.
- ❖ Facebook-owned WhatsApp becomes the second largest social media platform in the world.
- ❖ Nitin Menon is the only Indian in the ICC's list of umpires for the upcoming Women's T20 World Cup in Australia.
- ❖ Gita Sen, an Indian feminist scholar, activist has won the prestigious Dan David Prize 2020 under "present" category.
- ❖ Website of exercise MILAN 2020 ([www.milan2020.org.in](http://www.milan2020.org.in)) has been launched in Visakhapatnam.
  - Exercise MILAN is being conducted biennially by the Indian Navy under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command since 1995.
- ❖ The Government of India appointed Rajiv Bansal as CMD (Chairman & Managing Director) of Air India.
- ❖ Boxer Amit Panghal has ranked world No. 1 in International Olympic Committee's (IOC) ranking for Olympic qualifiers.
  - In the women's rankings Indian Boxer Mary Kom Occupies 5th spot.
- ❖ 79-million-year-old fossils of new Thanatotheristes found in Canada.
  - Tyrannosaurs were one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs.
- ❖ Rajindra Kumar Pachauri, former Chairman and Director General of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI), passed away in New Delhi.
  - Pachauri received the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007.
- ❖ Reshma, a college girl from Trichy received the all-India best cadet award from Prime Minister during the annual Prime Minister's NCC rally – 2020.
- ❖ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir's administration is set to host 1st - ever Global Investors Summit-2020 in the capital cities of Srinagar and Jammu.
- ❖ Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched "Yodhav" (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala.
  - Using this app, the public can inform police about drug abuse & its distribution.
- ❖ Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched `Pyaar ka Paudha` (a plant of love) drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign with an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.



- ❖ Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh launched “Anganphou Hunba” (Sowing of First Crop Paddy) programme at Arapti Mayai Leikai in Imphal East.
- ❖ The Central Board of Directors of the RBI at its 582nd meeting recommended aligning the financial year of RBI (July-June) with the government’s fiscal year (April-March) from the year 2020-21.
- ❖ GSM Association (Global System for Mobile Communication) has cancelled the Mobile World Congress 2020 to be held in Barcelona, Spain due to Coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ Indian men’s team won bronze medal at the Badminton Asia team championships 2020.
- ❖ India emerged as the world's fifth largest economy by overtaking the UK and France in 2019.
  - This announcement was made by a US based think tank World Population Review.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu chief Minister has inaugurated leading Indian tire manufacturer Ceat’s 6<sup>th</sup> new factory for the manufacture of radial tires in Chennai.
- ❖ India’s Atomic Energy Commission’s researchers have found Lithium Reserves of 14,100 tonnes in Mandya, Karnataka.
  - Being a very rare metal Lithium is mainly used in manufacturing batteries for electric vehicles.
- ❖ The Delhi International Airport Limited has become the first airport in India to become free of single-use plastics.
- ❖ Foundation stone for a 50-metre high modern lighthouse at Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
  - This is the 5<sup>th</sup> lighthouse in the region.
- ❖ Indian-origin Rishi Sunak has been appointed as the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom by PM Boris Johnson.
  - Rishi Sunak is the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy.
- ❖ Honorary Doctorate was given to 5 years old archery world champion Sanchana (Tamil Nadu).
  - she is the youngest person who got Honorary Doctorate.
- ❖ India’s Koneru Humpy won the Cairns Cup chess tournament held at St.Louis, US (United States).
- ❖ First autonomous human flight took place in Dubai.



- Jetman Vince Reffet took off and reached 1000 metres in 30 seconds at an average speed of 130 knots.
- ❖ Sri Srinivasan became the first ever Indian-American to be appointed as Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit.
  - The DC circuit is considered more powerful as it is only next to the US Supreme Court.
- ❖ The Herath festival has celebrated by Kashmiri Pandits. This festival is marked by a night of praying followed by a day of feasting.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
  - SBM (G) Phase-II will also be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ❖ NITI Aayog will organize North East Sustainable Development Goal Conclave 2020 in Assam.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Prime Minister cleared the procurement of 24 Lockheed martin MH-60R Seahawk multi-role helicopters for the Indian Navy from USA.
- ❖ The 94-year-old Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad resigned over political issues.
  - Recently India slowly stopped importing Palm oil from Malaysia. Alternately, India started to import Palm oil from Bangladesh.
- ❖ Maharashtra government has scrapped the Jalyukta Shivar - the flagship water conservation project.
- ❖ Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced a 'No-Bag Day' on Saturdays for students of government schools across the state.
  - The activities related to happiness therapy, literature and culture, sports, personality development, moral values, scout, tips to stay healthy etc shall be organised for the students on that days.
- ❖ The population of endangered dolphins has come down to 62 in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park and nearby Gahirmatha seawaters during the recent census.
  - While last year it was 126.
- ❖ International Polar bear day is observed annually on February 27.
  - It draws attention to the challenges that polar bears face due to global warming.
- ❖ India's first Artificial Intelligence summit - "RAISE 2020: Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020" to be held in April at New Delhi.
- ❖ Hosni Mubarak, the autocratic ruler of Egypt (1981 to 2011) died recently.





- In 2011, he resigned being the ruler of Egypt as a result of citizen's protest.
- ❖ Israeli researchers discovered the parasite *Henneguya salminicola* that lives in the muscle cells of fish in an oxygen free environment.
- ❖ Tamilnadu archaeology department found Burial Pot at Konthagai near Thirupuvanam while setting up the place for excavation.
- ❖ 2020 ICC Women's T20 World Cup is the seventh edition of the biennial tournament hosted by Australia for the first time.
  - The first edition of this began in 2009 in England.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **One nation, One ration card scheme**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has launched the Union government's 'one nation, one ration card' scheme in Tuticorin and Tirunelveli districts of the State on February 1, 2020 as a pilot project.
- ❖ The state government will study the successful implementation of the project in these two districts for a period of one month.
- ❖ The scheme will be beneficial to migrant workers to get their monthly quota of provisions at the place where they are working.
- ❖ However, Kerosene is not included in the scheme as it can be purchased only in PDS shops where the card has been registered.

### **Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway**

- ❖ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced in the Budget that the work on the Chennai-Bengaluru Expressway will start soon.
- ❖ The project will be taken up under the hybrid-annuity model (HAM) by NHAI.
- ❖ The eight-lane access-controlled expressway will pass through Karnataka (77km), Andhra Pradesh (91km), and Tamil Nadu (94km).
- ❖ The agency proposes to take up the project under the Bharatmala Pariyojana scheme.
- ❖ The corridor is planned parallel to the existing NH-4 (Mumbai-Kolar-Bengaluru-Chennai), which is one of the most congested highways in the country.

## New medical colleges in Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Union health ministry's technical evaluation committee (TEC) has given its nod for four new government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new colleges at Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Kancheepuram districts will each have 150 MBBS seats.
- ❖ With this, the number of government medical colleges in the State will increase to 37.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the highest number of government medical colleges in the country.

## 'On-site' museum – Adichanallur

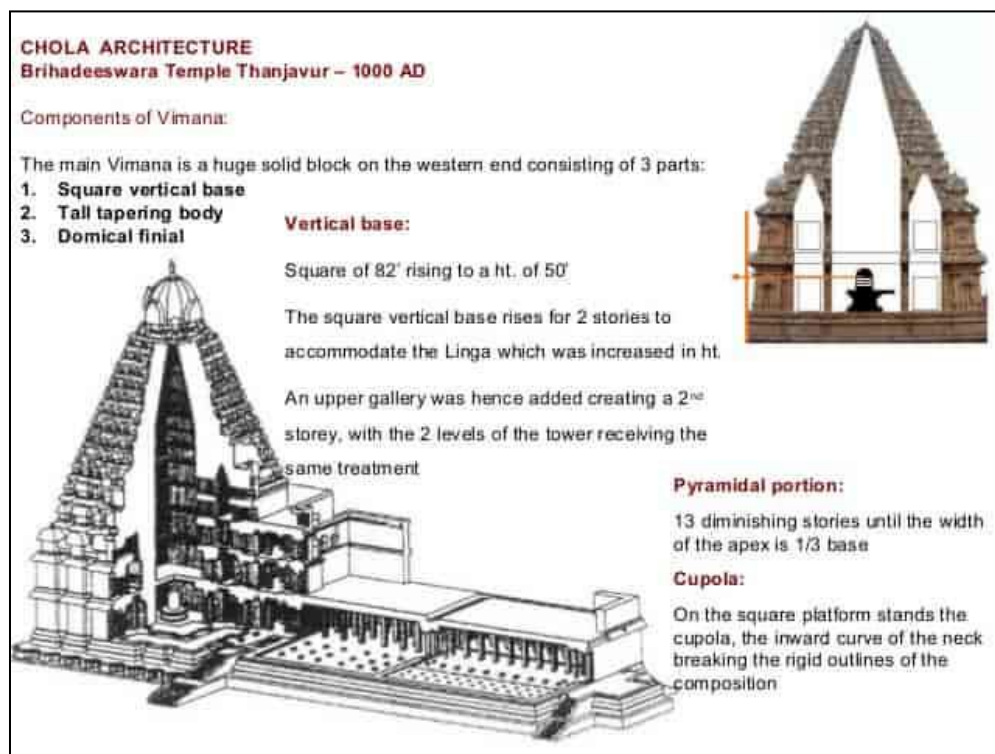
- ❖ Adichanallur in Tuticorin district - is among the five archaeological sites that would be developed with on-site museums.
- ❖ Other shortlisted archaeological sites are,
  - Rakhigarhi (Haryana)
  - Hastinapur (Uttar Pradesh)
  - Shivsagar (Assam) and
  - Dholavira (Gujarat).



- ❖ Adichanallur, a remote village, is home to a three-tier cemetery spread over more than 200 acres.
- ❖ It is one of the largest and oldest early Iron Age cemeteries ever located in South Asia.
- ❖ An excavation conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in 2004-06, found 85 human skeletons.

### **Kumbhabishegam at Brihadeeswarar Temple**

- ❖ Kumbhabishegam (consecration) ceremony held at the Sri Brahadeeswarar Templein Thanjavur on February 5, 2020.
- ❖ The temple, one of the world's largest and grandest, was built between 1003 AD and 1010 AD by the great Chola emperor Raja Raja I (c. 985-1014 AD).
- ❖ The last kumbhabishegam ceremony was held in 1997.



- ❖ The Madras High Court has dictated conformation to agama principles and the consecration performed in both Tamil and Sanskrit.
- ❖ A group of 'Odhuvars' recited Thevaram, Thiruvagasam, Thirumurai among other Tamil hymns during the consecration said the court order.
- ❖ This is for the first time such a consecration was carried out in Tamil in this Temple.

### **Ford's Innovation centre in Chennai**

- ❖ Chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami has inaugurated automobile manufacturer Ford's technology and innovation centre in Chennai.
- ❖ The centre will be located in Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu's Special Economic Zone (ELCOT SEZ) at Sholinganallur in Chennai.
- ❖ One of the features of the centre is mobility experience lab.



### **Short film on Safe banking practices**

- ❖ Chennai city police along with Axis Bank released a short film "Vaaikku podunga poottu" emphasising the need for safe banking practices.
- ❖ Almost 80 per cent of cases in cybercrime division are related to revealing ATM passwords, OTPs and details of bank account.

### **Cauvery delta - Protected Special Agriculture Zone**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced Cauvery delta region as Protected Special Agriculture Zone.
- ❖ He announced this in the event of inaugurating Integrated Veterinary College and Research Park in Salem district.
- ❖ This announcement is to prevent implementation of oil exploration projects in the state's rice bowl.
- ❖ Cauvery delta region is comprising of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirappalli - eight districts in Tamil Nadu.





### **Decennial census of the fisherman community**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has announced the commencement of decennial census of the fisherman community in March 2020.
- ❖ It will also undertake a first-of-its-kind study on the socio-economic status of marine fishermen community in the state.
- ❖ The study aims to identify the marine fishing villages, population dependent on marine fisheries resources and their occupational structure.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has the second longest coastline in the country, with a 1076-km long coastline covering 13 coastal districts.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks fourth in total marine fish production in the country.
- ❖ During the fishing ban period, the state offers a financial aid of Rs 5,000 to each family.

### **Tamil Nadu Budget 2020 - 21**

- ❖ The State Budget for 2020-21 will be presented in the Legislative Assembly at 10 a.m. on February 14, 2020.
- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneer Selvam, who holds the Finance portfolio, will present the budget in the Assembly.
- ❖ It will be the last full budget of the AIADMK regime, ahead of the 2021 Assembly elections
- ❖ The budget session of the State Assembly is likely to last till the third week of March 2020.





### **Renovation of court buildings**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu state government has sanctioned Rs 19.93 crore to renovate the 157- year-old Kuthirai Vandi court building in Coimbatore.
- ❖ Three other heritage court buildings in Salem, Kancheepuram and Nagercoil are also getting renovation.
- ❖ The Public Works Department (PWD) would prepare raw materials such as limestone to carry out the restoration work.

### **Morning Breakfast Scheme – Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government announced that breakfast scheme for school students will be implemented all over Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ So far, this scheme is applying only in the Greater Chennai Corporation.
- ❖ The Akshaya Patra Foundation has been commissioned by the State government to serve breakfast to 32,000 students in corporation schools across Chennai.
- ❖ "Kaalai Unavu Thittam" (Breakfast Scheme) is jointly implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation and the Akshaya Patra Foundation.

### **8 agro-processing clusters in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ An inter-ministerial team of the Centre will meet on February 26 to clear the State government's proposals for the setting up of 8 agro-processing clusters in various districts.
- ❖ The clusters, estimated to cost ₹218 crore, were expected to come up in Theni, Dindigul, Krishnagiri, Tiruvannamalai, Salem, Cuddalore, Villupuram and Madurai.
- ❖ They will be covered under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).

### **Voters in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has over 6.13 crore voters, as per the final rolls of the Special Summary Revision 2020.
- ❖ This Special Summary Revision 2020 was published by the Election Commission.
- ❖ The electorate, with a qualifying date of January 1, 2020, comprises of
  - 3,10,45,969 women,
  - 3,02,54,172 men and
  - 6,497 transperson.



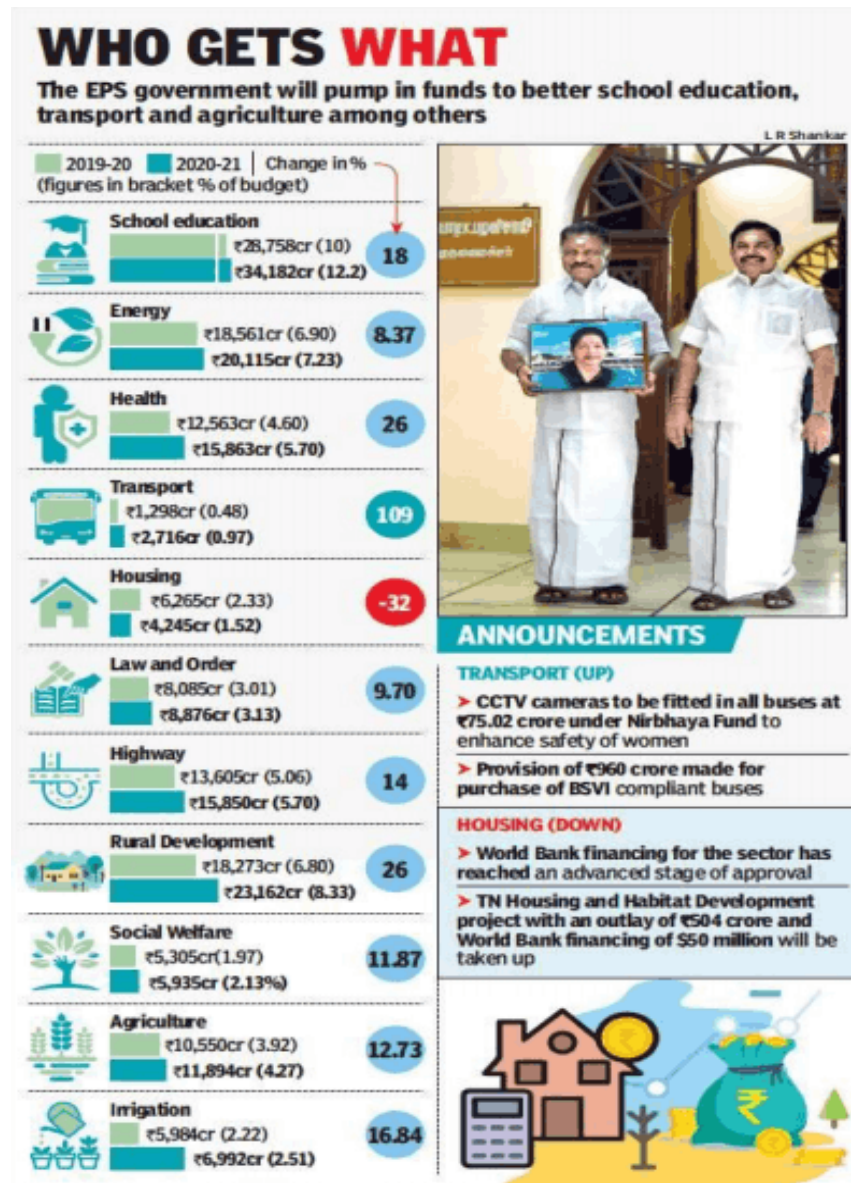
- ❖ Sholinganallur Assembly Constituency continues to have highest number of 6,60,317 voters.
- ❖ Chennai Harbour Assembly Constituency with 1,73,337 electors is the smallest electorate.

### **Tamil Nadu Budget 2020**

- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister O. Panneerselvam presented the State Budget in the Assembly for the 10th time in a three-hour-fifteen-minute speech on February 14.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's economic growth for 2019-20 is projected to be 7.27%, a fall from 8.17% in 2018-19 due to global and national economic headwinds.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government's fiscal deficit is estimated to be 2.84%.

#### **Highlights of Tamil Nadu Budget 2020 – 21**

- ❖ Food parks proposed to be established in Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Nagapatnam, Ramanathapuram, Tenkasi districts at a cost of Rs 70 crore.
- ❖ The state intends to launch Uzhavar-Aluvalar Thodarpur Thittam soon - for a closer interface of officials with farmers.
- ❖ The government has decided to form a 'not-for-profit' Special Purpose Vehicle to finance and manage the Amma Unavagam programme.
- ❖ Environmental Clearance for Athikadavu - Avinashi irrigation scheme has been obtained Rs. 500 crores.
- ❖ Eco-restoration of the Buckingham Canal, its drains and all the drains of the Cooum and Adyar at a total cost of Rs.5,439.76 crore to be taken up.
- ❖ Rs 34,181.73 crore allocated for School Education Department, Rs 5,052.84 crore for Higher Education.
- ❖ Stamp duty tax has been reduced to 0.25 per cent from the earlier 1 per cent.
- ❖ Fisheries department - To improve communication for fishermen more mechanised boats to be fitted with transponders.
- ❖ Chennai - Peripheral Ring Road and Chennai to Kanyakumari industrial corridor projects with an allocation of ₹1,000 crore each.
  - The ring road project will provide access to Ennore port.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has sanctioned ₹12.21 crore for a site museum at Keeladi.
- ❖ The government has allocated funds for the ongoing construction of a desalination plant at Nemmeli and to start work for another plant at Perur.



### Initiatives for the elder people – Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Deputy chief minister O Panneer selvam announced that the government will launch a number of initiatives for the elderly.
- ❖ These initiatives will be based on the findings of study by the Nobel laureate Esther Duflo-led research team in the state.
- ❖ Earlier, the government, in association with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Lab (JPAL), launched a survey on issues relating to the elderly.
- ❖ As a pilot project, the government has decided to launch Elderly resource centres in two blocks in all 37 districts at a budget of ₹37 lakh.



- ❖ The State government led by former chief minister J Jayalalithaa signed an MoU with J-PAL founded by Nobel laureates Abhijit Banerjee and his wife Duflo in November 2014
  - To devise an evidence-based approach for policy making and
  - To maximise the impact of anti-poverty programmes

### **Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Development Bill, 2020**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on February 20th introduced a bill in the state legislative assembly to declare the Cauvery Delta region in the state as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone.
- ❖ The Bill received the assent of the State Governor Banwarilal Purohit within 24 hours of its passage (On February 21st) by the State Assembly.
- ❖ The bill declares the Cauvery delta region a Protected Special Agriculture Zone (PSAZ).
- ❖ The proposed PSAZ would comprise of Thanjavur, Tiruvarur and Nagapattinam districts and five blocks each in Cuddalore and Pudukkottai districts.
- ❖ However, the Bill excluded from its ambit Tiruchi, Ariyalur and Karur districts, which geographically fall within the Delta region.
- ❖ The bill states that the government may add or omit any areas in the future.
- ❖ The bill denies permission to any new chemical processing plants or hydrocarbon exploration in this region in the future.
- ❖ The bill would not affect infrastructure developments in the protected agricultural zone such as harbour, pipelines, road, telecommunications, power, water supply and other utilities.
- ❖ The government has identified zinc smelter, iron ore process plants, copper smelter, aluminium smelter, tannery, and ship breaking industries among others as industries that adversely affect agriculture developments in the PSAZ.
- ❖ The Bill also sought to establish a 30-member Tamil Nadu Protected Agricultural Zone Authority headed by the Chief Minister to advise the government on various measures to protect and improve farming activities to increase farm production and farm productivity to serve the interest of farmers.

### **PCPIR**

- ❖ The State government has cancelled the notification issued on July 19, 2017 declaring 45 villages of Nagapattinam and Cuddalore districts as a long planning area for constitution of Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR).

### **Girl Child Protection Day**

- ❖ The birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary will be observed as 'Girl Child Protection Day' on February 24th.
- ❖ In this regard, the state government has announced the following measures.
- ❖ When the orphan girl residing in government-run homes completes 21 years of age, the state government will deposit ₹2 lakh in the bank in their name.
- ❖ The state Government also increased the monthly amount paid to the foster parents of the girls to ₹4,000 from ₹2,000.
- ❖ The govt. announced employment of destitute children from government homes in social welfare, social justice, ICDS departments, the categories of C and D, which would not fall in the purview of the Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission.
- ❖ A scheme for girls who face difficulties after leaving government-run homes on completion of 18 years of age was announced.
- ❖ It also announced a 50 % subsidy for 'ulemas' (Muslim scholars who are recognized as having specialist knowledge of Islamic sacred law) to purchase a new two-wheeler and increase their pension to Rs 3,000.



### **Ration supplies from anywhere**

- ❖ Ration card holders will now have an option to buy ration from any fair price shop in the district.
- ❖ The scheme has been in operation in the Tuticorin and Thirunelveli Districts and its planned to be expanded within four months.
- ❖ This initiative is a part of 'One nation, one ration card' scheme.



### **Honorary Consul of Netherlands for Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands appointed Gopal Srinivasan as honorary consul of Netherlands for Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Netherlands is looking to expand its cooperation with Tamil Nadu in the areas of water management, agriculture and urban planning.



## **NATIONAL**

### **War memorial in Nagaland**

- ❖ The Assam Rifles has constructed a combined war memorial in Nagaland.
- ❖ The memorial has been built for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed while fighting insurgency in the northeastern state.
- ❖ It has been constructed at Mokokchung in Assam.





- ❖ This memorial is the first of its kind in Nagaland, which also has the famous Second World War Cemetery – “Veer Samriti” at Kohima.

### Assam Rifles

- ❖ Assam Rifles operate under Home Ministry.
- ❖ It is the oldest paramilitary force in India.
- ❖ Since 2000, they are guarding the Indo-Myanmar Barrier under “one border one force” policy of Government of India.

### **Anthropological Survey of India**

- ❖ As part of the commemoration of Gandhi’s 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary, the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) has dedicated an entire issue of its journal on what it calls “Gandhian insights into applied anthropology”.
- ❖ AnSI is the apex Indian government organisation involved in anthropological studies and field data research for human and cultural aspects.
- ❖ It was formed in 1945 in Kolkata.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Culture.

### **NCRB launches two Police related Citizen centric services**

- ❖ National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) has launched two Police related Citizen centric services on Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS) platform. They are
  - Missing Person Search and
  - Generate Vehicle NOC

#### Missing Person Search:

- ❖ It allows Citizens to search for their missing kin against the national database of recovered unidentified found person/unidentified dead bodies from their homes.

#### Generate Vehicle NOC:

- ❖ It allows citizens to ascertain the status of a vehicle before its second hand purchase, as to whether it is suspicious or clean from Police records.

#### About CCTNS

- ❖ Crime and Criminal Tracking Network & Systems (CCTNS) is a project initiated in June 2009.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



### **Automatic Identification and Data Collection - Indian Railways**

- ❖ Indian Railways (IR) undertook the Radio-frequency identification (RFID) project which focus on improving the safety and reliability.
- ❖ It aims to automatic identification & data collection of rolling stock.
- ❖ For implementing this project over Indian Railways,
  - Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS, the IT arm of the Indian Railways),
  - GS1 India and
  - the Indian Industry have come together in alignment with the 'Make in India' initiative.
- ❖ The complete solution also includes the integration of RFID readers with various equipment such as Train Presence Detectors (TPDs), trackside condition monitoring equipment, etc.

### **India's Steel Demand Report**

- ❖ World Sustainable Development Summit released its report on India's Steel Demand.
- ❖ According to the report, if the steel demand of the country continues to grow, the carbon-dioxide emissions from the steel sector will reach 600 million tonnes by 2050.
- ❖ According to the TERI's report 'Towards a Low Carbon Steel Sector', the current carbon-dioxide emissions from steel sector is 242 Million Tonnes.
- ❖ TERI suggests penalty for emissions starting from 2030.
- ❖ This will force industries to adopt deeper decarbonization technologies.

### **Sampriti Exercise**

- ❖ India and Bangladesh will hold the 9th edition of the joint military training exercise called SAMPRITI at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ❖ The Exercise Sampriti is an annual exercise held alternately in India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It was held for the first time in 2011.

### **Indian Railways – Fruit train & Parcel van**

- ❖ Indian Railways has launched an exclusive Banana Container train to boost the exports of the fruit.
- ❖ This is the first “Fruit Train” was flagged off from Tadipatri Railway Station in Andhra Pradesh carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai.
- ❖ The bananas are being exported under the brand name ‘Happy Bananas’.
- ❖ Indian Railways has recently launched a high capacity parcel van at Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station.
- ❖ The new parcel van was designed and manufactured in Kapurthala Rail Coach Factory.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind in Linke Hofmann Busch (LHB) coaches.



**FIRST FRUIT TRAIN**

### **Meeting of the INCCU with UNESCO**

- ❖ Meeting of Indian National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO (INCCU) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ This was the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting after the National Commission’s reconstitution.
- ❖ The national commission consists of members of 5 sub commissions which include Sub Commission for Education, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Communication and Culture.

### **125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CII**

- ❖ The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is celebrating its 125th birth anniversary in the year 2020.
- ❖ Theme: CII@125: Business and Beyond.

- ❖ The Journey of CII began as Engineering and Iron Trades Association (EITA) in 1895.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government announced “Direct CTO (Consent To Operate) Scheme for Green Industries” to mark the 125th birth anniversary of CII.
- ❖ The scheme also helps to improve Ease of Doing Business.
- ❖ The scheme aims at relaxing the clearances of Green category industries.

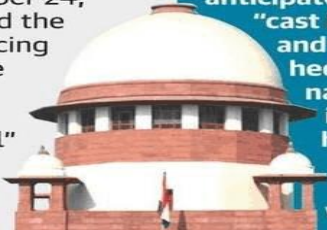
### **SC's Judgement on Anticipatory Bail**

- ❖ A constitution bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that an anticipatory bail cannot be limited to a fixed time period and can continue till the end of the trial.
- ❖ The judgment came in a reference to the case of Sushila Aggarwal vs State of NCT of Delhi regarding the scope of Section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).
- ❖ Section 438 (anticipatory bail) of the Code of Criminal Procedure deals with direction for grant of bail to a person apprehending arrest.
- ❖ The provision empowers only the Sessions Court and High Court to grant anticipatory bail.

### **The back story of advance bail**

- The old Cr.PC of 1898 did not contain any specific provision corresponding to the present Section 438. There was a difference of opinion among various HCs whether court had an inherent power to grant pre-arrest bail
- The Law Commission of India on September 24, 1969, highlighted the need for introducing a provision in the Code enabling courts to grant “anticipatory bail” as an antidote to detention in false cases
- Clause 447 of the Draft Bill of 1970 was enacted with some modifications and became Section 438 of the Cr.PC, 1973

**A five-judge Supreme Court Bench in the 1980 case of Gurbaksh Singh Sibbia vs. State of Punjab interpreted that the power to grant anticipatory bail is “cast in wide terms and should not be hedged in through narrow judicial interpretation”. It held that courts could impose conditions which were appropriate**



### **India's No-Fly List**

- ❖ The Civil Aviation Ministry has recently implemented India's first no-fly list measure which bans passengers from flying if they misbehave.
- ❖ The No-fly list specifies a list of passengers who are banned from flying for a minimum of three months to more than two years.





- ❖ Four airlines in India — IndiGo, SpiceJet, Air India and GoAir — have banned stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra from taking their flights after he allegedly heckled television news anchor Arnab Goswami on an IndiGo flight.

### **National Technical Textiles Mission**

- ❖ A National Technical Textiles Mission is proposed in Union Budget 2020.
- ❖ This will be implemented for a period of four-years from 2020-21 to 2023-24 at an estimated outlay of ₹1,480 crore.
- ❖ Technical textiles are materials and products manufactured primarily for their technical properties and functional requirements.
- ❖ Examples are medical textiles (e.g., implants), geotextiles (reinforcement of embankments), agrotexiles (textiles for crop protection) among others.

### **Santusht Portal**

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment has launched 'Santusht portal'.
- ❖ This portal made to monitor the implementation of labour laws at the grassroots level.
- ❖ The portal aims to address the speedy redressal of grievances of workers and employers.
- ❖ It monitors services that are provided by EPFOs (Employee Provident Fund Organization) and ESICs (Employee State Insurance Corporation).
- ❖ For public grievances, Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) portal is already functional.

### **National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP)**

- ❖ NITI Aayog announced that it will launch National Data and Analytics Platform (NDAP) in 2021.
- ❖ The NDAP will act as a medium for different stakeholders to access data in an easy way.
- ❖ It will host latest data from all the government websites in a 'standardised' format.

### **Exercise 'Matla Abhiyaan'**

- ❖ The Indian Navy conducts a coastal security exercise named 'Malta Abhiyan' in Kolkata, West Bengal.





- ❖ The exercise, named after Malta River.
- ❖ It aims to interact with coastal communities to spread awareness in the Sunderban deltaic waters.

### **Supreme Court direction on Gram Nyayalayas**

- ❖ Supreme Court directs states to establish 'Gram Nyayalayas' within four weeks' time span.
- ❖ The ruling was delivered by an SC bench headed by Justice N V Ramana.
- ❖ The bench noted that some states are yet to come out with notifications for establishing the Gram Nyayalayas.
- ❖ Gram Nyayalayas are village courts that aim to provide speedy and easy access to the judicial system in rural areas of the country.
- ❖ The Gram Nyayalayas Act, 2008 was passed by the Indian Parliament in 2008.

### **Recommendations of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission**

- ❖ The interim report of the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission (FC) has been tabled in Parliament this budget session.
- ❖ 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission's chairman is N. K. Singh.
- ❖ Article 280 of the Constitution of India provides for a quasi-judicial body, the Finance Commission.
- ❖ It is constituted by the President of India every fifth year.
- ❖ The 15<sup>th</sup> FC makes recommendations for the period of 2020-2026 (6 years).

#### **Key recommendations**

- ❖ The demographic performance is the new crucial parameter that has been added to the list.
- ❖ Urban local bodies, especially municipalities in cities with populations of more than one million, are set to get a larger share of the devolution.
- ❖ Devolution of taxes to states:
  - The share of states in the centre's taxes is recommended to be decreased from 42% to 41%.
- ❖ Among the States, with the exception of Tamil Nadu, all the other four southern States see a reduction in the recommended share of taxes for the year 2020-21.
- ❖ FC intends to set up an expert group to initiate a non-lapsable fund for defense expenditure.

## Highlights of 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission



### Govt has constituted 15th Finance Commission & framed its mandate

#### CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE

Formula for sharing of net taxes between Centre and states

Recommendation for the five years beginning April 1, 2020

Taxes that will form part of the shareable kitty

Division of taxes among states



**NK Singh appointed as chairman of 15th Finance Commission**

Principles for grant-in-aid to states

Steps to raise consolidated fund of states



## Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)

- ❖ This unique scheme has launched by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) under Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ The DST has already set up 3 such centres in the country, one each at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and Banaras Hindu University.
- ❖ It is planned to set up 5 SATHI Centers every year for the next four years.
- ❖ These Centres have major analytical instruments and advanced manufacturing facilities to academia, start-ups, industry and R&D labs.

## Ujh Multipurpose Project

- ❖ Union Minister Jitendra Singh has chaired a meeting to fast-track the implementation of Ujh Multipurpose Project in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ The project is planned to be constructed in Kathua district of Jammu & Kashmir on the River Ujh.
- ❖ River Ujh is the major tributary of the Ravi river.
- ❖ The project will enhance the utilization of waters of Eastern Rivers (Ravi, Sutlej and Beas) allotted to India as per the Indus Water Treaty (1960).



### Virtual Experience Museums

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture also proposes to set up a National Virtual Experiential Site Museum at Vadnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has already developed three Virtual Experiential Museums. They are
  - Man Mahal at Varanasi.
  - Ajanta Caves at National Museum, Delhi.
  - Humayun Tomb in Delhi.
- ❖ In 2016, the Ministry of Culture was given the task of establishing Virtual Museums in at least 50 locations.

### 4<sup>th</sup> EAS conference on Maritime Security

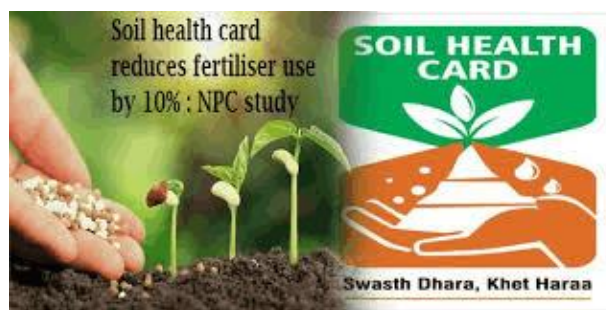
- ❖ The fourth East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will be held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The EAS Maritime Security Conference has been organized by the Government of India since 2015.
- ❖ The fourth conference is being organized by
  - Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)
  - Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

### **Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative**

- ❖ The World Bank– Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (WB-ESMAP), developed the Solar Risk Mitigation Initiative (SRMI) in partnership with,
  - Agence Française de Développement (AFD),
  - International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and
  - International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- ❖ SRMI aims to support countries in developing sustainable solar programs that will attract private investments and so reduce reliance on public finances.
- ❖ It has three components to mitigate the risk of solar deployment:
  - Sustainable Solar Targets
  - Transparent Procurement
  - Viable Risk Mitigation Coverage

### **National Productivity Council study**

- ❖ National Productivity Council has reported that the use of soil cards has reduced the fertilizer use by 10% in the country.
- ❖ The study also reported that the productivity has increased by 5-6% due to soil card.
- ❖ This is mainly because the soil card scheme.
- ❖ The Soil Health Card Scheme was launched by the Modi Government in 2014-15 in order to address the issue of declining soil nutrients.



### **Scheme SFURTI**

- ❖ The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises implemented a new scheme named “Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries” (SFURTI).
- ❖ Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.

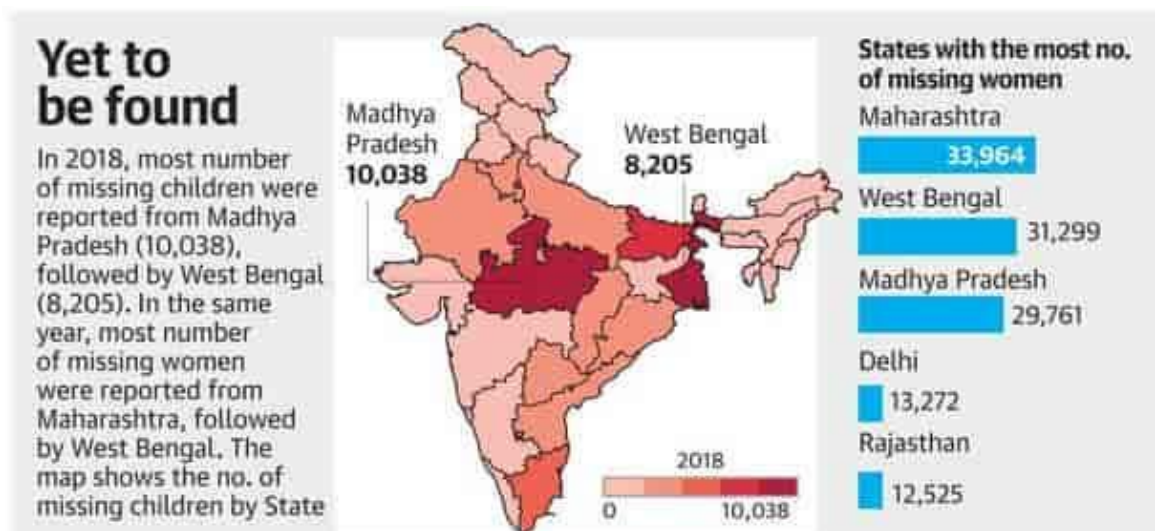


- ❖ The scheme was first launched in 2005 to boost cluster development by MSME.
- ❖ The following schemes have been merged with SFURTI.
  - Scheme for Enhancing Productivity and Competitiveness of Khadi Industry and Artisans.
  - Scheme for Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP).
  - Scheme for Rural Industries Service Center (RISC) and
  - Other small interventions like Ready Warp Units, Ready to Wear Mission, etc.



### Missing women and children in India Report

- ❖ Report on 'missing women and children in India' released by National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ The data for the analysis has been taken from the annual Crime in India (CII) report compiled by the NCRB for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

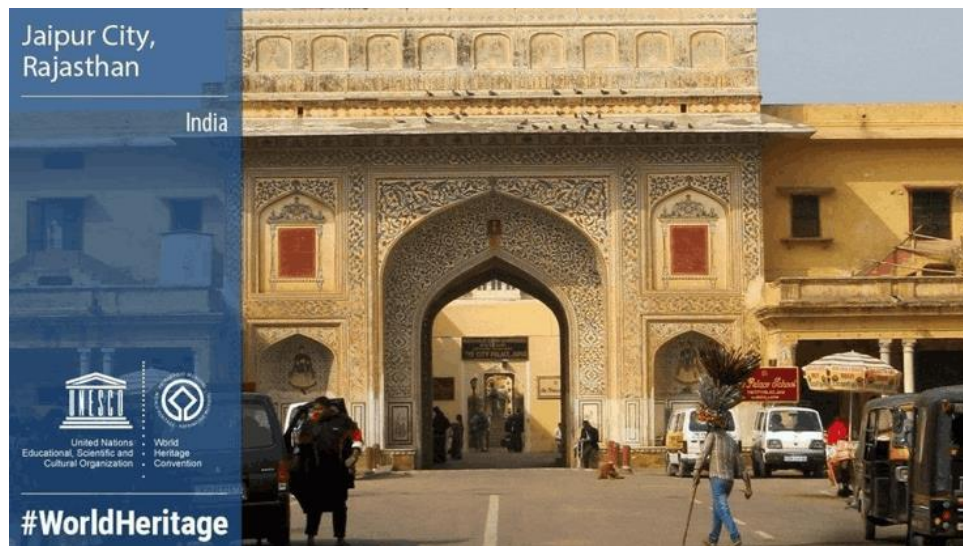




- ❖ According to the report, Maharashtra registered the highest number of missing women followed by West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh during 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ The number of missing children are highest in the State of Madhya Pradesh, followed by West Bengal, Delhi and Bihar.

### **Jaipur receives World Heritage Certificate from UNESCO**

- ❖ Pink City of Rajasthan, Jaipur, received World Heritage Certificate from the UNESCO.
- ❖ The UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay visited India to present the certificate.
- ❖ Jaipur is known for its palaces, architecture, forts.
- ❖ The architecture in the city reflected inclusion of Mughal, Persian and Hindu designs.
- ❖ In order to preserve this cultural mixture of the city, UNESCO and the Rajasthan Tourism Department have signed an agreement.



### **Prison Reforms**

- ❖ Supreme Court panel recommends several prison reforms.
- ❖ In 2018, the Supreme Court had constituted a three-member committee headed by former Supreme Court Judge Justice Amitava Roy to look into issues of reforms in prison administration and management.
- ❖ 'Prisons/persons detained therein' is a State subject under List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.



### Recommendations

- ❖ Every new prisoner should be allowed a free phone call a day to his family members.
- ❖ Modern cooking facilities, canteens to buy essential items.
- ❖ There should be use of video-conferencing for trial.
- ❖ There should be at least one lawyer for every 30 prisoners.
- ❖ Special fast-track courts should be set up to deal exclusively with petty offences.

### **National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG), 2020**

- ❖ The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG), 2020 is being held in Mumbai.
- ❖ The conference is being organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in association with the State Government of Maharashtra.
- ❖ Theme: India 2020: Digital Transformation.

### **Periodic Labour Force Survey - Report**

- ❖ As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)
  - Labour force participation is 36.9 %.
  - Rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%.
- ❖ The survey was conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI).

### **Global Report on Medical Data Leak**

- ❖ A German cybersecurity firm, Greenbone Sustainable Resilience has published its second report related to medical data leaks.
- ❖ According to the report, medical details of over 120 million Indian patients have been leaked and made freely available on the internet.
- ❖ It also classifies countries in three categories of good, bad and ugly, based on the action taken by the governments after its first report was released.
- ❖ The first report was published in October 2019.
- ❖ India ranks second in the “ugly” category, after the U.S.
- ❖ The state of Maharashtra is placed at the top of the list of states that are affected by the data leak, followed by Karnataka and West Bengal.

## **INS Karanj**

- ❖ INS Karanj will be delivered to the Indian Navy by December 2020.
- ❖ INS Karanj is a part of Project-75I.
- ❖ It is the third submarine of the first batch of six Kalvari-class submarines for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The submarine has been designed by French naval defence and manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited, an Indian shipyard in Mumbai.



## **Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched two new indices to assess the quality of life of citizens in cities. They are,
  - Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and
  - Municipal Performance Index (MPI).

### **Ease of Living Index:**

- ❖ It is aimed at providing a holistic view of the country's cities.
- ❖ To generate information to guide evidence-based policy making.

### **About Municipal Performance Index (MPI):**

- ❖ It aims to assess the performance of municipalities based on five enablers.
- ❖ These five enablers include service, finance, planning, technology and governance.



### **National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme**

- ❖ Union HRD minister Ramesh Pokhriyal has said that the National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme (NMMSS) has helped to reduce the drop-out rate at the secondary and senior secondary classes.
- ❖ Aim of this scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII.
- ❖ The Scheme was launched in 2008 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD).
- ❖ Under the Scheme Rs.12000 per annum per student are awarded to selected students of class IX every year and their continuation/renewal in classes X to XII for study.

### **Lucknow Declaration**

- ❖ India and 50 African countries have adopted the Lucknow Declaration at the first India – Africa Defence Minister's Conclave.
- ❖ The Conclave was held on the side-lines of the ongoing DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow.
- ❖ Lucknow Declaration is about Peace and Security, Terrorism, Maritime security, Defence, etc

#### **AFINDEX:**

- ❖ Lucknow Declaration also appreciated the initiation of Africa India Field Training Exercises (AFINDEX) and agreed to further strengthen cooperation in defence preparedness and security.
- ❖ The first-ever AFINDEX was held in March 2019.

### **Sister cities under Smart Cities mission**

- ❖ The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has paired up 20 best performing cities with the 20 bottom cities and they will work as "sister cities".
- ❖ This will come under Smart Cities Mission.
- ❖ Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, is aimed at ensuring all-round developments of a city which has advanced facilities for its citizens.
- ❖ Ahmedabad tops the 20 best performing cities, according to internal rankings.



- ❖ Some of the sister cities under this category are,

<b>Varanasi - Amritsar</b>
<b>Ranchi - Shimla</b>
<b>Pune - Dharamsala</b>
<b>Ahmedabad - Chandigarh</b>
<b>Visakhapatnam - Diu</b>
<b>Surat - Sharanpur</b>
<b>Bhopal - Aizawl</b>

### Ram temple trust

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi- announced the formation of a 15-member autonomous trust for construction of a Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- ❖ The trust will be named as “Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust”.
- ❖ The Supreme Court had earlier set a 90-day deadline for formation of the trust as part of its verdict on November 9, 2019.

## The 15 Trust Members

<p><b>K Parasaran</b> <b>Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Vasudevanand Saraswati, Prayagraj</b> Jagatguru Madhvacharya Swami Vishwa Prasanna Theertha Maharaj, Udupi</p> <p><b>Swami Paramanand Ji Maharaj, Haridwar</b> Swami Govind Dev Giri Ji Maharaj, Pune</p> <p><b>Vimlendra Mohan Pratap Mishra, Ayodhya royal family</b></p>	<p><b>Dr Anil Mishra, Homeopathic Doctor, Ayodhya</b> Kamleshwar Chaupal, Patna (SC)</p> <p><b>Mahant Dinendra Das, Nirmohi Akhara</b> Two prominent persons who are practising Hindus to be nominated by board of trustees</p> <p><b>Two IAS Officers to be nominated by Centre and UP government who are practising Hindus</b> District Collector of Ayodhya or Additional District Collector – whoever is a practicing Hindu</p> <p><b>Trustees to appoint chairman, who will be a practising Hindu</b></p>
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**Parking, amenities for pilgrims, arrangements for parikrama, kitchens, gaushalas, exhibitions, museums and resting places to be made in Ayodhya temple complex**





- ❖ The Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust will have 15 members, one of whom will be from the dalit community.
- ❖ K Parasaran, former Attorney General and senior advocate is the Head of the trust.

### **YUva Vigyani KAryakram**

- ❖ Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) commenced the online process for applications for the second session of 'YUva Vigyani KAryakram' scheduled to be held in May.
- ❖ YUVIKA is a two-week training programme for school students in space activities.
- ❖ Students who have finished VIII standard and currently studying in Class IX (2019-20) will be eligible for the programme.
- ❖ Even Overseas Citizen of India students can also apply for participation in the programme.

### **Transfer of Technology Ceremony – DefExpo**

- ❖ The transfer of technology ceremony was held at DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow.
- ❖ The ceremony was named Bandhan.
- ❖ According to the agreement, the organization transferred 15 licenses to 17 industries.
- ❖ The licenses transferred were all on technologies developed by DRDO.
- ❖ The transfer of technologies will boost greatly to the development of Uttar Pradesh Defence Corridor.
- ❖ The 11<sup>th</sup> edition of DefExpo 2020 being held at Lucknow is the largest of all the defence exhibition held so far.

### **Digital payment index**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India announced that it will create a Digital Payment Index by July 2020.
- ❖ The main aim of the index creation is to capture the extent of digitization of monetary payments in the country.
- ❖ In order to monitor the digital payments, the Central Bank is to release Digital Payment Index.
- ❖ RBI has planned to introduce classification in the index.
- ❖ The classification will include rural, urban and semi-urban geographies.



## **Supreme Court on reservation rights**

- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) has recently ruled that the states are not bound to provide reservation in appointments and promotions.
- ❖ SC also ruled that there is no fundamental right to reservation in promotions.
- ❖ Articles 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) of the Constitution only empowers the State to make a reservation in matters of appointment and promotion in favour of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- ❖ The judgement also noted that even the courts could not issue a mandamus directing the States to provide reservation.

### **Background**

- ❖ The apex court said this while dealing with pleas regarding Uttarakhand government's September 5, 2012 decision.
- ❖ Uttarakhand government has announced to fill up all posts in public services in the state without providing reservations to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

### **Indra Sawhney vs Union of India and M Nagraj case (1992):**

- ❖ In its landmark decision Supreme Court had held that reservations under Article 16(4) could only be provided at the time of entry into government service but not in matters of promotion.

## **Exercise Ajeya Warrior-2020**

- ❖ The fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020 will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.
- ❖ Exercise Ajeya warrior is a joint military exercise between India and the UK.
- ❖ It was held for the first time in 2013.
- ❖ Its aim is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorists operation in Urban and Semi Urban areas.
- ❖ Other exercises between India and UK are,
  - Exercise Konkan: It is an annual maritime bilateral exercise.
  - Exercise Indradhanush: It is a joint bilateral air exercise.



### **13<sup>th</sup> COP of UN's Conservation of Migratory Species**

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is going to be hosted by India during 17th to 22nd February 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Conference is to be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on behalf of India.
- ❖ The theme of CMS COP13 in India is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home".
- ❖ The mascot for CMS COP13 is "Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard".
- ❖ The Conservation status of Indian Bustard is Critically Endangered in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.

### **BONN Convention on India**

- ❖ Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is also called as the BONN Convention.
- ❖ It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ As the host, India shall be designated the President for the next three years.
- ❖ The Government of India is Signatory to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory wild Animals (CMS) since 1983.
- ❖ The Government of India has been taking necessary actions to protect and conserve migratory marine species.
- ❖ Seven species that include Dugong, Whale Shark, Marine Turtle (two species), have been identified for preparation of Conservation and Recovery Action Plan.

### **World's Cheapest Gun Shot Locator – Parth**

- ❖ This bullet-proof helmet has equipped with modern technology which is called the 'Gunshot Locator Helmet'.
- ❖ The name of the device is 'Parth'.
- ❖ The Indian Army's College of Military Engineering with a private firm developed this device.
- ❖ These are much cheaper than the ones imported.
- ❖ The device was showcased at DefExpo 2020.
- ❖ Gunshot Locator is the system that locates gunfire and other weapons such as sensors.



### **SC Verdict on changes in SC/ST Atrocities Law**

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutional validity of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018.
- ❖ The Amendment Act nullified the Court's 20th March, 2018 judgment of diluting the stringent provisions of the original SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.
- ❖ Petitions were filed challenging the 2018 Amendment Act on the grounds of
  - Violation of the fundamental right to equality (Article 14) and
  - Personal liberty (Article 21).

### **Salient Features of the Amendment Act, 2018**

- ❖ It added Section 18A to the original Act.
  - It states that the preliminary enquiry shall not be required for registration of a First Information Report against any person.
- ❖ The police can arrest the offender without a warrant and start an investigation into the case without taking any orders from the court.
- ❖ It creates provisions for states to declare areas with high levels of caste violence to be "atrocities-prone".
- ❖ It provides for the punishment for wilful neglect of duties by non-SC/ST public servants.

## Strengthening the law

■ The SC, in *Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs State of Maharashtra*, held on March 20, 2018: No absolute bar against grant of anticipatory bail under the anti-atrocities law if no prima facie case is made out or if judicial scrutiny reveals the complaint to be prima facie mala fide

■ Parliament introduces an amendment in 2018. Inserts Section 18A in the original Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. Section 18A re-affirms the original legislative intention that Section 438 CrPC (pre-arrest bail) is not applicable to accused booked under the atrocities law

■ Prathvi Raj Chouhan and other petitioners challenge the amendments as arbitrary

■ February 10, 2020 judgment in Prathvi Raj Chouhan case: Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran uphold Section 18A. However, the judges add that the High Courts will have an "inherent power" to grant anticipatory bail in cases in which prima facie an offence under the 1989 law is not made out

■ Justice S. Ravindra Bhat adds a caveat about the use of this "inherent power" by courts. He says it should be used "only sparingly and in very exceptional cases". Otherwise, miscarriage of justice may result. The intention of Parliament to protect SCs and STs will be defeated

■ "It is important to keep oneself reminded that while sometimes (perhaps mostly in urban areas) false accusations are made, those are not necessarily reflective of the prevailing and wide spread social prejudices against members of these oppressed classes": Justice Bhat



## BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2020

- ❖ Second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2020 has been started in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is organizing the BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise 2020 on behalf of the Government of India.
- ❖ The exercise will also stress upon restoring heritage sites damaged due to disasters.







- ❖ The exercise is held under the Theme: “A Cultural Heritage Site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake and Flooding or Storm”.
- ❖ The representatives of BIMSTEC member countries from India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka are participating in the exercise.
- ❖ Thailand and Bhutan are not participating this year.

### **BIMSTEC**

- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional multilateral organisation.
- ❖ This sub-regional organization came into being in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration.
- ❖ Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan are its member countries.
- ❖ BIMSTEC's Permanent Secretariat established in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### **SPICe+**

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs deployed a new Web Form christened ‘SPICe+’, replacing the existing SPICe form.
- ❖ The initiative is a part of India's effort to improve Ease of Doing Business.
- ❖ SPICe+ would be an integrated Web Form.
- ❖ SPICe+ would offer 10 services by 3 Central Govt Ministries & Departments such as
  - Ministry of Corporate Affairs,
  - Ministry of Labour & Employment
  - Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance
  - One State Govt. (Maharashtra), thereby saving as many procedures, time and cost for Starting a Business in India.
- ❖ It would be applicable for all new company incorporations.

### **SC verdict on demolishing the Construction around Hampi site**

- ❖ The Supreme Court confirmed the Karnataka government authorities' decision to demolish the commercial buildings around the Hampi, a World Heritage site.
- ❖ The court concluded that the constructions were in violation of the Mysore Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1961.

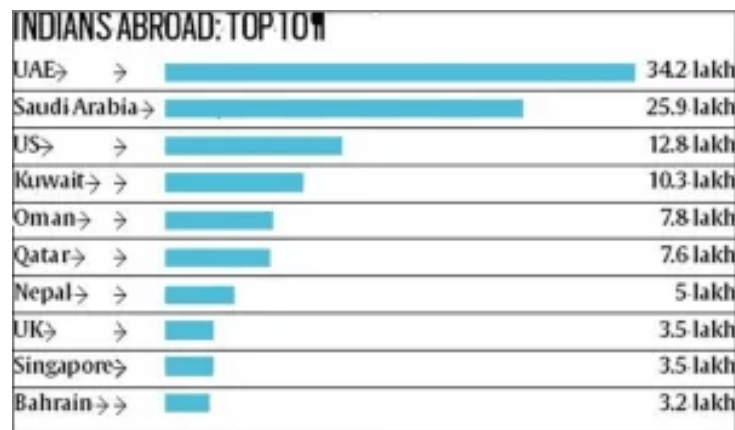
- ❖ The entire village of Virupapura Gaddi – where the Heritage site is located, as a protected zone in a verdict of 1988.

### Hampi

- ❖ It is the 14th century capital of one of the greatest empires of medieval India called the Vijayanagar Empire
- ❖ It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ The Vitthala temple in Hampi is an excellent example of Vijayanagar style.
- ❖ 'Kishkindha Kaand' in Ramayana has special significance concerning Hampi.
- ❖ It is located near the Tungabhadra river.
- ❖ By 1500 CE, Hampi-Vijayanagara was the world's second-largest medieval-era city after Beijing, and probably India's richest at that time.

### **Indian nationals living abroad**

- ❖ There are over 1.36 crore Indian nationals living abroad, as per the latest data.
- ❖ The highest number of Indians abroad are living in the United Arab Emirates, where the 34,20,000 Indians comprise about one-fourth of all Indians abroad.



### **National Water Conference**

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of "Right to Water Act" or "Water Rights Act".
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government has announced that it will implement the Right to water act soon, then it will be First state in the country to implement such an Act.



### **Medical devices under Drugs and Cosmetics Act**

- ❖ From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, all medical devices sold in the country would be treated as drugs and would be regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940.
- ❖ This notification was announced by the Ministry of health and family welfare.
- ❖ The decision was taken after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- ❖ The Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 regulates the import, manufacture, and distribution of drugs in India.

### **Digital literacy training by Facebook**

- ❖ Facebook launched “We Think Digital” Programme to provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across 7 states, including Uttar Pradesh (UP), West Bengal & Bihar.
- ❖ It has been launched in partnership with National Commission for Women (NCW) and Cyber Peace Foundation.
- ❖ The training program aims to equip women with skills & provide equal access to economic opportunities, education & social connection through the internet.
- ❖ We Think Digital, Facebook’s global digital literacy programme, was announced in 2019 during the 2nd edition of South Asia Safety Summit.

### **Voting rights for prisoners**

- ❖ The Delhi High Court has rejected a petition seeking voting rights for prisoners.
- ❖ The right to cast vote is neither a fundamental right nor a common law right and is only provided by a statute.
- ❖ Section 62(5) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 says that no person shall vote at any election if he is confined in a prison.
- ❖ In Europe, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, the Baltic States, and Spain already allow prisoner voting.

### **BIMSTEC conference on drug trafficking**

- ❖ India is hosting the first-ever BIMSTEC nations conference on combating drug trafficking in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference has been organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).



- ❖ Aim of the conference is to provide an opportunity to all the member nations to deliberate contribution of preventing the increased threats posed by drug trafficking.

#### **About Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB):**

- ❖ NCB was constituted in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- ❖ It is the apex coordinating agency under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

#### **About BIMSTEC:**

- ❖ The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is an international organization founded in 1997.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### **INS Jamuna - Hydrographic survey**

- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jamuna has been deployed in the shores of Sri Lanka to carry out a joint Hydrographic survey.
- ❖ The Hydrographic survey is the measurement and study of features that affect maritime navigation.
- ❖ It also includes offshore oil exploration, dredging, oil drilling and other related activities.
- ❖ The standards and specifications to conduct the survey is released by International Hydrographic Organization (IHO).
- ❖ It was established in 1921.
- ❖ India is also a member in IHO.

#### **Indian Naval Hydrographic Department**

- ❖ The office of the department is located in Dehradun.
- ❖ Currently 8 Indian Naval Ships are deployed in the hydrographic surveys.
- ❖ It includes INS Nirupak, INS Jamuna, INS Investigator, INS Sutlej, INS Sandhayak, INS Darshak, INS Sarvekshak

### **Apiary on Wheels**

- ❖ Union minister of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari has flagged off the Apiary on Wheels.
- ❖ Apiary on Wheels is a unique concept designed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

- ❖ It aims to address the challenges faced by the beekeepers by easy upkeep and migration of Bee Boxes having live Bee colonies.
- ❖ This initiative was launched as a part of the National Honey Mission.

#### About National Honey mission:

- ❖ The Honey Mission was launched in 2017 by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- ❖ Aim is to provide sustainable employment and income to rural and urban unemployed youth by conserving the honeybee habitat.

#### About KVIC:

- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body.
- ❖ It was established under the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.
- ❖ It functions under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.



### **Bharat Ke Veer portal**

- ❖ Union Home minister Rajnath Singh has chaired a high-level meeting to review the status of 'Bharat Ke Veer'.
- ❖ It was launched by the Union Home Ministry in 2017.
- ❖ It is an IT based platform to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a brave heart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty.





### **Tuberculosis Notifications**

- ❖ Tuberculosis notifications to the government has been increased to 38% from 2017 to 2019.
- ❖ However, this does not mean TB cases are on the rise, but that the government is reaching more TB patients through its efforts & closing the notification gap.
- ❖ This was referred earlier as the 'missing million', to less than three lakhs, with the cooperation of private-sector health care providers.

### **Anti-Hijack mock drill**

- ❖ The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted by created a mock situation using a naval aircraft INS Dega, at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Main objective of this exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.
- ❖ The mock drill is conducted at every Indian airport annually by the National Civil Aviation Security Programme to test efficiency of the Airport's emergency plan and responsibilities in a hijack situation.

### **CPGRAMS 7.0**

- ❖ The National Workshop on e-office held at New Delhi.
- ❖ Union minister Jitendra Singh launched the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) reforms 7.0 version.

- ❖ The CPGRAMS is in line with the Government of India's vision of "Minimum Government-Maximum Governance".



### Cha-Chai art work

- ❖ The Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa inaugurated a Cha-Chai art-work installation at the National Museum.
- ❖ The Cha-Chai art work inaugurated was a teapot art work.
- ❖ The 5 pm tea is a family tradition of the Portuguese.
- ❖ The long-lasting connection between Portugal and India shines through tea or chai.
- ❖ This Cha-Chai art work was made of iron railings.





### **Nagpur Oranges Export to Dubai**

- ❖ The first consignment of Nagpur Oranges was sent to Dubai from Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The oranges were sent in refrigerated containers.
- ❖ In the state of Maharashtra, around 40 hectares of land is under cultivation of Nagpur oranges.
- ❖ The APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) selected Nagpur district as a cluster for oranges under Agriculture Export Policy.

### **India's 1st Energy-Neutral stations**

- ❖ The Indian South-Central Railways zone becomes India's first to have 13 energy-neutral stations.
- ❖ The number is highest amongst all the zones across the Indian Railways network.
- ❖ energy-neutral railway stations are capable of meeting 100% energy requirements through solar photovoltaic panels which have been commissioned at the station buildings.

### **National Organic Food Festival**

- ❖ The Government of India is to host the National Organic Food festival at New Delhi.
- ❖ The festival will be held under the Theme of "Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential".
- ❖ The 3-day festival is celebrated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in order to boost organic products and to promote women entrepreneurship in the area of production & processing of organic products.

### **5-member panel on Defense**

- ❖ The 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission has set up a five-member group to investigate the need for separate arrangements for funding defence and internal security.
- ❖ This panel will be led by 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Chairman, Nand Kishore (NK) Singh.

### **Arbitration and Conciliation Act -1996 Amendment**

- ❖ The union government has amended the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 by the Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Act, 2015.
- ❖ It aims to make the arbitration process smooth, cost efficient, speedy execution of the case and ensure the mediation of the arbitrator.
- ❖ This amendment provides for the creation of an independent institution Arbitration Council of India.
- ❖ It allows appointment of arbitrators by “arbitral institutions” designated by the Supreme Court/High Court rather than Supreme Court or a high court themselves.

### **Establishment of Air Defense Command**

- ❖ Chief of Défense Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has targeted to establish the 1st integrated tri-service command called “Air Defence Command” (ADC) headed by an officer of the Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The ADC will unify the air defence and assets of the Army, Air Force and Navy and jointly provide air defence cover to the nation.
- ❖ He is also working on the creation of a Joint Peninsula Command and a Logistics Command.

### **Kashi Mahakal Express**





- ❖ The third “private” train of the Indian Railways, named as Kashi Mahakal Express, is to be introduced soon.
- ❖ It will be operated thrice a week between Varanasi and Indore by railway PSU, IRCTC.
- ❖ It will connect three Jyotirlingas – Omkareshwar (near Indore), Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain) and Kashi Vishwanath (Varanasi).

### **Asur tribe using mobile radio**

- ❖ The Asur tribe has been using mobile radio to transmit local news and songs which is helping them revive the dying tribal language.
- ❖ Asur Tribe are an Austroasiatic ethnic group living primarily in the Indian state of Jharkhand.
- ❖ They are included in the list of Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG's).
- ❖ The main festival of the tribe includes Sarhul, Phagua, Navakhans among others.

### **SUTRA PIC Programme**

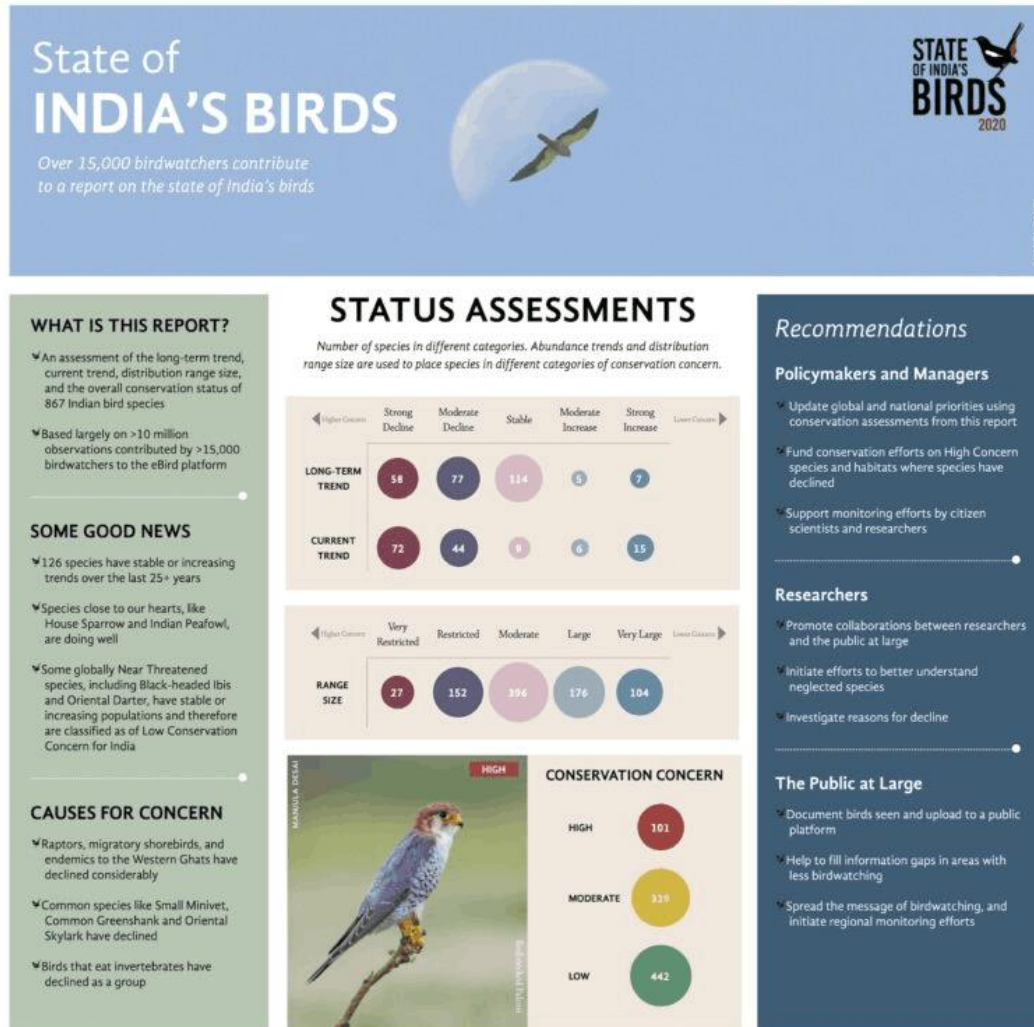
- ❖ The Government of India has unveiled a programme named SUTRA PIC to research ‘indigenous’ cows.
- ❖ SUTRA PIC stands for Scientific Utilisation Through Research Augmentation - Prime Products from Indigenous Cows.
- ❖ The department of Science and Technology under the Ministry of Science and Technology is in charge of the programme.
- ❖ Scientific research on the complete characterisation of milk and milk products derived from Indian indigenous cows is the objective of this programme.

### **State of India's Birds 2020**

- ❖ The State of India's Birds 2020 (SoIB), first-of-its-kind analysis, a new scientific report was jointly released by 10 organisations.
- ❖ It has been produced included ATREE, BNHS, Foundation for Ecological Security, NCF, National Biodiversity Authority of India, National Centre for Biological Sciences, SACON, Wetlands International, WII and WWF.
- ❖ It was produced using a base of 867 species, and analysed with the help of data uploaded by birdwatchers to the online platform, eBird.



- ❖ It was released at the 13th Conference of Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals which is taking place in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



## Station WiFi program

- ❖ Google India has announced that it will be ending its Station WiFi program.
- ❖ It was launched in India in 2015 as a partnership between Google, Indian Railways and Railtel.
- ❖ It sought to bring high-speed and secure internet connectivity in 400 of the busiest railway stations in India.



### **National Institutes renamed after late Union Ministers**

- ❖ The Government of India has been renaming the national institutes after late ministers.
- ❖ The leaders passed away in 2019 due to health issues.
- ❖ They were Manohar Parrikar, Arun Jaitley and Sushma Swaraj.
- ❖ The Institute of Defence studies and Analyses (IDSA) has been renamed as Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence Studies.
- ❖ His biggest contribution was the One Rank One Pension scheme for the armed forces.
- ❖ The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and the Foreign Institute in New Delhi were renamed as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Services respectively.
- ❖ The National Institute of Financial Management was renamed as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management.
- ❖ Also, in September 2019, the Delhi Ferozeshah Kotla Cricket ground was renamed as Arun Jaitley Stadium.

### **Blue Economy Partnership – India & Norway**

- ❖ India and Norway jointly inaugurated a Task Force of Blue Economy for Sustainable Development.
- ❖ The third meet of the task force was held on February 18, 2020.
- ❖ They also launched a new collaboration of Integrated Ocean Management and Research at the meet.
- ❖ 70% of the Norwegian Economy depends on maritime industry of the country.

### **Tilhan Mission**

- ❖ Government of India is to launch “TILHAN MISSION” to boost the oil seed production.
- ❖ The announcement was made at an occasion of Soil Health Card Day.
- ❖ Soil Health Card Day was celebrated all over India on February 19, 2020.
- ❖ Currently India is the fourth largest vegetable oil economy in the world after USA, China and Brazil.
- ❖ Previously the National Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm was launched by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.



### **Swachh Iconic Places**

- ❖ The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review meeting on Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) was held recently at Jharkhand.
- ❖ SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ It aims to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of Swachhata, so that all visitors benefit and also take away home the message of cleanliness.
- ❖ It is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Urban Development, Culture, Tourism.

### **Kangaroo Mother Care**

- ❖ Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is the intervention where babies are placed in skin-to-skin contact with their mothers and exclusively breast fed.
- ❖ It has been recommended worldwide for stable low-birthweight new-borns.
- ❖ WHO recommends that it be continued till baby attains a weight of 2.5 kg or till babies wriggle out.
- ❖ KMC has 3 parts:
  - Skin-to-skin contact
  - Exclusive breastfeeding
  - Support to the dyad.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission of India.
- ❖ This commission has been approved for a period of three years.
- ❖ The 22<sup>nd</sup> Law Commission will consist of a full time Chairperson.
- ❖ It has four full time members. Also, secretaries from Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative department.

### **Law Commissions**

- ❖ It is a non-statutory body that is constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- ❖ It was constituted in 1955 for the first time.
- ❖ Since then it has been reconstituted for every 3 years.
- ❖ So far, the Law Commission of India has submitted 277 reports.



### **India shifts to cleanest fuel**

- ❖ From April 1, 2020, India will shift to BS VI emission compliant from Euro-IV grades.
- ❖ As India shifts to BS VI grades, it will join select league of nations using pure and clean fuel.
- ❖ These fuels contain just 10 parts per million of Sulphur.
- ❖ Delhi and adjoining cities have already adopted BS VI in April 2019.

### **Conference of Central Administrative Tribunal 2020**

- ❖ The annual All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Central Administrative Tribunal has been established by Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 under Article 323-A of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Tribunal is headed by the Chairman and 65 Members. They are,
  - 33 from Judicial (including Chairman) and 33 from the Administrative stream.
- ❖ The Chairman is normally a sitting or retired Judge of a High Court.
- ❖ Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of itself as a High Court.

### **E-MASIHA App**

- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has informed that India has become the first country in the world which has made the entire Haj 2020 process 100% digital.
- ❖ E-Masiha stands for E-Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad.
- ❖ It is an online system to create and maintain the complete health database of pilgrims to deal with any emergency in Makkah-Madinah.

### **Women Army officers eligible for permanent commission – SC judgement**

- ❖ Recently, in a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court (SC) has upheld a Delhi High Court order of 2010 that seeks to grant permanent commission to women officers at par with their male counterparts.
- ❖ The women officers will also be eligible for command posts in non-combat areas.



- ❖ A woman can rise to the rank of Colonel and above based on merit like their male counterparts.
- ❖ The judgment upheld the right to equality in the Constitution.

#### **Background:**

- ❖ The induction of women officers in the Army started in 1992.
- ❖ They were commissioned for a period of five years in certain chosen streams under the Women Special Entry Scheme (WSES).
- ❖ In 2006, WSES was replaced by the Short Service Commission (SSC) scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, women were commissioned into the Army for a period of 10 years extendable up to 14 years.
- ❖ Thus, women officers were kept out of any command appointment and could not qualify for government pension which starts only after 20 years of service as an officer.

#### **Ladakh and J&K to come under CAT**

- ❖ Union Territory of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir are to be brought under the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).
- ❖ The announcement was made at the annual Conference of the tribunal in New Delhi.
- ❖ Till the Government of India sets up a CAT exclusively for J&K, the Chandigarh bench is to serve the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

#### **Provisions of CAT**

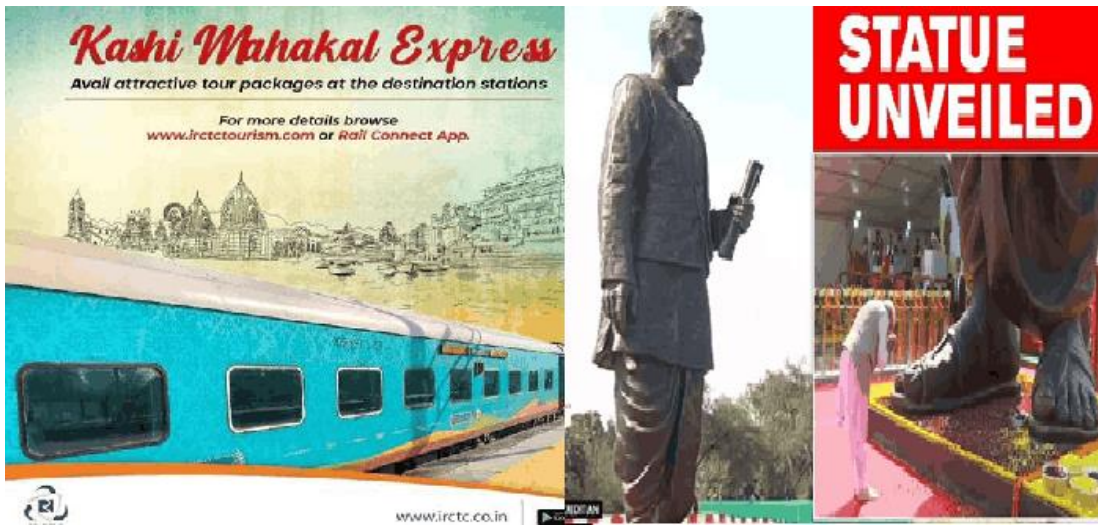
- ❖ It works towards adjudicating disputes that arise in case of recruitment or service of persons in public services.
- ❖ The provisions of CAT are included in Article 323A.
- ❖ The provisions of CAT are not applicable to armed forces, Supreme Court employees, members of Paramilitary forces and the staffs of Secretariats.

#### **PM Modi's Varanasi visit**

- ❖ Modi had gone to Jangamwadi Mutt and released translated version of 'Shri Siddhant Sikhamani Granth' in 19 languages.
- ❖ He also launched 'Shri Siddhant Sikhamani Granth' mobile application.
- ❖ He dedicated a memorial to Deendayal Upadhyaya to the nation and unveiled a 63-feet tall statue of the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS) thinker.



- ❖ He dedicated 36 developmental projects including
  - a 430-bed super-speciality government hospital and
  - a 74-bed psychiatry hospital at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).
- ❖ The super-speciality hospital will serve about 200 million people from seven neighbouring states and Nepal.
- ❖ He also flagged off India's third private train named as Kashi Mahakal Express.
- ❖ The train will connect the three "jyotirlinga pilgrim centres" of Varanasi, Ujjain and Omkareshwar.



#### **4<sup>th</sup> National Conference - PMFBY**

- ❖ The fourth National Conference of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima yojana (PMFBY) was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Conference was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ The Conference was attended by more than 140 members.
- ❖ It included members from NABARD (National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development), RBI (Reserve Bank of India), insurance companies, etc.

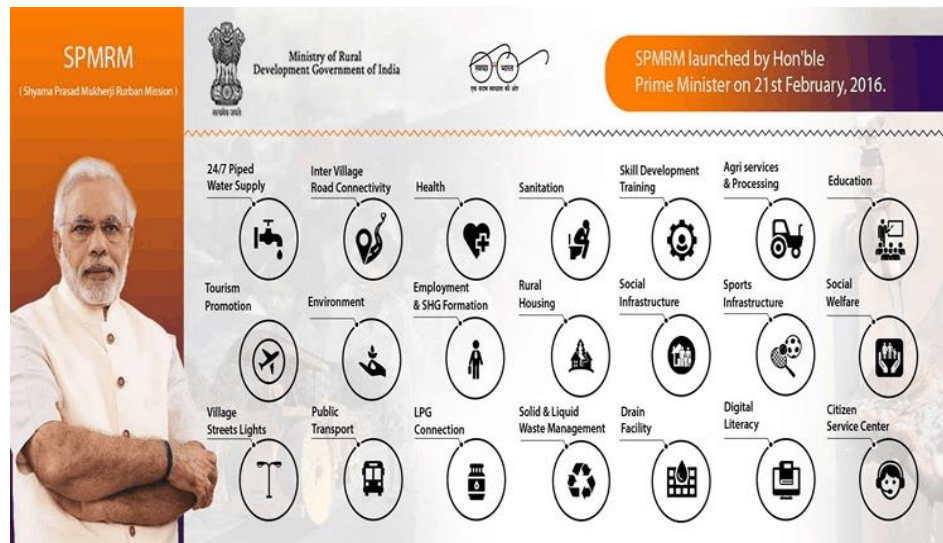
#### **National Ground Water Management Improvement Programme**

- ❖ The World Bank and the Government of India signed a loan agreement to support the national programme that aims on strengthening ground water institutions.
- ❖ National Ground Water Management Improvement Programme is to be implemented in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Haryana.

- ❖ It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme the World Bank will provide Rs 6,000 crores for sustainable management of groundwater.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

### **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission - 4th Anniversary**

- ❖ The Fourth Anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission was celebrated all over India on February 21, 2020.
- ❖ It was launched on February 21, 2016.
- ❖ The mission aims at stimulating local economic development and create well planned Rurban Regions.
- ❖ The mission aims to develop 300 Rurban clusters.
- ❖ The Niti Aayog has proposed that these clusters are to be extended to 1000 in 3 years.
- ❖ The mission aims to preserve the essence of rural community life.



### **Ask Disha chatbot**

- ❖ Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (IRCTC) has powered Ask Disha chatbot to converse with customers in Hindi language.
- ❖ IRCTC launched the Ask Disha (Digital Interaction to Seek Help Anytime) chatbot in the year 2018.
- ❖ The initiative is aimed at facilitating accessibility by answering users' queries pertaining to various services offered to railway passengers.

- ❖ The chatbot is voice enabled and will support several other regional languages in the near future.

### **First Khelo India University Games - Bhubaneswar**

- ❖ The first Khelo India University Games is to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ❖ The game is to be launched by PM Modi through video conferencing.
- ❖ More than 3400 athletes in 17 disciplines and from 159 Universities are to participate in the game.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind.
- ❖ The Sport event is organized by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ Khelo India School games were launched in 2018 and has been conducted annually in the month of January-February since then.



### **Revision of interest subvention - DIDF**

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved its revision of interest subvention rates from 2% to 2.5% per annum.
- ❖ This is being done under Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DIDF).
- ❖ Under the DIDF, GoI will now provide interest subvention up to 2.5% to NABARD till 2030.
- ❖ This shall enable NABARD in devising its own strategy of borrowing.
- ❖ In turn, it will be able to provide low cost of funds to milk unions.



### **DIDF scheme**

- ❖ The DIDF Scheme was announced in Union Budget 2017-18 by the Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries (DADF).
- ❖ Under the scheme DIDF considerable amount is contributed by NABARD to the
  - National Dairy Development Board and
  - National Cooperative Development Corporation.

### **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**

- ❖ The government approved major changes in the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana making it optional for farmers with a view to plug loopholes in the farm insurance scheme.
- ❖ Under the PMFBY, which was launched in February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is mandatory for loanee farmers to take insurance cover under this scheme.
- ❖ Currently, 58 percent of the total farmers are loanee.





### **Next Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)**

- ❖ The high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister has chosen by a majority decision, former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Bimal Julka, currently serving as an Information Commissioner, as the new Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission.
- ❖ The selection committee consists of the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and a Union Cabinet Minister probably Union Home Minister, to be nominated by the Prime Minister.
- ❖ The last CIC was Sudhir Bhargava.

### **Supreme Court on decriminalization**

- ❖ The Supreme Court directed political parties to upload on their websites and social media platforms the details of pending criminal cases against their candidates.
- ❖ Most importantly, the court also asked the parties to publish reasons as to why they are selected, as also for not giving ticket to those without criminal antecedents.
- ❖ It said these details should be published within 48 hours of the selection of the candidate or at least two weeks before the first date for filing of nominations, whichever is earlier.
- ❖ The details should also be published on official social media platforms of the political parties, including Facebook and Twitter, and also in one local vernacular and one national newspaper.
- ❖ The top court noted that 24 per cent of the MPs had criminal cases pending against them in 2004, while in 2009, it went to 30 per cent.
- ❖ Further, in 2014, 34 per cent of MPs had pending criminal cases against them, which increased to 43 per cent in 2019.
- ❖ The Supreme Court asked the Election Commission to work out a mechanism to curb criminalization of politics in nation's interest as the poll watchdog said that the 2018 order to declare criminal antecedents by the apex court to curb the problem has not been helpful.
- ❖ The Election commission has neither amended the Election Symbol Order, 1968 nor the model code of conduct (MCC) so the said notification has no legal sanction.
- ❖ A five-judge Constitution bench in 2018 had unanimously held that all candidates will have to declare their criminal background to the poll panel before



contesting polls and called for a wider publicity, through print and electronic media about antecedents of candidates.

- ❖ It was said the EC neither published a list of leading newspapers-news channels for the purpose nor clarified the timing for declaration of criminal antecedents by candidates.
- ❖ This led to the candidates publishing the required information in newspapers and news channels that were not very popular and at odd hours.

### **Consumer Protection Authority**

- ❖ The Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has said the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be set up by the first week of April this year.
- ❖ The CCPA has to be set up under Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- ❖ It will address issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and impose penalties for selling spurious and adulterated products.
- ❖ At present there is no regulatory body to regulate e-commerce and direct selling.

### **Trump Visit**

- ❖ On February 24, 2020, the US President Donald Trump visited India.
- ❖ Trump later visited Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad and Taj Mahal.
- ❖ He did not mention anything about Mahatma Gandhi in the visitors' book.
- ❖ The leaders then addressed a large gathering at Motera stadium or Sardar Patel Stadium in Ahmedabad, India.
- ❖ As of 2020, it is the largest cricket stadium in the world
- ❖ India celebrated the visit of the US President by naming the event as “Namaste Trump”.
- ❖ India and US will sign two defence deals for helicopters.
- ❖ Around 24 MH-60R helicopters are to be signed for Indian Navy and six AH-64E helicopters are to be signed for Apache helicopters.
- ❖ Donald Trump became the seventh US president ever to travel to India and the first one to land in Ahmedabad.
- ❖ And he is only second White House occupant to travel to India in their first term.




- ❖ Barack Obama was the first U.S. president to do so in 2010.
- ❖ Dwight D Eisenhower was the first US President to visit India in 1959.
- ❖ Richard Nixon travelled to India in 1969 and Jimmy Carter in 1978.
- ❖ Bill Clinton visited India in 2000 and George W Bush in 2006.
- ❖ Obama visited India twice in 2010 and 2015.

## Deal done

India and the U.S. concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Seahawk and six AH-64E attack helicopters

The six Apaches and associated equipment will cost about **\$800 million**



### MH-60R SEAHAWK HELICOPTERS

- The procurement is through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. government and is worth **\$2.12 bn**
- MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability
- These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) helicopters de-inducted in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in an accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s and are in need of replacement
- They are capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare, net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles

### APACHE

- These will be operated by the Army and deployed with its strike Corps in the western sector
- In September 2015, India contracted 22 AH-64E attack helicopters at a cost of **₹13,951.57 crore** for the IAF and the entire fleet will be in service in 2020
- In August 2017, the government approved the procurement of six Apaches under the optional clause for the Army
- On June 12, 2018, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency notified the U.S. Congress of the possible sale to India
- Apache is a heavy attack helicopter and the most advanced craft currently in service globally
- India is the 16th nation to select the Apache and the AH-64E is its most advanced variant, Boeing said
- The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world

### **International Judicial Conference**

- ❖ It was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Conference discussed the changes being introduced by the Government of India to bring Gender Equality in recruiting women in military services, selection process of fighter pilots.
- ❖ It also discussed on freedom of women to work in mines at night.
- ❖ The theme named Gender Just World was introduced at the conference.
- ❖ The Conference introduced the “Just World” concept in the Judicial System of India.



### **National Organic Food Festival**

- ❖ The Ministry of Food Processing and Ministry of Women and Child Development jointly inaugurated the National Organic Food Festival in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is the first of its kind in India.
- ❖ Theme: Unleashing India’s Organic Market Potential.
- ❖ It was announced at the festival that the organic sector in India is growing at a speed of 17% per year.
- ❖ With 9th largest organic agricultural land in the world and the largest number of producers, India is fast growing in the organic food segment.
- ❖ India produced around 1.70 million MT (2017-18) of certified organic products.
- ❖ As per the Indian Organic Sector – Vision 2025 report, India’s organic business is expected to reach Rs.75,000 Crores by 2025.



- ❖ Jaivik Kheti Portal has been included in the agricultural budget.
- ❖ It is a National Project on Organic Farming.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the GoI aims to strengthen organic farming. It was launched in 2004.
- ❖ Sikkim is the first organic state in the world.



### **Thal Sena Bhawan**

- ❖ The Defence Minister Rajanath Singh recently laid foundation stone to construct a new Army Headquarters in Delhi Cantontment.
- ❖ The building has been named “Thal Sena Bhawan”.
- ❖ The building is designed as a rising sun.



### **First anniversary of National War Memorial**

- ❖ The first anniversary of the National War Memorial was observed on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- ❖ The memorial is a tribute to those heroes who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during various wars and internal security challenges since Independence.



- ❖ National War Memorial consists of names of 25,942 soldiers martyred after Independence engraved on its walls.
- ❖ The monument was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at New Delhi last year.

### **Military equipment from USA**

- ❖ India has signed a deal to purchase more than \$3 billion (Rs 21,000 crore) of advanced military equipment, including helicopters.
- ❖ India and US concluded agreements for the purchase of 24 MH-60 R Seahawk and 6 AH-64 E Apache attack helicopters.
- ❖ The Apache is the most advanced multi-role heavy attack helicopter in the world.
- ❖ MH-60R is also referred to as 'Romeo'.





## **First National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (CDRR&R) – 2020**

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Nityanand Rai presided over the farewell session of the 1st CDRR&R – 2020.
- ❖ It was organised in New Delhi by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM).
- ❖ The aim of the conference was to explore and debate the most recent advances in the discipline, to enhance the understanding of the issues and solutions on various facets for coastal disaster risk reduction and resilience.
- ❖ It focussed on enhancing human capacity in terms of better understanding about coastal disaster risks and effective collaborative actions, by implementing Prime Minister's 10-point agenda and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- ❖ The Prime Minister had listed the 10-point agenda at the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.

## **Adaptation of Central laws in Jammu and Kashmir**

- ❖ The Union Cabinet recently approved to issue an order for the adaptation of all 37 central laws in the Concurrent List in the newly created Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ These Acts will be adapted under the Section 96, Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, that came into effect on October 31, 2019.
- ❖ The section 96 of J&K Re-organisation Act grants powers to the Central Government to adopt or modify laws for the application of any law within one year of newly formed Union territories.

## **ICoSDiTAUS-2020**

- ❖ 2020 International Conference on Standardization of Diagnosis and Terminologies in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha Systems of Medicine (ICoSDiTAUS) - 2020 was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It adopted 'New Delhi Declaration on Collection and Classification of Traditional Medicine (TM) Diagnostic Data'
- ❖ Total of sixteen countries attended this conference.
- ❖ The conference is organized by the ministry of ayush with the support of WHO.



### **Agreements to improve Rakhine state**

- ❖ India and Myanmar signed a series of agreements to improve the socioeconomic situation in Myanmar's northern Rakhine state.
- ❖ This is the state where thousands of Rohingyas had fled to neighboring Bangladesh after a crackdown by the Myanmar army in 2017.

### **Rakhigarhi**

- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the government's plan to fund five on-site museums.
- ❖ This includes the under-construction museum initiated by the Haryana government at Rakhigarhi,
- ❖ As part of encroachment removal at the Rakhigarhi heritage site, 152 households are being shifted to flats.
- ❖ The Five on-site Museum includes,
  - Rakhigarhi in Haryana,
  - Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh,
  - Shivsagar in Assam,
  - Dholavira in Gujarat and
  - Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu.

### **MIEWS Web Portal**

- ❖ Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries launched the - Market Intelligence and Early Warning System (MIEWS) Web Portal.
- ❖ The Portal is a 'first-of-its-kind' platform for 'real time monitoring' of prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP).
- ❖ Also generates alerts for intervention under the terms of the Operation Greens (OG) scheme.

### **Operation Greens scheme**

- ❖ In the budget speech of Union Budget 2018-19, "Operation Greens" was announced on the line of "Operation Flood".
- ❖ It aims to promote Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs), agri-logistics, processing facilities and professional management.



### **Artificial Intelligence Modules in Schools**

- ❖ The National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) in collaboration with Niti Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), launched an artificial intelligence (AI) based module for students of Indian schools.
- ❖ The AI-Base Module will be implemented across 5,000 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL), empowering 2.5 million students.
- ❖ The module contains activities, videos and experiments that enable students to work through and learn the various concepts of AI.
- ❖ It has been estimated that by 2030, the global AI market is likely to be in the range of \$15-15.5 trillion, out of which India's share will be close to \$1 trillion.

### **New LCH Complex**

- ❖ Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru.
- ❖ LCH is designed by HAL and the project is a part of the "Make in India" initiative.
- ❖ LCH has the distinction of being the first attack helicopter to land in Forward Bases at Siachen, 4700 meters above sea level with 500kg load.
- ❖ India has set a target of achieving Rs 35,000 crores of Defence Exports by 2024.
- ❖ It is believed that Manufacturing of the Light Combat Helicopter will help India achieving it.

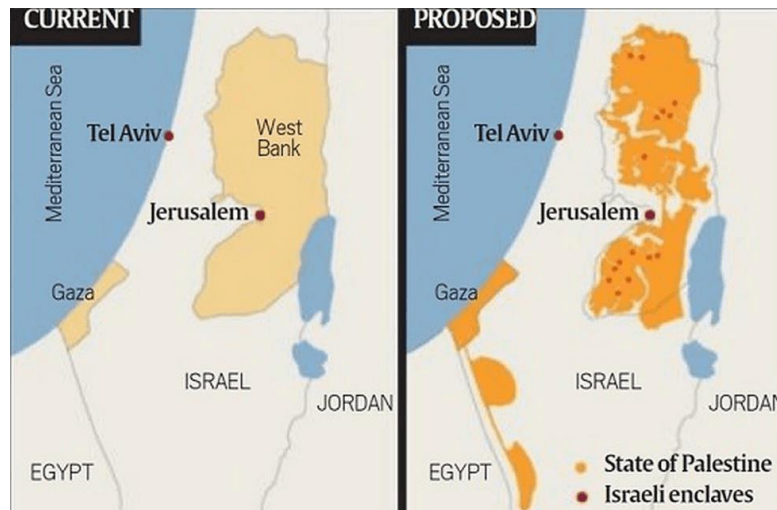
### **EASE 3.0**

- ❖ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently launched the new reform agenda EASE 3.0.
- ❖ Ease (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 3.0 reform agenda aims at providing the Public sector banks with smart and tech-enabled banking service.
- ❖ EASE is a set of banking reforms to incorporate technological aids for ensuring better banking experience, wider financial inclusion and easier credit distribution.
- ❖ The first edition of EASE was launched in January 2018.

## INTERNATIONAL

### West Asia Peace Plan

- ❖ The West Asia peace plan was recently unveiled by U.S. President Trump.
- ❖ It plans to revive the stalled two-state talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians.
- ❖ As per the plan,
  - Jerusalem to stay united and remain the capital of Israel.
  - Israel does not have to dismantle any of its illegal settlements in the West Bank.
  - The status quo to be preserved at Jerusalem's Temple Mount/al-Haram al-Sharif complex which lies in the eastern part of the city captured by Israel in the 1967 war.
  - Transportation links to be established between the unconnected Palestinian territories in the West Bank and Gaza.
  - A \$50 billion investment fund to boost the Palestinian and neighbouring Arab state economies.



### International Health Emergency - Corona Virus

- ❖ World Health Organization declared International Health Emergency over Corona Virus.
- ❖ The organization has declared emergency as the disease has spread to 18 other countries apart from China where it originated.
- ❖ Also, the disease is spreading through human-to-human contact.

- ❖ The spread of the disease now fulfils the criteria of PHEIC and hence emergency has been declared.
- ❖ PHEIC is Public Health Emergencies of International Concern.

### **India - Africa Defense Ministers Conclave**

- ❖ For the first time, in the history of DefExpo, India and Africa are to discuss their defence relations.
- ❖ India's largest Defence Exhibition is to be held in Lucknow between February 5, 2020 and February 8, 2020.
- ❖ As a part of the event, the India-Africa Defence Conclave is to be held.
- ❖ The India-Africa Defence Conclave is to be held on February 6, 2020.
- ❖ Around 24 Defence Ministers are to participate in the conclave.
- ❖ India has helped several African countries to set up their military post-Colonial rule.
- ❖ India had set up defence college in Nigeria, military academy in Ethiopia, air force in Ghana.

### **12<sup>th</sup> South Asia Conference**

- ❖ The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the South Asia Conference held at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India's neighbourhood etc.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions.







## **National Consultation on the review of Beijing +25**

- ❖ To mark of 25 years of the adoption of Beijing Platform for Action, a National Consultation on the Review of Beijing+25 was held.
- ❖ It was organized by Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD), the National Commission for Women (NCW) and UN Women India organisations.
- ❖ The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action of 1995 is the most ambitious road map for the empowerment of women and girls everywhere.
- ❖ The 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women.

## **IMO 2020 - new rules for ships**

- ❖ International Maritime Organization (IMO) put forward new regulations, called IMO 2020
- ❖ IMO 2020 bans ships from using fuels with a sulphur content above 0.5 per cent, compared with 3.5 per cent previously.
- ❖ Only ships fitted with sulphur-cleaning devices, known as scrubbers, are allowed to continue burning high-sulphur fuel.
- ❖ Ships can opt for cleaner fuels, such as marine gas oil (MGO) and very low-sulphur fuel oil (VLSFO).

### About IMO

- ❖ A specialized agency of the United Nations responsible international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships.
- ❖ Founded in 1948 and headquartered in London, United Kingdom.

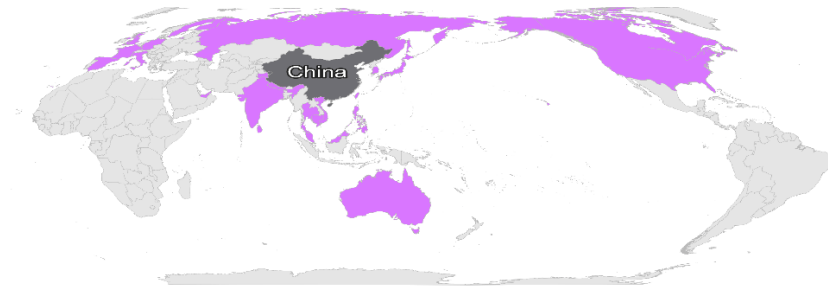
## **Brexit**

- ❖ The United Kingdom formally left the European Union (EU) on January 31, 2020, ending 47 years of membership.
- ❖ Britain has become the first country to leave the 28-member bloc of EU.
- ❖ Queen Elizabeth II gave her royal assent to the Brexit bill on January 23, 2020, paving the way for Britain's smooth exit from the European Union.
- ❖ The UK will be able to work in and trade freely with EU nations and vice versa until December 31, 2020.
- ❖ However, it will no longer be represented in the EU's institutions.

## Coronavirus death outside China

- ❖ A coronavirus death in Philippines marked the first fatality outside mainland China as the outbreak continues to spread.
- ❖ Hong Kong reported second Coronavirus Death Outside China.
- ❖ Countries including US, Australia, Russia, Japan, Pakistan and Indonesia have announced travel restrictions to all foreign visitors who had recently been to China.

### Cases of coronavirus outside China



Japan	20	Malaysia	8	Canada	4	Cambodia	1
Thailand	19	US	8	Italy	2	Finland	1
Singapore	18	Germany	8	UK	2	Nepal	1
South Korea	15	Vietnam	7	India	2	Sri Lanka	1
Australia	12	France	6	Philippines	2	Spain	1
Taiwan	11	UAE	5	Russia	2	Sweden	1

Source: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control,

## Maldives re-joins Commonwealth

- ❖ Maldives officially re-joined the Commonwealth on February 1, 2020.
- ❖ It became the 54th member of the Commonwealth Union.
- ❖ The country is set to be a part of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Rwanda, to be held in June 2020.
- ❖ Maldives joined the Commonwealth in 1982 and withdrew its membership in the year 2016.

## Addu Tourism

- ❖ India and Maldives signed 5 Memorandum of Understandings to establish Addu Tourism in 5 islands of Addu atoll.
- ❖ Addu is a city in Maldives that contains several inhabited Islands.
- ❖ India established its diplomatic mission in Male in 1972, the capital of Maldives.

## Blue Dot Network

- ❖ India will join the US-led Blue Dot Network (BDN) during the US President's visit to India.
- ❖ The Blue Dot Network initiative was announced at the Indo-Pacific Business Forum in Bangkok, Thailand in 2019.
- ❖ It is a US led initiative jointly launched by
  - US Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC)
  - Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
  - Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)



## Sustainable Development Fee (SDF)

- ❖ Bhutan will impose Sustainable Development Fee (SDF) on tourists from India, the Maldives, and Bangladesh.
- ❖ July 2020 onwards, A daily ₹1,200 (\$17) fee will be imposed.
- ❖ It is meant to help the government deal with increasing numbers in tourist traffic.

## US President acquitted at the Senate

- ❖ US President Donald Trump who had been impeached by the House of Representatives has been acquitted at the Senate trial.
- ❖ He now became the third President in the US history to be impeached by House of Representatives and acquitted by the Senate.
- ❖ The other two Presidents were
  - Bill Clinton in 1999 and
  - Andrew Johnson in 1868.



### **International Religious Freedom Alliance**

- ❖ The United States launched the 27-nation International Religious Freedom Alliance.
- ❖ It will try to adopt a collective approach in protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world.
- ❖ Among the prominent countries to join the alliance are Austria, Brazil, the United Kingdom, Israel, Ukraine, the Netherlands and Greece.
- ❖ Poland will host the next ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Warsaw in July 2020.

### **Railway Line between India and Bangladesh project**

- ❖ The 15.6km long railway line between Agartala, India (Tripura) - Akhaura in Bangladesh will be completed by September 2021.
- ❖ These railway routes will improve connectivity between Indian Railways and Bangladesh Railways and will boost trade between the two countries.
- ❖ The project started in January 2010 during the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheik Hasina's visits to India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is bearing the cost for laying the track on the 5.46km Indian side.
- ❖ The cost of laying the 10.6 km-long track on the Bangladesh side is being Funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

### **India & Russia ties on crude oil**

- ❖ Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and the Chairman of Rosneft signed the first ever term contract.
- ❖ Rosneft is the Russia's largest oil producing company.
- ❖ The term contract is between State-Owned Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Rosneft for Importing crude oil.
- ❖ India is the 3rd largest Energy Consumer in the world, India imports globally 83% of oil to meet its oil need.



## **Africa Union Summit**

- ❖ The African Union Summit was held in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia.
- ❖ This summit was about to tackle terrorism in the continent.
- ❖ Theme: Silencing the Guns.
- ❖ This year the chair is being assumed by South Africa.
- ❖ The Summit is important for India as India has recently signed the defence agreement, Lucknow Declaration.
- ❖ India is planning considerable investment in Defence sector in the regions of African Union.

## **African Union**

- ❖ The African Union is a continental union consisting of 55 member states located on the continent of Africa.
- ❖ Headquarters: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- ❖ The creation of African Union was revived under the leadership of Libyan head Muammar Al-Gaddafi.
- ❖ The Union was established through Sirte Declaration.

## **Travel to Midnight Zone**

- ❖ A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean into a “Midnight Zone”.
- ❖ Light barely reaches Midnight zone. But life still thrives.
- ❖ The five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.

## **Ciara Storm**

- ❖ It is a major storm hit northern Europe, disrupting travel and public events in the region.
- ❖ The storm, named ‘Ciara’ in the UK, is expected to hit Ireland, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Germany.
- ❖ In Germany, it is being referred to as ‘Sabine’.
- ❖ The storm has two names because there isn’t yet a pan-European system in place for labeling weather systems.



## International fund for Agricultural Development

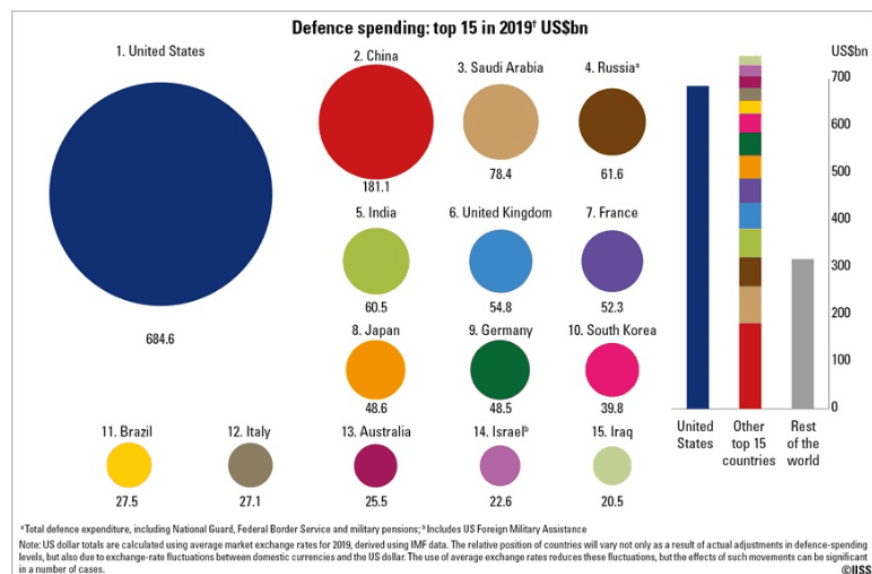
- ❖ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) of the United Nations works to address hunger and poverty in developing countries.
- ❖ The 43rd session of the governing council of IFAD was held at Rome.
- ❖ It was announced at the council meet that with the current progress rate, it is not possible to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2030.
- ❖ The Council met at the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) of United Nations in Rome.
- ❖ In 2015 the world leaders under the SDG aimed to eliminate hunger by 2030.
- ❖ IFAD was established at the World Food Conference in 1974.

## Report on Defense Spending

- ❖ The International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS) has released its report on Defence Spending titled “Military Balance”.
- ❖ The global spending on defence has increased by 4% in 2019.
- ❖ This is the largest growth in the last 10 years.
- ❖ The United States, China, Saudi Arabia, Russia and India retained their positions as the world’s top five defence spenders in 2019.

### About IISS

- ❖ International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) is a British Research Institute that was established in 1997.
- ❖ The IISS was ranked the 10th best institute in the Global Go to Think Tank Index.





### **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)**

- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has organized the second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise as per the International Search & Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) guidelines.
- ❖ INSARAG was established in 1991.
- ❖ It is a network of disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries and organizations dedicated to Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).

### **56<sup>th</sup> edition of Munich Security Conference**

- ❖ The 56<sup>th</sup> edition of the Munich Security Conference (MSC) has recently commenced in Germany's southern city, Munich.
- ❖ MSC is an annual conference on the international security policy that takes place since 1963.
- ❖ The theme of this year's conference is selected to be "Westlessness."
- ❖ Indian External Affairs Minister S.Jaishankar has represented India in the conference.

### **Judgement on Netherland's Digital Identification Scheme**

- ❖ In a first anywhere in the world, a court in the Netherlands has ruled against a digital identification mechanism.
- ❖ This mechanism is known as SyRI (System Risk Indicator).
- ❖ This judgement was given to prevent data privacy and human rights concerns.

#### **About SyRI**

- ❖ The Dutch Ministry of Social Affairs developed SyRI in 2014.
- ❖ Aim of the SyRI was to remove those who commit fraud and receive government benefits.
- ❖ Similar to the Supreme Court's Aadhaar judgment setting limits on the ID's usage, the Hague Court attempted to balance social interest with personal privacy.



### **IFAD's 43<sup>rd</sup> Governing Council**

- ❖ The IFAD's 43rd Governing Council meeting was held in Rome, Italy on the theme "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030".
- ❖ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) stated that the sequences of climate change and its impacts on agriculture will push around 100 million people to poverty by 2030.

### **13<sup>th</sup> Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2020**

- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Asian Business & Social Investor Forum 2019-20 & 4th edition – Asia's Greatest Brands & Leaders 2019-20 held at Thailand with the aim to improve investment in India and Asia.
- ❖ As a part of this event, Asia One Magazine & URS Media organized a Networking Meet called 'India-Thailand: Today, Tomorrow, Together'.

### **Northern European Enclosure Dam**

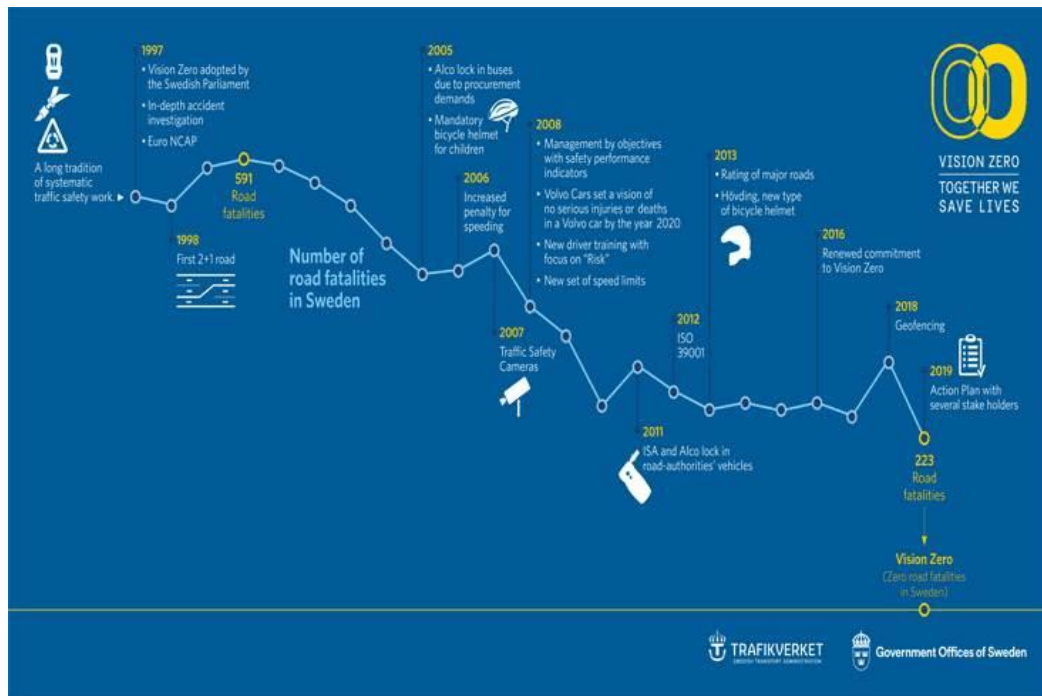
- ❖ A massive Northern European Enclosure Dam (NEED) has been proposed to protect millions of people and important economic regions of 15 Northern European Countries from rising seas as a result of climate change.
- ❖ It consists of two dams of a combined length of 637 km will be constructed.
  - The first dam will be built between northern Scotland and western Norway.
  - The second dam will be built between France and southwestern England.

### **China stands on Pakistan in FATF**

- ❖ China has joined India and United States in putting Pakistan on Grey list of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force).
- ❖ Both China and Saudi Arabia have joined US, India and other European countries side to sending stern messages to Pakistan against its actions of terror funding money laundering.
- ❖ Till now China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey were the three countries that supported Pakistan against FATF move in putting Pakistan under Grey List.
- ❖ But now Turkey and Malaysia are the only supporters.
- ❖ Pakistan was put on the grey list in June 2018.

## Vision Zero approach for Road safety

- ❖ The Vision Zero approach got a lot of attention and appreciation in the two-day Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ❖ Aim of Vision Zero is that no one should be killed or suffer lifelong injury in road traffic.
- ❖ The concept of Vision Zero was decided by the Swedish Parliament in 1997.
- ❖ Sweden halved road deaths by Vision Zero approach.



## Blue Dot Network (BDN)

- ❖ Led by the US along with Japan and Australia BDN was formally announced on November 2019 at Thailand.
- ❖ It is meant to be a multi-stakeholder initiative that aims to bring governments, the private sector and civil society together to promote "high quality, trusted standards for global infrastructure development".
- ❖ The proposal for the BDN is part of the US's Indo-Pacific strategy, which is aimed at countering the Chinese Belt and Road initiative.
- ❖ India may join the US-led BDN in future.

## China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)

- ❖ BRI is an ambitious programme to connect Asia with Africa and Europe via land and maritime networks.



- ❖ The BRI comprises of
  - Silk Road Economic Belt - a trans-continental passage that links China with south east Asia, south Asia, Central Asia, Russia and Europe by land.
  - 21st century Maritime Silk Road - a sea route connecting China's coastal regions with south east and south Asia, the South Pacific, the Middle East and Eastern Africa, all the way to Europe.

## **G20 – 2020**

- ❖ G20 nations meet for the year 2020 is to be held at Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The gathering will discuss the global economy and the risks from the coronavirus epidemic.
- ❖ In addition, they will discuss the priorities of the Saudi G20 Presidency under the theme 'realizing opportunities of the 21st century for all'
- ❖ Saudi Arabia is the first Arab nation to hold the G20 presidency.
- ❖ Last year G20 Summit was held at Osaka, Japan.

## **Artemis programme**

- ❖ With the Artemis program, NASA will land the first woman and next man on the Moon by 2024.
- ❖ NASA plans to use what they learn on and around the Moon to take the next giant leap by sending astronauts to Mars.

## **Sri Lanka withdraws from UNHRC resolution on war crimes**

- ❖ The Government of Srilanka withdraws from United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution.
- ❖ The main aim of the resolution is investigation of war time violence against Tamil Tiger rebels.
- ❖ The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system headquartered at Geneva.
- ❖ It is made up of 47 States responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe.



## ECONOMY

### Economic Survey 2020

- ❖ The Economic Survey of the Fiscal Year 2020 has been tabled in both the houses of Parliament by the Union Minister for Finance Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ❖ The survey highlights economic trends in the country, development over the past 12 months and facilitates better mobilization of resources.
- ❖ The theme for the Economic Survey 2020 is “Wealth Creation, Promotion of pro-business policies, strengthening of trust in the economy”.
- ❖ The document is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) under the guidance of the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA), currently Dr Krishnamurthy Subramanian.



### Highlights

- ❖ The Current Fiscal Growth is 5%.
- ❖ The projected GDP growth for the year 2020-21 is 6% to 6.5%.
- ❖ The industrial growth for the Fiscal Year 2020 (2019-20) has been 2.5%
- ❖ The Forex Reserves of the Fiscal Year 2019 (2018-19) was 461.2 billion USD.
- ❖ The GST collection for the FY20 has grown by 4.1%.

- ❖ The Survey stated that as per World Bank's Data on Entrepreneurship, it is seen that India ranks third in number of new firms created.
- ❖ New firm creation in services is significantly higher than that in manufacturing, infrastructure or agriculture.
- ❖ The Survey notes that the entrepreneurial activity in the Manufacturing sector is highest in the regions of Gujarat, Meghalaya, Puducherry, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Survey says that in order to achieve 5 trillion USD by 2024-25, India has to spend 1.4 trillion USD on Infrastructure.
- ❖ The Out of Pocket Expenditure on Health has declined from 64.2% in 2013-14 to 58.7% in 2016-17.
- ❖ The Service sector accounts to 55% of the Indian Economy according to the Survey.
- ❖ The Inflation declined from 3.2% in April 2019 to 2.6% in December 2019. This reflects weakening of demand in the economy.
- ❖ Women employment between 2011-12 and 2017-18 has increased by 8%.

## ECONOMIC SURVEY Highlights

### 2019-20

- GDP growth pegged at 6-6.5% in FY 2020-21 as against 5.0% estimated for 2019-20
- Survey suggests relaxing Fiscal Deficit target to revive growth in economy
- To achieve GDP of USD 5 trillion by 2025, India needs to spend about USD 1.4 trillion on infrastructure
- Uptick in GDP growth expected in second half of 2019-20
- Theme of Survey is to enable markets, promote pro-business policies and strengthening trust in the economy
- Ethical wealth creation key to India becoming USD 5 trillion economy by 2025
- Gross GST monthly collections crossed the ₹ 1 lakh crore mark five times till Dec 2019
- India ranks third in number of new firms created; 1.24 lakh firms created in 2018 compared to 70,000 in 2014
- India's large economy needs an efficient banking sector to support growth; state of the banking system needs urgent attention
- Survey suggests rationalisation of government intervention in boosting economic freedom and wealth creation
- Access to health services through Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush across the country has improved
- 'Thalinomics': Affordability of vegetarian Thali improved 29% and that of non-vegetarian Thali by 18% from 2006-07 to 2019-20



### ❖ Livestock

- According to the survey, Livestock has become a major secondary source of income for rural families.
- The growth of Livestock has been 7.9% in the last five years.

### ❖ Green India

- The Survey also says that the forest and tree cover has reached 80.73 million hectares.
- This is 24.56% of total geographical area of the country.

### ❖ Ayushman Bharat

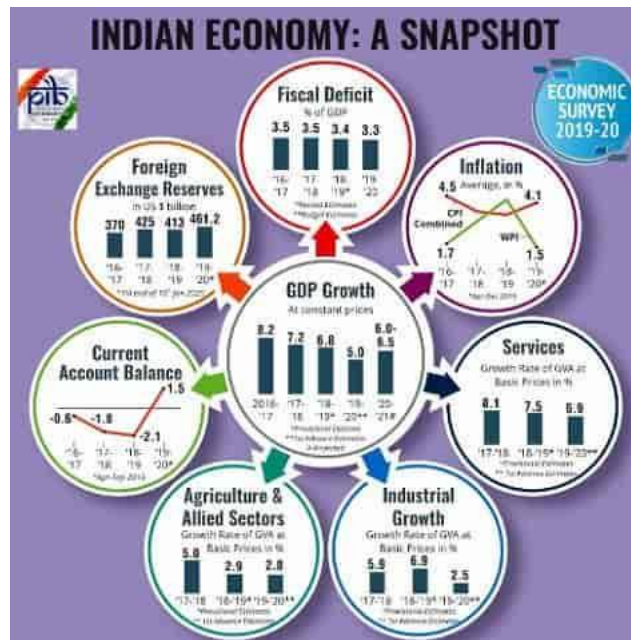
- The scheme proposed to set up one and a half lakhs Health and Wellness Centres (HWC) by 2022.
- So far 28,005 HWCs have been set up as on 14th January, 2020.

### ❖ Job Creation

- The job creation of salaried employees or regular wage employees increased by 5% in 2017-18 as compared to 2011-12.
- Around 2.62 crore new jobs were created.

### ❖ Green Bond Market

- India has become the second largest emerging Green Bond Market after China.
- India in 2019 joined the International Platform of Sustainable Finance to increase the environmentally sustainable investments.





## **Union Budget 2020-21**

- ❖ The Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitaraman has presented the Budget 2020-21.
- ❖ The Budget is based on three prominent themes:
  - Aspirational India.
  - Economic Development for all.
  - Caring Society - both humane and compassionate.

### **Budget**

- ❖ Union Budget of India is the country's comprehensive Annual Financial Statement.
- ❖ The Union Budget consists of a detailed account of the government's finances, its revenues and expenditures.
- ❖ As mentioned in Article 112 of the Indian Constitution,
  - the Union Government lays a statement of its estimated receipts and expenditure for that year, From April 1 to March 31, before both the Houses of Parliament.

### **Highlights**

- ❖ India is now the fifth largest economy of the world in terms of GDP.
- ❖ Nominal growth of GDP - 10% (2020-21).
- ❖ Fiscal deficit - 3.8% of GDP (2019-20), 3.5% of GDP (2020-21).
- ❖ Revenue deficit- 2.7% of GDP (2020-21).
- ❖ 15th Finance Commission has cut state share of central taxes to the states by one percentage point to 41%.
- ❖ New tax slabs and lower income tax rates.
- ❖ 5% health cess to be imposed on imports of medical equipment.
- ❖ A budget allocation of ₹2.83 lakh crore for 16 action points on Agriculture.
- ❖ Bank deposit insurance cover has been increased from ₹1 lakh to ₹5 lakh per depositor.



<b>WHO GETS WHAT IN BUDGET 2020-21</b>			
<b>TOTAL OUTLAY (IN ₹CRORE)</b>			
Agriculture & allied activities	2.83 lakh	Development of Industry & Commerce	27,300
Transport Infra	1.7 lakh	Power & Renewable energy	22,000
Defence pension	1.33 lakh	Swachh Bharat Mission	12,300
Education	99,300	Sr. citizens & Divyang	9,500
Welfare of SCs & OBCs	85,000	Bharat Net Program	6,000
Healthcare	69,000	Development of Ladakh	5,958
Welfare of STs	53,700	Clean Air	4,400
Nutrition programme	35,600	Ministry of Culture	3,150
Development of J&K	30,757	Tourism & Development	2,500
Women-specific programmes	28,600	Hosting G-20 Summit	100

### 6<sup>th</sup> Bi-monthly monetary policy of RBI

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced its 6<sup>th</sup> Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Rates for 2020-21 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ This policy review meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

Policy Rates under Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF)	Value
<b>Repo Rate</b>	5.15%
<b>Reverse Repo Rate</b>	4.90%
<b>Marginal standing facility (MSF) Rate</b>	5.40%
<b>Bank Rate</b>	5.40%
<b>Reserve Ratios</b>	
<b>Cash reserve Ratio (CRR)</b>	4%
<b>Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)</b>	18.25%
<b>GDP Prediction for 2020-21</b>	6 % (from 5 % in FY20)
<b>CPI Inflation- H1:2020-21</b>	5.4-5.0 %





### **Top 500 Banking Brands 2020**

- ❖ As per the Banker's 'Top 500 Banking Brands 2020' report, India's IndusInd Bank has topped the list of 'Highest increase in brand value' among global banks.
- ❖ As a part of the report, the list "Top 50 By Total Brand Value by Country" has been topped by China, followed by United States, Canada, UK and Japan.
- ❖ India ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in this list in comparison to 10<sup>th</sup> place in 2019.

### **Top attractive investment destination states - RBI**

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India has released the data on the top attractive investment destination states.
- ❖ In 2018-19, Andhra Pradesh accounted for the highest share in total cost of projects sanctioned by banks and financial institutions.
- ❖ It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ However, for the five-year period between 2014-15 to 2018-19, Maharashtra has topped the list followed by Gujarat.
- ❖ The deciding factors for a project getting sanctioned in a particular state are:
  - location of a project
  - accessibility of raw materials
  - availability of skilled labour
  - adequate infrastructure
  - market size and
  - growth prospects

### **India removed from developing countries list**

- ❖ The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) has taken off India from the list of developing countries.
- ❖ Countries are eligible to claim benefits for preferential treatment with respect to Countervailing duties (CVDs) investigations in this list.
- ❖ USTR has now eliminated preferential treatment for India along with some other countries.
- ❖ This would make it easier for the US to impose countervailing duties (CVDs) on goods from India.



### **Reason for India's removal**

- ❖ According to USTR, India's share in global trade was 2.1 % for exports and 2.6% for imports in 2017.
- ❖ India was also a G20 member which accounts for large shares of global economic output and trade.
- ❖ Further, being a part of G20 India can be classified as a developed country despite having a per capita GNI below \$12,375.

### **National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-24**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently unveiled a National Strategy for Financial Inclusion 2019-24.
- ❖ Vision of this initiative is 'A financially aware and empowered India'.
- ❖ It aims at providing formal and affordable financial services and to promote financial literacy among customers.
- ❖ RBI under the aegis of Financial Inclusion Advisory Committee (FIAC) have released the strategy.
- ❖ Some of its recommendations include:
  - Setting up Financial service providers in 5 km range,
  - Public Credit Registry is fully operational by 2022, etc.

### **Temperature controlled Terminal**

- ❖ The Mumbai airport has recently launched the world largest temperature-controlled facility to store agro and pharma products.
- ❖ The "Export Cold Zone" launched is capable of holding more than 700 tonnes of cargo.
- ❖ Mumbai Airport is one of the few airports in the world, first in the country and third in Asia to obtain IATA CEIV PHARMA accreditation.
- ❖ It is an accreditation provided by International Air Transport Association.
- ❖ The Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators in Pharmaceuticals Logistics (CEIV Pharma) was launched by IATA in order to enhance the supply chain of pharma products all over the world.



### **PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Scheme**

- ❖ It completes one year on February 24, 2020.
- ❖ PM Kisan Mobile app was launched by the Minister of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.
- ❖ The Scheme initially provided income support of 6000 rupees to small and marginal farmers that hold land up to 2 hectares.
- ❖ Later, it was extended to all farmers irrespective of the size of their land holdings.
- ❖ It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

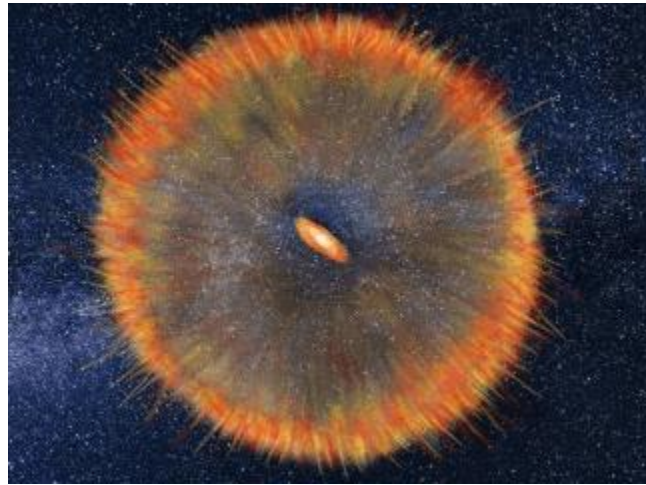
### **Hunar Haat**

- ❖ It was held recently in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organised by ministry of minority affairs under “USTTAD” scheme.
- ❖ It is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the minority communities.
- ❖ USTTAD is known as Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development scheme.
- ❖ It aims to preserve heritage of traditional arts and crafts of minority communities and build capacity of traditional crafts persons and artisans and establish linkages of traditional skills with the global market.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

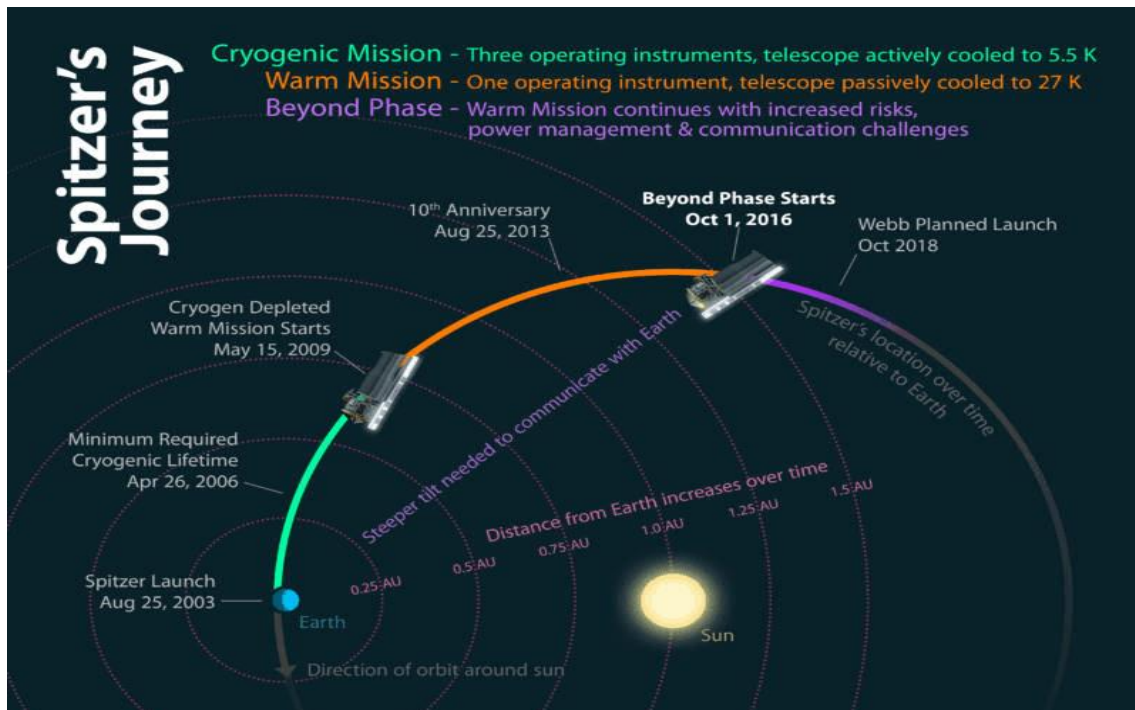
### **Accretion Burst Event**

- ❖ Astronomers have recently found that accretion burst happens at different rates over time in our galaxy.
- ❖ Accretion is the formation of planets and other bodies by the collection of material through gravity.
- ❖ Sometimes the forming star swallows up a huge amount of matter, resulting in a burst of activities in the massive star. This is called an accretion burst event.
- ❖ The first observation of accretion burst event was in 2016.
- ❖ Maser Monitoring Organisation, established in 2017, observes this event using radio telescopes.



## Spitzer Telescope

- ❖ Spitzer space telescope of NASA retired on January 30, 2020.
- ❖ NASA's Spitzer Mission studied the universe in infrared light for more than 16 years.
- ❖ Spitzer Space Telescope was launched in 2003.
- ❖ It is the last mission of the NASA Great Observatories program, which saw four specialized telescopes (including the Hubble Space Telescope) launched between 1990 and 2003.





- ❖ Using different infrared wavelengths, Spitzer was able to see and reveal features of the universe.
- ❖ Spitzer focuses on the infrared band, which normally represents heat radiation from objects.
- ❖ NASA's James Webb Space Telescope, set to launch in 2021, will study the universe in many of the same wave-lengths observed by the Spitzer.

### **Mission to take first pics of Sun's poles**

- ❖ NASA and European Space Agency will jointly launch a new spacecraft to take first pictures of Sun's north and south poles.
- ❖ It is named as - The Solar Orbiter Spacecraft.
- ❖ Spacecraft will use the gravity of Venus and Earth, rotate itself out of the ecliptic plane to take the snap of the Sun's poles.

### **IAF'S aircraft on indigenous bio-jet fuel**

- ❖ Indian Air Force's (IAF) successfully operated AN-32 aircraft powered with 10% blend of Indian bio-jet fuel.
- ❖ This is the 1st time both engines of the aircraft were powered by bio-jet indigenous fuel where the aircraft took-off from Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh.
- ❖ The technology to produce this fuel was developed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research- Indian Institute of Petroleum (CSIR-IIP) in Dehradun, Uttarakhand in 2013.
- ❖ The project was sponsored by IAF in 2018 for the fuel testing.
- ❖ Bio-jet fuel is produced from non-edible 'Tree Borne Oils'.
- ❖ They are grown and procured from the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh.

### **Vaccine against Corona virus**

- ❖ Research team in Australia has grown the first batch of the virus at a laboratory in CSIRO to create a vaccine against the deadly novel coronavirus (nCoV).
- ❖ Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is Australia's leading scientific agency.
- ❖ That research team led by an Indian-origin scientist in Australia SS Vasan.



### **Sharang - Artillery gun**

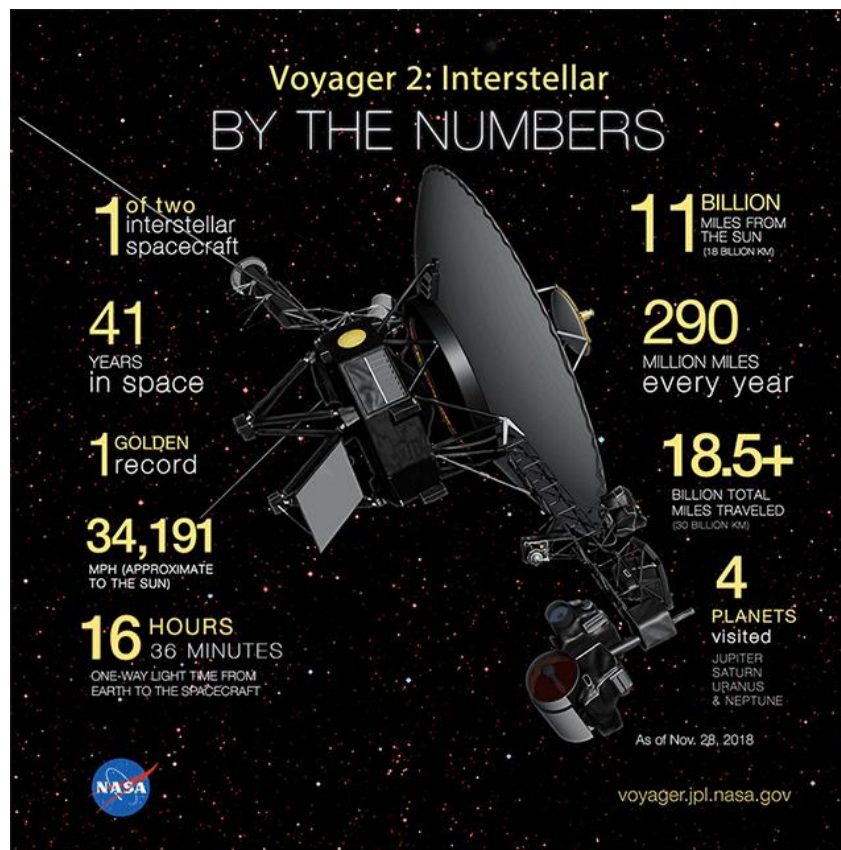
- ❖ The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has handed over Sharang, an artillery gun to the Indian Army.
- ❖ OFB is the oldest and largest industrial setup which functions under the Department of Defence Production of the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ The artillery guns are currently produced at the Kanpur ordnance factory.
- ❖ Sharang is an indigenously upgraded 155 mm calibre artillery gun.
- ❖ The hitting range of the gun system has also been increased from 12km to 39 km.



### **Voyager 2 spacecraft**

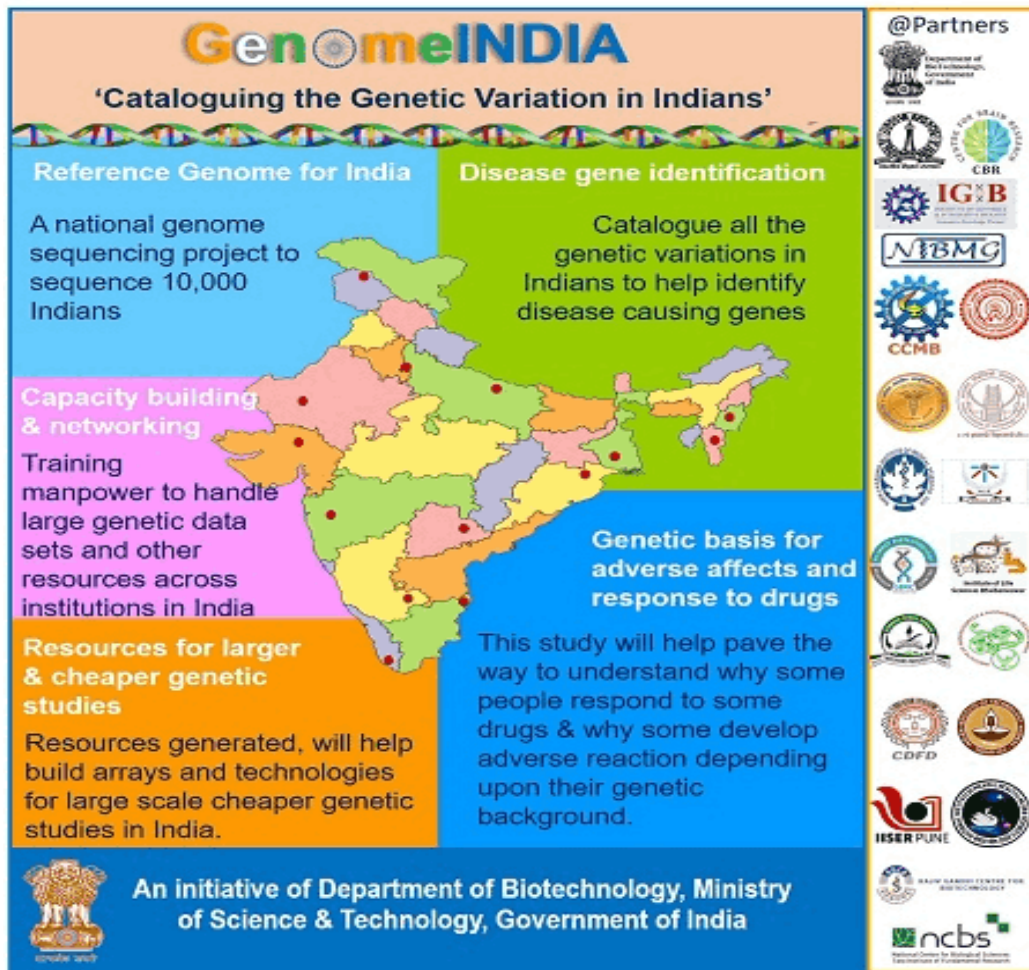
- ❖ NASA has managed to fix its Voyager-2 probe remotely, almost 11.5 billion miles away from its location.
- ❖ Voyager 2 was launched by NASA in 1977.
- ❖ Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to study all four of the solar system's giant planets (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.) at close range.
- ❖ Voyager 2 discovered a 14<sup>th</sup> moon at Jupiter.
- ❖ Voyager 2 was the first human-made object to fly past Uranus.
- ❖ At Uranus, Voyager 2 discovered 10 new moons and two new rings.
- ❖ It was the first human-made object to fly by Neptune.

- ❖ Second spacecraft to enter interstellar space (November 2019). The first spacecraft to do so was Voyager 1 in 2012.



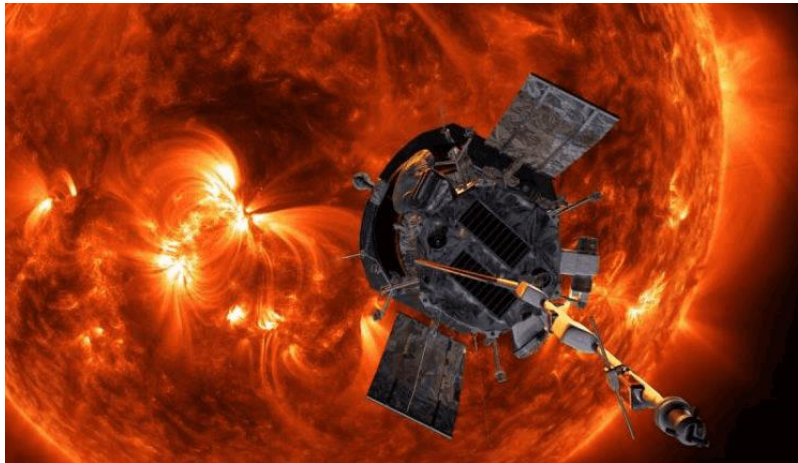
## Genome India Project

- ❖ The Government of India has cleared an ambitious gene-mapping project called the Genome India Project.
- ❖ Genome refers to an organism's complete set of DNA which includes all its genes.
- ❖ Mapping these genes simply means finding out the location of these genes in a chromosome.
- ❖ It is used to find out genes that are responsible for single-gene inherited disorders such as cystic fibrosis and Duchenne muscular dystrophy.
- ❖ Genome India Project will involve 20 leading institutions including the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru and a few IITs.
- ❖ The IISc's Centre for Brain Research, an autonomous institute will serve as the nodal point of the project.



## NASA's probes to the sun's pole

- ❖ NASA of the United States and the ESA (European Space Agency) sent space probes to the sun to map its poles.
- ❖ The solar orbiter was launched on February 9, 2020.
- ❖ The probe will use gravitational influence of the Earth and Venus to position itself at 26 million miles from the sun.
- ❖ The probe will map the poles for the first time.
- ❖ This will help scientists to observe the solar winds.
- ❖ The solar winds are released from the upper atmosphere of the sun.



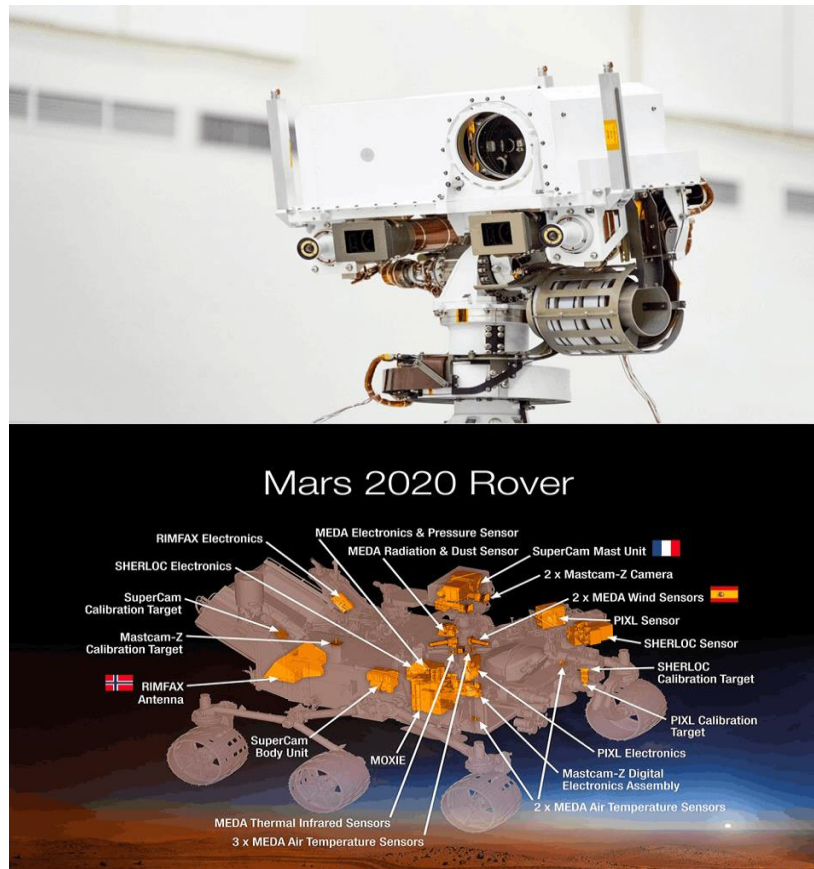
### **Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre**

- ❖ 4 Indian pilots chosen as candidate-astronauts for Gaganyaan mission began their training at the Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC).
- ❖ The Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC) is a training facility responsible for training cosmonauts for their space missions.
- ❖ It is located in Moscow, Russia.
- ❖ Gaganyaan is India's first Human Space Flight Programme to be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) by 2022.

### **NASA's SuperCam robot**

- ❖ NASA is going to send a new laser-toting robot named 'SuperCam' to Mars for studying mineralogy and chemistry.
- ❖ It aims to help scientists in finding the signs of fossilized microbial life on the Red Planet.
- ❖ SuperCam is a rock-vaporizing instrument which is part of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.





## **NASA's new missions on solar system**

❖ NASA Selects Four Possible Missions to Study the Secrets of the Solar System. They are,

1. DAVINCI+ (Deep Atmosphere Venus Investigation of Noble gases, Chemistry, and Imaging Plus).
  - DAVINCI+ will analyse Venus' atmosphere.
2. Io Volcano Observer (IVO).
  - IVO would explore Jupiter's moon.
3. TRIDENT.
  - Trident would explore Triton, a unique and highly active icy moon of Neptune.
4. VERITAS (Venus Emissivity, Radio Science, InSAR, Topography, and Spectroscopy).
  - VERITAS would map Venus' surface to determine the planet's geologic history.

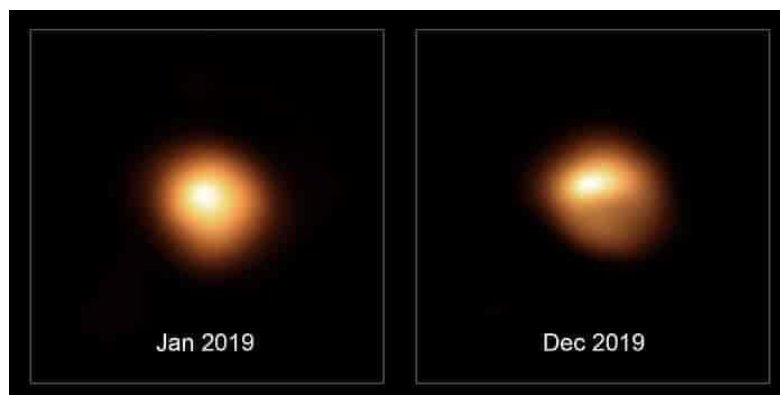


### India's 11<sup>th</sup> Antarctic Expedition

- ❖ The South African oceanographic research vessel SA Agulhas has started its journey to Antarctic Ocean from Port Louis (Mauritius).
- ❖ This is the 11<sup>th</sup> expedition of an Indian mission to the Southern Ocean, or Antarctic Ocean.
- ❖ The first mission took place between January and March 2004.
- ❖ The data's given by this expedition crew will be analysed through National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCOPR) in Goa.
  - NCOPR works under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ Currently, the research vessel was located at Prydz Bay, in the coastal waters of "Bharati".
  - Bharati is India's third station in Antarctica.
  - Other two station are Dakshin Gangotri and Maitri.

### Dimming of Betelgeuse star

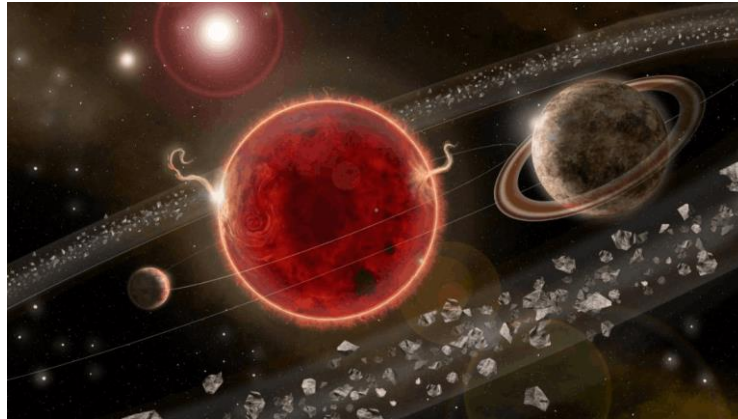
- ❖ The red supergiant star Betelgeuse appears to have finally stopped its unprecedented dimming.
- ❖ Betelgeuse, located some 722 light years away in the constellation of Orion.
- ❖ It has likely been a red supergiant for as long as 100,000 years.



### Nearest known exoplanet in solar system

- ❖ Scientists at the Rochester Institute of Technology recently discovered an exo-planet, which is closer to Earth than any other planet.
- ❖ The newly discovered planet is named as "2MASS 1155-7919 b".
- ❖ It lies about 330 light-years from our solar system.

- ❖ The planet is closer to Earth and is located in the Epsilon Chamaeleontis Association.



### **Ra'ad-II missile**

- ❖ Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the air launched nuclear-capable cruise missile Ra'ad-II.
- ❖ It has a range of 600 km.

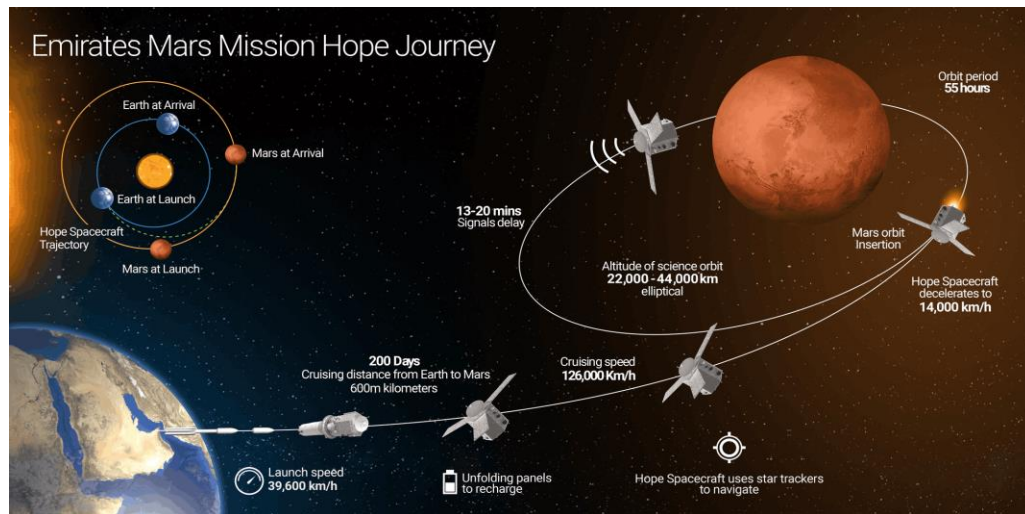


**PAKISTAN CONDUCTS  
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST  
OF RA'AD-II CRUISE MISSILE**

- ❖ The system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision.

### **Hope spacecraft**

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has used a novel approach to build the Hope spacecraft which will be launched in July, 2020.
- ❖ HOPE Spacecraft is also known as the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM).
- ❖ It will be Arab world's first spacecraft to Mars.
- ❖ The mission will become the first space exploration programme to take a picture of the Mars atmosphere.



### Added-Fat Consumption

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research conducted study on the food habits of the citizens of the country.
- ❖ The study said that vegetarians consume more fat than that of non-vegetarians.
- ❖ Also, among the metropolitan cities of India, Delhi and Ahmedabad topped the list in average consumption of added fat.
- ❖ The highest intake of added fat was in the age group of 36 to 59 years and the least intake was in children under the age of five.
- ❖ India is a signatory of the resolution “Transforming our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.
- ❖ Achieving Inclusive Growth is one of the main targets of Sustainable Development Goals.

### New technology for Liver transplantation

- ❖ Liver transplantation is the accepted treatment for end-stage-liver failure and is the last option for the patient.
- ❖ Andrea Schlegel, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, U.K, who has been involved in the development of Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE), interacted with liver and kidney transplant surgeons at MIOT International.
- ❖ Hypothermic Oxygenated Perfusion (HOPE) can make marginal or high-risk donor livers transplantable.
- ❖ The perfusion machine helps liver to recover from any damage it may have sustained when being removed from the donor.

## ENVIRONMENT

### New meat-eating Dinosaur species

- ❖ Paleontologists discovered a new meat-eating dinosaur species at Natural History Museum of Utah, United States.
- ❖ It was lived in the flood plains of western North America during the Late Jurassic period, between 157-152 million years ago.
- ❖ The new species named as *Allosaurus jimmandseni* evolved at least 5 million years ago.

### Indian gaur spotted in Konkan sanctuary

- ❖ Wildlife researchers recently documented the presence of an Indian gaur in the Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary (PWS), Maharashtra for the first time.
- ❖ Gaurs are the world's largest and tallest wild bovines.
- ❖ They are listed as Schedule I species under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ They have got IUCN Status as Vulnerable.



### Yellow Rust

- ❖ Yellow Rust was detected in wheat crops in parts of Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ Yellow rust or stripe rust is a fungal disease which attacks the leaves of wheat crop by forming yellow stripes.
- ❖ It affects their photosynthesis that causes shrivelling of grain size.
- ❖ Rain, dew and fog favour the disease's development.

- ❖ Last year, a new variety of wheat called HD-3226 or Pusa Yashasvi was released by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.
- ❖ It had higher levels of resistance against major rust fungi such as the yellow/stripe, brown/leaf and black/stem.



### **Corona virus is not pandemic**

- ❖ The World Health Organization announced that the Corona virus disease has not yet become pandemic.
- ❖ The disease has so far killed 560 people and has infected more than 20,000.
- ❖ Currently, the WHO list of pandemics includes HIV, 2009 flu, Spanish flu and H1N1.

### **New mascot for National Games**

- ❖ The flame-throated bulbul has been chosen as the mascot of the 36th National Games.
- ❖ Goa is set to play host to the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Games.



- ❖ The flame-throated bulbul (*Pycnonotus singularis*) is a member of the bulbul family of passerine birds.



- ❖ They are also called the Rubigula and they are the State bird of Goa.
- ❖ They are found only in the forests of the Western Ghats in southern India.
- ❖ IUCN Status for this bird is Least Concern.
- ❖ They are listed as Schedule IV under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

### **World's oldest Bamboo Fossil**

- ❖ A fossil of a leafy branch discovered from the early Eocene in Patagonia in 1941 is still considered to be the oldest bamboo of the world.
- ❖ Additionally, a recent examination by Dr Peter Wilf from Pennsylvania State University revealed the real nature of the plant (*Chusquea oxyphylla*).
- ❖ The corrected identification is significant because the fossil in question was the only bamboo macrofossil still considered from the ancient southern supercontinent of Gondwana.
- ❖ The oldest microfossil evidence for bamboo in the Northern Hemisphere belongs to the Middle Eocene.
- ❖ While other South American fossils are not older than Pliocene.



### **New natural gas field**

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has discovered huge shallow gas resources called 'Jebel Ali gas field'.
- ❖ It is estimated that reserves of 80 trillion standard cubic feet spanning an area of 5,000 square kilometres (sqkm) in the cross-border area of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- ❖ This discovery will enhance UAE's aim of achieving gas self-sufficiency & also help promote major development projects.

## **Pangolin - the host of Corona Virus**

- ❖ Pangolin was identified as the host of the Corona virus by the researchers of China.
- ❖ According to them, the outbreak that killed around 636 people in China has started from a market in Wuhan city through Pangolin.
- ❖ The Genome sequence of the corona virus separated from Pangolin was 99% identical to those of the virus stains obtained from infected persons.

### Pangolin

- ❖ Pangolin is used in medicines in China.
- ❖ It is the only scaly mammal on the planet.
- ❖ The most trafficked mammal of Asia.
- ❖ The investigations suspect that the virus has entered China through Pangolin trade.
- ❖ Chinese pangolin has been listed as “critically endangered” by International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List.
- ❖ Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) has been listed as “endangered” in IUCN Red List.

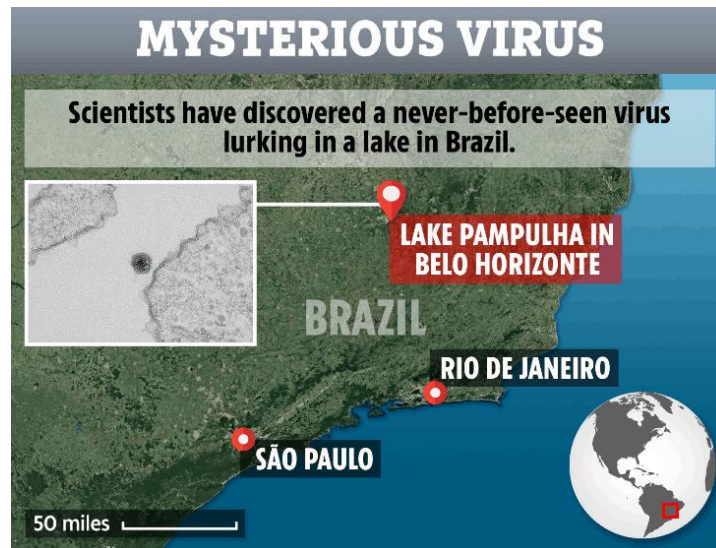
## **Mount Merapi erupts**

- ❖ Mount Merapi has erupted again sending ash and smoke more than three miles into the sky.
- ❖ Mount Merapi is an active stratovolcano located on the border between Central Java and Yogyakarta provinces, Indonesia.
- ❖ It is the most active volcano in Indonesia and has erupted regularly since 1548.



## Yara Virus

- ❖ Researchers have discovered an unusually small virus in a lake in Brazil.
- ❖ The virus has been named Yara virus after 'Yara', a water-queen figure in Brazilian mythology.
- ❖ The Yara virus infects amoeba.
- ❖ It has genes that have not been described before.
- ❖ The Yara virus does not infect human cells.

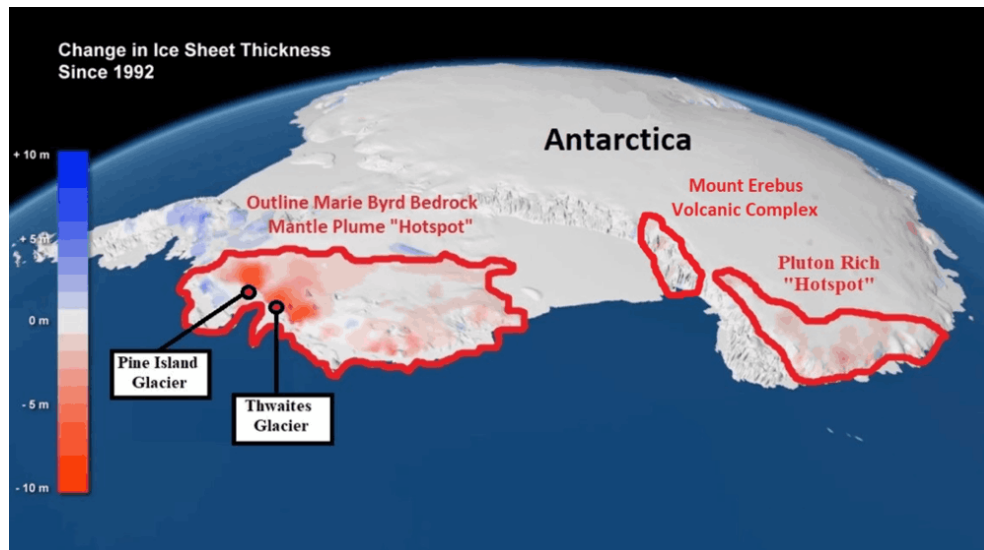


## Melting of Thwaites Glacier

- ❖ A new study has detected the presence of warm water at a vital point beneath the Thwaites glacier as the cause of its melting.
- ❖ The study has observed that the temperature of the water at the grounding zone of the glacier is two degrees higher than the freezing point of the water.

### Thwaites Glacier

- ❖ Thwaites Glacier is 120 km wide, fast-moving glacier located in Antarctica.
- ❖ Its melting already contributes 4% to global sea-level rise each year.
- ❖ Thwaites is often called the Doomsday Glacier.



### Antarctica recorded the hottest temperature

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization announced that for the first time in record Antarctica has recorded its hottest temperature ever, 20.75 Degree Celsius.
- ❖ So far, the highest was 18.3 Degrees Celsius that was recorded in January 1982.
- ❖ The higher temperatures were influenced by shifts in El Nino and Ocean Currents.
- ❖ Antarctic region stores more than 70% of world's fresh water.
- ❖ If it melts, the sea level will increase by 50 to 60 metres.

### New Species of Urban Lizard

- ❖ A new species of lizard, the urban bent-toed gecko (*Cyrtodactylus urbanus*) was discovered in Guwahati, Assam.





- ❖ The bent-toed gecko was earlier thought to be the same as the Meghalaya's Khasi Hills lizard.
- ❖ Geckos are mostly small, usually nocturnal reptiles with soft skin.

### **Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)**

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) was hosted by India at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.
- ❖ India hosted this CoP for the first time.
- ❖ Theme: Migratory species Connect the Planet and we welcome them
- ❖ The mascot designated for the CMS COP-13 is Indian Bustard.

#### **GiBi**

- ❖ The mascot for the event, Great Indian Bustard has been fondly named as 'Gibi'.
- ❖ The Conservation status of Indian Bustard is Critically Endangered in IUCN red list.
- ❖ It has been accorded the highest protection status (listed in Schedule I) under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

#### **Animal Culture**

- ❖ Proposals were presented to conserve Sperm Whales and Chimpanzees based on their culture.
- ❖ This is the first time such proposal is being made in the world.

#### **Bio Diversity**

- ❖ The 13<sup>th</sup> conference of Migratory Species is the first meet on bio diversity.
- ❖ The Conference will consider the need for implementation of guidance tools that will mitigate the impacts of infrastructure on migratory species.
- ❖ So far, the infrastructural threats to large mammals was governed by the Central Asian Mammals Initiative.
- ❖ The CMS Guidelines currently deals only with the underwater noises.
- ❖ It does not include threats related to infrastructural development.
- ❖ This CoP is to discuss the effects of insects decline on migratory species for the first time.
- ❖ The EUROBATS agreement, proposed by the European Union, is one such agreement that focuses on insect decline.





### **Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030)**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has introduced a draft Visionary Perspective Plan (2020-2030) to conserve ecosystems, habitats, avian diversity and landscapes in the country.
- ❖ According to the draft, there are 1,317 bird species in India.
- ❖ Out of these 72 are endemic, 100 are threatened, 17 are critically endangered, 63 are vulnerable and 20 are endangered.
- ❖ Around 270 species of avifauna fall under “rare” category.

### **Infrastructure of Migratory Mammals**

- ❖ The Agenda of the convention included proposals on infrastructure of migratory mammals.
- ❖ The migratory mammals to be focused in the summit includes Gobi bear, Persian Leopard and Urial.
- ❖ The summit will also provide Biodiversity conservation to Ganges river Dolphins, great Indian Bustard and Asian Elephants.
- ❖ The Gobi Bear is a sub species of Brown Bear. It is found in Gobi-desert of Mongolia.
- ❖ The Persian Leopards are found in Iran, Afghanistan and central Asia.
- ❖ Urials are wild sheep which are found in western and Central Asia, that is, in Kazakhstan, Pakistan and India.
- ❖ The year 2020 has been nick named as “Super Year” by global advocacy groups including the United Nations.
- ❖ This has been done to highlight 21 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and their targets.
- ❖ India marks the “Super Year of Biodiversity” with the Conservation of Migratory Species Conference of Parties 13.
- ❖ India and Norway declared the 2020-30 decade as the “Decade of rapid action on Climate Change and Environment”.

### **“Endangered Migratory Species”**

- ❖ Asian Elephant, Indian Bustard and Bengal Florican were declared as “Endangered Migratory Species” at the CMS COP 13.
- ❖ India declared Indian Elephant as “National Heritage Animal”.
- ❖ This provides highest degree of legal protection to the animal under Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



### Upcoming Summits

- ❖ The year 2020 includes UN summit in September 2020 and will end with UN Biodiversity Conference in the end of 2020.
- ❖ In Super Year, the SDGs of Climate, Ocean, Gender, life below water and land are to be implemented.
- ❖ The Beijing Programme of Action marks 25th anniversary in 2020.
- ❖ It was framed in 1995 at the fourth United Nation World Conference on Women.
- ❖ The COP 26 of United Nations Climate Conference is to be held in Glasgow in 2020 to address the gaps that were undermined at COP 25.
- ❖ The first Global Transport on Sustainable Transport is to be held in May 2020.
- ❖ The Strategic Plan for Bio Diversity 2011-20 comes to an end in 2020.
- ❖ It was adopted in 2010 at the convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) is to hold World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France in June 2020.
- ❖ It is being organized once on 4 years.
- ❖ The Second UN Ocean Conference is to be held in 2020.
- ❖ The first was held in 2017 in New York.
- ❖ The 2020 will also close bio-diversity related agendas.
- ❖ It includes the Decade for Deserts which marked the fight against desertification.
- ❖ This was marked by the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

### CMS and India

- ❖ It is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ It is also known as the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) or the Bonn Convention.
- ❖ Signed in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, the Convention entered into force in 1983.
- ❖ Its headquarters are in Bonn, Germany.
- ❖ India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983.
- ❖ India has also signed non-legally binding MOU with CMS on the conservation and management of Siberian Cranes (1998), Marine Turtles (2007), Dugongs (2008) and Raptors (2016).
- ❖ The Indian sub-continent is a part of the major bird flyway network, i.e, the Central Asian Flyway (CAF).
- ❖ India is a temporary home to several migratory animals and birds.

- ❖ The important among these include Amur Falcons, Bar headed Geese, Black necked cranes, Marine turtles, Dugongs, Humpback Whales, etc.

### **Craspedotropis gretathunbergae**

- ❖ It is a new species of land snail discovered recently at Brunei.
- ❖ It is named in honour of Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.
- ❖ The new species comes from tropical rainforests and is sensitive to drought and extreme temperatures.



### **Pakke tiger reserve**

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh State government is planning to build a highway through the Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) in East Kameng district.
- ❖ Pakke Tiger Reserve is also known as Pakhui Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ This Tiger Reserve has won India Biodiversity Award 2016 in the category of 'Conservation of threatened species' for its Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme.

### **Cheetah Reintroduction Project**

- ❖ On January 28, 2020, the Supreme Court of India cleared way for the reintroduction of Cheetah Project.
- ❖ It is expected that the National Tiger Conservation Authority will reintroduce it in Kuno-Palpur Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Cheetah is the only flagship species to become extinct in India.
- ❖ The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Red List has categorized Cheetah as Vulnerable.

- ❖ Cheetah has become extinct in India mainly because of hunting.
- ❖ The last Cheetah was shot in Chhattisgarh in 1947.

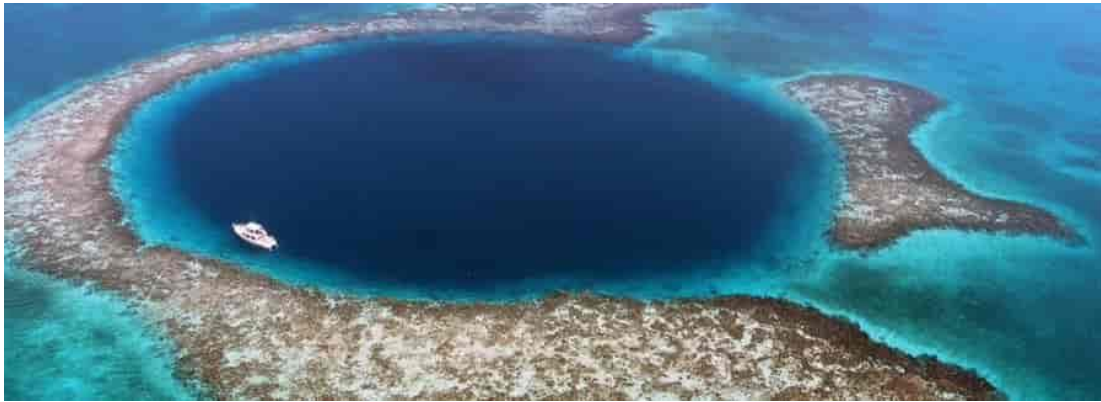
### **New Cave Fish**

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new cave fish in Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is similar in anatomy to an endangered masher species.
- ❖ It is "by far the largest known subterranean fish in the world.
- ❖ All previous discoveries of cave fish from India have been of small fish, and this is the largest of the cave fish discovered in the country, and probably from anywhere in the world.
- ❖ Widely consumed in India, mahseer live mostly in "fast-flowing streams and rivers and also large reservoirs.
- ❖ The new species is similar to the golden mahseer, its unusual underground home in Meghalaya's Jaintia Hills.



### **Yongle Blue Hole (YBH)**

- ❖ Low levels of dissolved organic carbon and high levels of dissolved inorganic carbon aging as old as 8000 years have been found in YBH.
- ❖ The YBH is World's deepest blue hole (300 Metres depth) which was recently discovered in the South China Sea.
- ❖ Previously it was the Dean's Blue Hole in Bahamas, which had a depth of 202 metres.



## World Air Quality Report 2019

- ❖ World Air Quality Report is compiled by IQAir AirVisual.
- ❖ 21 of the world's 30 cities with the worst air pollution are in India.
- ❖ Bangladesh emerged as the most polluted country for PM 2.5 and India becomes the 5<sup>th</sup> Most Polluted Country in The World says report.
- ❖ The report also points India's launch of the country's first National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).
- ❖ NCAP aims to reduce PM 2.5 and the bigger particulate PM 10 air pollution in 102 cities by 20-30% by 2024 compared to 2017 levels.

MOST POLLUTED COUNTRIES	
Rank	Country
1	Bangladesh
2	Pakistan
3	Mongolia
4	Afghanistan
5	India

MOST POLLUTED CITIES IN 2019		
Rank	City	PM2.5 (micrograms/cu. m)
1	Ghaziabad (India)	110.2
2	Hotan (China)	110.1
3	Gujranwala (Pak)	105.3
4	Faisalabad (Pak)	104.6
5	Delhi (India)	98.6
6	Noida (India)	97.7
7	Gurgaon (India)	93.1
8	Raiwind (Pak)	92.2
9	Greater Noida (India)	91.3
10	Bandhwari (India)	90.5



## STATES

### Karnataka anti-superstition law

- ❖ Karnataka Government has formally notified the Karnataka Prevention and Eradication of Inhuman Evil Practices and Black Magic Act, 2017.
- ❖ This bill is popularly known as the anti-superstition Bill.
- ❖ Made Snana, the practise of having Dalits roll over left over food, has now been modified to be voluntary and not involving leftover food.
- ❖ The Bill has been drafted on the lines of the Maharashtra Prevention and Eradication of Human Sacrifices and Black Magic Act, 2013.

### World's largest meditation centre

- ❖ The World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- ❖ It was launched to mark the 75th anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heartfulness Institute.
- ❖ The centre is dedicated to the first guide of Heartfulness Lalaji Maharaji.
- ❖ It can accommodate 1 lakh practitioners at a time.



### Women-only cab service

- ❖ 'Women with Wheels' cab service has been started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi.
- ❖ It is operated by 'Sakha cabs' for the safety of women.



- ❖ The taxis are operated by women drivers and the services are provided only to women or men with family.
- ❖ The cab had been installed with GPS and panic button to help the women drivers & women passengers.

### **YSR Pension Kanuka' Scheme**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has initiated a doorstep pension delivery scheme across the state.
- ❖ Under this scheme various welfare pensions are being delivered at the doorstep of the pensioners.
- ❖ Also, the age for old age pensioners (OAP) has been reduced from 65 to 60 years.

### **Virtual Police Station – Odisha**

- ❖ The Odisha govt launched a virtual police station along with 2 other transformational projects of Odisha Police.
- ❖ These projects' aim is to reduce human interface with govt offices.
- ❖ People can access the documents like FIR, final form, spot map, inquest, etc from the website [www.imsop.odisha.gov.in](http://www.imsop.odisha.gov.in).
- ❖ The 3 projects are the following
  - Virtual Police Station,
  - Road Accident Case Documents Module and
  - Medico Legal Opinion System.

### **India's first Glass floor bridge**

- ❖ India's first Glass floor bridge to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It will be the replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. It has been in place for 94 years.
- ❖ The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).
- ❖ This new bridge will be safe for commutation for at least 150 years.



### **Vadhavan port in Maharashtra**

- ❖ Union Cabinet approved to set up the Vadhavan port in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust will act as the lead partner in developing the port.
- ❖ With the development of Vadhavan port, India will enter into the category of countries with top 10 container ports in the world.
- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP) is the biggest container port in India and 28th in the world.

### **Janasevaka scheme**

- ❖ The Karnataka government has launched a doorstep delivery scheme- called Jana Sevaka scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the citizens will have to place the request for the service through the website or mobile phones.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented in Bengaluru.

### **Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojna – Haryana**

- ❖ The Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has launched the Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana.
- ❖ Aim is to provide social security benefits to eligible families of the state through annual financial assistance.
- ❖ Under the scheme, financial assistance of Rs 6000 will be provided to those families whose
  - Annual income is up to Rs 1.80 lakh and
  - Land holding is less than 5 acres.

### **Ban on CFL Lamps – Kerala**

- ❖ Kerala will impose a ban on the sale of compact fluorescent lamps (CFL) and incandescent (filament) bulbs starting November 2020 as part of sustainable energy policy.
- ❖ It is in line with 'Filament-free Kerala' envisaged in 2018 as part of the state's Urja Kerala mission.
- ❖ Filament-free Kerala Project is implemented by the Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) and Energy Management Centre, Kerala.
- ❖ Urja Kerala mission is an energy generation and conservation program.



### **First Disha Police Station**

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh state government is preparing to implement the Disha Bill after getting the nod of the President.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the first Disha Police Station.
- ❖ The police stations are first of their kind in the state and will deal with crimes against women.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government is to inaugurate 18 Disha Police Stations by the end of February 2020.
- ❖ The stations are established under Disha act, 2019.
- ❖ In December 2019, the Andhra Pradesh Government passed the Disha Bill, 2019.

### **Muktoshri rice variety**

- ❖ Researchers in West Bengal have developed and commercialised a rice variety that is resistant to arsenic.
- ❖ The new rice variety is called Muktoshri, also known as IET 21845.
- ❖ It has been jointly developed by the Rice Research Station at Chinsurah, under West Bengal's Agriculture Department and the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow.
- ❖ The variety yields 5.5 metric tons per hectare in the Boro (Winter) season and 4.5 to 5 metric tons per hectare in the Kharif season, respectively.
- ❖ The rice was long and thin, and aromatic.

### **Ground water Act 2020**

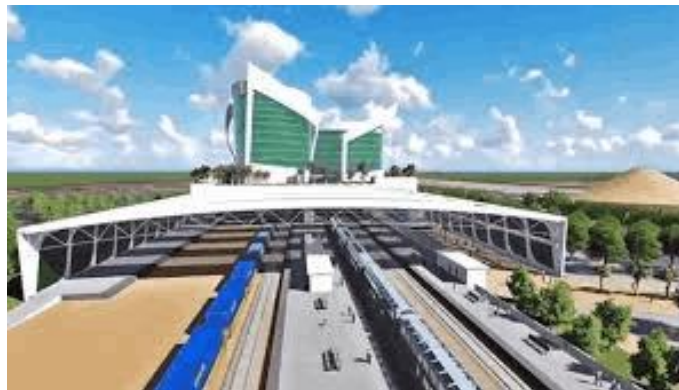
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh state Cabinet chaired by its Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has approved the Ground Water Act 2020.
- ❖ Its aim is to improve the falling level of ground water.
- ❖ The act makes the registration of submersible pumps mandatory.
- ❖ The farmers and domestic users need not pay fees to use the pumps.
- ❖ The Act makes rain water harvesting mandatory in all private schools, colleges.
- ❖ The Act has also made provision for punishment and fine against the person who contaminate ground water.

### **Customary laws of Tribes - Tripura**

- ❖ The Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) has passed resolutions to codify the customary laws of three tribal clans-
  - Mizo
  - Kaipeng and
  - Malsom.
- ❖ As per the Sixth Schedule, the four states viz. Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram contain the Tribal Areas which are technically different from the Scheduled Areas.
- ❖ Provision has been made for the creation of the District Councils and regional councils for the exercise of the certain legislative and judicial powers.
- ❖ Each district is an autonomous district and Governor can modify / divide the boundaries of the said Tribal areas by notification.

### **5 Star Hotel on the tracks**

- ❖ Indian Railways has planned to construct 5 Star Hotel on the tracks in Gandhinagar railway station of Gujarat.
- ❖ This will be the first experiment in India.
- ❖ The roof will be put on the pillars near the tracks and then the hotel will be built on top of it.



### **Five-day working week for Maharashtra govt employees**

- ❖ Maharashtra government has announced five-day working week for its officers and employees from February 29.
- ❖ Employees will now work 45 minutes more Monday to Friday to avail of the weekend off.



- ❖ The five-day week is followed by the central government, in Rajasthan, Bihar, Punjab, Delhi, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- ❖ It will not apply to government offices covered under the Factories Act and the Industrial Disputes Act and to those that are considered essential services.

### **Lui-Ngai-Ni Festival**

- ❖ The Naga tribes of Manipur celebrated seed sowing festival 'Lui-Ngai-Ni' in Manipur.
- ❖ The 2-day festival was inaugurated under the theme of "Oneness through Culture".
- ❖ Lui-Ngai-Ni is one of the biggest festivals of the Naga community.

### **'Appreciate and Commend' scheme**

- ❖ Punjab DGP launched the 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme in Punjab.
- ❖ It aims to boost the confidence of police officers who work extraordinarily and the best cops will be awarded every month.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the nominations of the best police will be sought from police chiefs of various districts by the 25<sup>th</sup> of every month.
- ❖ These Nominations will be screened by a committee consisting of senior police officers and the awardees name would be announced by the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

### **Punjab Kinnow**

- ❖ The Punjab Agri Export Corporation recently launched the 'Punjab Kinnow' brand at the kinnow festival in Abohar of Punjab.
- ❖ This brand of kinnow considered as the 'king fruit' of Punjab.



- ❖ It is also said to be “pesticide-free”.
- ❖ Punjab being the largest producer of kinnow in the country.
- ❖ The 'Kinnow' is a high yield mandarin hybrid cultivated extensively in the wider Punjab region of India and Pakistan.

### **Thirumathikart App**

- ❖ The National Institute of Technology, Trichy, has developed a mobile app for SHG (Self Help Group) products named Thirumathikart.
- ❖ The application was developed in coordination with the Union Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The main objective of the app is to empower women and help them access market opportunities in a seamless manner.

### **Maharashtra banned Thai Mangur fish breeding centers**

- ❖ Maharashtra Government ordered to destroy the Thai Mangur fish breeding centres.
- ❖ This is mainly because the fish is cultivated in unhygienic condition.
- ❖ In Maharashtra, it is commonly called Thai Mangur or foreign Mangur or African Mangur.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal in 2000 banned the cultivation of the Thai Mangur.



### **Buddah Nullah – Punjab**

- ❖ The Punjab government has approved ₹650 crores in the first phase for rejuvenation of the highly polluting Buddah Nullah stream.
- ❖ It is a seasonal water stream, which runs through the Malwa region of Punjab.

- ❖ It passes through Ludhiana district and drains into Sutlej River, a tributary of the Indus river.



### Mahadayi Tribunal Award

- ❖ The Supreme Court passed an interim order to notify the Mahadayi Water Dispute Tribunal's award.
- ❖ The sharing of the waters of this river is a cause of dispute between the governments of Karnataka and Goa.



- ❖ It involves building barrages across Kalasa and Banduri, the tributaries of the Mahadayi river, to divert water to the Malaprabha river.
- ❖ Malaprabha is a tributary of the Krishna River and flows through the state of Karnataka.
- ❖ The river joins Krishna River in Bagalkot district.

### **Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary**

- ❖ The Karnataka state government has proposed to notify the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Chamaraajanagar district as a tiger reserve.
- ❖ The approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is expected.

#### **In Karnataka**

- ❖ Once notified, Chamaraajanagar district will have the rare distinction in the country of having three tiger reserves.
- ❖ It already has Bandipur and Biligiri Ranganatha Temple (BRT) Tiger Reserve within its territorial limits.
- ❖ Also, with this, Karnataka will have six tiger reserves, the others being Nagarahole, Bhadra, and Anshi-Dandeli, apart from Bandipur and BRT Tiger Reserves.

### **Fit India initiative – Delhi**

- ❖ The Indian Railways has installed a squat machine at the Anand Vihar Railway Station in New Delhi.
- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind scheme, a person who performs 30 squats in three minutes will not have to pay the fees for a platform ticket.





### **Lingayat Mutt in Karnataka**

- ❖ A Muslim youth is all set to head a Lingayat math in Gadag district of north Karnataka.
- ❖ The Matha is one of the 361 maths of Sri Jagadguru Murugharajendra Matha of Chitradurga.
- ❖ Diwan Sharief Rahimansab Mulla will be incepted as the head, or Mathadheesha of the Murugharajendra Koraneshwara Shantidhama Matha in Asuti village in the Gadag district.
- ❖ It is linked to the 350-year-old Koraneshwara Sansthan Math in Khajuri village in Kalaburagi.
- ❖ One strong truth in the heart beat of all the organisations/ Mutts there is only one prophet that is Guru Basaveshwara, all most all strive to propagate the Lingayat religion and believe in the Vachana literature.
- ❖ Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher of Lingayat saint in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement, and social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri dynasty.
- ❖ Basavanna literary works include the Vachana Sahitya in Kannada Language.
- ❖ He is also known as Bhaktibhandari, Basavanna or Basaveswara.

### **Vishwakarma Awards – New Delhi**

- ❖ HRD Minister Pokhriyal presented Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards to 23 teams and Utkrisht Santhan Vishwakarma Awards for six institutes.







- ❖ Chhatra Vishwakarma Awards is given for the Outstanding Innovative Teams (for Students & Mentor) and Utkrisht Sansthan Vishwakarma Award for exemplary Institutional intervention.
- ❖ The competition for the year 2019 was based on the theme of 'How to enhance the income of villages.'
- ❖ AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) has been organizing Vishwakarma Awards since 2017.

### **Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana**

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh had become the first state in the country to have "100% LPG gas coverage".
- ❖ Following the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in 2016, the state government launched its own Himachal Grihini Suvidha Yojana in May 2018 to cover the remaining households.
- ❖ Except families having a pensioner, income taxpayer or any member employed with the government, board, corporation etc, all households of the state without an LPG connection were eligible.

### **Revision of boundary**

- ❖ The Mizoram government has sought the revision of the boundary with Assam, based on the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation (BEFR) of 1873 and the Inner Line of the Lushai Hills Notification of 1993.
- ❖ The BEFR allows Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland not to let non-resident Indians in without an inner-line permit for a temporary stay.

### **Resolution against NRC - Bihar**

- ❖ Bihar became the first NDA state to pass resolution against NRC.
- ❖ Also sticks to the old National Population Register (NPR) form with only the transgender column from the new format recommended by the Union home ministry.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

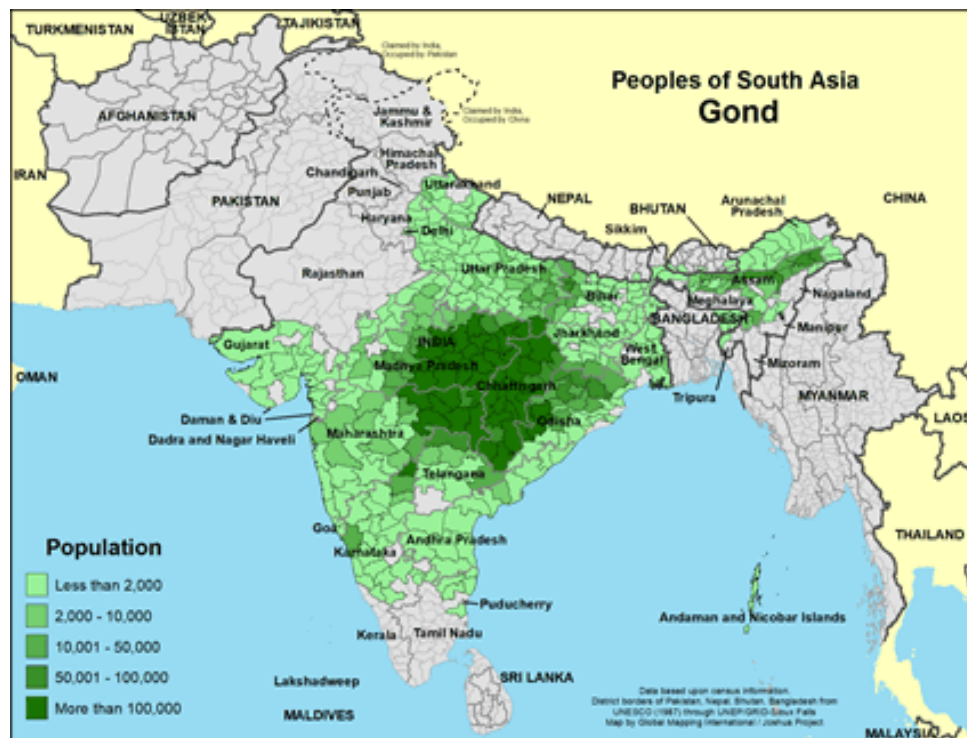
### Surajkund International Crafts Fair 2020

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Fair on February 1, 2020, in Faridabad, Haryana.
- ❖ The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.
- ❖ The fair will help to promote tourism.
- ❖ Surajkund is an ancient reservoir of the 10th century located on Southern Delhi Ridge of Aravalli range in Faridabad city of Haryana.
- ❖ For the 34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2020, the partner country of the fair is Uzbekistan.
- ❖ The state of Himachal Pradesh has been chosen to be the Theme State.



### Nagoba Jatara Festival

- ❖ Nagoba Jatara festival was celebrated by the Mesram Raj Gonds and Pardhans in Telangana State.
- ❖ Nagoba Jatara is a tribal festival held in Adilabad district, Telangana, India.
- ❖ It is the second biggest tribal carnival.



### Gonds

- ❖ Gonds are one of the largest tribal groups in the world.
- ❖ Gonds are subdivided into four tribes:
  - Raj Gonds
  - Madia Gonds
  - Dhurve Gonds
  - Khatulwar Gonds
- ❖ It has been notified as a Scheduled Tribe.

### **World Games Athlete of the Year – 2019**

- ❖ The Indian Women Hockey Team player Rani Rampal has won the “World Game Athlete of the Year, 2019” title.
- ❖ She is the first hockey player in the world to receive the title.
- ❖ In 2020, Rani Rampal was awarded with Padmashri.



### **Kolkata Book Fair 2020**

- ❖ The 44th edition of Kolkata Book Fair 2020 (IKBF) has commenced at Kolkata.
- ❖ Russia is a “Focal Theme Country” of this event
- ❖ A category of bird species consisting of barn owls, grass owls and masked owls was selected as the official Mascot of the Book Fair for the 1st time.
- ❖ Since 2020’s focal theme is “Russia”, January 30,2020 celebrated as “Russian Day”.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has launched her book ‘Why We Are Saying No CAA, NO NRC, No NPR’ at this Book Fair.

### **Awards for 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day Parade 2020**

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh distributed the awards for best tableaux which was conducted on January 26, 2020, during the 71st Republic Day event.
- ❖ There was a total of 22 tableaux including 16 from various states and union territories and the remaining 6 from various ministries and departments.
- ❖ Assam’s tableaux displayed the theme ‘Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture’, had showcased the Shatria tradition in the form of Bhortal Nritya was chosen as the best tableaux.
- ❖ The second position was tied between Odisha which depicted Lord Lingaraja’s Rukuna Rath Yatra, and Uttar Pradesh which showcased the culture of Sarva Dharma Samabhav.



- ❖ Jal Shakti Mission won the best tableaux for government's new initiative.
- ❖ Central Public Works Department (CPWD) won a special prize for the theme "Kashmir se Kanyakumari".



### **13<sup>th</sup> edition of International Children's Film Festival**

- ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> edition of International Children's Film Festival was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ The theme of International Children's Film Festival 2020 is 'Under The World' and slogan is "Future in Frames".
- ❖ It is organized by the Children's Film Society, Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is the biggest film festival of Southeast Asian country and only international festival celebrated exclusively for children and young adults since 2008.

### **Tyler Prize 2020**

- ❖ The Indian environmentalist and Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Pavan Sukhdev won Tyler Prize 2020 for Environmental Achievement.
- ❖ This award given for his groundbreaking "green economy" work along with conservation biologist Gretchen C. Daily from United States.





### **100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mooknayak**

- ❖ 2020 is the centenary year of journal “Mooknayak”.
- ❖ This was the Marathi journal published by B.R Ambedkar.
- ❖ The first issue was printed on 31 January 1920.
- ❖ His mentor Kolhapur’s Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj offered a donation of Rs. 2,500 to start Mooknayak.
- ❖ It included a scathing takedown of the Hindu caste structure and its despicable advocacy of inequality.

### **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Awards**

- ❖ States, Union Territories and Districts have been awarded the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Awards.
- ❖ These awards are given by the Ministry of Women & Child Development.
- ❖ These awards are given for best performances in the implementation of the maternity benefit programme since its inception in 2017.
- ❖ The award function was organized to promote competitive federalism among the states.

Rank	States/ UTs with a population of more than 1 crore	States/ UTs having a population of less than 1 crore	Districts having a population of more than 1 crore	Districts having a population of less than 1 crore
1	Madhya Pradesh	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	Serchhip (Mizoram)
2	Andhra Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh	Kurnool (Andhra Pradesh)	Unain (Himachal Pradesh)
3	Haryana	Chandigarh	South Salmara Mankachar (Assam)	Puducherry

### **PEN Gauri Lankesh Award 2019**

- ❖ Senior journalist Yusuf Jameel from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) won the 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism.
- ❖ PEN South India and Pen Delhi have instituted the award in the name of editor late Gauri Lankesh, who was assassinated in 2017.
- ❖ The award carries a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh and a citation.

### **DefExpo 2020**

- ❖ DefExpo is being held for the first time in Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) from 5th to 9th February 2020.
- ❖ This is a flagship biennial event of the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ This is the 11th edition of DefExpo - a mega defence exhibition.
- ❖ The 10th edition of the event was held at Chennai (Tamil Nadu) in 2018.
- ❖ The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'.
- ❖ Its focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.
- ❖ Defence Expo 2020 will showcase the comprehensive spectrum of India's aerospace, defence and security interests.
- ❖ The 5th India Russia Military Industry Conference will be held on the sidelines of the event.



### **SKOCH Award**

- ❖ “Boron Nitrate Based Personal Hybrid Combat Armour” won the prestigious SKOCH Award.
- ❖ This armour produced by the defence sector start-up company called Big Bang Boom Solutions Pvt Ltd.
- ❖ It also won in the MoD (Ministry of Defence) competition around See-Through-Armour and Illegal Defence Drones in iDex (Innovations for Defence Excellence) category.
- ❖ It is first company to consolidate Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the defense sector.

### **Mystic Kalinga Literary Award**

- ❖ Famous Odia and English writer Manoj Das will receive Mystic Kalinga Literary award– Indian and Global languages.
- ❖ Mystic Literary award has been instituted to recognize and celebrate inspiring writers, poets and performers.
- ❖ He was also awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2020, Padma Shri in 2001, Saraswati Samman and Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution in the field of literature & education.

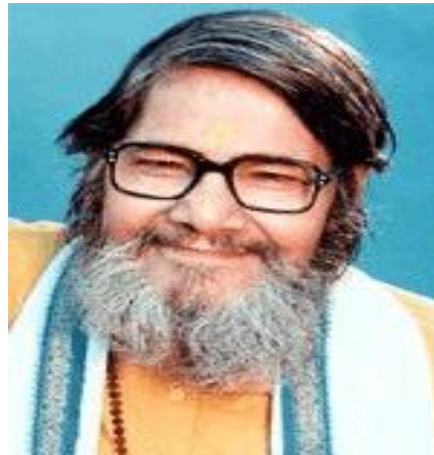
## India International Seafood Show -2020

- ❖ The 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 has commenced at Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ This show is held based on the theme “Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition”.
- ❖ The show is being organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
- ❖ It is a biennial show, this time being held in Kochi after 12 years, its 21<sup>st</sup> edition was held in Goa in January 2018.



## Kaka Hathrasi

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi had quoted Poet Kaka Hathrasi during the reply to the Motion of Thanks of President.
- ❖ Kaka Hathrasi was a Hindi satirist and humourist poet of India.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Shri by the Government of India in the year 1985.
- ❖ Apart from humour, he also wrote on classical dance and music under the pen name ‘Vasant’.
- ❖ Every year, the Delhi-based Hindi Academy awards the annual Kaka Hathrasi Award for outstanding contribution in the literary field.
- ❖ He started publishing a monthly magazine Sangeet in 1935.
- ❖ Sangeet is the only periodical on Indian classical music and dance.



### **International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy**

- ❖ The President Ramnath Kovind has conferred the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to Dr NS Dharmashaktu in the individual category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category.
- ❖ The International Gandhi Award for Leprosy was constituted by the Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation in 1950.
- ❖ The award has been launched to commemorate the compassion that Gandhiji's service towards people afflicted with leprosy.



- ❖ Initiatives by India
  - SPARSH Leprosy Awareness Campaign - 2017
  - National leprosy elimination Programme - 1983
    - In 2005, India achieved the goal of elimination of leprosy as a public health problem.



### **Kaamya Karthikeyan – The youngest to climb Mt Aconcagua**

- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest girl to climb the highest peak of Andes range in South America, Mt Aconcagua.
- ❖ Kaamya Karthikeyan is a Class VII student studying in Navy Children School.
- ❖ She is also the youngest mountaineer to summit Mt Everest.
- ❖ By 2021, she aims to complete “Explorers Grand Slam”.



#### **Explorers Grand Slam**

- ❖ It is an adventurer goal to summit 7 highest peaks of the world and also to reach North Pole and South Pole.
- ❖ The seven summits include Mt Everest, Denali, Aconcagua, Kilimanjaro, Vinson and two other highest mountain peaks chosen by the designates.

### **State Human Rights Commission's acting chairperson**

- ❖ Retired district judge D. Jayachandran took over as the acting chairperson of Tamil Nadu State Human Rights Commission (SHRC).
- ❖ He was one of the two members of Tamil Nadu SHRC.

#### **About Tamil Nadu SHRC**

- ❖ The State Human Rights Commission was constituted in the state of Tamil Nadu on 17.4.1997.
- ❖ It was established under section-21 of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.
- ❖ As per the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act 2019, chairperson and members of SHRC will hold office for 3 years or till 70 years of age or whichever is earlier.
- ❖ A person who has been Chief Justice/Judge of High Court will be chairperson of SHRC.



### **HK Firodia Memorial awards**

- ❖ HK Firodia Awards for Excellence in Science & Technology are given to any Indian Scientist.
- ❖ The excellence may relate to any field of Scientific endeavor from Agriculture, Engineering, Medical Sciences to Space and Environmental Sciences.
- ❖ HK Firodia Memorial awardees are
  - K Sivan - chairperson of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and
  - Shekhar Mande - Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).
- ❖ Sivan was presented with the Vijan Ratna award while Mande received the Vijan Bhushan award.
- ❖ As a senior molecular biologist, Mande has worked extensively on tuberculosis.



### **Jerusalem-Mumbai festival**

- ❖ 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' is set to be hosted by India, in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The festival is celebrated to promote the ties between India and Israel.
- ❖ This festival comprises of several art and cultural events to showcase the tradition of both countries.



### **President's Colours Awards - INS Shivaji**

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colours Awards to INS Shivaji.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Station Shivaji has completed 75 years of service.
- ❖ The award was presented to the Indian Naval Station at Lonavala.
- ❖ The station was commissioned as HMIS (Her Majesty's Indian Ship) in 1945.
- ❖ The motto of the ship establishment is Karmasu Kaushalam (Skill at Work)
- ❖ Last year, the award was given to Indian Naval Academy.

### **Indian Achievers Award 2020**

- ❖ Rajendra Indraman Singh, has been awarded the Indian Achievers Award in recognition of his "Outstanding Contribution to Indian Education".
- ❖ Kolkata-born renowned astrologer Dr Sohini Sastri awarded IAA as Best Astrologer of the year.
- ❖ The Indian Achievers Awards are aimed at identifying significant personalities for the year 2020.

### **FIH player of the year award 2019**

- ❖ Manpreet Singh Pawar, the captain of India men's national field hockey team, has been selected as the FIH Men's Player of the Year 2019.
- ❖ Thus, he becomes the 1st Indian to receive this honour.
- ❖ Netherlands women's captain Eva de Goede has been named as FIH Women's Player of the Year 2019.



### **Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020**

- ❖ The following persons will be presented with the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.
  - American immunologist and oncologist Dr. Carl H June and
  - Pharmaceutical company Novartis CEO Dr. Vasant Narasimhan.
- ❖ Genome Valley Excellence Award was instituted in 2004.
- ❖ This award is presented to recognize and honour eminent individuals & organisations for their exceptional contribution to the life science research & public health.

### **COP 26 of UNFCCC**

- ❖ The 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is scheduled at Scotland, UK.
- ❖ Indian-origin Alok Sharma from Agra, Uttar Pradesh has been appointed as the minister in charge of the UK's COP26 climate change summit.

### **65<sup>th</sup> edition Filmfare Awards 2020**

- ❖ The 65<sup>th</sup> edition of Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was held in Guwahati, Assam.
- ❖ Zoya Akhtar's directorial 'Gully Boy' emerged as big winner as it bagged several awards including the prestigious best film award.
- ❖ Ranveer Singh bagged Best Actor's trophy for his performance in Gully Boy, while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.

### **Recognition of ERONET**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has been awarded 'Silver' for Excellence in Government Process re-engineering for digital transformation for the year 2019-20.
- ❖ The award was given in recognition of ERONET.
- ❖ ERONET is a common database for all States and UTs with data of 91 crore electors.
- ❖ ERONET automates the process of electoral roll management.

### **Kala Kumbh exhibition**

- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles organized "Kala Kumbh" exhibition in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is an exhibition to promote Geographical Indication (GI) craft and heritage of India.
- ❖ The exhibition is being organized by the Ministry of Textiles.
- ❖ The exhibitions are planned in various major cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.
- ❖ The exhibitions are sponsored by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).

### **Next Chief Vigilance Commissioner**

- ❖ Sanjay Kothari, Secretary to the President of India, will be the next Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- ❖ CVC is the apex vigilance institution created via executive resolution in 1964 but was conferred with statutory status in 2003.
- ❖ The Commission was set up on the recommendation of the K.Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption.



## **Oscar Awards 2020**

- ❖ The 92nd Academy (Oscars) Awards took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California on 9 February 2020.
- ❖ Oscar Awards are given by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

### **Oscar 2020 Winners List:**

- ❖ Best actor: Joaquin Phoenix - Joker
- ❖ Best actress: Renée Zellweger - Judy
- ❖ Best director: Bong Joon ho - Parasite
- ❖ Best picture: Parasite
- ❖ Best supporting actor: Brad Pitt in "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood"
- ❖ Best animated short: Hair Love
- ❖ Best original screenplay: Parasite
- ❖ Best documentary: American Factory
- ❖ Best cinematography: 1917
- ❖ Best international feature film: Parasite

## **Kambala race runner**

- ❖ Srinivas Gowda created a storm by covering 100 metres in 9.55 seconds recently.
- ❖ Another Kambala runner Nishant Shetty has now overtaken Srinivas Gowda by completing the same distance in 9.51 seconds.
- ❖ Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt's world record is 9.58 seconds.
- ❖ Kambala is an annual race held in Karnataka where people sprint 142m through paddy fields with the buffaloes.





### **Sammakka Saralamma Jatara festival**

- ❖ Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is being celebrated in the State of Telangana.
- ❖ This is also known as Medaram Jatara.
- ❖ It is a tribal festival held biennially in the state of Telangana.
- ❖ It is a State Festival of Telangana.
- ❖ The festival commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- ❖ It is believed that after Kumbh Mela, the Medaram jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.

### **Dara Shikoh grave**

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture recently set up a seven-member panel of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to locate the grave of the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh.
- ❖ Dara Shikoh (1615-59) was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- ❖ He was defeated by his younger brother Prince Muhiuddin (later, Emperor Aurangzeb).
- ❖ Dara Shikoh is described as a “liberal Muslim” who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- ❖ He translated the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads into Persian.

### **Food Planet Prize**

- ❖ Sweden has created two \$1 million prizes named “Food Planet Prize” for solutions to feed billions of people.
- ❖ The Prize will be presented annually by the Curt Bergfors Foundation in Sweden.
- ❖ Aim of this to recognize initiatives around the world that addresses the climate change threats towards food supply.
- ❖ The prize will be given for two categories namely the
  - a) existing scalable solution for sustainable foods and
  - b) innovative initiatives that could transform the global food sector.



### **Bharat-Bangla Tourism festival**

- ❖ The first ever Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav-Tourism festival is being held in Agartala, Tripura.
- ❖ The festival is being organized by the Department of Tourism, Govt. of Tripura.
- ❖ This festival is organized in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.
- ❖ The aim of the festival is to promote tourism in Tripura and attract neighbouring Bangladesh of the tourist destinations in Tripura.

### **SERB Women Excellence Award - 2020**

- ❖ Dr Niti Kumar, Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow has received this award.
- ❖ This award is given to women scientist below 40 years of age who have received recognition from national academies.

### **Sahitya Akademi Award**

- ❖ Sahitya Akademi Award for translation goes to K.V. Jeyasri for her translation of the Malayalam novel 'Nilam Poothu Malaranna Naal' into Tamil as 'Nilam Poothu Malarantha Naal'.
- ❖ Also, Sahitya akademi presented Sahitya akademi awards for 24 writers.
- ❖ Among them
  - Cho. Dharman received it for his novel 'Sool' (tamil) and
  - Shashi Tharoor for his book 'An Era of Darkness' (English).

### **Wikipedia competition 2019**

- ❖ Tamil has bagged the first place in the second edition of 'Project Tiger', with a total number of 2,959 articles contributed by 62 participants.
- ❖ It was organised by Wikimedia Foundation (WMF) and Google.
- ❖ Google and WMF launched the competition for the first time in 2018.
- ❖ Aim of this competition is to increase the online content of vernacular languages by motivating participants to contribute articles to Wikipedia.

Languages	Articles +	Participants
<a href="#">Tamil</a>	2959	62
<a href="#">Punjabi(Gurmukhi)</a>	1768	34
<a href="#">Bengali</a>	1460	49
<a href="#">Urdu</a>	1377	25
<a href="#">Santali</a>	566	18
<a href="#">Hindi</a>	417	26
<a href="#">Telugu</a>	416	42
<a href="#">Kannada</a>	249	17
<a href="#">Malayalam</a>	229	8
<a href="#">Marathi</a>	220	18
<a href="#">Assamese</a>	205	18
<a href="#">Gujarati</a>	202	7
<a href="#">Odia</a>	155	5
<a href="#">Tulu</a>	32	5
<a href="#">Sanskrit</a>	19	4

### **Freedom fighter Sudhakar Krishna Rao dies**

- ❖ Centenarian freedom fighter who had witnessed the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, Sudhakar Krishna Rao died at the age of 122.
- ❖ Several reports claimed that Gandhi fondly called him as “Karnataki”.
- ❖ He is also known as Pandit Sudhakar “Chaturvedi”.



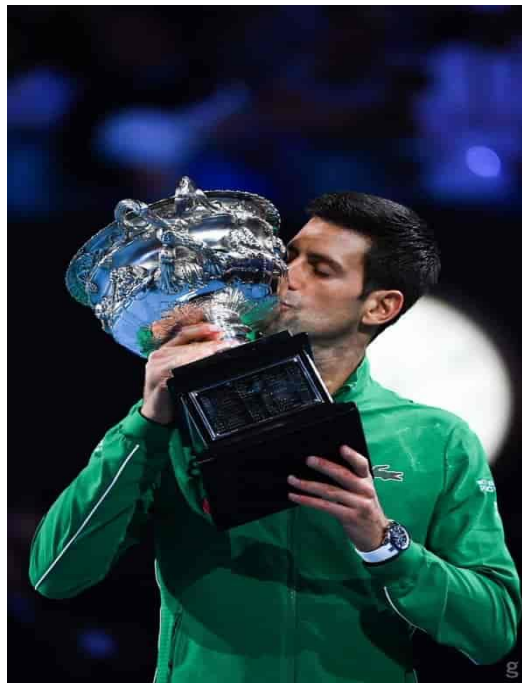
## SPORTS

### 71<sup>st</sup> International Boxing tournament

- ❖ The 71st edition of International Boxing Tournament “Strandja”2020 was held in Sofia, Bulgaria.
- ❖ India ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in the medal tally with 3 medals (1 Silver, 2 Bronze).
- ❖ The list was topped by Ukraine with 10 medals (4 Gold, 1 silver, 5 Bronze).

### Novak Djokovic won Australian Open

- ❖ Serbia’s Novak Djokovic - claimed his 17th Major crown in the Australian Open on February 2 at Melbourne.
- ❖ The victory made him the first man in the Open Era to win Grand Slams in three different decades.
- ❖ The victory saw Djokovic move closer to Roger Federer’s record of 20 Grand Slams.



### Cricket Advisory Committee – appointments

- ❖ Former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulakshana Naik - were appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the BCCI on January 31.



- ❖ The term of appointment will be for a period of one year.
- ❖ The 34-year-old, Former India fast bowler, R P Singh is the youngest CAC member.



### **Record of 500 wins in Football**

- ❖ Barcelona's Lionel Messi has become the first player to record 500 wins in the history of Spanish football.
- ❖ It is the highest number of wins ever recorded by a single player in Spanish football.



### **Australian open 2020 winners**

- ❖ 108<sup>th</sup> edition of the Australian Open 2020 tournament recently concluded on 2nd February 2020 in Melbourne, Australia.

S.No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1	Men's Singles	<b>Novak Djokovic</b> (Serbia)	Dominic Thiem (Austria)
2	Women's Singles	<b>Sofia Kenin</b> (USA)	Garbiñe Muguruza (Spain)
3	Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram (American) & Joe Salisbury (British)	Max Purcell (Australia) & Luke Saville (Australia)
4	Women's Doubles	Tímea Babos & Kristina Mladenovic	Hsieh Su-wei & Barbora Strýcová
5	Mixed Doubles	Nikola Pietrangeli & Barbora Krejčíková	Jamie Murray & Bethanie Mattek-Sands

- ❖ It is one of 4 grand slam tournaments played annually.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic wins Eighth Australian Open Crown and becomes No. 1 in the ATP rankings.
- ❖ Sofia Kenin has become the youngest woman to win the Australian Open in 12 years.
- ❖ This was the first edition of the Australian Open with Greenset, a hard surface produced by GreenSet Worldwide.

### **Hockey High-Performance Centers**

- ❖ Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India announced the establishment of the High-Performance Centres in 7 places across the country.
- ❖ The 7 High Performance Hockey centres will be set up under the Khelo India scheme.
- ❖ These centres are for the young hockey players (14 to 24 years of age) & will train them to participate in 2024 and 2028 Olympic games.

### **35<sup>th</sup> Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships**

- ❖ Rakhi Halder of Bengal has bagged gold in the 64kg category of the 35th edition of Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships.
- ❖ The championship was held in Kolkata.
- ❖ She had clinched the gold with a total lift of 214-kg at the Commonwealth Championship in June 2019.

## Under 19 - Bangladesh win

- ❖ The Cricket team of Bangladesh has clinched its maiden Under-19 World Cup title, in this year's ICC World cup cricket tournament.
- ❖ This tournament was held at Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- ❖ They beat the Indian team led by Priyam Garg.



## National Snooker championship

- ❖ Aditya Mehta from Maharashtra won the National Snooker championship held at Pune.
- ❖ He defeated multiple time world champion Pankaj Advani.
- ❖ In Women's Snooker Finals, Vidya Pillai from Madhya Pradesh won the title.
- ❖ Snooker is a game played on Billiard board.

## National Winter Games - Gulmarg

- ❖ The National Winter Games is to be held in Gulmarg in Jammu and Kashmir from March 7, 2020.
- ❖ The games are to be held for five days in Gulmarg, the world-famous Ski destination.
- ❖ It is being held under Khelo India.
- ❖ The main aim of Khelo India event is to hunt grassroot level talent all over India.
- ❖ In 2020, it was held in Guwahati, Assam.

### **Womens T20I Tri-Series 2020**

- ❖ Indian women's cricket team played Women's T20I Tri-Series 2020 in Australia.
- ❖ In this match, Australia won the title by 11 runs and captured the title.
- ❖ The Indian team was led by Harmanpreet Kaur.
- ❖ The Australian team was led by Meghann Moira Lanning.

### **2020 Tokyo Olympics' Motto**

- ❖ The Tokyo Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, "United By Emotion".
- ❖ It reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The motto highlights the power of sport to bring together people from diverse backgrounds to connect & celebrate in a way that reaches beyond their differences.
- ❖ The official Olympic motto is "Citius, Altius, Fortius" or "Faster, Higher, Stronger", but each host city chooses its own motto to accompany that edition of the Games.

### **Laureus Sports Awards 2020**

- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar has won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020).
- ❖ The Laureus Sports Awards 2020 titled Sachin Tendulkar's picture, 'Carried on the shoulders of a nation'.
- ❖ The jury selected a picture of Team India carrying Sachin Tendulkar on shoulders for the best sporting moment award.





- ❖ The Laureus World Sports Awards is an annual award ceremony honouring individuals and teams from the world of sports.
- ❖ It was established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation.
- ❖ The event was held in Berlin, Germany.

Year	Sportsman	Sportswoman	Team	Breakthrough	Comeback	Disability	Action	Moment
2020	Lewis Hamilton & Lionel Messi	Simone Biles	South Africa national rugby union team	Egan Bernal	Sophia Flörsch	Oksana Masters	Chloe Kim	Sachin Tendulkar



### Asian Football Confederation (AFC) 2022

- ❖ India has been recommended as the first South Asian hosts for the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Asian Cup 2022.
- ❖ India was the host of the AFC Under-16 Championships in 2016 and the FIFA Under-17 World Cup 2017.
- ❖ India had previously hosted the 1980 AFC Women's Championship.
- ❖ It was played in Jordan in 2018, the first time a West Asian nation had hosted the event.



## **Asian Wrestling Championships 2020**

- ❖ India won 5 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze in this edition.
- ❖ It was held at New Delhi in India.
- ❖ The Indian Women Wrestlers Sarita Mor, Pinki and Divya Kakran clinch gold medals for India.
- ❖ Before this, India had won only one gold at the Senior Asian Championships' women's event, through Navjot Kaur in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2018.
- ❖ China was barred from entering into the competition due to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak.
- ❖ Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Turkmenistan were unable to participate in the tournament due to circumstances stemming from the outbreak.

## **2022 Commonwealth Games**

- ❖ Birmingham 2022 shooting and archery is to take place six months early in India.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Games Federation announced that the competitions would take place in Chandigarh in January of that year, with the main Games in Birmingham starting in July.
- ❖ Earlier India had threatened to boycott the games if shooting was dropped.
- ❖ Birmingham decided not to include shooting or archery in its sports programme for 2022.
- ❖ However, India has an excellent record in shooting and won 16 medals at the Gold Coast Games in 2018.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Indian Coast Guard - 44<sup>th</sup> Raising day

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 44<sup>th</sup> raising day on February 1.
- ❖ The ICG was raised on February 1 1977, with the enactment of Coast Guard Act 1978, as a full-fledged independent Armed Force of the Union under the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- ❖ Its primary task is to protect the country's vast maritime zones.

### World Wetlands Day – February 02

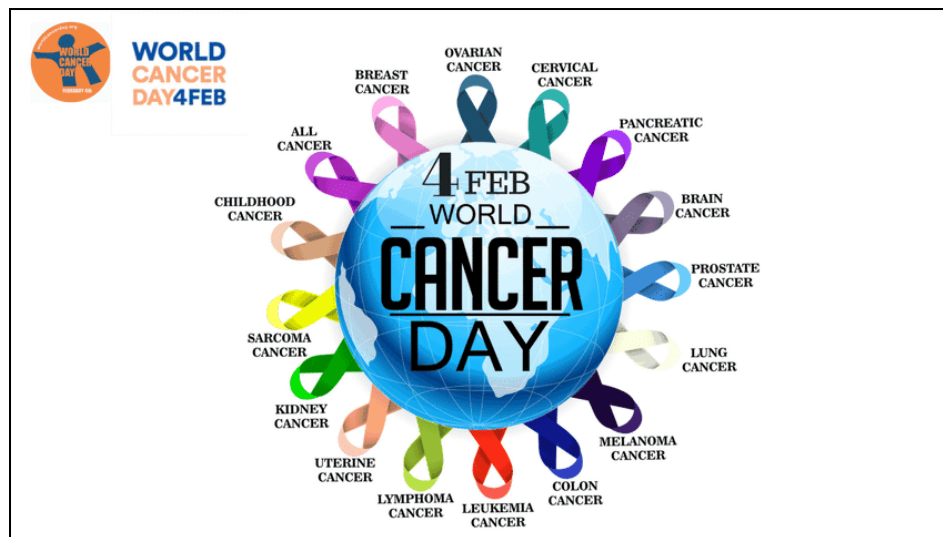
- ❖ World Wetlands Day is celebrated on February 2 each year to mark the Day the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971.
- ❖ India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and committed to the Ramsar approach of wise use of wetlands.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is 'Wetlands and Biodiversity'.
- ❖ Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently.
- ❖ They include mangroves, marshes, rivers, lakes, deltas, floodplains and flooded forests, rice-fields, and even coral reefs.
- ❖ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands releases Global Wetland Outlook.
- ❖ India has 37 Ramsar sites now, covering an area of 1.07 million ha.



### World Cancer Day – February 04, 2020

- ❖ World Cancer Day is observed every year to create awareness about cancer.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2020 is 'I am and I will'.
- ❖ This theme has been proposed for the next three years.

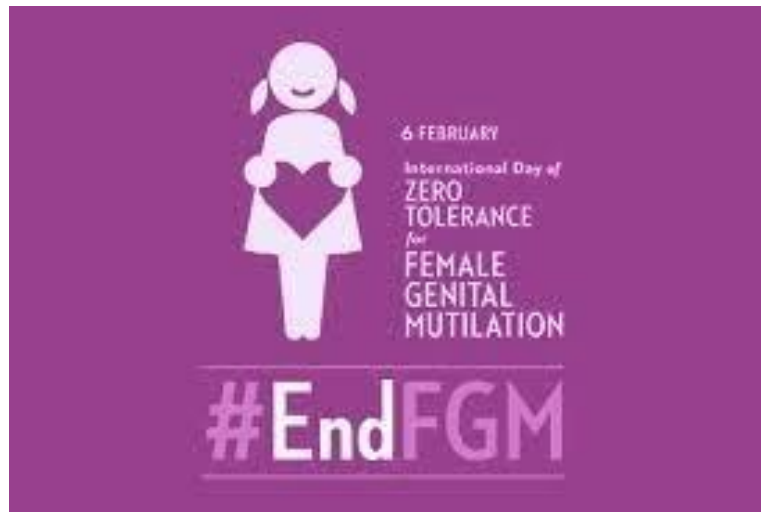
- ❖ Cancer occurs due to the uncontrolled, abnormal growth of cells in the tissue or organ of the body.
- ❖ It is the second leading cause of death globally.
- ❖ According to WHO, one in six deaths is due to cancer.
- ❖ Approximately 70% of deaths from cancer occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ WHO and International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released two reports to mark World Cancer Day (4 February). They are,
  - “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all”.
  - “World Cancer Report: Cancer research for cancer prevention”.



### **International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - February 06**

- ❖ It is an annual awareness day celebrated as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- ❖ It was first introduced in 2003.
- ❖ The day spreads the awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.
- ❖ Theme: “Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation”.
- ❖ The theme focuses on eradicating FGM by 2030.

- ❖ The practice is performed mainly in North-Eastern, Eastern and Western parts of Africa.
- ❖ UNFPA (United Nations Fund for Population Activities) and UNICEF jointly led the largest global programme for eradication of FGM since 2008.



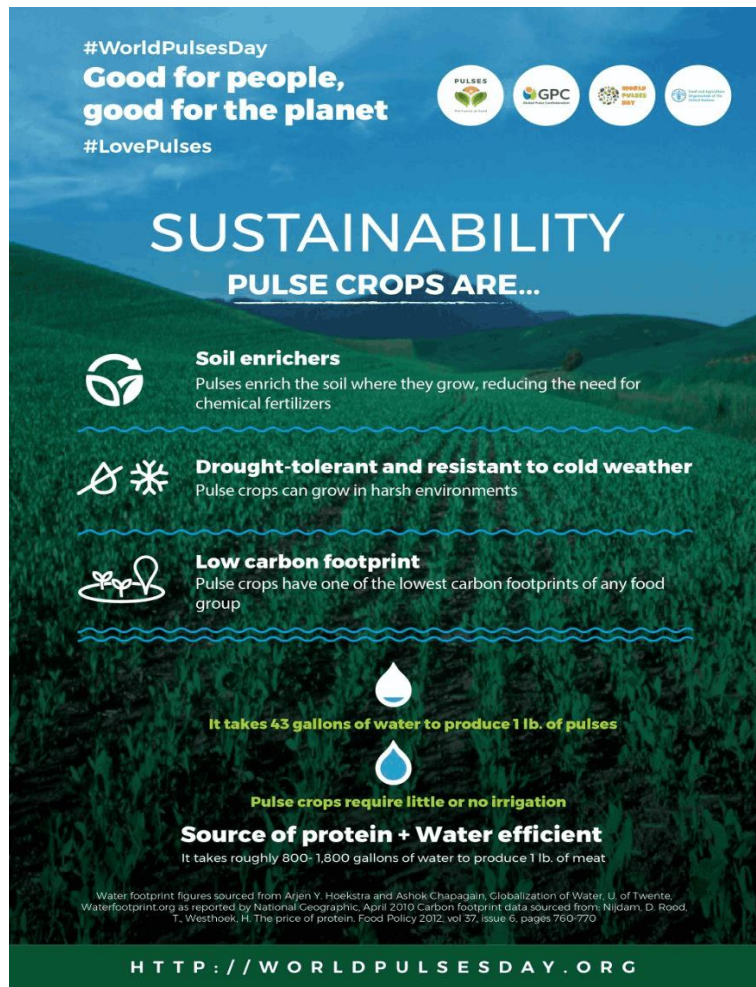
### **Ravidas Jayanti: February 9**

- ❖ The birth anniversary of the 14th century saint Ravidas was celebrated all over India on February 9th.
- ❖ Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet.
- ❖ The poet was a social reformer. His teachings deal with Nirguna-Saguna theme.
- ❖ Nirguna is knowledge focused and Saguna is love-focused.
- ❖ These two were alternate ways of imagining god during the Bhakti Movement.

### **World Pulses Day – February 10**

- ❖ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the celebrations of World Pulses Day in New Delhi.
- ❖ Pulses are important to improve soil fertility.
- ❖ They also help to promote farm bio diversity by using intercropping methods.
- ❖ The UN Pulses Day resolution was adopted in 2013 claiming the year 2016 as International Pulses Day.
- ❖ The day is being celebrated since 2019.
- ❖ India became self-sufficient in pulses since 2016-17.
- ❖ 2016 was celebrated as International Year of Pulses.






## National Deworming day – February 10

- ❖ Every year National Deworming Day is observed twice on February 10th and August 10th.
- ❖ The event is observed by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ The implementing agency under the ministry is National Health Mission.
- ❖ Objective of the day is to reduce the prevalence of Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) commonly called the parasitic intestinal worms among all children and adolescents.
- ❖ The worms mainly spread from the faeces of people who defecate in open.
- ❖ On the Deworming Day, the deworming tablet Albendazole is administered to children.
- ❖ The event is being observed twice a day since 2015.





**NATIONAL DEWORMING DAY**  
February 10, 2020

**Know your program**

- 1** National Deworming Day aims to deworm all preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years at *anganwadis* and schools.
- 2** To combat parasitic worm infections, all children will be dewormed using the effective and risk-free chewable tablets.
- 3** Albendazole is a universally accepted treatment for worm infections.

**AGE**

**1-2 years** **2-19 years**

**DOSAGE** **DOSAGE**

**HALF** **FULL**  
Albendazole 400mg Albendazole 400mg

Children and adolescents who could not be dewormed on National Deworming Day due to sickness or absenteeism will be dewormed on February 17, 2020 mop-up day.

For more information on National Deworming Day contact ANM/ASHA/Anganwadi worker/Teacher

### Safer internet day – February 11

- ❖ Safer Internet Day (SID) promotes a safer and more responsible use of online technology and mobile phones.
- ❖ This year's theme is 'Together for a better internet'.
- ❖ This day was created in 2004 by the Insafe Network of European Union.
- ❖ To expand the initiative's reach, Safer Internet Day Committees were introduced in 2009.
- ❖ In India, the New Delhi-based NGO DISC (Developing Internet Safe Community) Foundation is the SID Committee.



### **International Day of Women and Girls in Science - February 11**

- ❖ This day is being observed by the United Nations on February 11 every year since 2015.
- ❖ This day's aim is to promote equal access to and participation in science for women and girls.
- ❖ This year the day is celebrated under the theme – “Investment in Women and Girls in Science for Inclusive Green Growth”.
- ❖ It is important to observe the day because there are only 30% of women researchers all over the world.

### **World Unani Day - February 11**

- ❖ Every year, on February 11, the birth Anniversary of Hakim Ajmal Khan is celebrated as World Unani Day.
- ❖ He was an Indian Unani Physician and a social reformer.
- ❖ The main aim of this day is to spread awareness about Unani medical system, its preventive and curative philosophies.
- ❖ The AYUSH Ministry organized a function to commemorate the day and it was attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ The Unani Medicinal system originated in Greece.
- ❖ It was introduced in India by the Arabs and Persians around the eleventh century.
- ❖ Grandfather of Hakim Ajmal Khan was Hakim Sharif Khan and he was a physician to Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.



### **International Darwin Day - February 12**

- ❖ This day was celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of the father of evolutionary biology, Charles Darwin.
- ❖ He was born 12 February, 1809 at Shrewsbury, Shropshire, England.
- ❖ This day highlights Darwin's contribution to evolutionary and plant science.

### **World Radio Day - February 13**

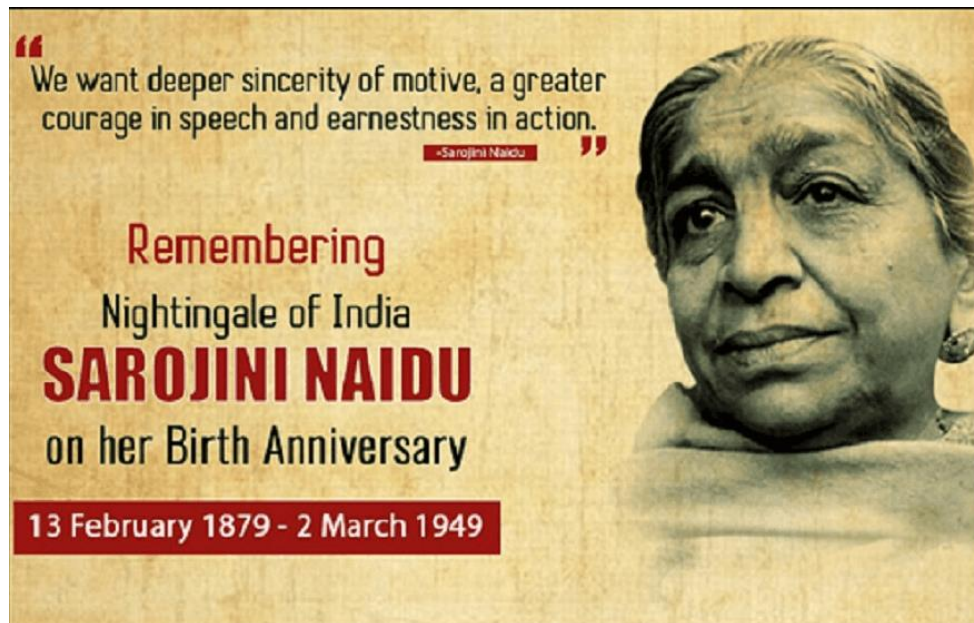
- ❖ World Radio Day is celebrated on February 13 every year to raise awareness among the public and the media of the importance of radio.
- ❖ The theme of this year's World Radio Day 2020 is 'Radio and Diversity'.
- ❖ In 2011, UNESCO's General Conference, at its 36th session, proclaimed February 13 as World Radio Day.
- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) is one of the largest radio networks in the world, was founded in 1956.



### **National Women's Day- February 13**

- ❖ To commemorate the birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu (also named Nightingale of India), every year India observes February 13 as its National Women's Day.
- ❖ In 1925 Sarojini Naidu became the president of the Indian National Congress.
- ❖ She served as the 1st Governor of United Provinces from 15 August 1947 – 2 March 1949.
- ❖ The International Women's Day is observed on 8<sup>th</sup> March annually.





### World Pangolin Day - February 15

- ❖ World Pangolin Day will be observed every year on 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in February month to raise awareness & to protect these unique species from extinction.
- ❖ The 9<sup>th</sup> World Pangolin day was observed on February 15, 2020.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh forest department & Wildlife Conservation Trust has radio-tagged an Indian Pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) for the first time in order to know its ecology and develop an effective conservation plan.



- ❖ Pangolins are also known as “scaly anteaters”, toothless animals & most trafficked wildlife species in the world.
- ❖ India is a home of 2 species of pangolins- Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*) found in north-eastern India and Indian pangolin were distributed in other parts of the country (Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan).
- ❖ The 2 species are protected & are listed under the Schedule I Part I of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 and under Appendix I of the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

### **Soil Health Card Day - February 19**

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on 19th February, 2015 at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- ❖ Fifth year of the launch of the scheme is being observed on the ‘Soil Health Card (SHC) Day’, this year.
- ❖ The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years.
- ❖ The card would provide details about the nutritional deficiencies in soil.
- ❖ So that the farmers can supplement the soil with suitable fertilizers and increase the yields.
- ❖ United Nations General Assembly announced that 2015 was the International Year of Soils.



**Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India**

## Soil Health Card

10.74 crore cards were distributed in Cycle-I (2015-17) and 11.74 crore cards were distributed in Cycle-II (2017-19).

During 2019-2020 land holding based 10.59 lakh cards were distributed under model village programme.

429 Static Soil Testing labs, 102 Mobile Soil Testing labs and 8752 mini labs have been sanctioned and 800 soil testing labs were strengthened.

Soil testing capacity increased from 1.78 crore sample per annum to 3.33 per sample per annum.

5.50 lakh demonstrations, 1946 farmers training and 7425 Kisan Melas have been sanctioned for awareness creation amongst a farmers.

AgriGoi | AgriGoi | agricoop.gov.in





## **World Day of Social Justice – February 20**

- ❖ World Day of Social Justice is observed to promote gender equality, indigenous peoples and migrants' rights.
- ❖ The theme of this year is "Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice".
- ❖ On September 2008, the General Assembly declared that February 20 will be celebrated annually as the World Day of Social Justice.
- ❖ The first World Day of Social Justice was observed on 20 February 2009.

## **Statehood Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh – February 20**

- ❖ On 20th February 1987 two new States of Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh came into being as the 23rd and 24th states of the Indian Union respectively.

### **Mizoram**

- ❖ Mizoram became a Union Territory with the implementation of North-Eastern Reorganization Act, 1972.
- ❖ Mizoram was granted statehood by the State of Mizoram Act, 1986.
- ❖ Capital: Aizawl
- ❖ Sex Ratio: 975 females per 1000 male (National: 943/1000)
- ❖ Literacy: 91.58 % (National: 74.04%)
- ❖ Mizoram shares the International Border with Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- ❖ According to the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2019, Mizoram has the maximum forest cover as a percentage of their own geographical area at (85.4%).

### **Arunachal Pradesh**

- ❖ The area was upgraded to the Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh in 1972.
- ❖ It was granted statehood by the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986 in 1987.
- ❖ Capital: Itanagar
- ❖ Sex Ratio: 938 females per 1000 male (National: 943/1000)
- ❖ Literacy: 65.38 % (National: 74.04%)
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh shares an international border with Bhutan, China and Myanmar.
- ❖ It is the largest state area wise in the north-eastern region, even larger than Assam.



Statehood Day of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh  
February 20

### **International Mother Language Day – February 21**

- ❖ International Mother Language Day is observed every year on 21st February since 2000.
- ❖ The main purpose of celebrating the day is to promote multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- ❖ The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.
- ❖ This year this day is celebrated under the theme: Languages without Borders.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly had proclaimed 2008 as the International Year of Languages.
- ❖ Globally 40% of the population does not have access to an education in a language they speak or understand.

### **Matribhasha Diwas**

- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource and Development along with educational institutions and language institutions is celebrating the day as the Matribhasha Diwas in the country.
- ❖ Matribhasha Diwas is celebrated the programme under the theme - 'Celebrating our Multilingual Heritage'.
- ❖ It was reflecting the spirit of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.

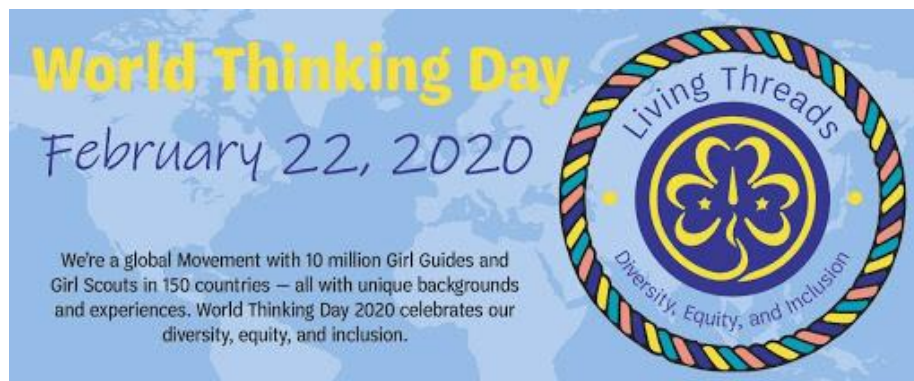
## World Scout Day – February 22

- ❖ World Scout Day commemorates the first Scout Camp on Brown sea Island in 1907.
- ❖ This day was chosen as it was the birthday of Scouting and Guiding founder Lord Robert Baden-Powell and of Lady Olave Baden-Powell, his wife and World Chief Guide.
- ❖ Baden Powell was a British Army officer, writer, founder and first Chief Scout of the world-wide Boy Scout Movement.
- ❖ In 1910 Baden-Powell retired from the army and formed The Boy Scouts Association.



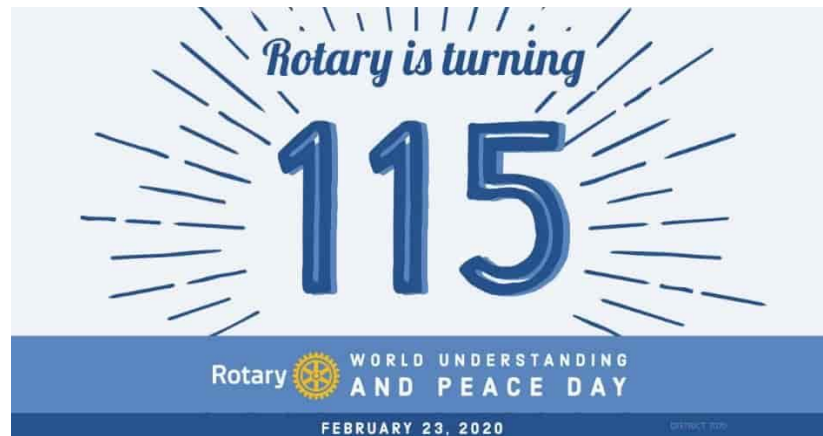
## World Thinking Day – February 22

- ❖ World Thinking Day, formerly Thinking Day, is celebrated annually on 22 February by all Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.
- ❖ It is also celebrated by Scout and Guide organizations and some boy-oriented associations around the world.
- ❖ 2020 Theme: "Living Threads".



## **World Peace and Understanding Day – February 23**

- ❖ It commemorates the founding of Rotary International 115 years ago.
- ❖ On 23 February 1905, it was the very first Rotary meeting that Paul Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey gathered in Chicago.
- ❖ The anniversary is known as “World Peace and Understanding Day.”
- ❖ The name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.
- ❖ Ending polio is Rotary International’s most famous humanitarian effort.



## **Central Excise Day - February 24**

- ❖ The day is celebrated annually to mark the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.
- ❖ The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) celebrated the Central Excise Day across the country.
- ❖ Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Union Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ The board primarily deals with the Customs Act, 1962, Customs Tariff Act, 1975, Central Excise Act, 1944 and Service Tax Act.
- ❖ However, after the roll out of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) from 1 July 2017, the activities of the board are guided by the GST-related Acts.

### About

- ❖ Earlier the Central Board of Excise and Customs was known as The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- ❖ The Customs and Central Excise/ Central GST department was established in the year 1855 by the then Governor-General of India, to administer customs laws.



### **World NGO day – February 27**

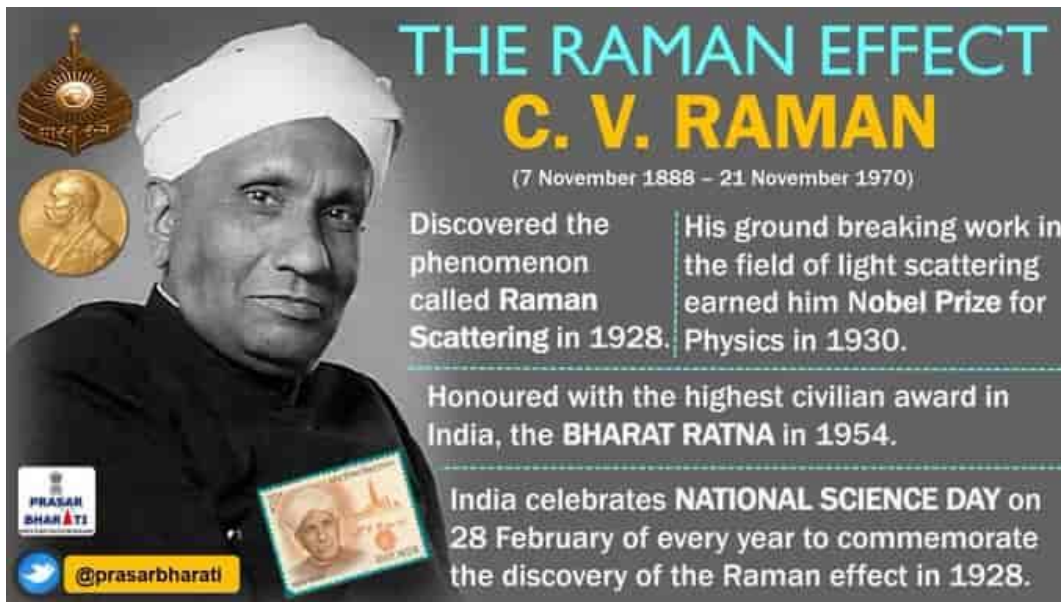
- ❖ It is an important annual marking point for NGOs to celebrate their achievements, as well as allowing small, grassroots organisations to gain the recognition they deserve.
- ❖ It was officially recognised by the IX Baltic Sea NGO Forum of the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2010, Lithuania.



### **National Science Day - February 28**

- ❖ National Science Day is celebrated to honour the discovery of 'Raman Effect'.
- ❖ He invented the 'Raman Effect' on this day and won Nobel Prize for the same.
- ❖ The theme for National Science Day 2020 is "Women in Science", which aims to appreciate the contribution of women in the field of science.





### Rare Disease Day – February 29

- ❖ This day is observed on the last day of February.
- ❖ Aims to raise awareness for rare diseases and improve access to treatment and medical representation for individuals with rare diseases and their families.
- ❖ The rare disease day slogan for 2020 is “Rare is Many. Rare is Strong. Rare is Proud.”
- ❖ European Organisation for rare diseases established this day in 2008.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Traffic Index 2019

- ❖ TomTom, the Netherlands-based global provider of navigation, traffic and map products has released the Traffic Index 2019.
- ❖ The index uses location technology to collect traffic information and has been publishing city rankings for nine years.
- ❖ Bengaluru was ranked as the world’s most traffic congested city with drivers.
- ❖ Mumbai (4), Pune (5) and New Delhi (8) were the other Indian cities that featured in top 10 places.

- ❖ The other global cities featured amongst the top 10 include Manila from the Philippines, Bogota from Colombia, Moscow from Russia; Lima from Peru, Istanbul from Turkey and Jakarta from Indonesia.

## 4 INDIAN CITIES IN TOP 10

Congestion, 2019 (%)

1	Bengaluru	71
2	Manila	71
3	Bogota	68
4	Mumbai	65
5	Pune	59
6	Moscow	59
7	Lima, Peru	57
8	Delhi	56
9	Istanbul	55
10	Jakarta	53

➤ In Bengaluru, commuters waste 10 days and 3 hrs on road every year. In Mumbai, it is 8 days & 17 hrs and in Delhi, it's 7 days & 22 hrs

➤ During morning peak hours in Delhi, a trip that should normally take 30 mins takes 52 mins. In the evening peak hours, a 30-min trip becomes 58 mins long

➤ In Mumbai, half-hour commute takes 24 mins more in morning peak hours and 31 mins extra in evening



## Tangi Application

- ❖ Google announced I million USD grant to promote news literacy among Indians.
- ❖ It has launched a new application called "Tangi".
- ❖ The Tangi Application of Google focuses on Do It Yourself videos.
- ❖ The name of the application has been inspired from TeAch aNd Give.

## Go To Think Tank Index Report -2019

- ❖ Global Go To Think Tank Index Report -2019 is the complete ranking report of the world's think tank.
- ❖ It was released by the University of Pennsylvania, United States (US) each year since 2008.
- ❖ The index ranked top think tanks from around the world.
- ❖ As per the report India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF) was ranked at 27th place among 176 global think tanks.
- ❖ The report was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) of US.
- ❖ India has the second-largest number of think tanks at 509.
- ❖ The US has the highest number at 1,871.

Rank	ThinkTank	Country
27	Observer Research Foundation (ORF)	India
1	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP)	United States
2	Bruegel	Belgium
3	French Institute of International Relations (IFRI)	France
6	Chatham House	United Kingdom

### Report on Cancer by WHO

- ❖ In order to mark World Cancer Day on February 4, 2020, WHO and its specialized International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released 2 reports.
  - “Report on Cancer: Setting priorities, investing wisely and providing care for all” by WHO
  - “World Cancer Report “Cancer research for cancer prevention” by IARC
- ❖ It aims to setting the global agenda on the disease & focused on research and prevention.
- ❖ As per the report by the WHO, one in 10 Indians to have cancer in their lifetime and one in 15 died of the disease.
- ❖ 11.6 million new cases of cancer were reported in India & and 7,84,800 people died due to cancer in 2018.
- ❖ 50 % of smokers worldwide live in China, India and Indonesia.
- ❖ WHO has predicted that cancer cases will jump by 81 % by 2040 in poor countries.

### 8<sup>th</sup> International Intellectual Property Index - 2020

- ❖ The U.S Chamber of Commerce’s Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020.
- ❖ The 2020 index mapped the IP ecosystem in 53 global economies which included three new economies-Greece, Dominican Republic, and Kuwait.
- ❖ India’s position has downgraded to 40th rank in comparison to 36th position out of 50 countries in 2019.
- ❖ The index has been topped by the United States followed by UK, Sweden, France and Germany.



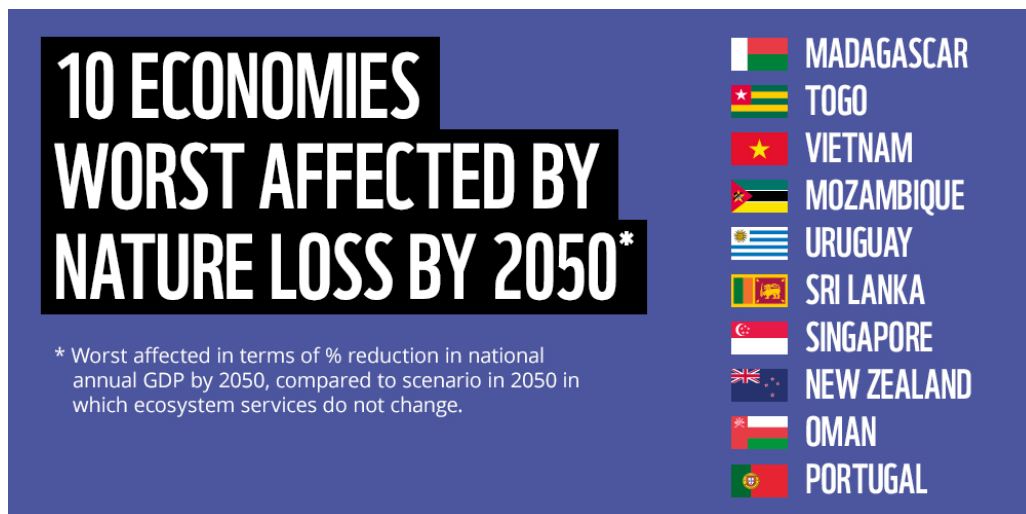
- ❖ Among Asia, India is ranked 4th which is topped by Australia and followed by Brunei (2) and China (3).
- ❖ Among Lower-middle-income economies, India is at 2nd position which is topped by Egypt.

### **Corona Virus Ranking**

- ❖ The researchers of Robert Koch institute in Germany and Humboldt University have founded mathematical model to predict global spread of novel corona virus cases.
- ❖ India was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in the ranking system.
- ❖ So far three cases have been reported in Kerala.
- ❖ They are all from Kerala.
- ❖ The study says that the spread of the virus is predominantly due to air travel.
- ❖ The highest risk of importing the virus was with Thailand. It was 2.1%.

### **Global Futures Report**

- ❖ Recently, the Global Futures report has been released jointly by
  - World Wide Fund for Nature,
  - Global Trade Analysis Project and
  - Natural Capital Project.
- ❖ According to the report, Nature has provided humanity with six ecosystem services namely
  1. Pollination of crops
  2. Protection of coasts from flooding and erosion
  3. Supply of water
  4. Timber production
  5. Marine fisheries and
  6. Carbon storage.
- ❖ The reduced supply of the six ecosystem services would lead to a 0.67% drop in the annual global GDP by 2050.



### **Future of Earth 2020 report**

- ❖ “The Future of Earth, 2020” report has been released by the South Asia Future Earth Regional Office, the Divecha Centre for Climate Change and the Indian Institute of Science.
- ❖ The report has been prepared with the aim of
  - Reducing carbon footprint and
  - Halting global warming below 2 degree Celsius by 2050.
- ❖ The report lists five global risks. They are,
  1. Climate change
  2. Extreme weather
  3. Biodiversity loss
  4. Food crisis
  5. Water crisis
- ❖ During 2019, the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere reached more than 415 ppm.
- ❖ The five years from 2014 to 2018 were the warmest recorded over land and ocean since 1880.





### **3<sup>rd</sup> Global Conference on Road Safety**

- ❖ 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Global Conference on Road Safety for Achieving Global Goals 2030 held in Stockholm, Sweden.
- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways represented India at this conference.
- ❖ It was organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) in association with the World Bank and minister-led delegations from more than 80 countries.
- ❖ The objective of the conference is to bring road safety on the global agenda.
- ❖ Theme of the conference is “Achieving Global Goals 2030”.
- ❖ The Brasilia declaration was signed at the Second Global High-Level conference on Road Safety held in Brazil in 2015.
- ❖ The United Nations has also declared 2010-2020 as the decade of action for Road Safety.

### **Third most spoken language – Hindi**

- ❖ With 615 million speakers all over the world, Hindi become the third most spoken language in the world.
- ❖ English is at the top with 1,132 million speakers followed by Mandarin with 1,117 million speakers.
- ❖ The Ethnologue published yearly database on living languages of the world.
- ❖ It covered more than 7,111 living languages.
- ❖ It also published data on languages that were gone out of usage in the recent history and that included around 348 languages.

### **Times Higher Education Ranking 2020**

- ❖ Times Higher Education Ranking was released in London.
- ❖ The ranking was titled “The Emerging Economies University Ranking 2020”.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science was ranked 16th among the top 100 Universities of emerging Economies.
- ❖ Around 11 Indian Universities were included in the top 100.
- ❖ However, China had more Universities than India in the ranking.
- ❖ Around 30 Universities of China were in the top 100.

## PERFORMANCE OVER YEARS



While IISc retained its top position among Indian varsities, it fell two places to 16

No. of Indian univs in top 100



## INDIAN UNIVERSITIES IN TOP 100 IN 2020

University	2019	2020	Movement
IISc Bengaluru	14	16	-2 ▼
IITKharagpur	55	32	23 ▲
IITBombay	27	34	-7 ▼
IITDelhi	66	38	28 ▲
IITRoorkee	35	58	-23 ▼
IITIndore	61	61	+/-0 ↔
IITMadras	75	63	12 ▲
IITRopar	NR	63	N/A ↔
Institute of Chemical Technology	NR	73	N/A ↔
IITKanpur	46	77	-31 ▼
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	141	90	51 ▲

Source: Times Higher Education

## Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019

- ❖ The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019.
- ❖ The index assesses countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education.
- ❖ The theme of the index is “From Policy to Practice”.

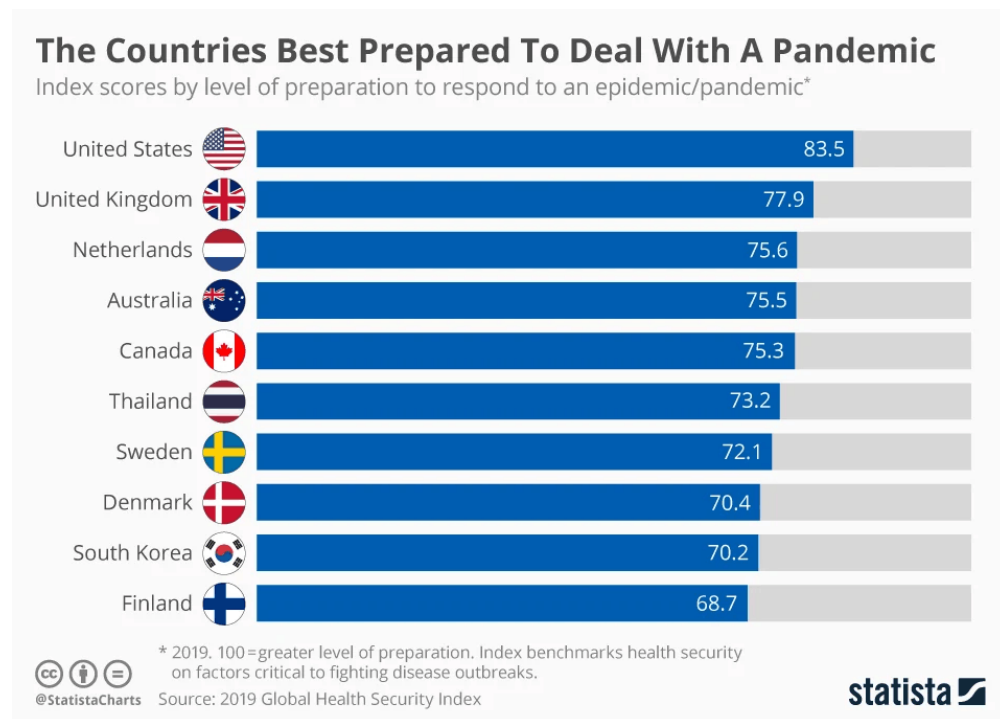
### Key takeaways from the index:

- ❖ Finland has been ranked at the top of the index.
- ❖ It was followed by Sweden at second position and New Zealand at third position.
- ❖ India has been ranked 35th on the overall index in 2019 with a total score of 53. In 2018, it was ranked at 40th position.
- ❖ The bottom three nations in the index were Kenya (48<sup>th</sup>), Nigeria (49<sup>th</sup>) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (50<sup>th</sup>).

## Global Health Security (GHS) Index- 2019

- ❖ The Global Health Security Index is the first comprehensive assessment of health security and related capabilities in 195 countries.

- ❖ The GHS Index assesses countries' health security and capabilities across six categories, 34 indicators, and 85 sub-indicators.
- ❖ The six categories are - prevention, early detection, rapid response, health system quality, standards, and the risk environment.
- ❖ In this Index, India was ranked 57th out of 195 countries with a score of 46.5 out of 100.
- ❖ The United States topped the list globally, followed by United Kingdom and Netherlands.
- ❖ China, which is at the centre of the recent coronavirus outbreak is at the 51<sup>st</sup> place,
- ❖ North Korea, Somalia and Equatorial Guinea are listed in the index's bottom three.



### Website for Kiliki language

- ❖ The filmmaker and Madhan Karky, the man behind the language, launched a website to help anyone learn the “world’s easiest language”.
- ❖ The website ([www.kiliki.in](http://www.kiliki.in)) has a 3,000-word English-Kiliki-English dictionary, a tool to convert names, videos and vocabulary games.
- ❖ The language spoken by the Kalakeyas in the film Baahubali, which was created exclusively for the film.

### UN report on Sustainability & flourishing index 2020

- ❖ According to the report, “A future for the world’s children?” commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal, India ranks
  - 77th in terms of Sustainability Index and
  - 131st in the Child Flourishing Index.
- ❖ Sustainability index is associated with per capita carbon emissions and ability of children in a nation to live healthy lives.

Rank	Sustainability index	Child Flourishing Index
<b>1</b>	Burundi	Norway
<b>2</b>	Chad	Republic of Korea
<b>3</b>	Somalia	Netherlands
<b>178</b>	Kuwait	Somalia
<b>179</b>	Trinidad and Tobago	Chad
<b>180</b>	Qatar	Central African Republic

### Nature Ranking Index - 2020

- ❖ Nature Ranking Index 2020 has been released by the Nature Index.
- ❖ The rankings are based on the total research output which the institutions have carried out from December,2018 to November,2019.
- ❖ The research output means the total citations in numbers and sharing percentage per article.
- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has topped the index.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has been ranked second.
- ❖ The third place has been secured by the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR-Mumbai).

