



TNPSC BITS	13
TAMIL NADU	26
Tamilnadu Buddhist Tourist Circuit	26
Justice Clock @ Madurai bench of Madras High Court	26
Konthagai Museum, Sivagangai District – Keeladi	27
Temple Prasadam – BHOG Certificate	28
Red Atlas and CFLOWS-Chennai – Early Flood Warning	28
Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance - 1962	28
Raja Raja Cholan - Sathaya Vizha	29
Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor	29
Chennai Air Pollution	30
Thozhi Scheme	30
Dam Across Thenpennai River	31
Nel Jeyaraman – Paddy Research Centre, Kudavasal	31
Ordinance for Local Body Elections	32
Tenkasi District	32
Kallakurichi district – Tamil nadu	33
Marine Enforcement Wing	34
Crop Damage by Fall Army Worm	34
NATIONAL	35
National Tribal Dance Festival @ Raipur	35
World’s Best CEOs – 3 Indians Find Place	35
India, Saudi – Bilateral Strategic Partnership Council	35
Creative Cities Recognition of UNESCO	36
Postal ballot for Elder & disabled people	36
Global Bio-India 2019	36
India – Germany Relations	37
Rajesh Bushan IAS, Secretary (Security)	37
India ranked 5th in Financial Inclusion	37
Pegasus Spyware	38
Uttar Pradesh most unsafe for women: NCRB 2017 data	38
Food Safety Mitra & Eat Right Jacket	40



Real time Train Information System.....	40
Dustlik - 2019: First India-Uzbek Joint Exercise	40
First Cargo Movement on National Waterway – 2 (NW - 2)	40
New political map of India.....	42
KVS EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Parv.....	42
National Symposium on Lymphatic Filariasis.....	43
National Research Institute of Unani Medicine.....	43
Takhat Darshan Yatra	43
eCAPA 2019 - Art from the Heart.....	44
Anti-Human Trafficking Units in All Districts.....	44
SCOJtEx- 2019	44
Skills Build Platform	45
New app will help international travelers	45
DU defers decision to accept eminence tag	45
Punjab – Office of Profit	46
Justice Delivery Report.....	46
Mission Innovation (MI).....	47
National Panchayat Awards 2019	48
Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi - Babri Masjid land dispute case	48
Government e-marketplace open to Private	51
Shilpotsav 2019.....	51
Maternity Mortality Ratio (MMR)	52
Farmer Suicide Data	52
Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan – Beach Cleaning Drive	53
International Seed Treaty – Protection of Plant Genetic Resources	53
First SCO Meet in India – 2020.....	54
New National Water Policy Committee	54
CJI’s office under RTI Act	54
6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance	55
Kartarpur Corridor.....	55
COCSSO conference	56
India-ASEAN Business Summit	57
Fighting for Breath report 2019.....	57



Sabarimala Review Verdict	58
Rafale Review Verdict	59
2020 Republic Day Guest – Jair Bolsonaro	59
Feni river agreement.....	60
Bru Tribe Issues.....	60
Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India	61
39th International Trade Fair	61
Tiger TRIUMP exercise	61
ACEM 2019	62
India Internet 2019	63
QUAD meeting 2019.....	63
Kalapani territory	64
Exercise Samudra Shakthi.....	65
Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019	65
5th Global exhibition on services 2019	66
Def Connect 2019	66
11th BRICS Summit, November 2019	66
Sisseri River Bridge – Project Brahmanak	67
Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI).....	67
World Talent Ranking Report	67
Climate Resilience in Coastal States – UNFCCC.....	68
NITI Aayog’s Report on Health Systems in India	68
Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit	69
Lancet Countdown Report 2019 on Health and Climate Change.....	69
ADMM-Plus meeting, Thailand.....	70
Maitree Diwas.....	70
National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa	70
Water Quality Report	70
World Conference on Access to Medical Products	71
2nd South Asia Safety Summit	71
Labour Code on Industrial Relations 2019	72
Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme	72
MK 45 Naval Guns.....	72



President's Color to Naval Academy.....	73
Physically Inactive Adolescents: Lancet Study	73
Avian Botulism @ Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan	74
Central Information Commission's Annual Report.....	74
Appointment to Tribunals – Finance Act, 2017	74
Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling.....	75
National Agro Chemical Congress	76
Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh	76
Cyclone Bulbul.....	76
SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020.....	77
Railways Institute of Financial Management, Hyderabad	77
22% of India's Groundwater Dried Up	77
UDAN Scheme 4.0.....	78
Per Capita Consumption of Electricity.....	78
Rule 12 of Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961	79
50th Conference of Governors	79
National Tribal Craft Mela 2019.....	79
Highest Road Length under PMGSY – Jammu and Kashmir.....	79
Awas Portal	80
Suman Billa IAS @ UNWTO	80
India Exclusion Report 2018-19	80
5 Important Reports by MoSPI	81
The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019	81
The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019.....	82
MILAN 2020.....	82
Mitra Shakthi VII: India-Sri Lanka	83
Lokpal – New Motto and Logo	83
Kartavaya Portal of HRD Ministry.....	83
Rising bad number of Mudra Loans	84
FSSAI Safety Report	84
1st International Liaison Officer of IFC-IOR.....	85
NuGen Mobility Summit 2019	85
Packaging of Food Grains, Sugar in Jute	85



QS World University Rankings for Asia 2020	86
5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES)	86
The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019	87
Spike Anti-tank Missiles.....	87
INTERNATIONAL.....	88
India Vs US @ WTO	88
Saudi Aramco – Biggest IPO.....	88
New IAEA Director General.....	88
Council of Heads of Government of SCO	88
CoP 25 of UNFCCC.....	89
16th India ASEAN Summit	90
35th ASEAN Summit.....	91
Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership - RCEP.....	91
Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support	92
6th Parliamentary Speakers’ Summit.....	92
BIMSTEC Conclave	92
Freedom on Net 2019 report	93
Danakil Depression	93
Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA 2021	94
New Iranian Oil Field	95
CARAT - 2019: US-Bangladesh Navy exercise.....	95
IORA Council of Ministers meeting.....	95
Israel election 2019	95
ADIPEC 2019.....	96
International Lavi Fair @ Himachal.....	96
Apsara Dance – Cambodia.....	96
2019 Driving Cities Index.....	97
Dhaka Global Dialogue	97
Bazeera City – Northwest Pakistan.....	97
First Country to Introduce Typhoid vaccine - Pakistan.....	98
8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS) - Delhi.....	98
Operation Kayla Mueller.....	98
Ocean Dance festival – Bangladesh	98



Sumatran Rhinoceros.....	99
The Global Bio-India (GBI) Summit, 2019	99
Food Vulnerability Index	99
Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India, 2018	100
Global Inclusive Prosperity Index	100
10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament @ Delhi Assembly	100
Floating School Project in Bangladesh	101
Largest Diplomatic Mission of the World: China	101
WATEC Conference 2019 - Israel	102
Building a Better Web (www) - Tim Berners Lee	102
World Migration Report 2020	102
ECONOMY.....	103
Employment level's drastic falls	103
Rupay at Saudi Arabia.....	103
New NPS rules.....	103
Nirvik Scheme	104
Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia	104
Unemployment rate in India.....	104
Tapan Ray Committee.....	105
Khadi - HS Code.....	105
Liquidity coverage ratio norms for NBFC	105
Atal Pension Yojana	106
Moody's - 'negative' from 'stable'.....	106
Maharatna Status	106
Financial Stability and Development Council.....	107
NCAER Survey	108
Essar Steel Verdict – Landmark Judgement.....	108
GDP of July-September Quarter.....	108
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.....	109
L2Pro India - mobile application	109
IndiGen – CSIR Programme	109
TechSagar	109
Oligomannate - world's first new Alzheimer's drug	109



Space Technology Cell	110
Standing wheelchair	110
First Electric Plane	110
Nicer Telescope of NASA	111
Voyager 2 enters interstellar space	111
DRDO's Igniter Complex @ Pune	112
Starlink Network.....	113
Saturn's Moon Titan Mapped	113
SeeTB.....	114
Pneumonia and SAANS.....	115
Secretagogin – Obesity Induced Diabetes	115
ETVAX Vaccine against Diarrhoea	115
PSLV-C47 / CARTOSAT-3 Mission.....	116
LB-1 Blackhole.....	117
Underwater Rover BRUIE.....	117
Wooden Breast Syndrome – Broiler Chicken	118
ENVIRONMENT	119
Mice problem on Tristan Albatross.....	119
California forest fires	119
Cyclones in Arabian Sea	120
29 th BASIC Ministerial Meet on Climate Change	120
Odd Even Scheme of Delhi – 2019	121
Kanpur - world's most polluted city	122
Air Pollution in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh	122
Rice for Plastic	125
5 th edition of Wastelands Atlas – 2019	125
Climate emergency	126
New tree frog Discovery	126
South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme - SACEP	126
USA – Out of Paris Deal	126
Report on Stubble Burning	127
Nelloptodes gretae	128
Bio Bricks.....	128



Brown to Green Report – India.....	129
IndAIR.....	129
Signal Fish Discovered in Kerala.....	130
Ethanol production.....	131
Plastic Parks.....	131
Most Inhabitable Place – Dallol, Ethiopia	131
Emissions Gap Report – 2019	132
Climate Emergency – European Parliament.....	133
6th Asian Dendrochronology Conference.....	133
STATES.....	134
Public Health Emergency – Air Quality at Delhi.....	134
Odisha – Social Registry.....	134
Buddhist structure collapses in Vizag - Thotalakonda, AP.....	135
Haryana’s New CM	135
Entry law for visitors	136
Assam’s Bhaona	136
Tipu Sultan – Out of syllabus.....	136
Bamboo Tech parks.....	137
6 Lakh Diyas.....	137
Gottiprolu at Andhra Pradesh.....	137
Minimum Wages hike in Delhi	137
Free Travel for Women in Buses – Delhi	138
Gujarat anti-terror law	138
Exhibition on Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day.....	138
‘Odisha Mo Parivar’ initiative	138
Suranga Bawadi – Ancient Water Supply System.....	139
Largest Shivalingam - Kerala.....	140
Access to Internet - Kerala	140
President’s Rule in Maharashtra	140
Disqualification of Karnataka MLAs	141
Lightning Strikes in India	141
Crop Compensation Scheme BBY – Haryana	142
Shishu Suraksha App – Assam	142



NISHTHA launched in Kashmir	142
RT-PCR Diagnosis Machines @ Kolkatta	142
Forest Rights Act Revoked in Mizoram	143
Legal Marijuana - Madhya Pradesh	143
Amaravati on Political Map	143
Arundhati Swarna Yojana Scheme – Assam	144
World’s Biggest Islamic Congregation – Bhopal	144
Nadu Nedu programme	145
Living Root Bridge	145
Kalaburgi Airport of Karnataka	146
Gandhi Villages, Rajasthan	146
Guru Ghasidas National Park Tiger Reserve – Chhattisgarh	146
Seats for Disabled - Panchayath Polls Chhattisgarh	147
Ban Extended on Bodos Movement	147
Etawah Lion Safari – Uttar Pradesh	147
Short tenured CM – Maharashtra	147
‘Water 4 Change’ – Kozhikode	148
Loktak Inland Waterways Project – Manipur	149
PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS	149
Sakharov Prize - Professor Ilham Toti	149
Indira Gandhi Award	150
2019 SEED Awards	150
Special Operation Medal for 2019	151
Vyas Samaan	151
JCB Prize for Literature 2019	151
Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice	151
Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival	152
PS Krishnan IAS Passes Away	153
TN Seshan Passed Away	154
Asia Society’s Game Changer Awards – Kung Fu Nuns of Himalayas	154
Ganga Utsav	155
BRICS-Young Innovator Prize	156
Vashishtha Narayan Singh	156



RBS India - Earth Heroes Awards	156
3 books on teachings of Guru Nanak ji	157
Infosys Prizes 2019	157
Aadi Mahotsav	158
Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award	158
George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science	158
Justice R. Banumathi – Collegium Member	158
Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019	159
Fortune's Annual Business Person of the Year	159
World Athlete of the Year Award	159
Manipur Sangai Festival	160
DRDO Chairman becomes Fellow of RAeS	161
United Nations Global Climate Action Awards 2019	161
50th International Film Festival (IFFI), Goa	161
Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri – Gananpith Awardee	162
SPORTS	163
Under-23 World Wrestling Championships	163
FIFA U-17 Emblem	163
Anti-Match-fixing Bill – Sri Lanka	164
2023 Men's Hockey World Cup	164
Deepak Chahar	165
Manu Bhaker – Air Pistol Shooter	165
ISSF World Cup Finals	165
First Day Night Test – Pink Ball Test	165
Syed Mustaq Ali Tournament – Abhimanyu Mithun	166
Steve Smith – Fastest 7,000 Test Runs	167
IMPORTANT DAYS	167
Tamilnadu Day – November 1	167
World Vegan Day – November 1	168
State formation day	169
Coal India Foundation Day – November 1	170
World Tsunami Awareness Day – November 5	170



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – November 6.....	171
Infant Protection Day – November 7	171
National Cancer Awareness Day – November 7.....	171
International Day of Radiology – November 8.....	172
World Radiography Day – November 8.....	173
Tamil Lexicography Day – November 8.....	173
National Legal Services Day – November 9.....	174
International Week of Science and Peace - November 9 to 14.....	174
National Education Day – November 11.....	175
World Pneumonia Day – November 12	176
Public Service Broadcasting Day – November 12.....	176
Guru Nanak Jayanthi – November 12	177
World Diabetes Day – November 14.....	177
World Quality Day – November 14.....	178
National Cooperatives Week – November 14 – 20	178
International Day for Tolerance – November 16.....	178
National Press Day – November 16	178
World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – November 17.....	179
International Students Day – November 17	179
First Naturopathy Day – November 18.....	179
World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day – November 20	180
Universal Children’s Day – November 20	180
World Philosophy Day – November 21	181
International Men's Day – November 19	181
World Toilet Day - November 19	182
National Integration Day - November 19	182
World Heritage Week 2019	183
NCC Day – November 24.....	183
International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – November 25	183
National Constitution Day or Law Day – November 26	184
National Milk Day – November 26	185
International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People – November 29	186



Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare – November 30....	186
MISCELLANEOUS.....	187
Pakistan’s Coin on the 550th Prakash Parv Of Guru Nanak.....	187
Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Agreement	187
World Records for the largest astrophysics’ assembly.....	188
ICGS Annie Besant.....	188



TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Indian Railways has launched '09 Sewa Service' Trains to connect smaller towns around major cities.
 - These services were launched by the Minister of Railways and Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal.
- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia plan to work together with other Indian Ocean Rim Countries for enhancing maritime security and ensure safe passage of ships for international trade.
 - India will hold its first joint naval exercise with Saudi Arabia in December 2019-January 2020.
- ❖ India's top-ranked men's doubles pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty finished runners-up at French Open Badminton 2019.
 - This pair clinched silver after losing the final to World No. 1 pairing of Marcus Fernaldi and Kevin Sukamuljo.
- ❖ Bangladesh Cricket Board named Mahmudullah as the captain of the senior national T20I after the International Cricket Council slapped a lengthy "ban" on Shakib Al Hasan.
 - Shakib was banned for 2 years and suspended for 1 year over his failure to report approaches of corrupt conduct.
- ❖ In the second assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) being held at New Delhi, two more countries - Eritrea and Saint Kittis and Nevis have signed the ISA Framework Agreement.
 - This makes total number of countries who have signed ISA to 83.
- ❖ Telecom regulator TRAI has fixed phone call ring time at 30 seconds for mobiles and 60 seconds for landline phones in case the call is neither answered nor rejected by a subscriber.
- ❖ ISRO has informed that the CHACE-2 payload aboard the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, has detected Argon-40 from an altitude of approximately 100 kilometres of the moon.
- ❖ Budget carrier IndiGo has joined the International Air Transport Association (IATA) as a member. This will help the airline develop strong partnerships in international markets.
 - IATA is a global trade association for the airline industry representing over 290 airlines.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Municipal Administration ministry officially initiated the use of Bandicoot spider-robot which will be used by sanitation workers to clean manholes.



- The robotic arm could travel through a manhole for up to 30 feet and collect the accumulated sludge.
- ❖ An organic blue cheese named Rogue River Blue made in Oregon, USA has been named as the world's best cheese in the annual World Cheese Awards.
- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has proposed India's first four-deck transport structure to be built at Nagpur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Former Maharashtra Director General of Police (DGP) D.D. Padsalgikar has been appointed as the Deputy National Security Advisor.
- ❖ International acclaimed Sand Artist, Padmashri Sudarsan Pattnaik who belongs to Odisha has been selected for the prestigious Italian Golden Sand Art Award 2019.
 - He will be felicitated during the International Scorrana Sand Nativity festival in Italy.
- ❖ The Philippine Army has announced that it is keen on buying the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which was jointly developed by India and Russia.
 - Indian and Philippines officials had discussed the possible sale of the BrahMos missile to the Philippine Army during a visit by the INS Sahyadri, an Indian Navy warship, to Manila.
- ❖ Novak Djokovic won the fifth Masters Title of the season – Paris Masters title, playing against Canadian youngster Denis Shapovalov.
 - This was Djokovic's fifth trophy of the season — after Wimbledon, US Open, the Madrid Open and Tokyo Open.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu state government has sanctioned funds to the tune of ₹76.24 crore for implementing Amma Youth Sports Scheme.
 - The scheme will be implemented in a total of 12,524 village panchayats, 528 town panchayats to focus on kabaddi, volleyball and cricket, among other sports.
- ❖ 5 Scotch order of merit awards have been awarded to the Tamil Nadu Agriculture Department for effective implementation of 5 projects to improve the livelihood of small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister has released a book on 'Thirukkural' in Thai language in Bangkok on November 1, 2019.
- ❖ Tamil Actor Rajinikanth will be honoured with a special Icon of Golden Jubilee award at the 50th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa.
- ❖ German Chancellor Angela Merkel announced that Germany would put in €200 million to reform the Government bus sector of transport department in Tamil Nadu.



- ❖ India's forex reserves increased by \$1.832 billion to a new lifetime high of \$442.583 billion in the week ended October 25.
- ❖ The 99 years old Yoga teacher V Nanammal passed away in Coimbatore.
 - She is known affectionately as "Yoga Grandma", and she received the Padma Shri award.
- ❖ Eight-time winners Indian hockey team qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after beating Russia. Before that Indian women team also qualified to Tokyo after won against US.
- ❖ Oil-to-telecom major Reliance Industries (RIL) became the first company in India to hit the market capitalisation of Rs 9 lakh crore. RIL was also the first company to reach Rs 8 lakh crore mark in August last year.
- ❖ The Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) has confirmed the presence of malware in its system at the Kudankulam nuclear plant. The NPCIL is a body under the Department of Atomic Energy, which in turn comes under the purview of the prime minister's office.
- ❖ Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has released a special commemorative coin on Paramahansa Yogananda to mark his 125th Birth Anniversary. He was known as Father of Yoga in the West.
- ❖ Puskar Fair was recently held at Rajasthan. It is an annual multi-day livestock fair and cultural fête held in the town of Pushkar (Rajasthan, India). It is one of India's largest camel, horse and cattle fairs.
- ❖ The stone scribblings more than 2000-year-old were recently discovered at Veppana Halli near Krishnagiri. It was considered the oldest and biggest one of Tamilnadu history.
- ❖ The District administration of Mulugu of Telangana has initiated the process of collection of 1 kg plastic waste for 1 kg rice.
- ❖ The 2019 Sharjah International Book Fair (SIBF) 2019 was held at Sharjah in UAE. It is recognized as one of the world's top publishing events, and is the largest in the Arab world.
- ❖ 'Sangam 2019-20' held in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district with an aim to "promote peace and prosperity in the Chenab Valley region".
 - This year's theme: Let's Build Our Nation.
- ❖ Union Territory of Ladakh gets New Regional Centre of GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment & Development.
 - The institute has headquarters at Kosi-Katarmal (Uttarakhand).
- ❖ The Indian army plans to have the first Dhanush regiment by March 2020 and to get all 114 guns by 2022.



- Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded variant of the Swedish Bofors gun imported in the 1980s.
- ❖ German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged to invest €1 billion over the next five years on environmentally-friendly Green urban mobility in India.
- ❖ The biennial Commonwealth Law Ministers' Conference held at Colombo in Srilanka under the theme Equal Access to Justice and the Rule of Law.
- ❖ Odisha tagged with Maharashtra under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. Odisha is also known as Utkala which literally means the land of excellent art and culture.
- ❖ The Supreme Court-mandated Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority/EPCA had declared Public Health Emergency in Delhi and NCR region. It banned construction activity and bursting of crackers.
- ❖ Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu released a monograph, 'Musical Excellence of Mridangam', a rare fusion of art and science of an ancient South Indian instrument in Chennai.
 - The monograph has been prepared by the renowned Mridangam exponent Dr Umayalpuram Sivaraman, scientist Dr T.Ramasamy and Dr Naresh.
- ❖ In the first eight months of 2019, growth in India's CO2 emissions slowed down sharply, and record its lowest annual increase in nearly 20 years.
 - It was just 2%, against an average of 5% per year over the past period.
- ❖ UN clarified that there is no declaration made by them to observe APJ Abdul kalam's birthday (15 October) as World Students' Day.
- ❖ The national anthem of Bangladesh, has been given a Sanskrit makeover on the eighth death anniversary of the Bhupen Hazarika.
- ❖ Manu Bhaker won gold in women's 10m air pistol event while Vivaan Kapoor and Manisha Keer won the bronze medal in junior trap mixed event at the Asian Shooting Championships here.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development Sanjay Dhotre launched the Shala Darpan Portal of Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti.
 - The Navodaya Vidyalayas are co-educational residential schools established by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous organization under MHRD.
- ❖ The International Yoga and Naturopathy Medical Science Centre is coming up at the Chengalpattu Medical College.
 - It is the first one in India in this category.
- ❖ The government has approved a fund of Rs 25,000 crore as AIF for the reviving of stalled housing projects across the country.



- Alternative Investment Fund or AIF collects funds from certain investors for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mishra as the chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI).
 - LPAI develops, sanitises and manage the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India.
- ❖ The 5th International Conference on Road Tech (Sustainable Roads and Highways) was recently held in New Delhi.
 - The Conference Agenda was ‘Smart Use of Available Resources for Green and Sustainable Roads’.
- ❖ Gandhinagar becomes first kerosene-free district of Gujarat.
- ❖ The first-ever Ladakh Literature Festival was held recently at the Leh Palace of Ladakh.
- ❖ Six elephants recently died in an accident at the Haew Narok Waterfall in the national park in Thailand.
 - The waterfall is in Khao Yai National Park, where there are about 300 wild elephants.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Deputy Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam, who is on an official visit to the United States, received an award in Chicago.
 - The American Multi Ethnic Coalition has awarded him “Rising Star of the Year – Asia”.
- ❖ Justice AP Sahi was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of Madras high court. The Governor of Tamilnadu Banwarilal Purohit administered the oath of office to the chief justice at Raj Bhavan.
- ❖ To provide world-class treatment at affordable prices, Union Government plans has approved setting up four medical device parks at Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- ❖ Gujarat Government has given its nod to construct the world’s first Compressed natural gas (CNG) port terminal at Bhavnagar.
- ❖ Gujarat based scientist Dhruv Prajapati has discovered 2 new species of spiders. He named one of them Marengo sachintendulkar, after Sachin and the other one as ‘Indomarengo chavarapater’ after Saint Kuriakose Elias Chavara, a crusader in spreading awareness about education in Kerala.



- ❖ Due to concerns over its shrinking size, the Jammu and Kashmir government has set up a ten-member committee to declare Srinagar's Dal Lake and its surrounding areas as an eco-sensitive zone (ESZ).
 - Eco-Sensitive Zones are areas within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. ESZs are notified by the MoEFCC, Government of India under Environment Protection Act 1986.
- ❖ Sanskrit Bharati Vishwa Sammelan, a first-of-its-kind global conference on Sanskrit language was conducted at New Delhi.
 - The event was organised by the NGO Samskrita Bharati and co-partnered by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- ❖ Google celebrated the 30th anniversary of fall of the 'Berlin Wall' (November 9, 1989) with a doodle.
 - The Berlin Wall was a guarded concrete barrier that physically and ideologically divided Berlin from 1961 to 1989.
- ❖ New Zealand parliament has passed a new law called "The Zero Carbon" that aims to tackle climate change by setting a net-zero target for almost all greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ Italy becomes the first country in world that has made it mandatory for school students in every grade to study climate change and sustainability.
- ❖ Palaeontologists in Poland recently unearthed the jaws and teeth of a monstrous 'pliosaur', an ancient marine reptile with a bite more powerful than that of Tyrannosaurus rex.
 - Pliosaurus, the biggest of the Jurassic period's ocean predators, lived around 150 million years ago.
- ❖ Dubai's Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) celebrated the 10th anniversary of Public Transport Day's initiative on November 1st, 2019.
 - This year's theme is 'Better transport for a better life'.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government is set to introduce English medium in all government schools right from first to eighth standard starting from the next academic year.
 - The program will be extended to ninth and tenth standards in the subsequent year.
- ❖ Thousands of migratory birds of about ten species were found dead around Sambhar Lake, the country's largest inland saltwater lake near Jaipur.
- ❖ Industrial output (Index of Industrial Production) in September fell 4.3% from a year earlier due to decline in mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors.



- This is the first time after November 2012 that all three broad-based sectors have contracted and posted lowest monthly growth.
- ❖ India will host the next edition of the "No Money for Terror" conference to be held in 2020.
 - It is organised by Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) of over 100 countries, jointly called The Egmont Group.
- ❖ NASSCOM Foundation, the Indian IT industry body's social arm, and Bangalore based software firm Mphasis announced the winners of the 11th edition of NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum (NSIF) award.
- ❖ In Domestic Cricket, India 'B' defeated India 'C' by 51 runs in the finals of Deodhar Trophy at International Stadium Complex in Ranchi.
- ❖ The second edition of the Paris Peace Forum, a two-day event of debate sessions aiming at global solutions for global issues, was held at Paris.
- ❖ World Kindness Day is an international observance on 13 November.
 - It was introduced in 1998 by the World Kindness Movement, a coalition of nations' kindness NGOs.
- ❖ With 77 million people affected by diabetics, India has the second highest number of diabetics in the age group 20 – 79.
 - China leads the list of top 10 countries with 116 million diabetics.
- ❖ The Eleventh edition of Bal Sangam festival was organised by National School of Drama (NSD) in its premises in New Delhi. It is a confluence of folk and traditional art forms performed by children.
- ❖ Children's Day is celebrated in the country each year on November 14, as a tribute to former Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru who was born in 1889.
 - Google observed the day with a doodle called "Walking Trees". It is based on a seven-year-old student Divyasanhi Singhal's painting which spreads the message on protecting the next generations from Deforestation.
- ❖ On the occasion of Children's Day, Tamil children's writer Devi Nachiappan and poet Sabarinathan was awarded the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2019 award.
 - Devi Nachiappan (aka Deivanai) was awarded for her life-time contribution to children's literature and Sabarinathan was awarded for his poem collection 'Vaal (tail)'.
- ❖ DRDO has announced that a night-time arrested landing of light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Navy variant was carried out at Shore based test facility, Goa.



- ❖ Ultima Thule, the farthest cosmic body ever visited by a spacecraft, has been renamed by NASA as Arrokoth or 'sky' in the Native American Powhatan language.
 - The previous name 'Ultima Thule' had racist connotations and is popular in Nazi circles and among Aryan-supremacy conspiracy theorists.
- ❖ West Bengal celebrated 'Rosgolla Day' on November 14, 2019. It was to commemorate the second anniversary of granting of GI Tag to rosgollas.
- ❖ India's wholesale inflation (WPI) eased to 0.16% in October which is the lowest ever recorded, in more than three years.
- ❖ The IUCN's 7th 'Asia Regional Conservation Forum' was held at Islamabad, Pakistan.
 - Nearly 170 delegates from Asian countries had attended the event entitled 'Greening Asia for Nature and People' to discuss different adaptation and mitigation measures to curb adverse impacts of climate change.
- ❖ In a bid to ensure that customers receive authentic goods when shopping on Amazon, it has announced a measure called "Project Zero" to India.
 - It is a step to identify, block and remove counterfeit products on sale.
- ❖ The Bolivian president Evo Morales resigned after civil protests following the disputed election results of October 2019. The opposition senator Jeanine Áñez assumed the office of president on 11 November 2019.
- ❖ Five day-long "International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture and Global Food and Livelihood Security" at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi.
 - The conference is being organized jointly by the Soil Conservation Society of India.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) tested its efficiency and preparedness during the Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019 (ReSAREX- 19) conducted off the Goa coast.
 - ICG participation: 5 ships of ICG, 2 Chetak helicopters were used for the workshop.
- ❖ In a first for local body polls, the Tamilnadu state government will allow people with disabilities, especially those who are deaf, mute and people with leprosy to contest.
 - The amendments were made in Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act and Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act in July 2019.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government will allocate space to construct a memorial for Guru Nanak at Rameswaram.



- Gurudwara Guru Nanak Dham is a gurudwara situated in the town of Rameswaram.
- It will be constructed to commemorate the visit of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak to Rameswaram in about 1511.
- ❖ The deputy Chief Minister of Tamilnadu O. Panner Selvam received the 'MAFS Gandhi Sesquicentennial Medallion of Excellence' award given by the Metropolitan Asia Family Services. He was also given Thanga Tamil Magan award at the congratulatory meeting for the World Tamil Conference.
- ❖ The Shooter from Madhya Pradesh Chinki Yadav Bags India's 11th 2020 Tokyo Olympics Quota. But She could not win a medal at the 14th Asian Championship held at Doha of Qatar.
- ❖ A selection Committee chaired by Chief Minister Palanisami selected 1984 batch IAS Officer Rajagopalan for the post of State Chief Information Commissioner.
- ❖ Supreme Court Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde was sworn in as the 47th Chief Justice of India, replacing Ranjan Gogoi.
 - In August 2017, he was part of a Bench that ruled that the right to privacy is "intrinsic to life and liberty".
- ❖ On the first day of the winter session, Rajya Sabha's 250 session was conducted. A special discussion on 'Role of Rajya Sabha and the need for reforms' was held.
- ❖ 19th Jharkhand foundation day was observed on 15th November. It was established by the Bihar Reorganisation Act, 2000.
 - 15th November is also the birth anniversary of legendary tribal leader Birsa Munda (15 November 1875 – 9 June 1900).
- ❖ National Epilepsy day was observed on 17th November. The Epilepsy Foundation of India leads the observance of this day.
- ❖ Sri Lanka's controversial wartime Defense Secretary and brother of Mahinda Rajapaksa, Gotabaya Rajapaksha has won the Presidential elections. He defeated rival Sajith Premadasa of United National Party.
- ❖ Coca-Cola has been named the world's largest polluter of plastics for the second year in a row, according to an audit conducted by environmental group "Break Free From Plastic". It is followed by Nestle and Pepsi.
- ❖ The inaugural edition of the Bilateral Maritime Exercise Za'ir-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) is being conducted from 17 to 21 November 2019 between the Indian Navy and Qatari Emiri Naval Forces.
 - The five-day bilateral maritime exercise at Doha includes surface action, air defence, maritime surveillance as well as social and sports events.



- ❖ Vice President inaugurated the International Conference of Global Mothers - 2019 at New Delhi. The conference was conducted on the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – Family System and Role of Mother”.
- ❖ Manipur-based, former World and Asian Boxing champion, L Sarita Devi has been elected as member of the newly constituted International Boxing Association’s (AIBA) Athletes’ Commission.
 - In the six-member body, Sarita Devi is the sole representative of Asian continent.
- ❖ As chair of the Kimberley Process (KP), India hosted the Plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) at New Delhi.
 - Based on Flower Report, UN General Assembly established KPCS process in 2003 to prevent "conflict diamonds" from entering the mainstream rough diamond market.
- ❖ Pakistan has successfully test-fired a nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-I, which can strike targets up to 650 kilometres. It brings many Indian cities under its range.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has said the armed forces should consider granting Permanent Commission to women officers who joined under the Short Service Commission (SSC) before March 2019.
 - Currently, Army has notified permanent commission to women officers, who join the forces under SSC, after March 2019 only.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a new app called “e-Ganna” for the convenience of sugarcane farmers. It eradicates middlemen and ensures transparency in procurement.
- ❖ The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2019 will be conferred on renowned naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough for his tireless work to preserve and protect biodiversity.
 - His name was selected for the prize by an international jury chaired by former president Pranab Mukherjee, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.
- ❖ India captain Virat Kohli was named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India’s ‘Person of the Year for 2019’ for his animal advocacy efforts.
- ❖ “The World Energy Outlook 2019” report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) has predicted that India’s net oil import requirements will more than double between 2018 and 2040.
 - The report’s “Sustainable Development Scenario” (SDS) charts out measures that would be required to limit global warming to 1.65 degree Celsius.



- ❖ Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa swore in, former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka until general elections due next year.
 - Mahinda replaces PM Ranil Wickremesinghe, who quit following his party's Presidential candidate Sajith Premadasa's poll defeat despite having a parliamentary majority.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved strategic disinvestment in five large public sector undertakings and raise Rs.78,400 crores.
 - The list of companies is Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), THDC India Ltd and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO).
- ❖ The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is hosting the first counter-terrorism exercise for the "Quad" countries (India, the US, Japan and Australia) at the NIA headquarters in Delhi on November 21 and 22.
 - The 'CT-TTX' (counter-terrorism table-top exercise) is first such engagement among the Quad countries on regional and global issues of common interest and in the domain of counter-terrorism and cooperation.
- ❖ The 2019 Global Terrorism Index, which was released recently, analysed the impact of terrorism for 163 countries in 2018. Talibans were named as the most dreaded terror organisation in the world.
 - The highest number of deaths was recorded in Afghanistan, with more than 7,000 deaths.
- ❖ In December 1996, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21 November as World Television Day commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.
- ❖ World Fisheries Day is celebrated every year on November 21 to highlight the importance of healthy ocean ecosystems and ensure sustainable stocks of fisheries in the world.
- ❖ 21-year-old Mayank Pratap Singh from Rajasthan has now become the youngest judge in India after qualifying the Judicial Services Exam 2018.
 - Earlier Rajasthan High Court had brought down the minimum age limit for appearing in the Judicial Services exam from 23 to 21.
- ❖ The Bar Council of India (BCI) has 'proposed' a new rule which makes it mandatory for any lawyer to have a minimum experience of 2 years at district/taluka court before practising at High Court.
- ❖ Sub Lieutenant Shivvangi will become the first Woman Pilot of Indian Navy when she flies a Dornier Aircraft on December 2, 2019 at Kochi.



- ❖ Oxford Dictionaries has declared “climate emergency” the word of the year for 2019, following a hundred-fold increase in usage of the word.
- ❖ Chitharesh Natesan 33-year-old former hockey player turned bodybuilder also known as the ‘Indian Monster’ by bodybuilding circles became the first Indian to win ‘Mr. Universe (Pro) 2019’ in 90 kg category.
 - He won the title at the 11th World Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Championship (WBPF) held in South Korea.
- ❖ Rajasthan’s flagship free medicine scheme, launched in 2011-12, has once again secured the first rank from the National Health Mission.
 - National Health Mission under its Free Drug Service Initiative, started giving rankings to the states.
- ❖ The International Conference on Yoga for Heart care was organized at Mysuru.
- ❖ The 4th edition of India International Cherry Blossom Festival, 2019 was celebrated in Shillong, Meghalaya.
 - This year the Republic of Korea was the partner country in the festival.
- ❖ For the first time in 30 years, the Assam government has released the “Land Policy 2019” prepared by Revenue and Disaster Management Department. The last such report was released in 1989.
- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, in association with the North Eastern States has organised the 8th “International Tourism Mart” (ITM) at Imphal, Manipur from 23 November to 25 November, 2019.
- ❖ Rafael Nadal has clinched 6th Davis Cup title for Spain after beating Denis Shapovalov of Canada in Madrid. He defeated Shapovalov 6-3, 7-6 (9-7).
- ❖ India Post has issued a commemorative postage stamp on M.M. Kuzhiveli, an educational expert, a teacher and president of the publications department of the Kerala University.
 - He published first encyclopedia in Malayalam “Vijnanam” and contributed for children’s literature.
- ❖ A maiden bilateral exercise between the Indian Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) on explosive ordnance disposal and mine counter measure was undertaken in Kochi.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh inaugurated the 4-day ‘Destination North East’ event at Varanasi, UP.
 - The festival showcases the culture and craft of the 8 north eastern states.
- ❖ In a bid to boost internationalisation of the rupee, the RBI has relaxed norms for the opening of special non-resident rupee (SNRR) accounts and permitted direct remittance from India into these accounts.

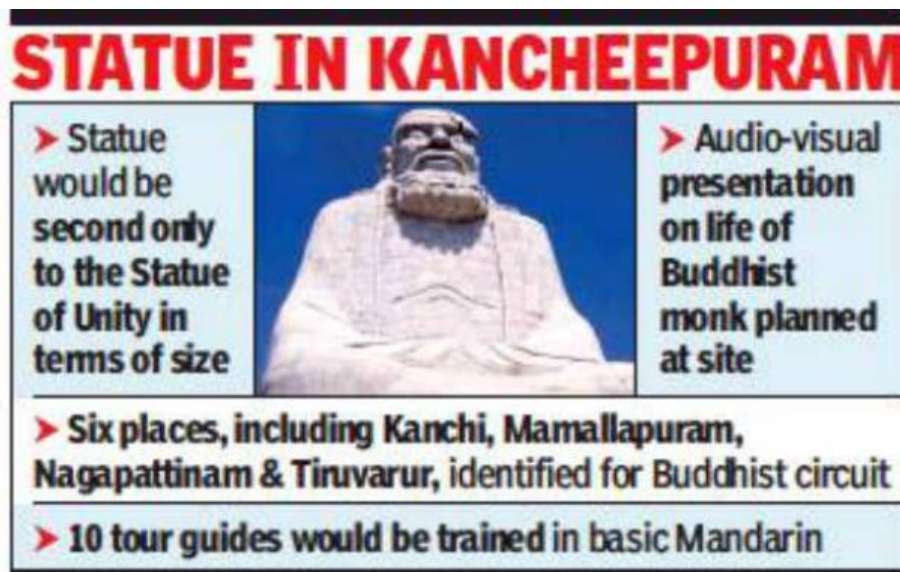


- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries (RIL) became the “first Indian firm” to cross the market capitalisation of ₹10 lakh crores.
 - The second most valued firm in India is Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with a market capitalisation of ₹7.81 lakh crores.
- ❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister inaugurated two new districts – Tirupattur and Ranipet on 28.11.2019. They were carved out of Vellore district.
 - This makes the total number of districts in Tamilnadu as 37.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched a three-week intensive campaign in 47 districts to eradicate Filaria. The campaign is in sync with Union Government’s plan to eradicate filaria from India by 2021.
- ❖ Researchers have discovered a new species of non-venomous burrowing snake named “Trachischium apteii” at Tally Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - It is named so to honour the contribution of Deepak Apte, well-known marine biologist and Director of the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS).
- ❖ Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has signed Technology Transfer Agreement with ISRO for acquiring the Li-Ion Cell production technology.
 - The space-grade cell will be suitably modified and will enter mass production phase to be used in various sectors.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has extended the term of 15th Finance Commission, which is to decide on division of tax and other resources between the centre and the states, by one-year to October 30, 2020.
 - The commission is headed by N.K. Singh. It will now present the final report covering financial years 2021-22 to 2025-26.
- ❖ To create awareness about threats facing the jaguars, second international jaguar day was observed on November 29, 2019.
 - The event is coordinated by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and governments.
- ❖ Former Belgian prime minister, Charles Michel has replaced Donald Tusk and has become the President of the European Council.
 - Also, Jean Claude Juncker will be replaced by Ursula von der Leyen as President of the European Commission.

TAMIL NADU

Tamilnadu Buddhist Tourist Circuit

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government plans to build a massive statue of Bodhidharma at Kancheepuram.
- ❖ It plans to promote a Buddhist pilgrimage circuit in the state to attract tourists from China.
- ❖ The statue planned would be second only to the Statue of Unity of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat in size.
- ❖ Six places across the state, including Kancheepuram, Mamallapuram, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur had been identified for the Buddhist circuit.
- ❖ TN Tourism department also plans to train 10 tour guides at Mamallapuram in basic Mandarin to interact with Chinese tourists.



Justice Clock @ Madurai bench of Madras High Court











- ❖ The Administrative Judge of high court Madurai bench, Justice T S Sivagnanam, inaugurated the 'justice clock' on the court premises.
- ❖ Justice clock is an LED display board which displays information such as
 - The ranking of all the courts across the country based on the filing of cases, their pendency and disposal by the courts.
 - Names of sitting judges
 - Performance-based ranking of judges.

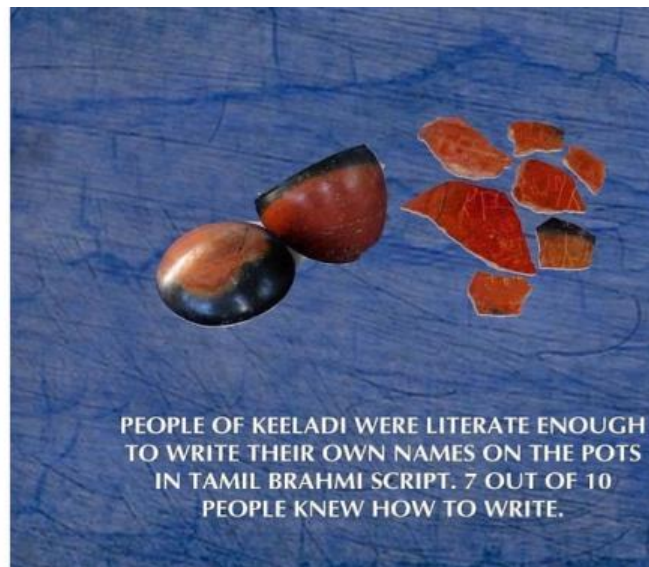
- ❖ The main objective of the clock is to disseminate judicial information and create legal awareness to common man.
- ❖ The idea was proposed by Prime Minister in 2017 for all 3,350 courts across India.
- ❖ As first phase of implementation, Justice Clocks would be installed in 24 High Courts after which it would be extended to all other courts.



Konthagai Museum, Sivagangai District – Keeladi

- ❖ Tamilnadu government plans to establish a world-class museum at Konthagai village in Sivagangai district at a cost of 12.21 crores.
- ❖ The museum would display the artefacts unearthed from Keeladi excavation site.
- ❖ It will be established to take forward and popularize the rich culture and heritage of the state.

Keeladi graffiti	INDUS sign	
		INDUS SIGN-225
		INDUS SIGN-307
		INDUS SIGN-365
		INDUS SIGN-318
		INDUS SIGN-318





Temple Prasadam – BHOG Certificate

- ❖ Prasadam such as laddu, murukku, vadai and other food offered to devotees at Tamil Nadu's temples will soon have to be of better quality.
- ❖ The State Food Safety and Drug Administration has told temples under the Hindu Religious & Charitable Endowments (HR &CE) department to obtain the BHOG quality certificate.
- ❖ Blissful Hygiene Offering to God (BHOG) certificate is issued by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ❖ Prasadam and eatables offered at temples also come under Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Red Atlas and CFLOWS-Chennai – Early Flood Warning

- ❖ The Vice President of India has recently launched the 'Red Atlas Action Plan Map' and Coastal Flood Warning System App (CFLOWS-Chennai) in Chennai.
- ❖ Red Atlas is a first of its kind ready reckoner, prepared by the Ministry of Earth Sciences to aid Tamil Nadu government in effective flood mitigation in Chennai.
- ❖ The atlas, with probable scenarios for different rainfall periods, aims at flood mitigation, preparedness, operations and management aspects.
- ❖ The CFLOWS-Chennai is a complete web GIS-based decision support system that can be used both for mitigation planning operations before flooding and in real-time for aspects like relief work.

Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance - 1962

- ❖ The Animal Medical Mobile Ambulance (AMMA) service, introduced nearly two years ago remains suspended for the past few months.
- ❖ Now it is again flagged off by Tamilnadu Chief Minister.
- ❖ The toll-free number is 1962.
- ❖ It was launched by former Chief Minister Jayalalitha in 2016.
- ❖ AMMA service was introduced to treat animals, especially livestock, at the doorstep.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS) is the nodal agency for this project.
- ❖ The project is being funded by the National Agriculture Development Programme.
- ❖ The Animal Husbandry department was not involved in the scheme.

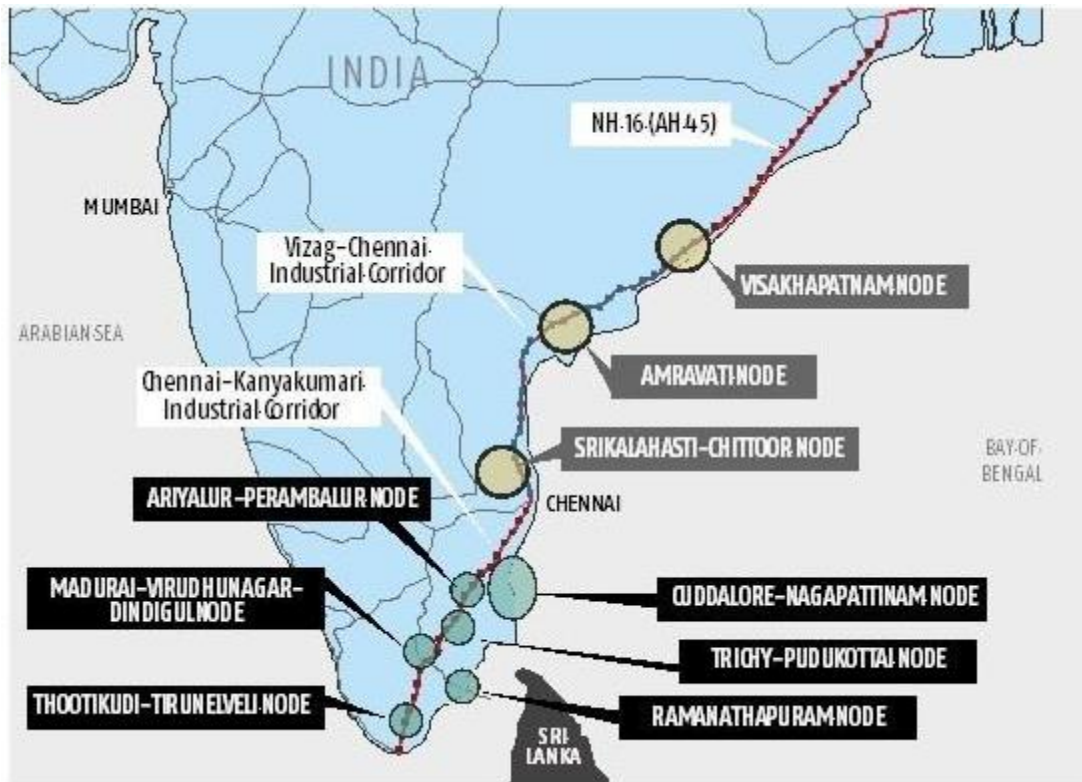


Raja Raja Cholan - Sathaya Vizha

- ❖ The 1,034th Sathaya Vizha marking the birth anniversary of King Raja Raja Chola is being celebrated at Thanjavur.
- ❖ Born as Arulmozhi Varman, Rajaraja built the Brihadisvara Temple or Peruvudaiyar Kovil in Thanjavur in 1010.
- ❖ During his reign, the texts of the Tamil poets Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar were collected and edited into one compilation called Thirumurai.

Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$451-million loan to strengthen power connectivity between the southern and northern parts of the Chennai - Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) is India's first coastal economic corridor covering 2500 km of India's coastline, to be developed with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ❖ CKIC is the second phase of ECEC.
- ❖ CKIC and its infrastructure plan will be aligned with Vision 2023 of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Sagarmala initiative.



Chennai Air Pollution

- ❖ The particulate matter 2.5 in the air over Chennai recently hovered above 100 $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$.
- ❖ The Realtime monitoring station of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has consistently recorded AQI (Air Quality Index) over 300 at Chennai.
- ❖ As per National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), AQI between 51-100 is considered satisfactory.

Thozhi Scheme

- ❖ The Chennai city police have assigned 70 policewomen to provide counselling to victims in sexual assault cases (POCSO cases), under a scheme called Thozhi.
- ❖ There are 35 all-woman police stations in Chennai, and each police station will have two policewomen assigned for the Thozhi scheme.
- ❖ They will keep track of the POCSO case victims, apart from giving them counselling and all possible assistance to them.
- ❖ They will be provided pink saris embedded with Nirbhaya logo as a mark of safety.



Dam Across Thenpennai River

- ❖ Supreme Court has dismissed Tamilnadu's petition asking to stay the construction of a dam across Thenpennai River by Karnataka.
- ❖ Karnataka has started constructing a 50-metre-high dam across Markandey, a tributary of Thenpennai river.
- ❖ The river originates in Chennakesava hills of Karnataka.
- ❖ It travels 432 kilometres through Hosur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Thiruvannamalai and Villupuram and reaches the sea.

Nel Jeyaraman – Paddy Research Centre, Kudavasal

- ❖ Paying tribute to organic farming crusader Nel Jayaraman, an organic farm and traditional paddy research centre named after him was inaugurated.



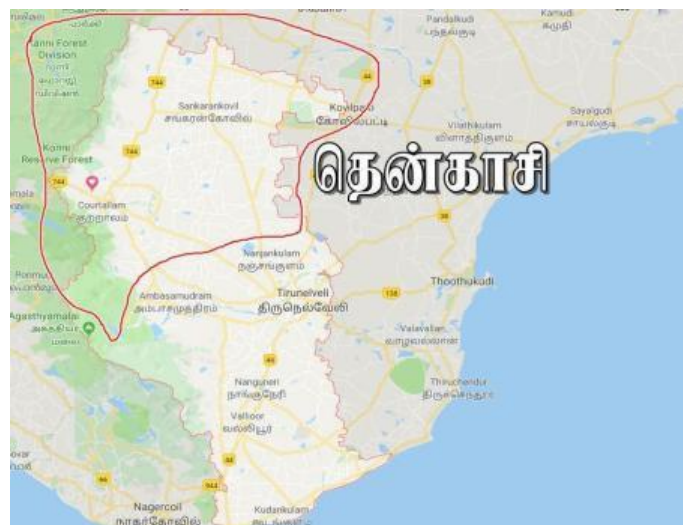
- ❖ The NGO CREATE has established it near Kudavasal, Tiruvarur district to honour him.
- ❖ Nel Jayaraman, who had revived more than 160 traditional paddy seeds, died on December 6, 2018, of cancer.
- ❖ He initially collected 15 varieties and organised the first Nel Vizha (paddy seed festival) in 2006.

Ordinance for Local Body Elections

- ❖ An ordinance for holding indirect elections to the post of mayors and chairpersons of municipalities in Tamil Nadu has been promulgated by Governor Banwarilal Purohit, following a State Cabinet decision.
- ❖ Better accountability, collective responsibility are cited as reasons to change the mode of elections from direct to indirect for top civic posts.
- ❖ The ordinance amended
 - The Chennai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1919
 - The Tamil Nadu District Municipalities Act, 1920
 - The Madurai City Municipal Corporation Act, 1971
 - The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation Act, 1981
- ❖ It would be applicable to 15 municipal corporations, 121 municipalities and 528 town panchayats.

Tenkasi District

- ❖ Tenkasi has been carved out of Tirunelveli as the 33rd district of Tamilnadu.



- ❖ The district officially came into existence on November 22, 2019.
- ❖ Tirunelveli district was originally formed in 1790 by the British.
- ❖ Tuticorin was carved out of Nellore district during the rule of Puratchi Thalaivar Dr.MGR in 1986.
- ❖ The newly-inaugurated district has Tenkasi and Sankarankoil revenue divisions, eight taluks, five municipalities, 224 village panchayats and 251 revenue villages.

Kallakurichi district – Tamil nadu

- ❖ Kallakurichi district has officially come into existence as the 34th district of Tamilnadu on 26.11.19.
- ❖ It comprises Thirukovilur, Shankarapuram, Ulundurpet, Chinnasalem and Kalrayan Hills taluks with two revenue divisions -- Kallakurichi and Thirukovilur.



Marine Enforcement Wing

- ❖ With 112 personnel, Tamilnadu will soon form an exclusive Marine Enforcement Wing.
- ❖ It will patrol the sea, enforce fishing regulations, prevent illegal and destructive fishing and the use of banned nets.
- ❖ It will be headed by a Superintendent of Police, drawn from Tamilnadu Police.
- ❖ The unit will support Fisheries Department in enforcing the Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation Act, 1983, along the State's coastline.

Crop Damage by Fall Army Worm

- ❖ Nearly 1.2 lakh hectares in Tamilnadu have been covered against the menace of the Fall Armyworm, an invasive pest that mainly damages maize.
- ❖ In 2019, Perambalur, Virudhunagar, Salem, Tirunelveli, Erode, Dindigul and Tiruchi districts have reported problem by this pest.





NATIONAL

National Tribal Dance Festival @ Raipur

- ❖ Chhattisgarh will organise a three-day National Tribal Dance Festival in Raipur from December 27 to 29.
- ❖ The invitation for the occasion will be extended to all states and neighbouring countries.
- ❖ The event will see the participation of around 2,500 tribal artists from across the country.
- ❖ The festival will also reflect the dance events of the tribal community related to their marriage, crop harvest, traditional festival and other occasions

World's Best CEOs – 3 Indians Find Place

- ❖ Three Indian-origin CEOs have featured in a list of top CEOs compiled by the Harvard Business Review (HBR).
- ❖ 'The Best-Performing CEOs in the World, 2019' list by HBR features 100 CEOs.
- ❖ It has been topped by American technology company NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang.
- ❖ On the 6th spot is Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, followed by MasterCard CEO Ajay Banga ranked 7th and Microsoft chief Nadella on the 9th spot.
- ❖ HBR said its ranking has been based not only on financial performance but also on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) ratings.

India, Saudi – Bilateral Strategic Partnership Council

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is on an official visit to Riyadh.
- ❖ India and Saudi Arabia are set to sign an agreement for creating a bilateral strategic partnership council.
- ❖ The council will include multiple sections involving the External Affairs Ministry and NITI Aayog and counterpart organisations from Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It will be led by Mr. Modi and King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.



Creative Cities Recognition of UNESCO

- ❖ The UNESCO adjudged Hyderabad as a 'Creative City' under the "gastronomy category" on the occasion of World Cities Day.
- ❖ Mumbai also received 'Creative City' tag under the "film category".
- ❖ Hyderabad and Mumbai were the only two Indian cities among the 66 smart cities selected by the UNESCO in this year.
- ❖ Chennai, Varanasi and Jaipur have also been included in the list in previous years.
- ❖ UNESCO awards the 'Creative City' status under seven categories.

Postal ballot for Elder & disabled people

- ❖ The Law Ministry has amended the Conduct of Election Rules 1961.
- ❖ This amendment has power to give voting and ballot voting to voters with disabilities and those above 80 years of age and include them in the category of 'absentee voters'.
- ❖ In order to increase the vote percentage in the election, the government has provided the facility to the elderly and disabled voters.
- ❖ The Law Ministry has issued this notification on the recommendation of the Election Commission.
- ❖ Now, the format of the application form, to be filled for claiming to be an absentee voter, has been prepared.
- ❖ Senior citizens and disabled voters above 80 years of age can claim postal ballot by submitting this form.
- ❖ In the current system, only military, paramilitary personnel and government employees working abroad, as well as employees posted in election duty, are entitled to the postal ballot.

Global Bio-India 2019

- ❖ The Global Bio-India 2019 is one of the largest biotechnology stakeholders' conglomerates will be held for the first time in India at New Delhi.
- ❖ It is being organized by BIRAC and DBT of Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ It is to bring together stakeholders to strengthen the indigenous research capabilities, bio-entrepreneurship, investments and last-mile-delivery of technology across rural India and tier-2, 3 cities.



India – Germany Relations

- ❖ German Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel visited India from 31 October - 1 November 2019 for the fifth round of Inter-Governmental Consultations (IGC).
- ❖ PM Modi and Chancellor Merkel welcomed the success of the 'Make in India Mittelstand' (MIIM) Programme.
- ❖ MIIM has helped facilitate over 135 German Mittelstand and family-owned companies.
- ❖ They acknowledged the successful work under the German Indian Startup Exchange Program (GINSEP) and welcomed the introduction of a programme for German Startups in India called "Next Step India".

Rajesh Bushan IAS, Secretary (Security)

- ❖ A 1987-batch IAS officer of Bihar cadre, Rajesh Bhushan who is presently the Secretary (Coordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat has been given additional charge of Secretary (Security) in the Cabinet Secretariat.
- ❖ The Secretary (security) is the administrative head of the Special Protection Group (SPG).
- ❖ He is responsible for closely monitoring the security arrangements for PM Modi, former prime ministers and members of their immediate families in India and abroad.
- ❖ He is also the nodal authority in respect of policy relating to procurement of jammers by the state governments and central police forces.

India ranked 5th in Financial Inclusion

- ❖ According to an assessment by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), India has the fifth most conducive environment among emerging countries for inclusive finance.
- ❖ Its Global Microscope report on inclusion is highly regarded by economy watchers worldwide.
- ❖ The first edition of ranking was published in 2007.
- ❖ The EIU's analysis takes four basic parameters into account:
 - Whether non-banks can issue e-money
 - The presence of financial service agents
 - Proportionate customer due diligence
 - Effective financial consumer protection.

Pegasus Spyware

- ❖ It has been reported that the popular messaging platform WhatsApp was used to spy on “journalists and human rights activists” in India earlier this year.
- ❖ The surveillance was carried out using a spyware tool called Pegasus.
- ❖ Pegasus is a spyware that can be installed on mobile devices.
- ❖ It is regarded as one of the "most sophisticated" smartphone spyware.
- ❖ It has been developed by the Israeli cyberarms firm, NSO Group.
- ❖ The NSO Group is a Tel Aviv-based cyber-security company that specialises in “surveillance technology”.



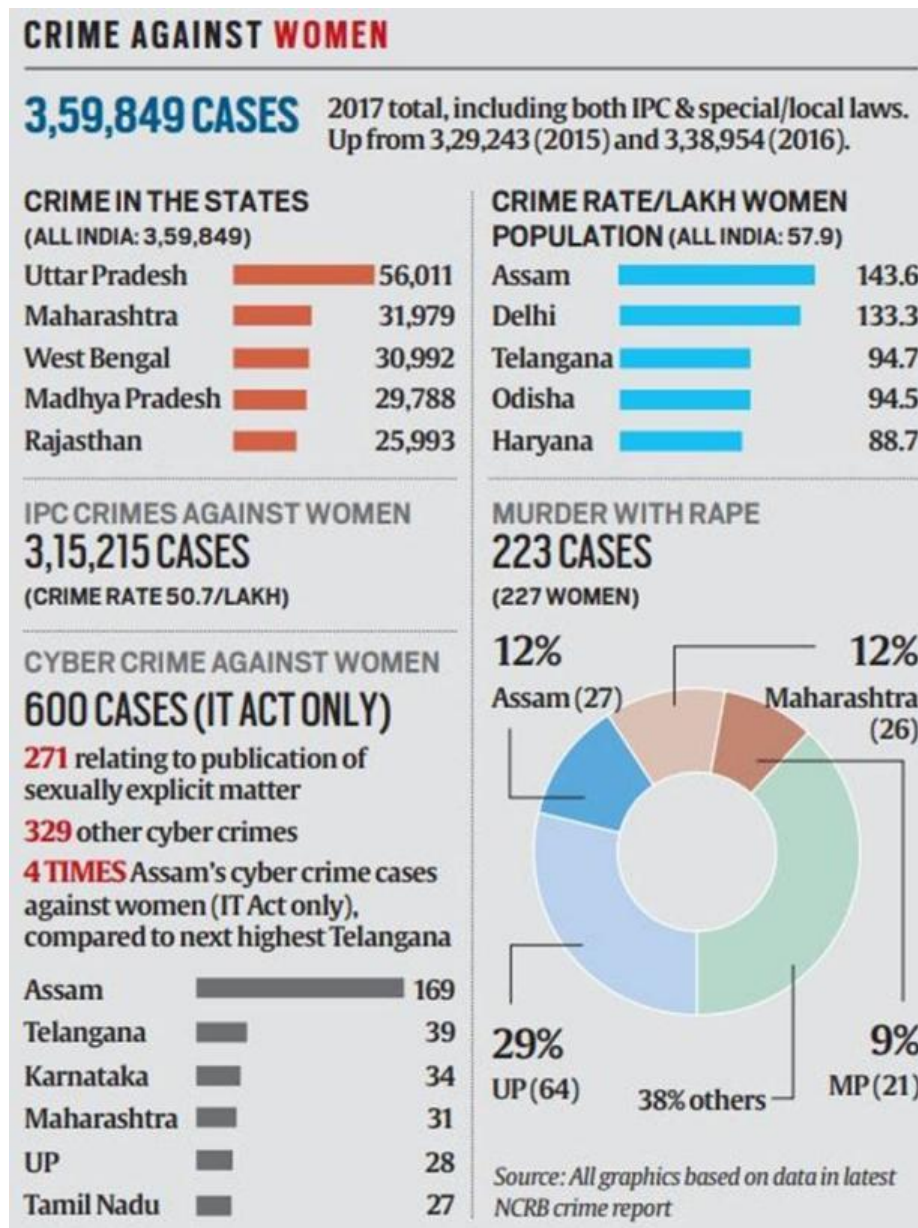
How does it work?

- ❖ Pegasus works by sending an exploit link.
- ❖ If the target user clicks on the link, the malware or the code that allows the surveillance is installed on the user’s phone.
- ❖ Once Pegasus is installed, the attacker has complete access to the target user’s phone.

Uttar Pradesh most unsafe for women: NCRB 2017 data

- ❖ According to the report, 3.59 lakh cases of crime against women were reported in the country, of which Uttar Pradesh topped the list with 56,011 cases.
- ❖ It was followed by Maharashtra with 31,979 cases and West Bengal 30,002.

- ❖ The definition of ‘crime against women’ includes murder, rape, dowry death, suicide abetment, acid attack, cruelty against women and kidnapping, according to the report.
- ❖ Shelter homes of Pune were the most unsafe ones for women in 2017, recording 26 cases of sexual harassment, followed by Mumbai (24), data released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) shows.
- ❖ This is the first time NCRB has given a break-up of sexual harassment cases based on location—harassment at workplace, public transport, shelter homes and other places, including home.





Food Safety Mitra & Eat Right Jacket

- ❖ Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Dr Harsh Vardhan on the occasion of World Food Day has launched an “Eat Right” Jhola and an “Eat Right” jacket.
- ❖ The theme for this World Food day (October 16) was ‘Healthy Diets for a Zero Hunger World’.
- ❖ To mark the occasion, Dr Harsh Vardhan also launched the ‘Food Safety Mitra (FSM)’ scheme, along with the ‘Eat Right Jacket’, and ‘Eat Right Jhola’ to strengthen food safety administration.

Real time Train Information System

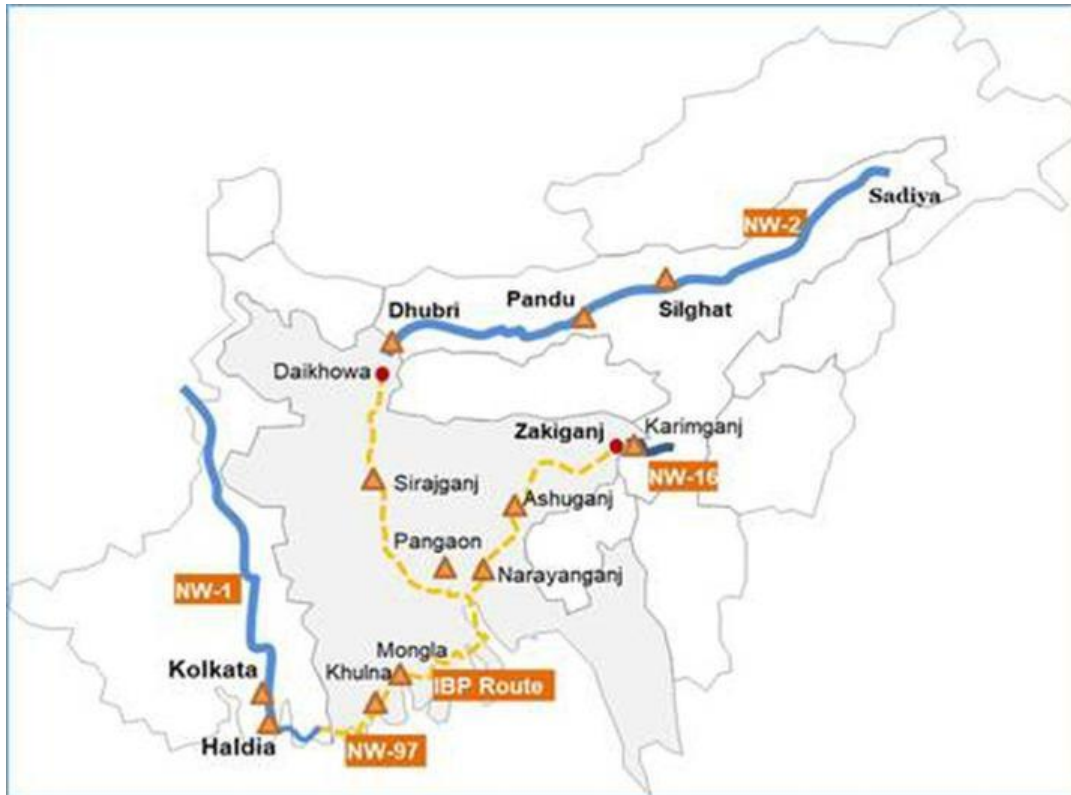
- ❖ About 500 passenger locomotives of the South-Central Railway (SCR) have been fitted with the newly developed Real-time Train Information System (RTIS).
- ❖ RTIS will be used to monitor their precise speeds and movement throughout the journey.
- ❖ It has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems with the help of ISRO-Airports Authority of India’s GAGAN-GPS aided geo-augmented navigation.

Dustlik - 2019: First India-Uzbek Joint Exercise

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Uzbekistan counterpart presided over the Curtain Raiser of the first ever India Uzbekistan Joint Exercise Dustlik 2019.
- ❖ The joint military exercise focused on counter-terrorism starts on November 4 and will continue till November 13, at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent.
- ❖ Defence Minister is in Uzbekistan on a three-day visit.
- ❖ This is the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Uzbekistan in about 15 years.

First Cargo Movement on National Waterway – 2 (NW - 2)

- ❖ A landmark container cargo consignment will sail on inland waterways from Haldia Dock Complex (HDC) to the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) terminal at Pandu in Guwahati on 4 November, 2019.



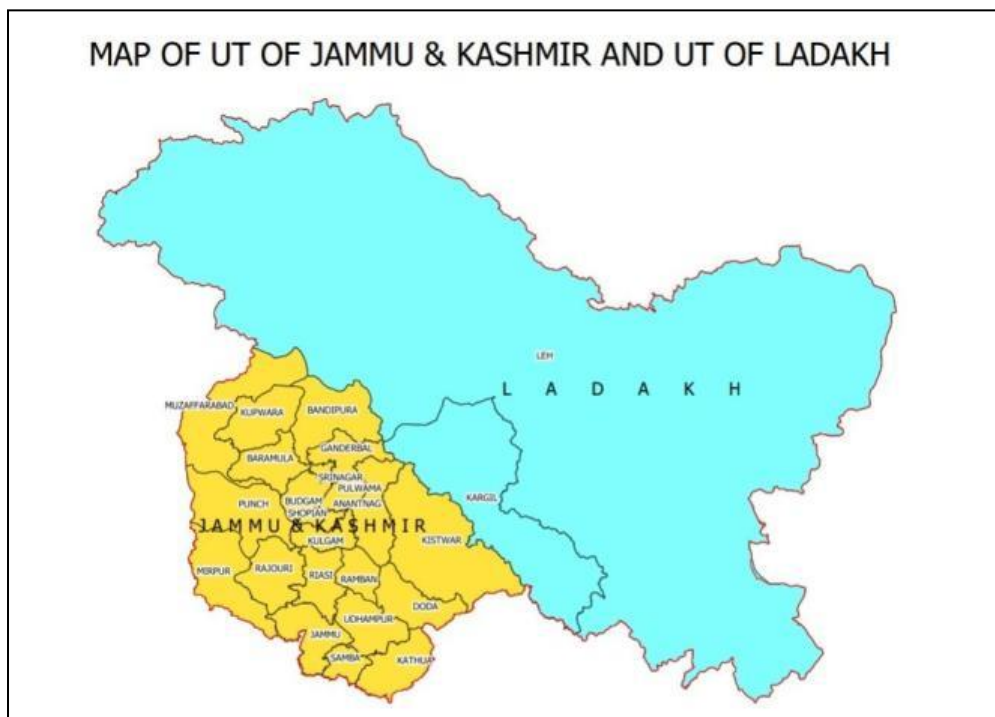
- ❖ The 12-15 days voyage will be an integrated Inland Water Transport (IWT) movement via
 - National Waterway -1 (river Ganga)
 - National Waterway - 97 (Sunderbans)
 - Indo-Bangladesh Protocol (IBP) route and
 - National Waterway - 2 (river Brahmaputra)
- ❖ This is the first ever containerised cargo movement on this IWT route i.e. NW-2.

About IBP

- ❖ The Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT) between India and Bangladesh was signed in 2018.
- ❖ It allows mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways for movement of goods between the two countries by vessels of both countries.
- ❖ The IBP route extends from Kolkata (India) on NW-1 to Silghat (Assam) on NW-2 (River Brahmaputra) and Karimganj (Assam) on NW-16 (River Barak).

New political map of India

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has released a new political map of India after the reorganization of the state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The new map of India consists of 28 states and 9 Union Territories.
- ❖ These two new union territories of India duly came into existence on 31 October 2019.
- ❖ On 02 November 2019, the map of both the new union territories were released.
- ❖ According to the new map, Mirpur and Muzaffarabad districts of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK) have been described as part of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ There will be a total of 22 districts in Jammu and Kashmir including these two districts.
- ❖ This map was prepared by the Survey General of India.



KVS EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Parv

- ❖ The mega cultural and literary event of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan - Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat Parv culminated in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is organized by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.



- ❖ Kolkata Region bagged the first position as the overall winner under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat category.
- ❖ “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat” was announced by Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ It is a mission under the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

National Symposium on Lymphatic Filariasis

- ❖ The National Symposium on the theme ‘United to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis’ was inaugurated by Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan.
- ❖ The Union Minister also signed the ‘Call to Action to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2021’.
- ❖ Lymphatic filariasis, commonly known as elephantiasis and is considered as a neglected tropical disease.
- ❖ It is a vector-borne disease, caused by infection with parasites classified as nematodes of the family Filarioididea.

National Research Institute of Unani Medicine

- ❖ The Union Minister of State (independent charge) for AYUSH Shripad Naik inaugurated the National Research Institute of Unani Medicine for Skin Disorders.
- ❖ The institute was upgraded from Central Research Institute of Unani Medicine of Hyderabad.
- ❖ AYUSH includes 6 Indian systems of medicine that includes Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.

Takhat Darshan Yatra

- ❖ To mark the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev, the founder of Sikhism, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will be organizing ‘Takhat Darshan Yatra’ for Sikh youths from various countries
- ❖ Takhat Darshan Yatra’ will cover three takhats at- Patna Sahib in Patna, Bihar; the Golden Temple (or Sri Harmandir Sahib or Darbar Sahib) in city of Amritsar, Punjab and Hazur Saheb in Nanded, Maharashtra.



- ❖ The ICCR is also organising a first-of-its-kind programme including an International Youth Seminar (IYS) on Teachings of Baba Guru Nanak Dev ji and Sikhism's Contribution in Universal Wellbeing.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India, involved in India's external cultural relations, through cultural exchange.
- ❖ It was founded on 9 April 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of independent India.

eCAPA 2019 - Art from the Heart

- ❖ India's first-ever Arts Exposition for Artists blessed with Down Syndrome, Autism, Mental Retardation, Seizure Disorder and Dyslexia held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a unique nationwide platform cum social venture for such artists to showcase their visual and performing arts.

Anti-Human Trafficking Units in All Districts

- ❖ The Union Government has announced setting up Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTU) in all districts with the help of Nirbhaya Fund.
- ❖ At present, the AHTUs are functional in 146 districts of the country.
- ❖ The Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani said that this will strengthen women safety and instil a greater sense of security among them.
- ❖ The Nirbhaya Fund was announced by Government of India in its 2013 Union Budget with the corpus of 1000 crores to support the initiatives of the government and the NGOs working towards the safety of women.

SCOJtEx- 2019

- ❖ Union Minister of Home Affairs inaugurated Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Joint Exercise on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue (SCOJtEx)- 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The exercise organised by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
- ❖ It aims to improve preparedness during disaster situation and to recognize procedures coordinating post-earthquake responses with participation of all the 8 SCO member countries.
- ❖ The exercise will be conducted as per International Search & Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) methodology & guidelines.



Skills Build Platform

- ❖ Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship launches the Skills Build platform in Collaboration with IBM.
- ❖ The digital platform will provide a personal assessment of the cognitive capabilities and personality via MyInnerGenius to the students.
- ❖ As part of the programme, a two-year advanced diploma in IT, networking and cloud computing, co-created and designed by IBM, will be offered at the Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs).
- ❖ The platform will be extended to train ITI & NSTI faculty on building skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI).

New app will help international travelers

- ❖ The Indian government has unveiled two new IT initiatives, ICEDASH and ATITHI, for improved monitoring and pace of customs clearance of imported goods.
- ❖ These initiatives will also facilitate arriving international passengers with e-filing of baggage and currency declarations.
- ❖ ICEDASH can be accessed through the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs website.
- ❖ ATITHI is a mobile app for international travellers to file the Customs declaration in advance.

DU defers decision to accept eminence tag

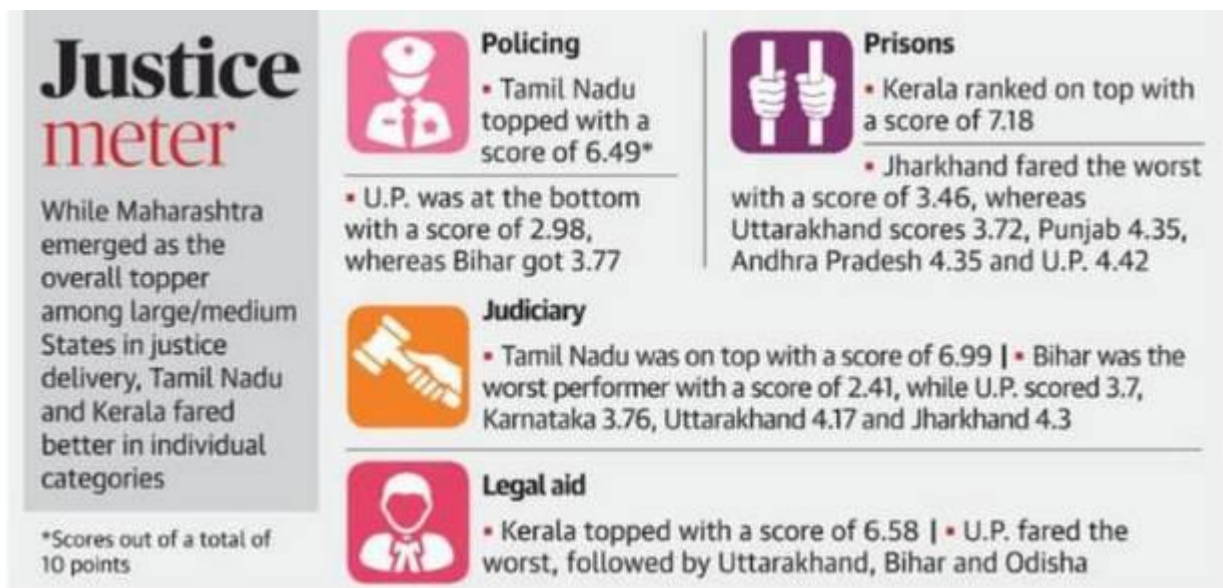
- ❖ The HRD Ministry had awarded the 'Institute of Eminence' (IoE) status to the Delhi University, Banaras Hindu University, University of Hyderabad, IIT-Madras and IIT-Kharagpur.
- ❖ The IoEs will also not be subjected to inspection by the UGC
- ❖ While the government will provide funding up to Rs 1,000 crore to public institutions with IoE tag, in case of the private institutions proposed as institutions of eminence, there will be no financial support.
- ❖ But they will be entitled for more autonomy as a special category Deemed University.
- ❖ The decision to accept the Institute of Eminence (IOE) status for Delhi University was deferred at a meeting of the Executive Council (EC) of the Delhi university.
- ❖ The Delhi University Teachers' Union (DUTA) said the scheme would result in increased privatization of the university.

Punjab – Office of Profit

- ❖ The Punjab State Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2019, was passed by the Punjab Vidhan Sabha.
- ❖ It proposes to keep six ruling Congress MLAs appointed as advisers to the chief minister out of the ambit of the office-of-profit category thereby protecting them from disqualification.
- ❖ Punjab government had accorded on five them a cabinet minister rank and the 6th legislator is accorded as minister of state.

Justice Delivery Report

- ❖ Maharashtra has topped the list of 18 large-medium States in the overall first-ever ranking of Indian States on justice delivery.
- ❖ Maharashtra is followed by Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Punjab and Haryana.
- ❖ In this category, Jharkhand, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are at the bottom.
- ❖ Among the list of seven smaller States, Goa leads the group.
- ❖ This is according to the India Justice Report 2019.
- ❖ It was released by the Tata Trusts in collaboration with Centre for Social Justice, Common Cause, and Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, among others.
- ❖ The Report brings focus on key issues across four pillars: police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

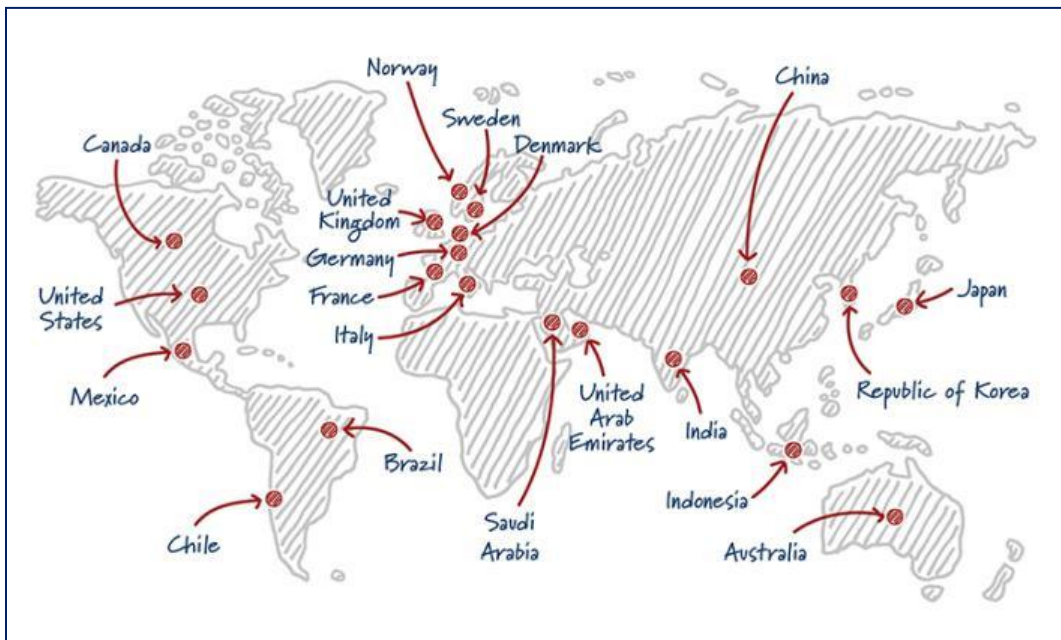


Mission Innovation (MI)

- ❖ The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Mission Innovation (MI) Face to Face meeting of Innovation Challenges (IC) at Delhi.
- ❖ The objective of the meeting is to take stock of the deliverables by MI and its plans until 2020.
- ❖ Another major objective is to identify major gap areas in Clean Energy Innovation and how to address these beyond 2020 to make MI more impactful.
- ❖ India plans to increase renewable energy capacity to much beyond 175 GW by 2022.

About

- ❖ Prime Minister coined the name Mission Innovation (MI).
- ❖ It was launched on 30 November 2015 by 20 countries during COP-21 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.
- ❖ MI currently comprises of 24 member countries and the European Commission.



- ❖ The member countries have committed to double Government funding on clean energy research and development over five years.
- ❖ The mission will accelerate research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) in technology areas that would fight against climate change.



National Panchayat Awards 2019

- ❖ Out of the 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country 240 panchayats were conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2019 by Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister also launched a Spatial Planning Application called 'Gram Manchitra' which is a Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats.
- ❖ The Centre conferred the 'e-Panchayat Puraskar award' on Tamil Nadu for being the top performing State in facilitating the use of Informational and Communication Technology tools (ICT) in third-tier cities.

Ayodhya Ram Janmabhoomi - Babri Masjid land dispute case

- ❖ The final judgement in the Ayodhya dispute was declared by the Supreme Court of India on 9 November 2019.
- ❖ The verdict was given by the Supreme Court Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ It includes SA Bobde, Ashok Bhushan, DY Chandrachud and S Abdul Nazeer.
- ❖ It was a unanimous judgement.
- ❖ The Supreme Court was hearing the fourteen appeals challenging the 2010 Allahabad High Court verdict.
- ❖ The Allahabad High Court had ordered equal division of the 2.77-acre disputed land in Ayodhya among the Sunni Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara and the Ram Lalla.
- ❖ The Supreme court had on March 8 constituted a three-member committee headed by retired apex court judge FMI Kalifulla and also comprising Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar and senior Madras High Court advocate Sriram Panchu to mediate a settlement to the Ayodhya land dispute.

Verdict

- ❖ SC gave the disputed land to Ram Lalla for Ram Janmbhoomi Nyas.
- ❖ The SC had recognized Lord Ram -- the deity Ram Lalla as a legitimate legal personality.
- ❖ However, the 'janmabhoomi' cannot be a juristic entity.
- ❖ The Court ordered the Government of India to create a trust to build a temple and a Board of Trustees within three months.



- ❖ The disputed land will be owned by the Government of India and subsequently transferred to the Trust after its formation.
- ❖ It also ordered to the government to give alternate 5-acre land to Sunni Waqf Board to build the mosque.
- ❖ The Court ruled that the 2010 Allahabad High Court's division of the disputed land was incorrect.
- ❖ The Court ruled that the Demolition of the Babri Masjid in 1992 and the 1949 desecration of the Babri Masjid was in violation of law.
- ❖ The Court observed that archaeological evidence from the Archaeological Survey of India shows that the Babri Masjid was constructed on a non-Islamic structure.
- ❖ The Court said that Muslims parties, including the UP Sunni Waqf Board, failed to establish exclusive possession of disputed land.
- ❖ It said that the Hindu parties furnished better evidence to prove that Hindus had worshipped continuously inside the mosque believing it to be the birthplace of the Hindu deity Ram.
- ❖ The Court cited that iron railings setup in 1856-57 separated the inner courtyard of the mosque from the outer courtyard, and that Hindus were in exclusive possession of the outer courtyard.
- ❖ It said that even before this, Hindus had access to the inner courtyard of the mosque.
- ❖ The court ruled that Nirmohi Akhara should be given appropriate representation in the Board of Trustees that will be created by the Government of India.
- ❖ The Court rejected the claim made by Shia Waqf Board against the Sunni Waqf Board for the ownership of the Babri Masjid.
- ❖ K. Parasaran was instrumental in getting the judgement in favour of Ram Lalla Virajman.
- ❖ He was Advocate-General of Tamil Nadu during President's rule in 1976 and then, Attorney General of India under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi between 1983 and 1989.

AYODHYA CASE

A TIMELINE

1528-2019

- 1528**
Babri Masjid built by Mir Baqi, commander of Mughal emperor Babur.
- 1885**
Mahant Raghbir Das seeks nod to build canopy outside Babri Masjid. Faizabad court junks plea.
- 1949**
Ram Lalla idols put under central dome outside disputed structure.
- 1950**
Gopal Simla Visharad moves Faizabad district court for rights to worship Ram Lalla idols.
- 1959**
Nirmohi Akhara files suit for possession of site.
- 1961**
UP Sunni Central Waqf Board files suit for possession of the site.
- Feb 1, 1986**
Local court orders govt to open site for Hindu worshippers.
- 1989**
Bhagwan Sri Ramlalla Virjman at Sri Ram Janam Boomi Ayodhya, files a title suit represented by "next friend" Deoki Nandan Agarwala, a former judge of Allahabad HC.
- Sept 25, 1990**
LK Advani starts nationwide Rath Yatra from Somnath in Gujarat.
- Dec 6, 1992**
Babri Masjid demolished by karsevaks.
- Oct 24, 1994**
SC says in historic Ismail Faruqui case that mosque not integral to Islam.
- April, 2002**
Allahabad HC begins hearing on ownership of disputed site.
- Sep 30, 2010**
HC, in a 2:1 majority, rule three-way division of disputed area between Sunni Waqf Board, Nirmohi Akhara and Ram Lalla.
- May 9, 2011**
SC stays HC verdict on Ayodhya land dispute.
- March 21, 2017**
CJI JS Khehar suggests out-of-court settlement among rival parties.
- Dec 1, 2017**
Thirty-two civil rights activists file plea challenging 2010 verdict of Allahabad HC.
- Jan 8, 2019**
SC sets up five-judge Constitution Bench to hear case headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi and comprising Justices S A Bobde, N V Ramana, U U Lalit and D Y Chandrachud.
- Jan 25, 2019**
SC reconstitutes 5-member Constitution Bench to hear the case as Justice U U Lalit recuses. The new bench has CJI Gogoi, Justices Bobde, Chandrachud, Ashok Bhushan and S A Nazeer.
- Feb 26, 2019**
SC favours mediation.
- May 9**
The three-member mediation committee submits interim report to SC.
- Aug 1**
Report of mediation submitted in sealed cover to SC.
- Aug 6**
SC commences day-to-day hearing on the land dispute.
- Oct 16**
SC concludes hearing; reserves order



Nov 9, 2019

In a unanimous judgment, the Supreme Court allots the disputed Ayodhya land to a new temple trust. The court said an alternate piece of land should be given to Muslims to 'make good their loss of a mosque'.



Government e-marketplace open to Private

- ❖ The Union government plans to open up the national online procurement portal Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to government contractors and private entities but only for bulk buying.
- ❖ Currently, GeM allows only government departments and public sector units to buy from the portal.

About

- ❖ GeM, the National Public Procurement Portal is a Section 8 Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ The Commerce and Industry Ministry launched the GeM on August 9, 2016.
- ❖ It aims for providing and streamlining procurement of goods & services required by Central & State Government organizations.

GeM: THE STORY SO FAR

₹36,952 crore

Total procurement through GeM

2,636,046

Total orders
made on GeM

58,101

Including MSME
sellers

39,968

Total number of
registered buyers

3,413

Start-up
sellers

295,046

Total number of
registered sellers

1,434,155

Products and
services on offer

Source: Government e-Marketplace

Shilpotsav 2019

- ❖ Shilpotsav 2019 is being held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is the annual fair of artisans from across the country, belonging to the weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ The artisans are assisted by apex corporations of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The range of products in this fair include - silk sarees, durries, readymade garments, terracotta products, jute products, marble artefacts and handloom etc.



Maternity Mortality Ratio (MMR)

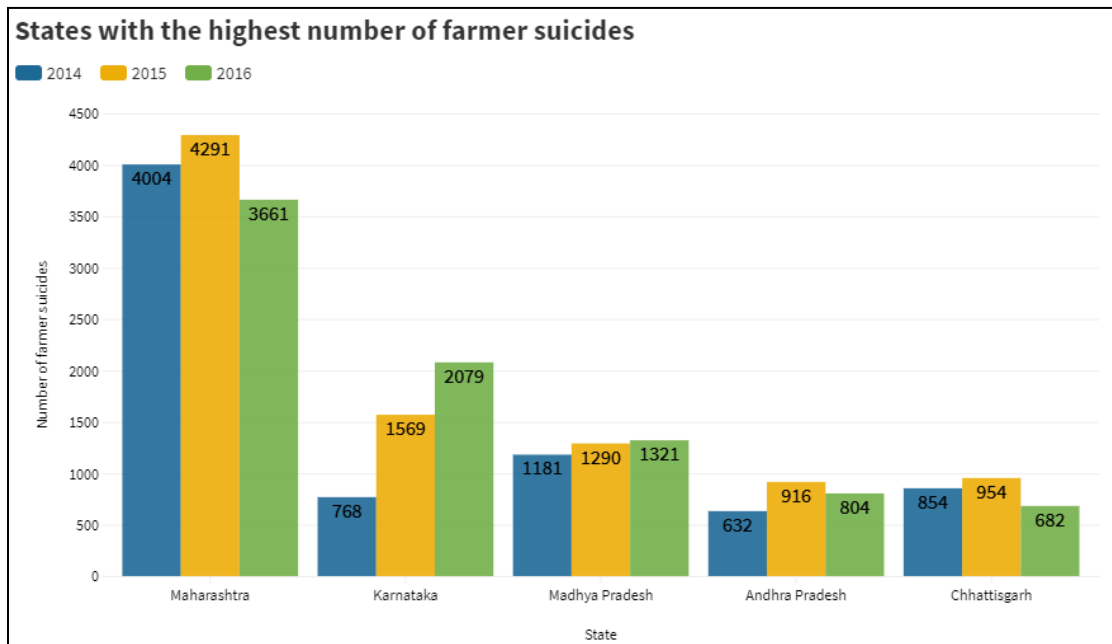
- ❖ According to the recent special bulletin on MMR released by the Registrar General of India, MMR of India has declined by 8 points in one year.
- ❖ It has declined from 130 per lakh live births in 2014-16 to 122 per lakh live births in 2015-17 (6.2% decline).
- ❖ Currently, 11 states in India have achieved the target - Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Karnataka and Haryana.
- ❖ Four states namely Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are lagging behind in containing MMR.

Targets

- ❖ Under the National Health Policy 2017, India has set the ambitious target of MMR of 100 per lakh live births by 2020.
- ❖ India is on track of achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for reducing MMR by 2025, five years ahead of timeline of 2030.
- ❖ Initiatives such as LaQshya, POSHAN Abhiyan and SUMAN (Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan Initiative) have been launched by Union Government for reducing MMR.

Farmer Suicide Data

- ❖ After a 3-year delay, The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has released figures on “farmers’ suicides” for 2016.
- ❖ But it has excluded a key element from the previous editions — the reasons for the suicides.
- ❖ The latest report has revealed that at least 11,379 farmers committed suicide in the country in 2016.
- ❖ This translates into 948 suicides every month, or 31 suicides every day.
- ❖ Maharashtra continues to account for the highest number of farmer suicides in the country with 3,661 in 2016.
- ❖ Karnataka saw the second highest number of farmer suicides in 2016 at 2,079.
- ❖ For the first time that the NCRB had categorised farmers’ suicides due to debt or bankruptcy based on the source of loans.
- ❖ With the data for 2016, 3,33,407 farmers have died by suicide in India since 1995, when the NCRB started publishing farmer suicide data.
- ❖ Top 5 states



Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan – Beach Cleaning Drive

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has launched the Nirmal Tat Abhiyaan.
- ❖ The program aims to improve the sanitation on beaches and create awareness among citizens about the importance of coastal ecosystems.
- ❖ The mass cleanliness drive was implemented at 50 beaches in 10 coastal States and union territories across the country in collaboration with National Green Corps (NGC).
- ❖ National Green Corps is a programme of the MoEFCC covering around 1,20,000 schools in India with NGC School Eco Clubs.
- ❖ Environmental activity in schools in India is promoted through the NGC.

International Seed Treaty – Protection of Plant Genetic Resources

- ❖ Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar addressed the 8th session of the International Treaty of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), in Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The ITPGRFA is also known as the Seed Treaty.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive international agreement for ensuring food security through the conservation, exchange and sustainable use of the world's plant genetic resources.



- ❖ It also recognises farmers' rights, subject to national laws.

PPV & FR Act, 2001 in India

- ❖ In India the 2001 legislation 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights (PPV&FR) Act' protects Farmers' Rights and breeder's rights.
- ❖ A farmer is entitled to save, use, sow, resow, exchange, share or sell his farm produce including seed of a variety protected under the Act.
- ❖ The Indian legislation is fully compliant with Article 9 of the Treaty.

First SCO Meet in India – 2020

- ❖ India will host the 19th council of heads of government of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation in 2020.
- ❖ This is the first such high level meeting of the eight-member grouping to be organised by New Delhi after its admission as full member in 2017.
- ❖ The SCO is a China-led eight-member economic and security bloc in which India and Pakistan were admitted as full members in 2017.
- ❖ Recently Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the summit in Tashkent.

New National Water Policy Committee

- ❖ The Union Water Resources Ministry has finalised a 10-member committee to draft a new National Water Policy (NWP).
- ❖ It will be chaired by Mihir Shah, who is a former Planning Commission member and a water expert.
- ❖ The NWP currently in force was drafted in 2012 and is the third such policy since 1987.
- ❖ There are also plans to establish a National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency.

CJI's office under RTI Act

- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that office of the Chief Justice of India is a public authority under the Right to Information Act.
- ❖ This landmark judgment was pronounced by five-judge constitution bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ The bench also said that only the names of judges recommended by the Collegium for appointment can be disclosed, not the reasons.

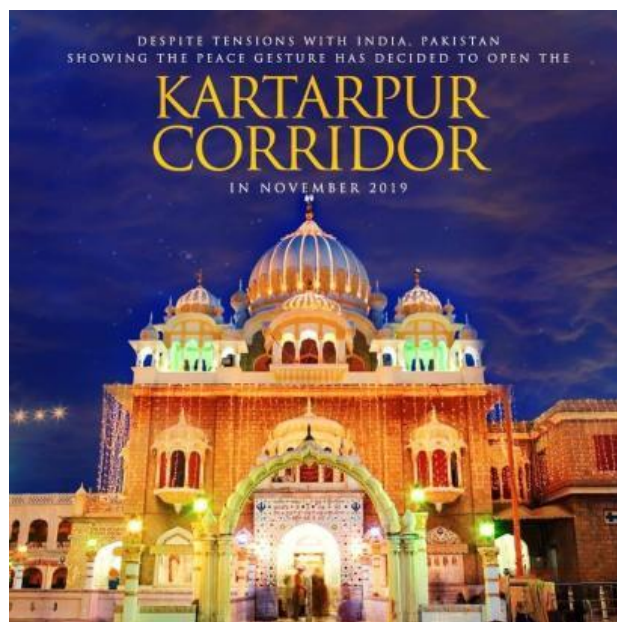
- ❖ Previously on January 10, 2010, the Delhi High Court had held that the office of the Chief Justice of India comes within the ambit of the Right to Information (RTI) law.
- ❖ Then the appeals filed in 2010 by the Supreme Court secretary general and its central public information officer against the high court and the central information commission's (CIC's) orders.
- ❖ The move to bring the office of the CJI under the transparency law was initiated by RTI activist SC Agrawal.

6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance

- ❖ The 6th World Congress on Rural and Agricultural Finance was recently held in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is being jointly hosted by Asia-Pacific Rural and Agricultural Credit Association (APRACA), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India.
- ❖ This 6th version of the congress was attended by 300 delegates across the globe who engaged in interactive discussions to unleash the potential role of rural and agricultural finance.

Kartarpur Corridor

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated Integrated Check Post at Kartarpur Sahib corridor in Gurdaspur, Punjab.



- ❖ The Kartarpur Corridor links Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Punjab of India.
- ❖ The [Kartarpur Corridor](#) was opened by Pakistani Prime Minister [Imran Khan](#) on 9 November 2019, the anniversary of the [fall of the Berlin Wall](#).
- ❖ The corridor is intended to allow religious devotees from India to visit the [Gurdwara](#) in [Kartarpur](#), 4.7 kilometres from the [Pakistan-India border](#), without a visa.
- ❖ Guru Nanak Dev lived for 18 years until his death in 1539 at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur.
- ❖ It is also the biggest gurdwara in the world.

COCSSO conference

- ❖ 27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO) was held in Kolkata.
- ❖ The theme of this conference was “Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”
- ❖ It highlights the actions taken by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for a strong observing mechanism for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

COCSSO

- ❖ This annual event was first organized in 1971 by MoSPI.
- ❖ COCSSO is a major national forum that produces coordination between the Central and State Statistical Agencies.




Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation
Government of India


National Statistical Organization

27th Conference of Central and State Statistical Organizations (COCSSO)

- 📄 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
To fill the data gaps and improve the timelines/quality in SDG monitoring
- 📅 11-12th November, 2019
- 📍 Biswa Bangla Convention Centre, Kolkata

Providing a platform for discussion and improved coordination between the Central and State statistical agencies for
Enhancing the efficiency of the Indian Statistical System

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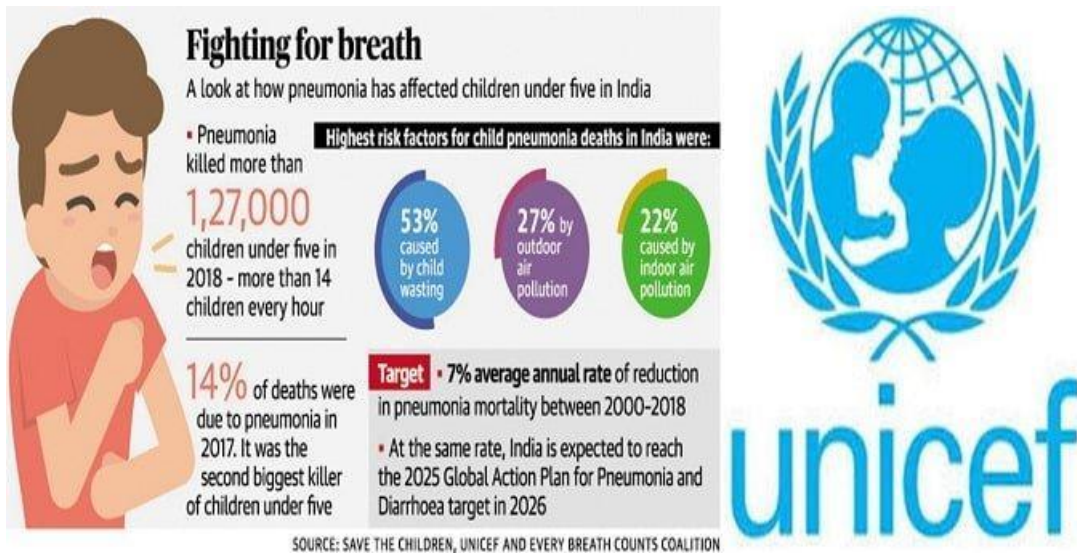
India-ASEAN Business Summit

- ❖ The 2-day India-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Summit 2019 held in New Delhi.
- ❖ Theme of the Summit “Today, Tomorrow, Together”.
- ❖ The primary aim of the summit was to promote the bilateral trade relations between India and ASEAN nations to new scale.



Fighting for Breath report 2019

- ❖ “Fighting for Breath- A call to action on childhood pneumonia” released by UNICEF.
- ❖ As per the report, Pneumonia is one of the leading killers of children in India, claiming more than 14 children under the age of 5 years every hour in 2018.
- ❖ It killed over 1,27,000 under-five children in 2018 with high risk factors of malnutrition (53%) and pollution (Outdoor air pollution -27% & Indoor air pollution-22%).
- ❖ Five countries responsible for more than half of child pneumonia deaths includes Nigeria (162,000), India (127,000), Pakistan (58,000), the Democratic Republic of Congo (40,000) and Ethiopia (32,000).
- ❖ According to Global Action Plan for Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (GAPPD), the global target for pneumonia mortality rate for children under five by 2025 is three per 1000 live births.



Sabarimala Review Verdict

- ❖ A five-judge Constitution bench of the Supreme Court has ruled that a larger bench should again consider the matter of the entry of women of all ages into Kerala's Sabarimala temple.
- ❖ At present there is no ban on entry as per the verdict of 2018.
- ❖ The following Justices were part of the Constitutional Bench that delivered the judgement
 - Rohinton Fali Nariman
 - DY Chandrachud
 - Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi
 - Justices Indu Malhotra
 - AM Khanwilkar
- ❖ The verdict was delivered 3:2.
- ❖ Justices Chandrachud and Rohinton Nariman gave a dissenting verdict and disagreed with the majority view and dismissed all review pleas (56 review petitions).
- ❖ They said that not following the 2018 SC order is not an option and as on date women are allowed to enter Sabarimala temple.
- ❖ The seven-judge bench will also look into matters such as
 - The entry of Muslim and Parsi women into places of worship
 - Female genital cutting in the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community



- Meaning of expression 'public order, morality and health' occurring in Article 25 (1) of the Constitution.
- To delineate the meaning of the expression 'morality' or 'constitutional morality'.
- Whether the "essential religious practices" of a religious denomination are afforded constitutional protection under Article 26.
- The extent to which the court can interfere into the issue of a particular practice of religion.

History

- ❖ A Supreme Court judgement in 2018 had allowed women between the age of 10 and 50 to worship at the Sabarimala temple.
- ❖ Name of this Case:
 - Kantaru Rajeevaru Vs Indian Young Lawyers Association.

Rafale Review Verdict

- ❖ A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court dismissed petitions seeking a review of its December 14, 2018 judgment upholding the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft.
- ❖ The bench was led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ The judgement was delivered in the case “Yashwant Sinha and Others Vs CBI”.
- ❖ Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul delivered the main verdict that he authored along with CJI.
- ❖ Justice K.M. Joseph, the third judge on the Bench agreed with main verdict and suggested CBI probe with prior sanction in case of any material in the complaint.

2020 Republic Day Guest – Jair Bolsonaro

- ❖ On the sidelines of the 11th BRICS Summit, PM Modi held bilateral talks with Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro.
- ❖ He welcomed the decision of the Brazilian President to grant visa-free travel to Indian citizens.
- ❖ Bolsonaro accepted Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s invitation to be the chief guest at India’s 2020 Republic Day celebrations next year.

Feni river agreement

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ The MoU was on the withdrawal of 1.82 cusecs of water from the Feni river by India for a drinking water supply scheme for Sabroom town in Tripura.

Feni River

- ❖ Feni River is a river in south-eastern Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is a trans-boundary river with an ongoing dispute about water rights.
- ❖ The Feni River originates in South Tripura district and flows through Sabroom town and then enters Bangladesh.
- ❖ Muhuri River, also called Little Feni, from Noakhali District joins it near its mouth.



Bru Tribe Issues

- ❖ The blockade, launched by Bru refugees North Tripura was lifted.
- ❖ They were demanding resumption of ration.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Home Ministry's decided to give voting rights to around 30,000 people.
- ❖ These people had fled from Mizoram to Tripura in 1997 in the wake of inter-community violence.



- ❖ In this regard, a tripartite agreement was signed between the Centre, Tripura and Mizoram.
- ❖ The Election Commission has now asked the State of Mizoram to revise its rolls for the poll this year and include the members of the internally-displaced community.

Bru tribes

- ❖ The Bru can be found all over the Tripura state in India. However, they may also be found in Mizoram and Assam.
- ❖ They speak the Reang dialect of Bru language which is of Tibeto-Burmese origin and is locally referred to as Kau Bru.

Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India

- ❖ To assess environmental damages, the CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) has released the 'Geochemical Baseline Atlas of India'.
- ❖ The atlas consists of 45 maps of metals, oxides and elements present in top and bottom soils across India.
- ❖ These maps help in finding out future contamination caused by industries or other bodies which cause pollution.
- ❖ Example: Tanneries release chromium.
 - By using map of chromium, policy makers know regions with high concentration of chromium and can not allow tanneries in those regions.

39th International Trade Fair

- ❖ The 39th India International Trade Fair got underway at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of the event this year is 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- ❖ In the event, the status of 'Partner Country' has been accorded to Afghanistan while South Korea will be the 'Focus Country'.

Tiger TRIUMP exercise

- ❖ Tiger TRIUMP is the first-ever Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise between India and United State (US).
- ❖ It is scheduled from November 13 to November 21 near Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, in Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ Exercise Tiger TRIUMP is being organised under the aegis of Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff.
- ❖ This unique exercise will include events and field training for a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief force from ship to shore.



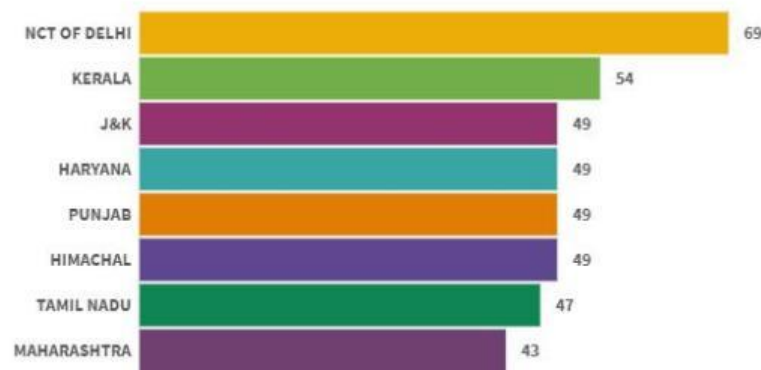
ACEM 2019

- ❖ 10th Asian Conference on Emergency Medicine (ACEM 2019) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 2019 Conference is jointly organized by the Asian Society for Emergency Medicine (ASEM) and the Society for Emergency Medicine, India (SEMI).
- ❖ The theme of the Conference “Affordable Care, Bridging Gaps, Creating Impact of emergency medicine”.

India Internet 2019

- ❖ Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) released the report “India Internet 2019”.
- ❖ Internet penetration is defined as number of individuals aged above 12 per 100 population who accessed the Internet during a particular period.
- ❖ According to the report, Internet penetration rate is highest in Delhi NCR (69%) followed by Kerala (54%).
- ❖ The lowest penetration rate was in Odisha (25), Jharkhand (26) and Bihar (28).
- ❖ It also notes that Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Delhi have the highest proportion of female Internet users.
- ❖ Kerala is among States with a huge gap between the number of rural and urban Internet connections.

Internet penetration, 2019



QUAD meeting 2019

- ❖ The foreign ministers of the Quad countries - India, US, Australia and Japan - met on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting in Bangkok.
- ❖ The Ministers met to discuss cooperation on counter-terrorism, mentoring, assistance in disaster relief, airspace security, cooperation, development, finance and cybersecurity efforts etc.

QUAD

- ❖ The Quadrilateral security dialogue or Quad was first mooted by the Japanese Prime Minister in 2007.
- ❖ In November 2017, India, the US, Australia and Japan gave shape to the long-pending "Quad" Coalition

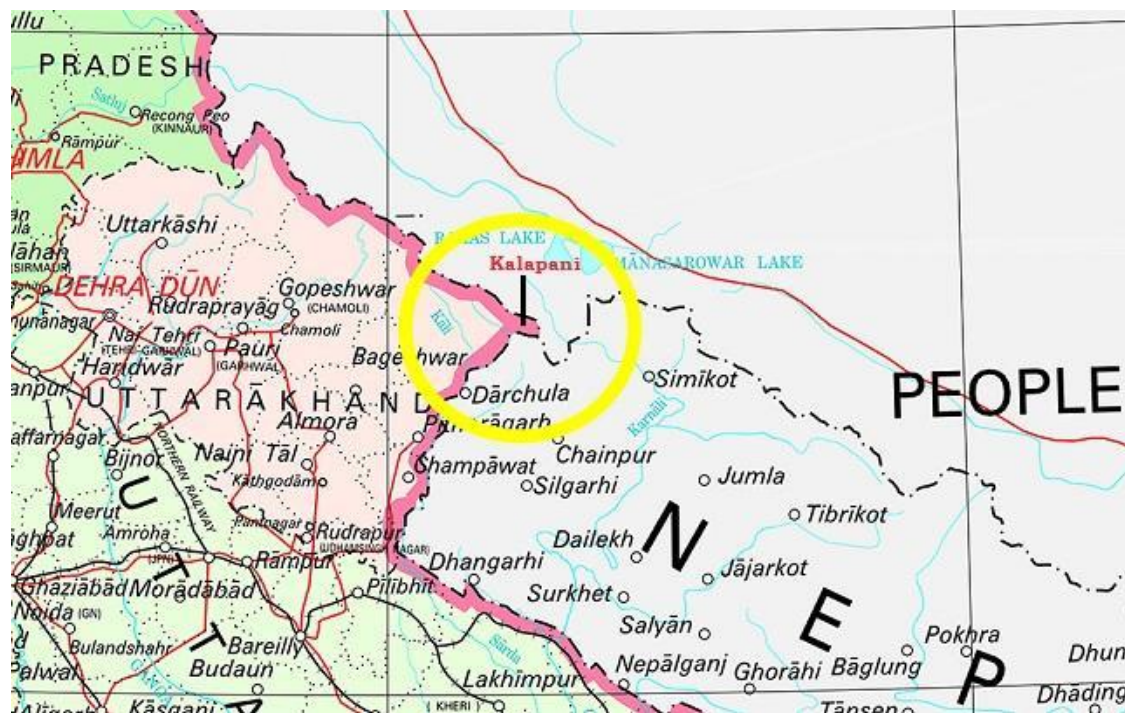
- ❖ It aims to develop a new strategy to keep the critical sea routes in the Indo-Pacific free of any influence (especially China).
- ❖ Members of the Quad, barring Australia, are currently engaged in the annual Malabar exercises – military exercises that started between India and the U.S. in 1994 and became trilateral (with Japan) in 2015.

Kalapani territory

- ❖ In the recently released political map of India, after the bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Kalapani territory became the bone of contention between India and Nepal.
- ❖ In the latest political map of India, India reiterated its claims on the region that Nepal considers its own territory in Darchula district.
- ❖ According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.

About Kalapani

- ❖ Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.



- ❖ The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.



- ❖ The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.

Exercise Samudra Shakthi

- ❖ India and Indonesia have carried out the bilateral maritime exercise “Samudra Shakthi” in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The joint exercises focussed on surface warfare exercises, air defence exercises, weapon firing drills, helicopter operations, and boarding operations.
- ❖ Garuda Shakthi is the joint military exercise between India and Indonesia.

Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019

- ❖ The ministry of steel has issued a Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019.
- ❖ Used or reused steel in the form of scrap is the secondary raw material for the Indian steel industry.
- ❖ The current supply of scrap is 25 million tonnes from domestic unorganized scrap industry and 7 million tonnes from import of scrap.
- ❖ The National Steel Policy 2017 aims to develop a globally competitive steel industry by creating 300 million tonnes per annum steel production capacity by 2030.

Features

- ❖ This will reduce dependency on imports and decongest the Indian cities from End of Life Vehicles (ELVs).
- ❖ The policy envisages to promote the establishment of metal scrapping centres in India.
- ❖ Focus on the Environment
 - The Policy will work on the Principles of 6Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture.
 - It aims to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
 - It also aims to create a mechanism for treating waste streams and residues produced from dismantling and shredding facilities in compliance with Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).



5th Global exhibition on services 2019

- ❖ Union Minister of Commerce and Industry & Railways, Piyush Goyal, launched the curtain raiser of 5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The exhibition will be held in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The event is organised by Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Services Export Promotion Council and the Confederation of Indian Industry.

Def Connect 2019

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence had organised the inaugural session of 'Def Connect 2019'.
- ❖ It is to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative in New Delhi.
- ❖ iDEX, launched in 2018, is an ecosystem to foster innovation & technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging innovators & entrepreneurs to deliver technologically advanced solutions for modernizing Indian Military.
- ❖ iDEX is funded and managed by "Defence Innovation Organisation" (DIO).
- ❖ DIO is a not for profit organisation formed under the Companies Act 2013.
- ❖ It is funded by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

11th BRICS Summit, November 2019

- ❖ The 2019 BRICS summit is the eleventh annual BRICS summit, which was held at the Itamaraty Palace, where the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is located.
- ❖ The Brazilian capital Brasilia, hosted the BRICS summit for the second time.
- ❖ The theme of the event was "BRICS: economic growth for an innovative future".
- ❖ India and the other BRICS economies aim to strengthen cooperation in digital economy, science, technology and innovation.
- ❖ A key focus of the BRICS summit this year will be on cooperation on countering terrorism.
- ❖ An idea for common crypto currency for mutual payments was also mooted.
- ❖ PM Modi called for an early opening of the Regional branch of New Development Bank (NDB) in India.
- ❖ He also requested BRICS countries and the NDB to join the global Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure.



New Development Bank (NDB)

- ❖ Shanghai-headquartered New Development Bank (NDB), formerly referred to as the BRICS Development Bank, is a multilateral development bank established by the BRICS states (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
- ❖ The idea for setting up the NDB was proposed by India at the 4th BRICS summit in 2012 held in New Delhi.

Sisseri River Bridge – Project Brahmark

- ❖ The Defence Minister inaugurated the Sisseri River Bridge located at lower Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The 200 m long bridge provides connectivity between Dibang Valley and Siang.
- ❖ The bridge was constructed by 'Project Brahmark' of Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ There are four projects of BRO in Arunachal Pradesh namely Vartak, Arunank, Brahmark, and Udayak.
- ❖ This bridge is strategically important from the military viewpoint and will be a part of Trans Arunachal Highway.

Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI)

- ❖ The World Economic Forum has released the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) which ranked 140 countries on their relative strengths in global tourism and travel.
- ❖ Top 5 countries – Spain, France, Germany and Japan and United States.
- ❖ India is ranked 34th (up from 40 in 2017) and is the most preferred destination in South Asia.
- ❖ Japan remains Asia's most competitive travel and tourism economy.
- ❖ China is the largest travel and tourism economy in Asia-Pacific.

World Talent Ranking Report

- ❖ According to the latest edition of IMD World Talent Ranking, India is ranked 59th out of 63 countries (earlier 53rd rank).
- ❖ Reasons for fall in India's rankings - low quality of life, expenditure on education, negative impact of brain drain and low priority on attracting and retaining talents.



- ❖ Switzerland retained its title as the world's top talent hub followed by Denmark and Sweden.
- ❖ The countries at the top of the rankings share strong levels of investment in education and a high quality of life.

Climate Resilience in Coastal States – UNFCCC

- ❖ India has received USD 43 million under the Green Climate Fund, established within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ❖ The project will be implemented in three coastal states - Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha.
- ❖ It will be used to
 - Build climate-resilient livelihoods for 1.7 million people
 - Offset 3.5 million tonnes of carbon
 - Protect vulnerable ecosystems
 - Benefit 10 million people with improved shoreline protection
- ❖ The project aligns with National Action Plan on Climate Change, the State Action Plans, and the nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.

NITI Aayog's Report on Health Systems in India

- ❖ NITI Aayog has recently released the report titled 'Health Systems for a New India: Building Blocks — Potential Pathways to Reforms'.
- ❖ It mainly focuses on
 - Shifting healthcare expenses of people from out of pocket to insurance companies,
 - Unfinished public health agenda,
 - Power of digital health.
- ❖ The report was released in the name of New India: Building Blocks - Potential Pathways.
- ❖ The book is based on the data collected and provided by
 - ACCESS Health International for the public sector,
 - PWC India for private sector.



Child Abuse Prevention and Investigation Unit

- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has set up an Online Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation (OCSAE) Prevention/Investigation Unit at its headquarter in New Delhi.
- ❖ The unit will function under the CBI's Special Crime Zone.
- ❖ The unit's territorial jurisdiction would be throughout the country.
- ❖ It will probe offences covered under
 - Various provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC)
 - The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act
 - The Information Technology (IT) Act, apart from other relevant laws
- ❖ It will collect and disseminate information on online child sexual abuse and exploitation.

Lancet Countdown Report 2019 on Health and Climate Change

- ❖ According to the Lancet Countdown Report 2019 on Health and Climate Change, Climate change in India may further increase malnutrition levels and exacerbate infections caused due to cholera.
- ❖ The report states that the average yield potential of maize and rice declined almost 2 per cent in India since the 1960s.
- ❖ The average yield potential for both soybean and winter wheat has declined by over 1 per cent.

Diseases

- ❖ Increased sea surface temperature may cause a spike in various infections in India — cholera, gastroenteritis, wound infections and several others.
- ❖ Mortality due to vector-borne disease like dengue will also rise.
- ❖ Pollution and heat stress may affect the productivity of Indian workers.

Wet Bulb Globe Temperature (WBGT) measurement

- ❖ WBGT is a measure of the heat stress in direct sunlight and includes temperature, humidity, wind speed, sun angle and cloud cover (solar radiation).
- ❖ Increased WBGT will result in reduced labour productivity around the globe.
- ❖ Elderly will be more affected due to heat waves.

Wildfires

- ❖ The report states that 21 million Indians were exposed to wildfires.
- ❖ It is highest among 152 countries.



ADMM-Plus meeting, Thailand

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh represented India at the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) held at Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ He also released a "Handbook on Military Medicine for ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)" along with Myanmar Defence Minister Lieutenant General Sein Win.
- ❖ In addition to the 10 ASEAN countries, eight countries such as Japan, the U.S. and China also attended the meeting.

Maitree Diwas

- ❖ The Defence Minister visited Arunachal Pradesh to attend the Maitree Diwas celebrations at Tawang.
- ❖ Maitree Diwas (Civil-Military Friendship) was celebrated for two days at Gyalwa Tsangyang Gyatso High Altitude Stadium Tawang.
- ❖ This will be the 11th edition of Maitree Diwas which celebrates civil-military bonhomie in that region.
- ❖ Rajnath Singh also inaugurated Sisseri River Bridge and National Highway-52 in East Siang District.

National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Institute for Sowa-Rigpa in Leh, Union Territory of Ladakh.
- ❖ The Institute will be an autonomous National Institute under the Ministry of AYUSH.
- ❖ Sowa-Rigpa is a Traditional Medical system of the Himalayan belt in India.
- ❖ It has been popularly practiced in Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling (West Bengal), Himachal Pradesh and Union Territory of Ladakh.

Water Quality Report

- ❖ According to a report based on sample tests done by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Tap water in Mumbai is the safest for drinking while Delhi's water is the worst among 21 big cities.
- ❖ The samples of tap water taken from 15 out of 21 cities failed to meet one or more safety parameters during tests carried out in laboratories.

- ❖ The water samples were tested on 28 parameters as prescribed for drinking water standards of BIS notified in 2012.
- ❖ Water samples lifted from Chennai had failed quality tests in more than 10 parameters, placing the city near the bottom of country's clean water rank list.

SOUNDING ALARM		Water samples from Jan 2019 to Oct 31, 2019 in corpn zones I-XV														
	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII	XIII	XIV	XV	
Unsatisfactory samples	49	12	44	244	129	61	103	90	60	45	55	31	33	15	39	
E.coli present	13	4	25	116	85	44	38	47	41	17	24	13	19	6	25	
Residual Chlorine	0	0	11	18	1	4	25	33	18	24	0	0	6	2	0	
Dissolved Solids	237	125	33	233	12	6	34	11	0	0	11	0	14	14	26	
Total samples	375	311	384	1,479	443	309	460	415	431	369	309	535	552	357	391	

World Conference on Access to Medical Products

- ❖ Union Minister for Health Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the '2019 World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030' at New Delhi.
- ❖ It is being jointly organized by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ The conference aims to address issues like
 - Universal Health Coverage
 - The SDG 2030 goals
 - Role of intellectual property to promote access to medical products.

2nd South Asia Safety Summit

- ❖ The 2nd edition of South Asia Safety Summit was organized by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) and FACEBOOK in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Summit is being organized to highlight the "issue of safety" while individuals and communities are connected on the digital platform.
- ❖ On the occasion Union Minister of WCD Smriti Irani launched "We Think Digital" website.
- ❖ This website is an online education portal whose topics include privacy, safety, security, digital discourse and knowing your digital footprint.

Labour Code on Industrial Relations 2019

- ❖ The Union cabinet has approved the Labour Code on Industrial Relations 2019.
- ❖ It 'allows' companies to hire workers on fixed-term contract of any duration.
- ❖ The Bill proposes giving a legal framework for fixed-term employment.
- ❖ Under new rules, contract workers serving a fixed-tenure will get equal statutory social security benefits as regular workers in the same unit.
- ❖ Factories with upto 100 workers need to take government's permission to retrench, lay off or shut shop.

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has cleared a proposal for adoption of Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programme by the Indian Patent Office (IPO).
- ❖ The programme will initially commence between Japan Patent Office (JPO) and IPO, on pilot basis for a period of three years.
- ❖ PPH programme would lead to benefits for IPO, including reduction in time to dispose patent applications and reduction in pendency of patent applications.
- ❖ It will lead to improvement in quality of search and examination of patent applications.

MK 45 Naval Guns

- ❖ The United States approved sale of up to 13 MK 45 naval guns and related equipment worth an estimated cost of \$1 billion to India.
- ❖ They will be used to conduct antisurface warfare and anti-air defence missions.

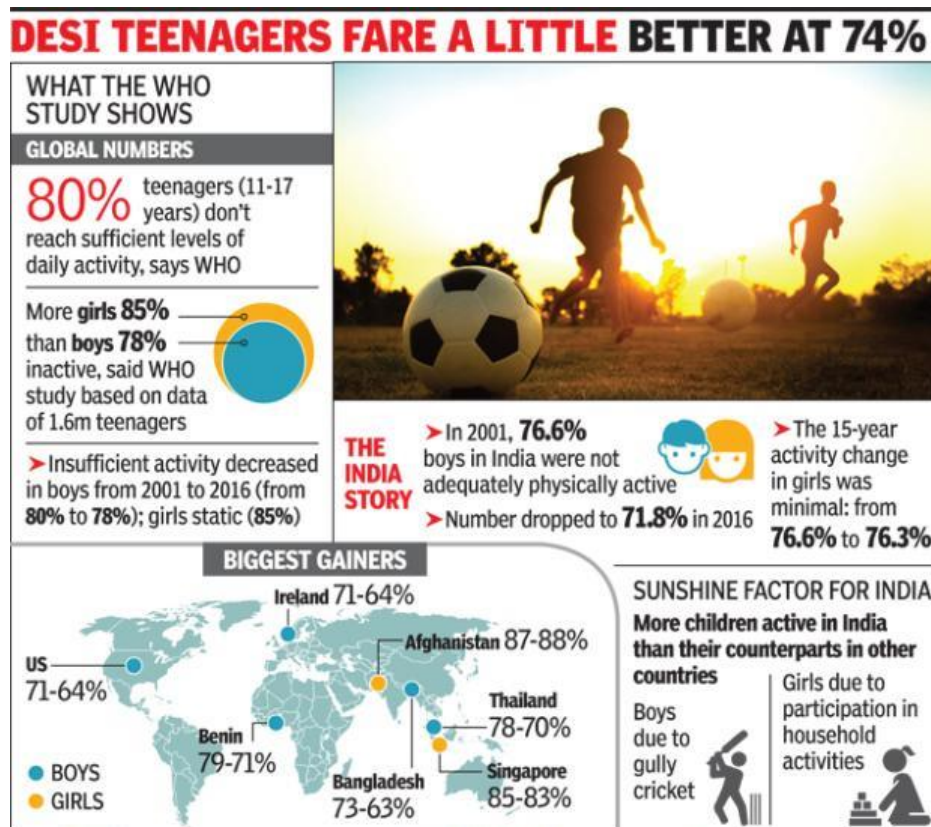


President's Color to Naval Academy

- ❖ President and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala at Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed upon a military unit.
- ❖ It was awarded to INA in recognition of the yeoman service rendered by the institution in training and shaping Indian Naval officers over the last 50 years at three different locations – Goa, Kochi and Ezhimala.

Physically Inactive Adolescents: Lancet Study

- ❖ According to the first-ever study on global trend for adolescent insufficient activity, 85% of girls and 78% of boys were found to have extremely high levels of insufficient physical activity.



- ❖ The report was released by World Health Organisation and published in published in the Lancet Child & Adolescent Health journal.
- ❖ The study is based on data reported by 1.6 million 11 to 17-year-old students across 146 countries during 2001-16 period.



- ❖ In India, 76.6% of boys and 76.3% of girls were classified as “physically inactive”.
- ❖ Cricket and domestic chores were blamed as the reason for boys and girls being physically inactive.

Avian Botulism @ Sambhar Lake, Rajasthan

- ❖ In November, 2019 nearly 10,000 migratory birds were found dead mysteriously in the Sambhar Salt Lake area, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The clinical signs exhibited by affected birds included dullness, depression, anorexia, flaccid paralysis in legs and wings, and neck touching the ground.
- ❖ The birds were unable to walk, swim, or take flight.
- ❖ The investigation so far points to avian botulism.
- ❖ Avian botulism, a paralytic, frequently fatal disease caused by the ingestion of toxins is considered as a “possible cause” but yet unconfirmed.

Central Information Commission’s Annual Report

- ❖ The Central Information Commission’s Annual Report has been tabled in Parliament.
- ❖ The number of RTI applications received by Central government ministries and departments increased by 1.36 lakh, about 11 per cent higher than 2017-18.
- ❖ Highest percentage of RTI applications rejected was reported by Ministry of Tribal Affairs (26.54%) and Ministry of Home Affairs (16.41%).
- ❖ The CIC is headed by Sudhir Bhargava since January 1, 2019.

Appointment to Tribunals – Finance Act, 2017

- ❖ The Supreme Court has passed an interim order that said the appointments to tribunals “shall be on the basis of existing statutes” and not the rules framed under the Finance Act of 2017.
- ❖ The Finance Act had given the Centre the power to govern appointments, removal and service conditions of the members of judicial tribunals like National Green Tribunal, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.
- ❖ The petitioners Roger Mathew and Revenue Bar Association had challenged the Finance Act, 2017, particularly Part XIV on various grounds.

- ❖ Part XIV had repealed provisions relating to the administration of 26 Tribunals established under diverse central laws and gave Union government the powers to frame rules by virtue of Section 184.
- ❖ The court had struck it down and asked Union government to frame new rules.

Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved accession to the Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009.
- ❖ The Convention was originally adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China, in 2009.
- ❖ It is aimed at ensuring that ships being “recycled” after reaching the end of their operational lives do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health, safety and to the environment.
- ❖ In 2018, India handled about five million gross tonnage (MnGT) annually, which is nearly 25% share of the world’s ship recycling industry.
- ❖ India remains the leading market for ship-wrecking globally.
- ❖ The Alang-Sosiya ship breaking yard in Gujarat handles around 450 ships every year.



Eco-Friendly Move

- Shipping ministry’s 5-year vision seeks to bring ships from developed nations to be recycled at Indian yards

India handles around 5 million gross tonnage (MnGT) annually, which is around 25% of global ship recycling industry

- Govt plans to nearly double this by 2024
- Gujarat’s Alang-Sosiya yard handles around 450 ships every year

Hong Kong Convention for environmentally sound ship recycling adopted by IMO in 2009





National Agro Chemical Congress

- ❖ The National Agro Chemical Congress was conducted in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare hosted the event.
- ❖ It was the first of its kind.
- ❖ It is to be conducted once in three years.
- ❖ The theme was - Country's Status on various fronts of Agro chemicals.

Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh

- ❖ It was launched by Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani along with Bill Gates in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development has partnered with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the Bharatiya Poshan Krishi Kosh project.
- ❖ It is a repository of diverse crops across 128 agro-climatic zones to help enable better nutritional outcomes.
- ❖ The Kosh aims to reduce malnutrition among women and children across the country, through a multi-sectoral results-based framework, including agriculture.
- ❖ In most cases, malnutrition is the cause of death of children below the age of five years.

Cyclone Bulbul

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert in Indian states of West Bengal and Odisha over Cyclone Bulbul in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The landfall of the cyclone was between Sagar Islands (West Bengal) and Khepupara (Bangladesh).
- ❖ The cyclone has been named by Pakistan.
- ❖ It is the seventh named storm of the unusually active 2019 North Indian Ocean cyclone season.
- ❖ It is the highest in the last 34 years.
- ❖ It will also be the second storm to form in the Bay of Bengal this year after extremely severe Cyclone Fani in April-May.
- ❖ The Arabian sea, usually not known to be prone to cyclones, has had four major cyclones this year — very severe cyclone Vayu, very severe cyclone Hikaa, super cyclone Kyarr and extremely severe cyclone Maha.

- ❖ This equals the record for the highest number of severe cyclones in the Arabian sea in the last 117 years.

Stage of warning	Colour code
Cyclone Alert	Yellow.
Cyclone Warning	Orange.
Post landfall out look	Red.

SCO forum of Young Scientists and Innovators 2020

- ❖ India will host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Forum of Young Scientists and Innovators in 2020.
- ❖ The 5th Meeting of SCO Member States Heads of Ministries and Departments of Science and Technology and Permanent Working Group on S&T Cooperation has also recently concluded in Moscow, Russia.

Railways Institute of Financial Management, Hyderabad

- ❖ A new institute to impart professional training in the management of railway finances was inaugurated in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Indian Railways Institute of Financial Management (IRIFM) will impart professional training to finance and accounts officers of the railways to strengthen the finances of the organisation.

22% of India's Groundwater Dried Up

- ❖ Jal Shakthi ministry has reported that almost 22% of groundwater in the country has either dried up or is in the 'critical' and 'over-exploited' categories.
- ❖ The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has released a report called 'The Dynamic Ground Water Resources of India' report.
- ❖ It shows that 1,499 out of 6,881 assessed units (blocks/mandals/taluks) in 2017 came under 'over-exploited' (1,186 units) and 'critical' (313 units) categories.
- ❖ The highest number of water stressed blocks were in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is followed by Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Punjab and Haryana.

UDAN Scheme 4.0

- ❖ The Ministry of Civil Aviation will soon start UDAN 4.0 scheme.
- ❖ Bilaspur and Ambikapur in Chhattisgarh will get connected.
- ❖ Bilaspur is famous for unique rice quality, Doobraj and the Kosa silk industry.
- ❖ Ude Desh Ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.

Per Capita Consumption of Electricity

- ❖ During the Winter Session of Parliament, the Ministry of Power has released data on India's per capita consumption of electricity.
- ❖ The per capita consumption of electricity in India is 1,181 kWh as of 2018-19.
- ❖ The highest per capita consumption in 2018-19 is in Dadra and Nagar Haveli (15,179 kWh).
- ❖ The state with the lowest per capita consumption of electricity is Bihar (311 kWh).

PERCAPITA CONSUMPTION IN KWH (2018-2019)

TOP 5		BOTTOM 5	
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15179	Bihar	311
Gujarat	2378	Assam	341
Goa	2274	Nagaland	356
Haryana	2082	Manipur	371
Punjab	2046	Tripura	514

VILLAGES ELECTRIFIED DURING 2017-2019

Arunachal	1,134
Odisha	925
Jharkhand	729
Bihar	596
Assam	572



Rule 12 of Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961

- ❖ The Union Government has used a 'special section' in the Union government's Transaction of Business Rules to revoke President's Rule without Cabinet approval.
- ❖ Rule 12 of the Government of India (Transaction of Business) Rules, 1961, allows the Prime Minister to depart from laid down norms at his discretion.
- ❖ He can make decisions even without cabinet approval if he deems it necessary.
- ❖ The Cabinet can subsequently give post-facto approval for any decision taken under Rule 12.

50th Conference of Governors

- ❖ The 50th Conference of Governors has recently concluded at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
- ❖ The President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, presided over the Conference of Governors and Lt. Governors of all States and Union Territories on November 23 and 24, 2019.
- ❖ The first Conference was organised in 1949.

National Tribal Craft Mela 2019

- ❖ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the National Tribal Craft Mela-2019 in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ The craft has been organised with the objective of promotion and popularisation of traditional tribal arts and crafts.
- ❖ Items showcased: Iron, bamboo products, puppets, siali crafts, tribal textiles and embroidery work, etc

Highest Road Length under PMGSY – Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The Union Territory (UT) of Jammu and Kashmir has achieved the highest road length in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in this year.
- ❖ The region has witnessed construction of 11,400 kilometres covering 1,838 habitations so far.



- ❖ PMGSY is an initiative launched by Union government in to provide good all-weather road connectivity to unconnected villages in the country.
- ❖ It was started in 2000 under prime ministership of AB Vajpayee.

Awaz Portal

- ❖ Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched Credit-linked Subsidy Services Awaz Portal (CLAP).
- ❖ The portal provides a transparent and robust real-time web-based monitoring system for beneficiaries of credit-linked Subsidy Service (CLSS).
- ❖ CLSS is one of the components under PM Awaz Yojana wherein the Union Government offers interest subsidy to housing loan buyers.

Suman Billa IAS @ UNWTO

- ❖ Kerala cadre senior IAS officer Suman Billa is set to join the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) at its headquarters in Madrid, Spain.
- ❖ He will take charge next week as Director, Technical Cooperation and Silk Road Development at UNWTO.
- ❖ It is a specialised agency responsible for the promotion of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism.

India Exclusion Report 2018-19

- ❖ According to India Exclusion Report 2018-19 members of SC, ST and OBC are among the most excluded groups when it comes to employment.
- ❖ Analysis of NSSO data showed Muslims were the lowest represented in salaried-class employment and women were the largest declining labour force in the country.
- ❖ The annual report is released by Centre for Equity Studies (CES).
- ❖ It highlights exclusion of certain section of population from public goods and experiences of marginalization.
- ❖ CES is an autonomous institution engaged in research and advocacy on issues of social justice.



5 Important Reports by MoSPI

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released five sets of survey reports on key socio-economic trends.
- ❖ They are
 - Household Social Consumption in India: Health (July 2017 to June 2018)
 - Household Social Consumption in India: Education (July 2017 to Jun 2018)
 - Persons with Disabilities (July 2018 to December 2018)
 - Drinking Water, Sanitation, Hygiene and Housing Conditions in India (July 2018 to December 2018)
 - Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) (January to March 2019)
- ❖ The first two reports are part of 76th round of National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
- ❖ These third and fourth reports are part of the 75th round of National Sample Survey (NSS).
- ❖ NSO was earlier known as the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).
- ❖ All the reports have been signed by NSO Director General Vijay Kumar.

Withheld Report

- ❖ In view of “data quality issues” MoSPI has decided ‘not to’ release the results of the all-India Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (2017-18).

The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The National Institute of Design (Amendment) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Rajya Sabha by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry on July 30, 2019.
- ❖ It was passed by Rajya Sabha on August 06, 2019 and Lok Sabha on November 26, 2019.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the National Institute of Design Act, 2014, which declares the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad as an institution of national importance.
- ❖ The Bill seeks to declare four National Institutes of Design in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, and Haryana as institutions of national importance.
- ❖ Currently, these institutes are registered as Societies under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 and do not have the power to grant degrees or diplomas.
- ❖ On being declared institutions of national importance, the four institutes will be granted the power to grant degrees and diplomas.



The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2019 was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 19, 2019 by the Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment - Thaawarchand Gehlot.
- ❖ It was passed by Lok Sabha on August 05, 2019 and Rajya Sabha on November 26, 2019.

Key Features of the Bill

- ❖ The Bill defines a transgender person as one whose gender does not match the gender assigned at birth.
- ❖ It includes trans-men and trans-women, persons with intersex variations, gender-queers, and persons with socio-cultural identities (Ex: hijra).
- ❖ They have a right to reside and be included in his household.
- ❖ No government or private entity can discriminate against a transgender person in employment matters, including recruitment, and promotion.
- ❖ A transgender person may make an application to the District Magistrate for a certificate of identity, indicating the gender as 'transgender'.

National Transgender Council

- ❖ A National Council for Transgender persons (NCT) under chairmanship of Union Social Justice Minister will be formed.
- ❖ Vice Chair - Minister of State for Social Justice
- ❖ Members:
 - Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice
 - One representative from Health, Home and HRD Ministries
 - Members from NITI Aayog and Human Rights Commission.
 - 5 members from Transgender Community and 5 experts from NGOs.

MILAN 2020

- ❖ The Mid Planning Conference (MPC) for MILAN exercise concluded at HQENC Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ MILAN 2020 is scheduled to be conducted at Visakhapatnam in March 2020.
- ❖ 41 navies are expected to participate in the mega exercise.
- ❖ It is a series of biennial multilateral naval exercise which commenced in 1995.
- ❖ It aims to enhance professional interaction between friendly foreign navies.
- ❖ It was conducted at Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) until last year.
- ❖ It will be conducted for the first time on the mainland at Eastern Naval Command.

Mitra Shakthi VII: India-Sri Lanka

- ❖ The seventh edition of India-Sri Lanka joint training exercise, Exercise MITRA SHAKTI- 2019 is scheduled to be conducted at Foreign Training Node (FTN), Pune from 01 - 14 December 2019.
- ❖ Mitra Shakthi is conducted annually as part of military diplomacy and interaction between armies of India & Sri Lanka.

Lokpal – New Motto and Logo

- ❖ The new motto of Lokpal is ‘Ma Gridhah Kasyasvidhanam’ which in English means “Do not be greedy for anyone’s wealth.”
- ❖ It has been taken from a sloka of ‘Ishabasoupanishad’.
- ❖ A new logo has also been adopted for Lokpal.



- ❖ The logo symbolises how Lokpal protects and cares for the people of India by establishing justice as per law.
- ❖ The Lokpal became functional after the appointment of its Chairman and members in March 2019.
- ❖ Justice (retired) Pinaki Chandra Ghose is currently the Chairman of Lokpal.

Kartavya Portal of HRD Ministry

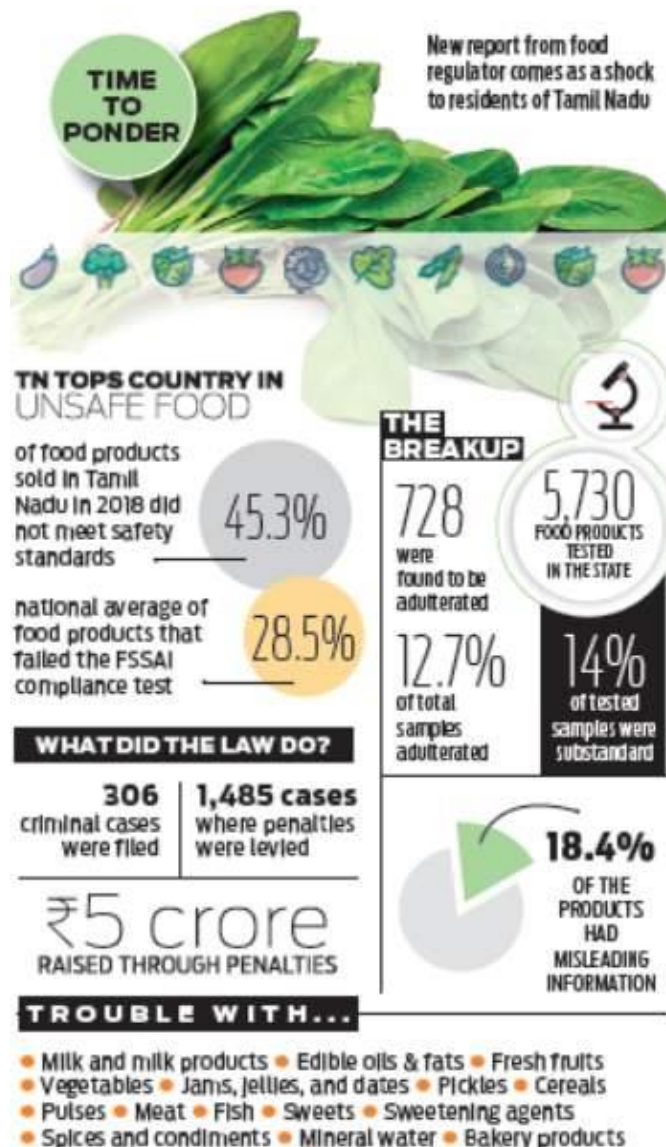
- ❖ The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry has launched the kartavya.ugc.ac.in portal for holding monthly essay competitions for students.
- ❖ The portal will be used primarily for holding monthly essay competitions, quizzes, poster making, debates, to students in higher educational institutions.
- ❖ Eleven rounds of National Essay Competitions will be held during the year.
- ❖ The topics of the essay will be based on one Fundamental Duty every month.

Rising bad number of Mudra Loans

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has expressed concern over rising bad loans from Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY).
- ❖ This scheme was started in April 2015.
- ❖ It offers faster credit to small businesses, with ticket sizes starting from ₹50,000 and going up to ₹10 lakh.

FSSAI Safety Report

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released data for 2018-19 on enforcement of norms.





- ❖ This was the first year the data had been compiled for unsafe, substandard and labelling defects separately.
- ❖ Ten States/UTs that have performed well include Uttarakhand, Goa, Bihar, Sikkim, Gujarat and Telangana.
- ❖ Ten States that have performed poorly include Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Punjab.

Tamilnadu

- ❖ FSSAI report states that food in Tamilnadu is the most unsafe in the country.
- ❖ 45% of food samples did not meet required standards.
- ❖ 12.7 % samples were adulterated and unsafe for consumption.

1st International Liaison Officer of IFC-IOR

- ❖ A French naval officer became the first International Liaison Officer to report at the Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) centre at Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ The Centre is expected to collate data on sea lanes in the IOR.
- ❖ 75% of the world's maritime trade and 50% of global oil pass through IOR.
- ❖ IFC-IOR was inaugurated in December 2018.

NuGen Mobility Summit 2019

- ❖ The International Center of Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar hosted the NuGen Mobility Summit 2019.
- ❖ The three-day conference is the largest automotive technology event in India thus so far.
- ❖ Automotive technology experts from 15 countries including India presented more than 120 technical research papers.

Packaging of Food Grains, Sugar in Jute

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has accorded its approval for mandatory packaging of food grains and sugar in jute material.
- ❖ It is aimed at diversification of jute industry.
- ❖ The approval will benefit farmers and workers in the Eastern and North-Eastern regions of the country.

QS World University Rankings for Asia 2020

- ❖ In the latest QS World University Rankings for Asia 2020, 96 Indian institutions rank among 550 for the continent.
- ❖ The National University of Singapore is ranked Asia's best for the second consecutive year.

INDIA TOP 20 (ASIA RANKS)

	2020	2019	INSTITUTION/UNIVERSITY
▼	34	33	IIT Bombay
▼	43	40	IIT Delhi
▼	50	48	IIT Madras
▼	51	50	IISc Bengaluru
▼	56	53	IIT Kharagpur
▼	65	61	IIT Kanpur
▼	67	62	University Of Delhi
▼	90	86	IIT Roorkee
▼	112	107	IIT Guwahati

- ❖ It is followed by Nanyang Technological University (Singapore) and the University of Hong Kong.
- ❖ The best performing institution from India is IIT Bombay (34th position).
- ❖ It is followed by IIT Delhi at 43rd place and IIT Madras at 50th.
- ❖ The first such QS ranking was launched in 2009.

5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES)

- ❖ The 5th Global Exhibition on Services (GES) is being held at Bengaluru to showcase India's capability across various services sectors before a global audience.
- ❖ Service sector contributes 60 per cent of India's GDP.



- ❖ Over 55 per cent of Foreign Direct Investment in India are from services sector.
- ❖ The first GES was held in New Delhi in 2015.

The Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2019

- ❖ The bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on July 08, 2019 by in Lok Sabha by Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture to amend the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial Act, 1951.
- ❖ It passed in Lok Sabha on August 02, 2019 and passed by Rajya Sabha on November 19, 2019.
- ❖ The Act provides for the erection of a National Memorial in memory of those killed and wounded on April 13, 1919, in Jallianwala Bagh, Amritsar.
- ❖ In addition, it creates a Trust to manage the National Memorial.
- ❖ Following people were trustees – President of Indian National Congress party, Prime Minister, Leader of Opposition (LOP) in Lok Sabha, Minister of Culture, Punjab's Governor and CM, 3 eminent persons nominated by Union government.
- ❖ The present Bill amends this provision “to remove” the President of the Indian National Congress as a Trustee.
- ❖ Further, it clarifies that when there is no LOP in Lok Sabha, then the leader of the single largest opposition party will be the Trustee.
- ❖ The three eminent persons nominated as Trustees can now be terminated before the expiry of the 5-year term without assigning any reason.

Spike Anti-tank Missiles

- ❖ The Indian Army has successfully test fired two Spike long-range anti-tank missiles at Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Spike is a fourth-generation missile which can engage any target with precision at ranges up to 4 kilo metres.
- ❖ The Spike long-range anti-tank missiles will bolster the Army's fire power capability.



INTERNATIONAL

India Vs US @ WTO

- ❖ India has lost a case filed by the US at the WTO against domestic “export incentives”.
- ❖ The dispute settlement panel of the WTO has concluded that these schemes were inconsistent with the international trade norms.
- ❖ With this ruling, India will have to rework these incentive schemes to comply with the WTO ruling.
- ❖ India will appeal against the case.

Saudi Aramco – Biggest IPO

- ❖ Saudi Arabia’s giant state-owned oil company finally kick-started its initial public offering (IPO).
- ❖ The company is valued around 1.5 trillion dollars and it aims to raise \$20 billion-\$40 billion.
- ❖ The IPO is designed to turbo-charge economic reforms in Saudi by raising billions to build non-energy industries and diversify revenue streams.
- ❖ The record for largest ever money raised through is held by China’s e-commerce giant Alibaba (USD 25 billion in New York, 2014).

New IAEA Director General

- ❖ The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board has appointed Rafael Grossi as Director General.
- ❖ He is currently Argentina’s Ambassador to Austria and the country’s Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based International Organizations, including the IAEA.
- ❖ The new Director General will be the IAEA’s sixth head since it was founded in 1957.

Council of Heads of Government of SCO

- ❖ The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 18th meeting of Council of Heads of Government of SCO at Tashkent in Uzbekistan.

- ❖ He represented as a Special Envoy of PM Modi at the conference.
- ❖ During the meet, it was decided that the next meeting of Council of Heads of Government in 2020 is to be conducted in India.
- ❖ The military exercise “CENTER 2019”, SCO joint military exercise that was held by Russia was congratulated at the summit.
- ❖ The SCO has eight full members, six nations as “dialogue partners” and four as “observer” status.



CoP 25 of UNFCCC

- ❖ Spain has offered Madrid to replace Chile as host of this year’s United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) or UN climate conference.
- ❖ This year will be 25th United Nations Climate Change Conference.
- ❖ Last year's UN climate conference held at Katowice, Poland.
- ❖ Facing unrest, Chile's government has also abandoned hosting November's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) economic summit.

The key events of the conference will include:

- The 25th Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC.
- The 15th meeting of parties for the Kyoto Protocol (CMP15).
- The second meeting of parties for the Paris Agreement (CMA2).

16th India ASEAN Summit

- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister attended the 16th ASEAN-India Summit in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ The Indian Prime Minister highlighted the importance of Myanmar to India's Look East Policy and the Neighbourhood First policies.
- ❖ India plans to host a business event for the CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam) in Yangon at the end of November 2019.
- ❖ India and Indonesia commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.
- ❖ The PM also addressed the Indian community at the 'Sawasdee PM Modi' event in Bangkok.
- ❖ In the Thai language, the word 'Sawasdee' is used for greetings and goodbye.
- ❖ Along with this Summit, the other summits that took place in Thailand are
 - 35th ASEAN Summit
 - 14th East Asia Summit, and
 - 3rd meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).



35th ASEAN Summit

- ❖ The 35th Summit of The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) began in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❖ It is a biannual meeting.
- ❖ The theme of 35th ASEAN Summit is - Advancing Partnership for sustainability.
- ❖ ASEAN is a group of 10 countries that encourages economic, social and political co-operation in the region.
- ❖ Apart from 10 members countries, eight dialogue partner countries are also participating in the summit.
- ❖ The role of the ASEAN chair rotates annually between the ten ASEAN member states.
 - Chair: 2018 Singapore
 - Chair: 2019 Thailand

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership - RCEP

- ❖ Indian Prime Minister attended the 3rd RCEP summit in Bangkok.
- ❖ Also, the Indian government has decided not to join the Partnership, over concerns that it could lead to a potential flood of Chinese imports in the country.
- ❖ Under RCEP, India would have been required to eliminate tariffs on 74% of goods from China, Australia and New Zealand, and 90% goods from Japan, South Korea and ASEAN.
- ❖ India already has a \$57 billion trade deficit with China, which has been a major cause of concern for policymakers.

WHAT IS RCEP?

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)
is a proposed free trade agreement with **16 nations**:

10 Asean nations	6 others
Brunei Cambodia Indonesia Laos Malaysia Myanmar	Philippines Singapore Thailand Vietnam
	Australia China India Japan South Korea New Zealand





RCEP

- ❖ The RCEP is a trade deal that was under negotiation among 16 countries — the 10 member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the six countries with which the ASEAN bloc has free trade agreements (FTA).
- ❖ These included Australia, China, South Korea, Japan and New Zealand.
- ❖ It would have been the world's largest trade pact.

Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support

- ❖ The 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation meeting held in Russia.
- ❖ The meeting was co-chaired by Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ❖ India and Russia agreed to form specific working groups for aftersales support of key defence platforms and intensify efforts to finalise a cooperation programme for 2021-2030.
- ❖ This logistics agreement will be beneficial to the Indian Navy as warships will get access to mutual ports and exclusive economic zones to refuel and pick up supplies.
- ❖ On the other hand, Russia can also use ports like Mumbai and Visakhapatnam. Besides ports, Russia would also be able to access airbases.

6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit

- ❖ The 6th Parliamentary Speakers' Summit of the G20 countries held in Tokyo, Japan.
- ❖ The summit was attended by Presiding Officers of Parliaments of G20 countries.
- ❖ The Parliamentary summit is unofficially called P20.
- ❖ It was jointly hosted and organised by Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the House of Councillors of National Diet of Japan.
- ❖ The summit had sessions on separate themes pertaining to trade, technology and sustainable development.

BIMSTEC Conclave

- ❖ BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal initiative multi-sector technical and economic cooperation) Conclave will be held at Visakhapatnam.



- ❖ Vizag port trust is hosting the conclave first time ever since the formation of BIMSTECH in 1997.
- ❖ Seven-member countries that includes Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Srilanka, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan are participating in the conference.

Freedom on Net 2019 report

- ❖ The Freedom on the Net report 2019 titled 'The Crisis of Social Media' was released by an international internet watchdog, the Freedom House.
- ❖ China was ranked as the world's worst abuser of internet freedom for the fourth consecutive year.
- ❖ Pakistan was declared as 'not free' in terms of internet freedom status for the ninth consecutive year.
- ❖ India was given an overall score of 55 in the report and the internet freedom status in the country was reported to be 'partly free'.
- ❖ Iceland was recorded as the world's best protector of internet freedom
- ❖ The country that recorded the biggest improvement in its internet freedom score in 2019 was Ethiopia.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive study of internet freedom in 65 nations across the globe.
- ❖ The 2019 report is a 9th Report in its series.

Danakil Depression

- ❖ The scientists have found a place on earth Dallol geothermal springs in Ethiopia's Danakil Depression, which has water but absolutely no life.
- ❖ The Dallol landscape is replete with a number of hyper acidic - hypersaline lakes which give off vibrant hues of greens, yellows and shades of other colours.
- ❖ This hellish, salty water world is generally considered the hottest inhabited place on the planet.

Danakil Depression

- ❖ The Danakil Depression is the northern part of the Afar Triangle or Afar Depression in Ethiopia
- ❖ The Danakil Depression lies at the triple junction of three tectonic plates and has a complex geological history.
- ❖ It has developed as a result of Africa and Asia moving apart, causing rifting and volcanic activity.

- ❖ The Danakil Depression is the hottest place on Earth in terms of year-round average temperatures.
- ❖ It is also one of the lowest places on the planet, and without rain for most of the year.
- ❖ The area is often referred to as the cradle of humanity.



Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA 2021

- ❖ India is preparing teachers and students of the participating schools in accordance with PISA test standards.
- ❖ PISA is meant to assess key knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in mathematics, science and reading.
- ❖ It covers all forms of schooling including public, private and private aided.
- ❖ OCED introduced the PISA test in 2000, and has since conducted it every three years.
- ❖ India has participated in PISA test only once in 2009.
- ❖ After an abysmal performance, India stayed away from the test in 2012 and 2015.
- ❖ The Union Human Resources Development Ministry has signed an agreement with OECD for India's Participation in PISA 2021.



New Iranian Oil Field

- ❖ Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has announced that a vast oil field in the Khuzestan province, containing an estimated 53 billion barrels of crude oil has been newly discovered by them.
- ❖ It would be Iran's second largest oil field, behind the one in Ahvaz containing an estimated 65 billion barrels.
- ❖ Upon exploration, Iran may become third oil rich country.

CARAT - 2019: US-Bangladesh Navy exercise

- ❖ The biggest US - Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) - 2019' is being held in Chattogram (or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh.
- ❖ The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.

IORA Council of Ministers meeting

- ❖ Minister of State in the External Affairs Ministry V. Muraleedharan attended the 19th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meeting at Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The theme is "Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean."
- ❖ During this ministerial meeting, the United Arab Emirates will take over from South Africa as IORA Chairman, for a two-year period running to 2021.

About IORA

- ❖ The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The organisation was first established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius on March 1995 and formally launched on March 1997.
- ❖ Headquarter: Mauritius.

Israel election 2019

- ❖ The legislative elections were held in Israel in September to elect the 120 members of the twenty-second Knesset (Israel Parliament).



- ❖ After the election the incumbent Prime Minister took charge to form the government in Israel.
- ❖ However, he has to prove his majority in the Knesset.
- ❖ Following the previous elections in April, incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu failed to form a governing coalition, the first such failure in Israeli history.
- ❖ This election marked the first time that the Knesset voted to dissolve itself before a government had been formed.

ADIPEC 2019

- ❖ Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan attended Abu Dhabi International Petroleum Exhibition & Conference (ADIPEC).
- ❖ The Abu Dhabi Petroleum Fair Adipec is the meeting point of international oil and gas industry.
- ❖ Oil and Gas 4.0 is the theme for this year's Adipec.

International Lavi Fair @ Himachal

- ❖ The four-day long international Lavi Fair at Rampur Bushahr in Himachal Pradesh has concluded.
- ❖ Besides being three centuries old, the fair is also known for its trade with Tibet, China and other countries.
- ❖ The fair is believed to be started by Raja Kehari Singh of Rampur Bushahr to facilitate trade.
- ❖ The main attraction during the fair is sale and purchase of Chamurthi horses – an endangered species of horse which traces its origin to the Tibet region.
- ❖ Chamurthi horses are also known as the 'ship of the cold desert'.

Apsara Dance – Cambodia

- ❖ Cambodian Princess Norodom Bopha Devi (76) and former Culture Minister of Cambodia has passed away.
- ❖ She is credited for resurrecting the Apsara Dance in the 1970s.
- ❖ World heritage listed-Apsara has been performed in Cambodia for more than 1,000 years and bas-reliefs of dancers are seen on Angkorian temple walls.



2019 Driving Cities Index

- ❖ According to the 2019 Driving Cities Index, two Indian cities, Mumbai and Kolkata are among the world's worst cities to drive in.
- ❖ The Index which ranks 100 countries was released by European car parts retailer Mister Auto.
- ❖ Calgary in Canada is named the best city for driving around the world, followed by Dubai and another Canadian city Ottawa.
- ❖ Mumbai is placed last (100th) on the back of higher congestion and poor driving speed, while Kolkata is ranked just two spots higher (98th).

Dhaka Global Dialogue

- ❖ The first edition of Dhaka Global Dialogue was held in Bangladesh and inaugurated by PM Sheikh Hasina.
- ❖ More than 150 delegates from 50 countries participated in the conference to discuss issues specific to Indo-pacific region.
- ❖ The programme was jointly organised by New Delhi based Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).
- ❖ It will act as a platform for countries in this region to achieve environmentally sustainable peace and prosperity.
- ❖ Participants also agreed upon that peace and stability in the maritime domain will be critical to Asia's rise.

Bazeera City – Northwest Pakistan

- ❖ In a joint excavation in northwest Pakistan, Archaeologists from Pakistan and Italy have discovered a 3000-year-old city named Bazeera, believed to be the remains of Alexander the Great.
- ❖ Bazeera is located in Swat District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, famous for 5,000 years old civilisation and its artefacts.
- ❖ The discovery also found traces of Hindu temples, coins, stupa, pots and weapons of that period.



First Country to Introduce Typhoid vaccine - Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan became the first country in the world to introduce the World Health Organization (WHO)-recommended typhoid conjugate vaccine (TCV) into its routine immunization programme.
- ❖ It is the first typhoid vaccine that can be given to children as young as 6 months of age and confers longer term protection against typhoid.
- ❖ Pakistan launched the campaign in Sindh Province.

8th International Conference on Agricultural Statistics (ICAS) - Delhi

- ❖ It is a series of conferences, sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank (WB), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other international development agencies.
- ❖ It is held every three years to address issues of agricultural statistics (information/data) development.
- ❖ The theme is Statistics for Transformation of Agriculture to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The Department of Agricultural Research and Education under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is the hosting agency.

Operation Kayla Mueller

- ❖ The Barisha raid, officially codenamed Operation Kayla Mueller was a United States military operation.
- ❖ It conducted at Barisha of Syria to capture or kill Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the then-leader and self-proclaimed "caliph" of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terror organization.

Ocean Dance festival – Bangladesh

- ❖ The Ocean Dance Festival 2019 kicked off in Cox Bazar of Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is the largest international dance festival of Bangladesh and aims to expand cultural tourism.
- ❖ The theme of this year's festival is 'Bridging the distance' or Durotter Shetubandhan.

Sumatran Rhinoceros

- ❖ Malaysia's 25-year old last female rhinoceros has passed away at the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary in Tabin Wildlife Reserve.
- ❖ The Sumatran rhino is listed as critically endangered by the World Wildlife Fund.
- ❖ The International Rhino Foundation estimates that there are less than 80 alive in the world.
- ❖ They are the smallest living rhinos and the only Asian rhino with two horns.

The Global Bio-India (GBI) Summit, 2019

- ❖ India's first largest biotechnology conference - the Global Bio-India (GBI) Summit, 2019 has recently concluded in New Delhi.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, along with Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- ❖ BIRAC is a not-for-profit Schedule B, Public Sector Enterprise set up by DBT.
- ❖ The theme of the event was 'Power to transform lives'.



Food Vulnerability Index

- ❖ According to a new report by Nomura Global Market Research, India is ranked 44 out of 110 countries in Nomura's Food Vulnerability Index (NFVI).



- ❖ The index ranks countries on the basis of their exposure to “large swings” in food prices.
- ❖ Due to a rise in food prices, India’s retail inflation touched 4.6% during October.

Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India, 2018

- ❖ Ministry of Tourism has provided data on Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India in 2018.
- ❖ Bangladesh, the United States, and the United Kingdom were the top three countries from where foreign tourists arrived in India in 2018.
- ❖ Among individual states, Tamil Nadu saw the most visits by foreign tourists in 2018 — over 60 lakh in that year.
- ❖ Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh followed, with over 50 lakh and 37 lakh visits respectively.

Global Inclusive Prosperity Index

- ❖ In terms of economic and social inclusivity, Bengaluru has emerged as India’s highest ranked city (Rank 83) out of 113 cities in the world.
- ❖ The first-ever Prosperity & Inclusion City Seal and Awards (PICSA) Index was commissioned by Basque institutions and D&L Partners.
- ❖ It is the first-time world’s major cities have been ranked for their efforts to build inclusive and prosperous environments for all its citizens.
- ❖ Zurich (Switzerland) tops the list and followed by Vienna (Austria) and Copenhagen (Denmark).
- ❖ Delhi at 101 and Mumbai at 107 are the other Indian cities in the index.

10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament @ Delhi Assembly

- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla addressed youngsters from India and the Commonwealth during the inaugural session of the 10th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Delhi Assembly.
- ❖ The Commonwealth Youth Parliament is an annual gathering hosted by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA).
- ❖ Young people (age 18-29) from commonwealth of nations participate and debate.
- ❖ It is for the first time that an Indian Legislature is hosting the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

Floating School Project in Bangladesh

- ❖ A floating school project in Bangladesh named 'The Arcadia Education Project' has won the Aga Khan Architecture Award.
- ❖ Razia Alam, a Bangladeshi expatriate decided to fund a school which doesn't get submerged in monsoon and to improve lives of rural students.
- ❖ Internationally renowned architect Saif Ul Haque conceived the project using local materials.
- ❖ The school remains on the ground during dry season and floats on water when the area is submerged in water during monsoon.



Largest Diplomatic Mission of the World: China

- ❖ For the first time in history, China has established the largest diplomatic network in the world, even bigger than that of the US.
- ❖ According to the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, China has 276 diplomatic posts globally, three more than America.
- ❖ India is ranked 12 in the global ranking list.
- ❖ India has 123 Embassies/High Commissions, 54 consulates, 5 permanent missions and 4 other representations.



WATEC Conference 2019 - Israel

- ❖ Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, represented India at the 8th WATEC (Water Technology and Environment Control) Conference 2019.
- ❖ The conference was held at David Intercontinental in Tel Aviv, Israel.
- ❖ It was aimed at disseminating information on up to date and important trends related to water and environmental management.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is “Water Stewardship and Innovation – Driving global leadership in the responsible planning management, and protection of water”.

Building a Better Web (www) - Tim Berners Lee

- ❖ Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the World Wide Web, has announced a new “contract for the web” in collaboration with 80 organisations and governments around the world.
- ❖ The idea is to create a global plan of action for all stakeholders to build a “better web”.
- ❖ The contract consists of 9 principles, three each for governments, citizens and companies.

World Migration Report 2020

- ❖ The UN-International Organization for Migration (IOM) has published its World Migration Report 2020.
- ❖ It estimates that the number of international migrants is 270 million.
- ❖ USA is the top migration destination with around 51 million migrants.
- ❖ At 17.5 million, India is the largest country of origin of international migrants.
- ❖ It received the highest remittance of \$78.6 billion from Indians living abroad followed by China (\$67.4 billion) and Mexico (\$35.7 billion).
- ❖ US remained the top remittance-sending country (\$68.0 billion) followed by the UAE (\$44.4 billion) and Saudi Arabia (\$36.1 billion).
- ❖ Syria is the top refugee-originating country (6 million) followed by Afghanistan.



ECONOMY

Employment level's drastic falls

- ❖ A New academic research paper published by the Centre of Sustainable Employment at the Azim Premji University.
- ❖ According to that research, the “total employment during 2011-12 and 2017-18 declined by 9 million.
- ❖ This is the first time such a decline has been recorded in independent India’s history.

Rupay at Saudi Arabia

- ❖ India signs MoU with Saudi Arabia to launch RuPay card in Gulf Kingdom.
- ❖ It was the third nation in the West Asia to initiate India's digital payment system.
- ❖ India has already launched the RuPay card in the UAE, Bahrain, Singapore and Bhutan.
- ❖ The RuPay card is a first-of-its-kind Indian domestic Debit and Credit Card payment network launched in 2012.

New NPS rules

- ❖ Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will now be allowed to invest into NPS or National Pension Scheme
- ❖ National Pension System (NPS) is a voluntary defined contribution pension system in India.
- ❖ NPS started with the decision of the Government of India to stop defined benefit pensions for all its employees who joined after 1 January 2004.
- ❖ While the scheme was initially designed for government employees only, it was opened up for all citizens of India between the age of 18 and 60 in 2009.
- ❖ The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), a statutory body, is the pension regulator of India which was established by Government of India on 23 August 2003.
- ❖ PFRDA is regulating and administering the National Pension System (NPS) along with administering the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) which is a defined benefits pension scheme for the unorganized sector, guaranteed by the Government of India.



Nirvik Scheme

- ❖ The Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) has introduced the Export Credit Insurance Scheme (ECIS) called NIRVIK to enhance loan availability and ease the lending process.
- ❖ It is an insurance cover guarantee that will cover up to 90% of the principal and interest.
- ❖ The cover will include both pre and post-shipment credit.
- ❖ ECGC is wholly owned by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia

- ❖ The Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India is a bi-annual publication on regional economic growth, development and regional integration in Emerging Asia.
- ❖ It is published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ❖ According to this report, India's gross domestic product (GDP) could grow 6.6% in 2020-24, lower than its 2013-17 average of 7.4%.

Unemployment rate in India

- ❖ India's unemployment rate in October rose to 8.5%, the highest level since August 2016, according to data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).
- ❖ Among States, Tripura and Haryana saw unemployment levels of more than 20% (the highest), while the unemployment was the lowest in Tamil Nadu at 1.1%.
- ❖ The CMIE's figures are in line with the findings of the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey, which had estimated an unemployment rate of 6.1% between July 2017 and June 2018, the worst in 45 years.
- ❖ Periodic Labour Force Survey is a regular employment-unemployment survey released annually by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation since 2017.

CMIE

- ❖ Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy is a leading business information company.
- ❖ It was established in 1976, primarily as an independent think tank.



Tapan Ray Committee

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a committee headed by Tapan Ray to review regulatory guidelines and supervisory framework applicable to core investment companies (CICs).
- ❖ Recently this Committee has submitted its recommendations to the RBI.
- ❖ Currently, corporate governance guidelines are not explicitly made applicable to CICs.

CIC

- ❖ Core investment companies are non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).
- ❖ It undertakes the business of acquisition of shares and securities.

Khadi - HS Code

- ❖ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has allocated a separate HS code for the Khadi.
- ❖ It will help to boost the exports of Khadi.
- ❖ HS Stands for Harmonized System and it is a six-digit identification code.
- ❖ It was developed by the WCO (World Customs Organization).
- ❖ The customs officers use HS Code to clear every commodity that enters or crosses any international border.

Liquidity coverage ratio norms for NBFC

- ❖ Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will take effect on 1 December 2020.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is extending its previous deadline date of 1 April of 2020.
- ❖ NBFCs with assets of ₹10,000 crore and above will have to maintain a minimum of 50% of LCR as high quality liquid assets (HQLA).
- ❖ Those with assets of ₹5000-10,000 crore will have to maintain 30% LCR.
- ❖ In both cases, LCR will be progressively increased to 100% by December 2024.



Atal Pension Yojana

- ❖ The Atal [Pension](#) Yojana (APY) has crossed 1.9 crore subscriber mark.
- ❖ It is a flagship pension scheme of the government to cover the workers in the unorganized sector and are not covered under any social security scheme.
- ❖ Among public sector banks, State Bank of India contributed with nearly 11.5 lakh additions.
- ❖ Under private sector bank category, HDFC Bank was the top contributor in terms of number of enrolments.
- ❖ The PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) has envisioned to expand the subscribers base under APY by targeting 2.25 crore people by March 2020.

Moody's - 'negative' from 'stable'.

- ❖ Moody's Investors Service, the investor-focused arm of ratings agency Moody's, has downgraded its outlook on India to 'negative' from 'stable'.
- ❖ The agency, however, has retained India's credit rating at Baa2.
- ❖ Moody's Investors Service, often referred to as Moody's, is the bond credit rating business of Moody's Corporation.
- ❖ It is an American business and financial services company.

Maharatna Status

- ❖ The union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises accorded 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum and Power Grid Corporation.
- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is India's largest electric power transmission utility firm.
- ❖ As of 23 October 2019, there are 10 Maharatnas, 14 Navratnas and 73 Miniratnas.

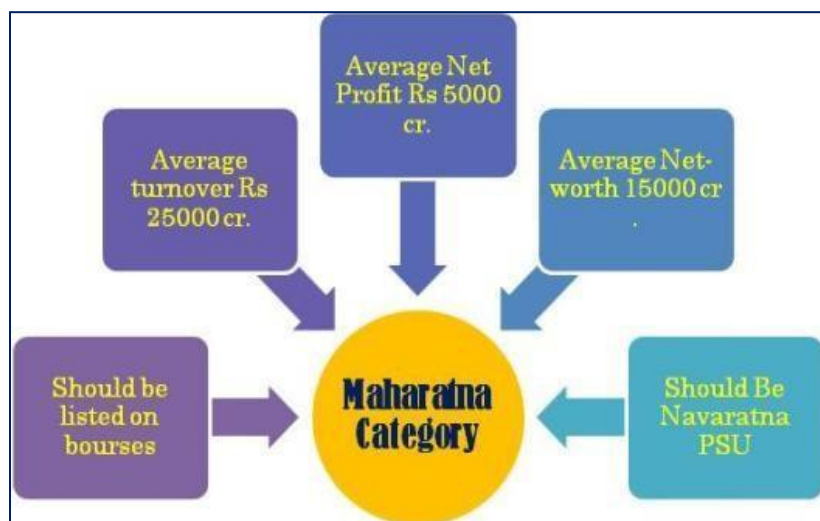
Benefits

- ❖ Being awarded since 2010, the Status will give them greater operational and financial autonomy.
- ❖ It will impart enhanced powers to their boards to take financial decisions.
- ❖ The Government raises a company's investment ceiling from Rs. 1,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crores.

- ❖ The Maharatna firms can now decide on investments of up to 15 per cent of their net worth in a project.

Eligibility

- ❖ Three years with an average annual net profit of over Rs. 2500 crore, OR
- ❖ Average annual Net worth of Rs. 10,000 crore for 3 years, OR
- ❖ Average annual Turnover of Rs. 20,000 crore for 3 years (against Rs 25,000 crore prescribed earlier).



Financial Stability and Development Council

- ❖ The 21st Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held recently.
- ❖ It focusses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- ❖ FSDC was established in 2010 with Union Finance Minister as its Chairman.
- ❖ Its members include
 - The heads of financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDA)
 - Finance Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
 - Secretary, Department of Financial Services
 - Chief Economic Adviser
 - Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board
- ❖ FSDC sub-committee is chaired by the Governor of RBI.



NCAER Survey

- ❖ According to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), the Business Confidence of India dipped to lowest in six years.
- ❖ The National Council of Applied Economic Research is a Delhi based think tank that was established in 1956.
- ❖ The aim of the body is to give support to both government and private sector economic researches.

Essar Steel Verdict – Landmark Judgement

- ❖ In a landmark judgment, the Supreme Court has upheld the supremacy of the “Committee of Creditors” comprising the Financial Creditors of the bankrupt firms over the distribution of claims.
- ❖ In doing so, the apex court has given more weight to the financial creditors than operational creditors.
- ❖ It has ruled that the two sets set of creditors will be treated ‘differently’ during the insolvency proceedings and during taking over of a debt-ridden firm by another company.

Background

- ❖ The Ahmedabad bench of National Company Law Tribunal had in March 2019 approved global steel-giant Arcelor Mittal’s bid for Essar Steel.
- ❖ Arcelor Mittal’s offer did not cover operational creditors to Essar Steel.

GDP of July-September Quarter

- ❖ India's annual growth in Gross Domestic Product or GDP fell to 4.5% for the quarter ended September 30.
- ❖ It is the worst number in the last 6 years.
- ❖ According to the data released by National Statistical Office (NSO), the Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the manufacturing sector contracted by 1% in the same quarter.
- ❖ Construction sector GVA growth too slowed to 3.3% from 8.5%.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

L2Pro India - mobile application

- ❖ L2Pro India [Learn to Protect, Secure and Maximize Your Innovation] mobile application is on Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs).
- ❖ L2Pro has been successfully implemented in Germany, United Kingdom, Italy and France.

IndiGen – CSIR Programme

- ❖ It is a programme managed by the CSIR for a free mapping of whole genomes of a person.
- ❖ CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) and the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) are part of this.
- ❖ The human genome has about 3.2 billion base pairs.

TechSagar

- ❖ TechSagar is a dynamic national repository of India's cyber tech capabilities.
- ❖ It is launched by National Cyber Security Coordinator's office in partnership with Data Security Council (DSCI) of India.
- ❖ DSCI is a not-for-profit, industry body on data protection in India, setup by NASSCOM.

Oligomannate - world's first new Alzheimer's drug

- ❖ The world's first new drug for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in nearly two decades – and perhaps the only treatment with the potential to reverse the condition – was approved by the Chinese government.
- ❖ The development of Oligomannate was inspired by the relatively low occurrence of Alzheimer's among elderly people who regularly consumed seaweed.
- ❖ At present there is no cure for Alzheimer's disease.
- ❖ It was first identified by German doctor Alois Alzheimer in 1906.

Space Technology Cell

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology of Delhi (IIT-D) is going to set up a space technology cell in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- ❖ With the move, IIT Delhi will join the league of other premiere institutions like IISc Bangalore, IIT Bombay, IIT Kanpur, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Madras, IIT Guwahati and IIT Roorkee where the Space Technology Cells (STCs) have been set up.

Standing wheelchair

- ❖ A 'standing wheelchair' called 'Arise', was developed at the TTK Center for Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) at the IIT Madras.
- ❖ Arise was formally launched by Thaawar chand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The wheel chair, indigenously-designed at IIT-M in collaboration with Phoenix Medical Systems, with the support of the UK-based Welcome Trust.
- ❖ Using Arise, a person with a disability can shift from a standing position to a sitting position and vice versa, independently or with assistance.

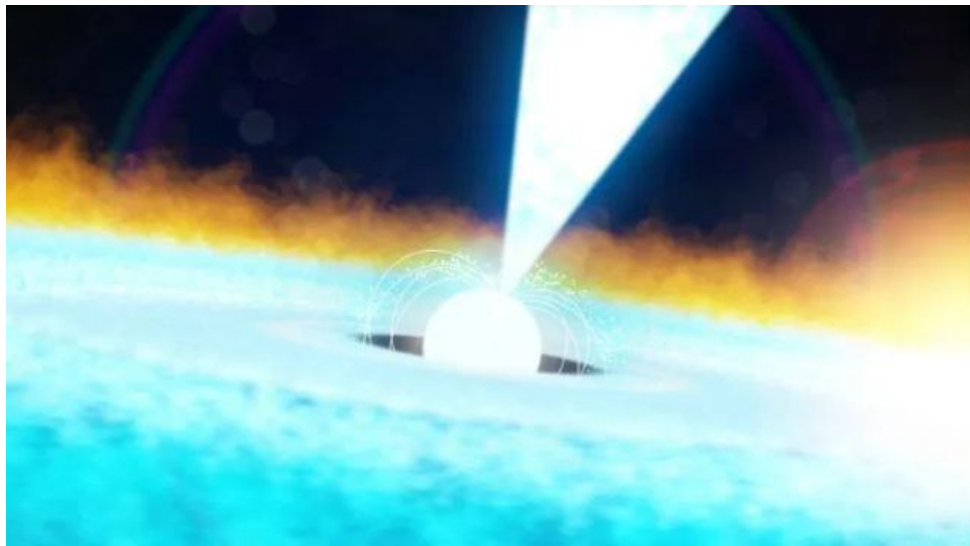


First Electric Plane

- ❖ NASA has showcased an early version of its first all-electric experimental aircraft called "X-57 "Maxwell".
- ❖ Maxwell is powered by 14 electric motors powered by specially designed lithium-ion batteries.
- ❖ Due to current battery limitations, the Maxwell may be used for short-haul flights as an air-taxi or commuter plane for a small number of passengers.

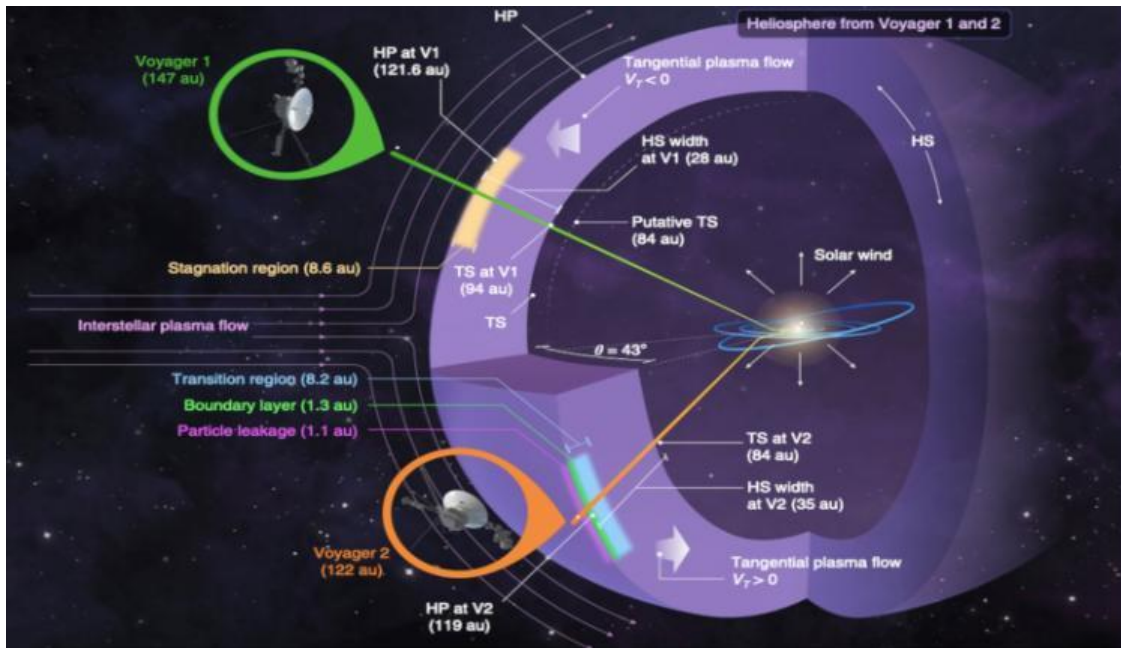
Nicer Telescope of NASA

- ❖ NASA's Neutron star Interior Composition Explorer (NICER) telescope on International Space Station (ISS) has detected the brightest ever X-ray burst.
- ❖ The X-ray burst had been caused by a massive thermonuclear flash on the surface of a Pulsar.
- ❖ The crushed remains of a star that exploded long ago as a supernova is called pulsar.
- ❖ The explosion, which astronomers classify as a Type I X-ray burst, released as much energy in 20 seconds as the Sun does in nearly 10 days.



Voyager 2 enters interstellar space

- ❖ NASA's Voyager 2 has become the second human made object in history to exit the Heliosphere (bubble created by solar winds).
- ❖ Spacecraft Voyager 1, crossed this boundary in 2012.
- ❖ The Voyager spacecraft are the third and fourth spacecraft to fly beyond all the planets in our solar system.
- ❖ Voyager 2 is the only spacecraft to have visited all four gas giant planets — Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.
- ❖ The two probes, Voyager 1 and Voyager 2 have left the heliosphere, but have not yet left the solar system as they are not out of the sun's gravitational field yet.



About the Mission

- ❖ Voyager 2 was launched on August 20, 1977, and Voyager 1 was launched on September 5, 1977.
- ❖ The spacecraft were built to last five years and conduct close-up studies of Jupiter and Saturn.
- ❖ Voyager 2 is NASA's longest-running mission.

DRDO's Igniter Complex @ Pune

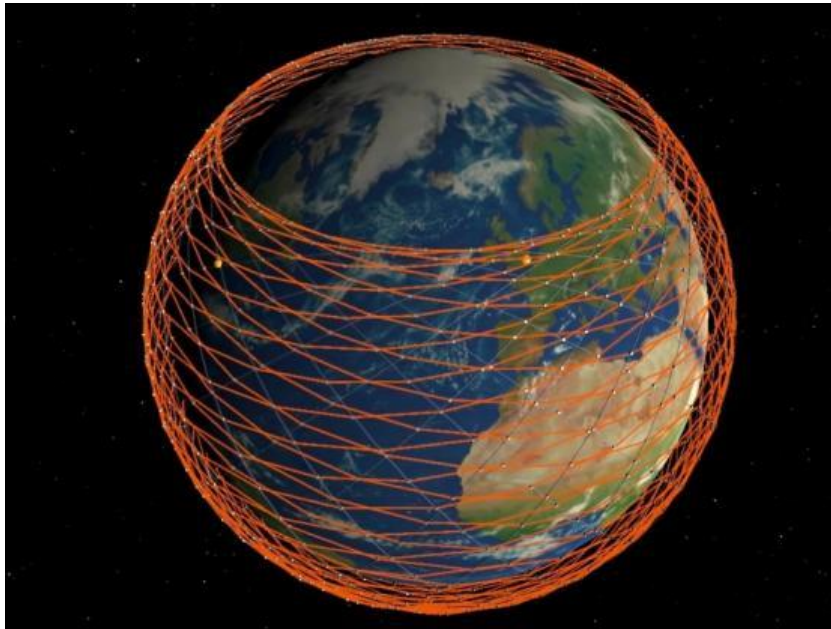
- ❖ The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Igniter Complex inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) in Pune.

About HEMRL and the ignition phenomenon

- ❖ HEMRL is a premier laboratory of DRDO.
- ❖ It primarily engages in developing Rocket and Gun Propellants, Pyrotechnic Devices, High Explosive Systems and synthesis of high energy molecules.
- ❖ Ignition system for Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Nag, Pinaka, Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM), etc. have been designed and developed in HEMRL.

Starlink Network

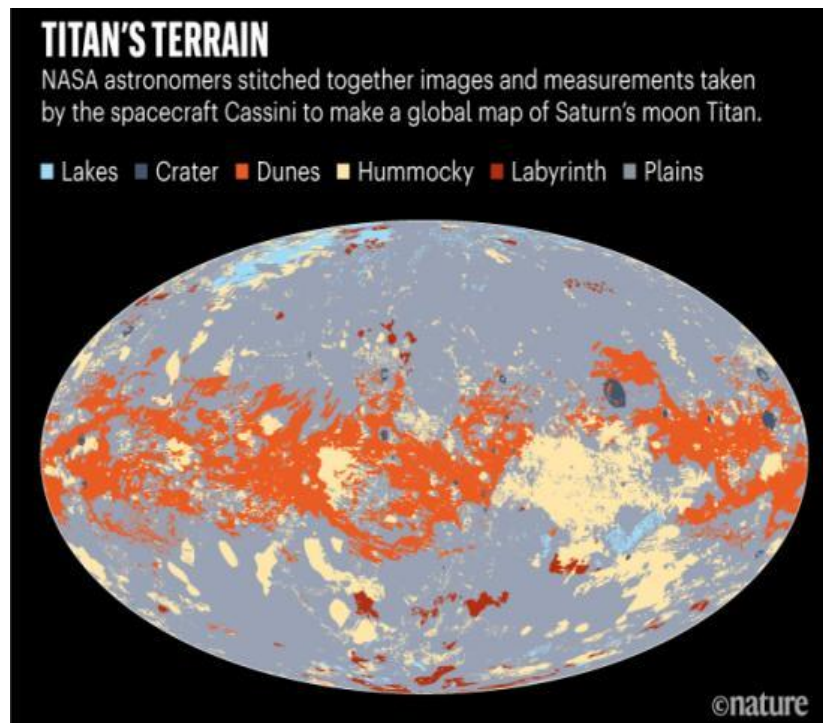
- ❖ By 2027, the SpaceX company plans to put a network of 42,000 satellites around the globe to provide high-speed internet services.
- ❖ It has named the network “Starlink” and has launched 60 internet satellites recently.



- ❖ Due to Starlink project, fears of space debris, collision and cut off of access to space are also raised.

Saturn's Moon Titan Mapped

- ❖ Scientists unveiled the first global geological map of Saturn's moon Titan, including vast plains and dunes of frozen organic material and lakes of liquid methane.
- ❖ The map was based on radar, infrared and other data collected by Nasa's Cassini spacecraft.
- ❖ Titan is the only solar system object other than Earth which has stable liquids on the surface.
- ❖ Titan (diameter 5,150km), is the solar system's second-biggest moon, behind Jupiter's Ganymede.
- ❖ It is larger than the planet Mercury.



SeeTB

- ❖ SeeTB is a new device to diagnose Tuberculosis.
- ❖ It is developed by a research team from Jamia Hamdard University in New Delhi.
- ❖ The device looks promising to scale up a faster diagnosis of TB and start treatment.
- ❖ India is the leading country in tuberculosis deaths of the World.
- ❖ The World Health Organization has aimed at eliminating TB by 2035.
- ❖ The Indian government has vouched to do this by 2025.





Pneumonia and SAANS

- ❖ The UN's report named Pneumonia as "Forgotten Epidemic".
- ❖ Around half of pneumonia deaths are associated with air pollution.
- ❖ Pneumonia is caused by bacteria, viruses or fungi, and leaves children fighting for breath as their lungs fill with pus and fluid.
- ❖ India has the second largest deaths of children under the age of five due to Pneumonia in 2018.
- ❖ The five countries that were responsible for more than half of child deaths due to Pneumonia were Nigeria (162,000), India (127,000), Pakistan (58,000), the Democratic Republic of Congo (40,000) and Ethiopia (32,000).
- ❖ It is now responsible for 15 per cent of deaths in children under the age of five across the World.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched a campaign in Gujarat named Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully (SAANS).

Secretagoin – Obesity Induced Diabetes

- ❖ Scientists from Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad have isolated a new protein called secretagoin (SCGN).
- ❖ SCGN is a special type of protein that helps in increasing the efficacy of insulin in diabetics.
- ❖ It increases the action of insulin in the body and controls the blood sugar levels.
- ❖ This might become a breakthrough in managing diabetes which affects millions of people.

ETVAX Vaccine against Diarrhoea

- ❖ An oral, inactivated vaccine against enterotoxigenic E. coli diarrhoea (ETEC) has been found safe for infants and children in a clinical trial conducted in Bangladesh.
- ❖ ETEC bacteria are a primary cause of diarrhoea.
- ❖ They lead to substantial illness and death in children in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).
- ❖ The vaccine was developed by Sweden's University of Gothenburg.
- ❖ At present there is no vaccine for diarrhoea.

PSLV-C47 / CARTOSAT-3 Mission

- ❖ The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C47 carried the CARTOSAT-3 satellite along with the other commercial nano-satellites for the US
- ❖ ISRO successfully launched CARTOSAT-3, 13 nano-satellites from Sriharikota
- ❖ This is the 21st flight of PSLV in 'XL' configuration (with 6 solid strap-on motors).
- ❖ Cartosat-3 satellite is a third-generation agile advanced satellite having high resolution imaging capability.

ISRO'S PSLV-C47 LAUNCHES CARTOSAT-3, 13 FOREIGN SATELLITES

PSLV-C47 placed country's **CARTOSAT-3** weighing **1,625kg** into a **509km** polar sun-synchronous orbit

Also launched 13 nanosatellites from US

- 12 earth observation satellites named as FLOCK-4P
- 1 communication test bed satellite called MESHBED
- Part of commercial arrangement with NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL**), ISRO's commercial wing

CARTOSAT-3 is India's earth observation satellite and will help in

- Urban planning
- Rural resource and infrastructure development
- Coastal land use
- Land cover

Crosses **300** foreign satellite launch mark

Mission life: **5 years**

PSLV-C47

49th flight of PSLV | 21st flight of PSLV XL variant

Isro's **74th** launch vehicle mission from SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota

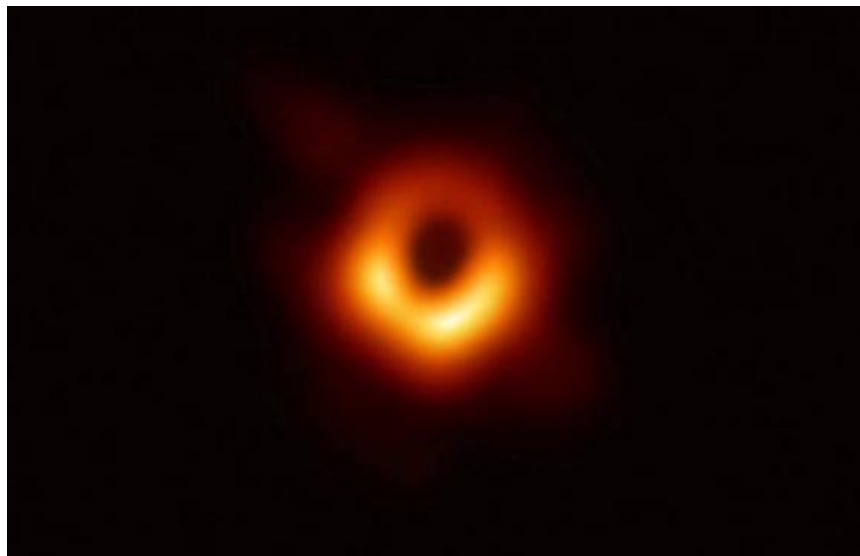
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- ❖ The mission life of the Cartosat-3 is 5 years.
- ❖ This is the 9th satellite of Cartosat series developed by ISRO.

- ❖ One of Cartosat-3's cameras offers a ground resolution of 25 cm.
- ❖ Only government and government authorised agencies can access ISRO's high-resolution imageries below a resolution of 1 m.
- ❖ Practical Uses of CARTOSAT: large scale urban planning, rural resource and infrastructure development, coastal land use and land cover, etc.
- ❖ In addition to CARTOSAT, 13 Commercial Nanosatellites from USA were also successfully injected into designated orbit in the same mission.

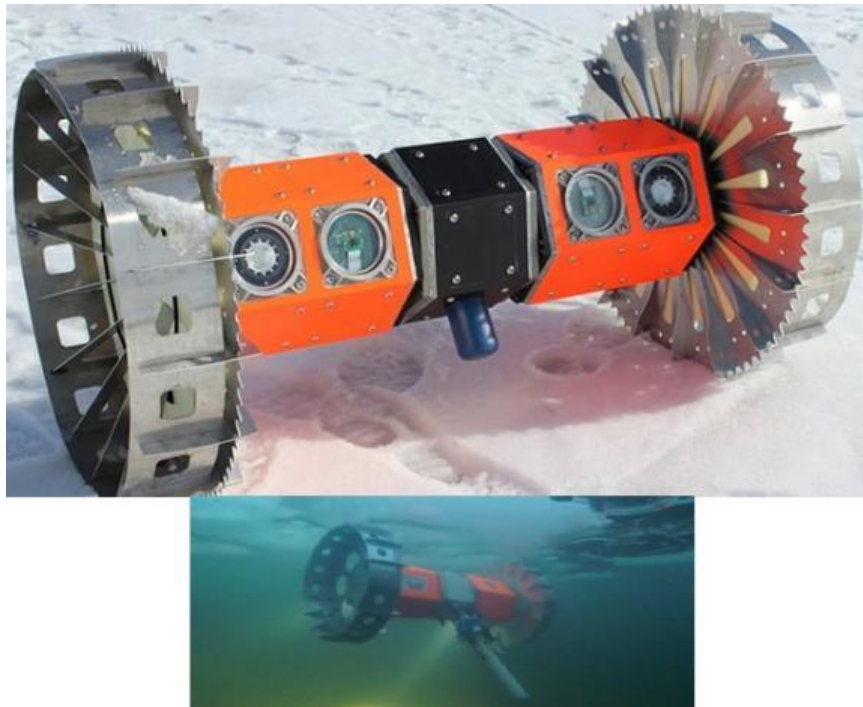
LB-1 Blackhole

- ❖ The scientists of National Astronomical Observatory of China have discovered a monster blackhole named LB-1.
- ❖ Until now, scientists had estimated the mass of an individual stellar black hole in our galaxy at no more than 20 times that of the Sun.
- ❖ But LB-1 is 70 times as massive as sun.
- ❖ It challenges the existing models of evolution of stars and this monster size remains to be explained.



Underwater Rover BRUIE

- ❖ An underwater rover called BRUIE (Buoyant Rover for Under-Ice Exploration) is being tested in Antarctica to look for life under the ice.
- ❖ The Antarctic waters are the closest Earth analog to the seas of an icy moon.



- ❖ It is developed by engineers at NASA-Jet Propulsion Laboratory.
- ❖ The robotic submersible could one day explore ice-covered oceans on moons like Europa (Jupiter) and Enceladus (Saturn).

Wooden Breast Syndrome – Broiler Chicken

- ❖ Scientists have identified an enzyme called ‘lipoprotein lipase’ which is likely contributing to “wooden breast syndrome” in broiler chickens.
- ❖ The wooden breast syndrome is a metabolic disorder characterised by abnormal fat accumulation in the breast muscle tissue of broiler chicken.
- ❖ When it affects broiler chickens, it makes the meat hard and chewy.
- ❖ This can render the birds unmarketable and cause losses for growers.

ENVIRONMENT

Mice problem on Tristan Albatross

- ❖ Supersized mice were killing and eating rare Tristan Albatross chicks in Gough Island.
- ❖ Gough Island is a World Heritage Site in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, UK) plans to send helicopters with cereal-based poison pellets to kill mice.
- ❖ The endangered chicks, which are often left alone in their nests as parents fly off to find food, are being gnawed to death by the rodents.
- ❖ Only 2,000 pairs of the rare Tristan Albatross birds now remain and they are in “Critically Endangered” category.

California forest fires

- ❖ The Kincade Fire is a wildfire currently burning in Sonoma County, California in the United States.

FIRE NAME	YEAR	DEATHS	ACREAGE
Mendocino Complex	2018	1	459K
Thomas	2017	2	282K
Cedar	2003	15	273K
Rush	2012	0	272K
Rim	2013	0	257K
Zaca	2007	0	240K
Carr	2018	8	230K
Matilija	1932	0	220K
Witch	2007	2	198K
Klamath Theater Complex	2008	2	192K
Marble Cone	1977	0	178K
Laguna	1970	5	175K
Day	2006	0	163K
Basin Complex	2008	0	163K
Station	2009	2	161K

- ❖ Over the last week, the Kincade Fire has destroyed nearly 78,000 acres of California, forcing about 180,000 people to evacuate.

Cyclones in Arabian Sea

- ❖ For the first time since 1965, two cyclonic storms have prevailed simultaneously — Cyclone Kyarr and Cyclone Maha — over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Cyclone Kyarr was only the second super cyclone to be formed after Cyclone Gonu in 2007.
- ❖ The occurrence of cyclones is more frequent and common in the Bay of Bengal compared to the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ In 2019, four cyclones have formed over the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Cyclone Fani was the last to be formed over the Bay of Bengal in 2019, and it had caused massive destruction in Odisha.

Naming of Cyclone

- ❖ Fani was named by Bangladesh.
- ❖ Kyaar was named by Myanmar.
- ❖ Maha was named by Oman.

NORTHERN INDIAN OCEAN CYCLONE NAMES

Contributors	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8
Bangladesh	Onil	Ogni	Nisha	Giri	Helen	Chapala	Ockhi	Fani
India	Agni	Akash	Bijli	Jal	Lehar	Megh	Sagar	Vayu
Maldives	Hibaru	Gonu	Aila	Keila	Madi	Roanu	Mekunu	Hikaa
Myanmar	Pyarr	Yemyin	Phyan	Thane	Nanauk	Kyant	Daye	Kyarr
Oman	Baaz	Sidr	Ward	Murjan	Hudhud	Nada	Luban	Maha
Pakistan	Fanoos	Nargis	Laila	Nilam	Nilofar	Vardah	Titli	Bulbul
Sri Lanka	Mala	Rashmi	Bandu	Viyaru	Ashobaa	Maarutha	Gaja	Pawan
Thailand	Mukda	Khai Muk	Phet	Phailin	Komen	Mora	Phethai	Amphan

29th BASIC Ministerial Meet on Climate Change

- ❖ 29th ministerial meeting of the BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) countries on Climate Change held at Beijing, China.



- ❖ They urged developed countries to fulfill their climate finance commitments of providing USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for developing countries in a transparent and grant-based manner.
- ❖ India is to host the 30th BASIC Ministerial Meeting.

About BASIC

- ❖ The BASIC countries are a bloc of four large newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China – formed by an agreement on 28 November 2009.
- ❖ The four committed to act jointly at the Copenhagen climate summit 2009, including a possible united walk-out if their common minimum position was not met by the developed nations

Odd Even Scheme of Delhi – 2019

- ❖ The third edition of odd-even started in Delhi.
- ❖ Introduced in 2016, the odd-even scheme is a car rationing system.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the vehicles with odd last digit in the registration number will be allowed on roads on odd dates and those with even last digit will ply on even dates.
- ❖ It will apply to all non-transport four-wheeled vehicles plying on roads in Delhi and even those coming in from other states.
- ❖ Delhi Metro Rail Corporation will conduct 61 additional trips during the implementation of odd-even scheme.
- ❖ Twenty-nine categories of vehicles, including those of President, Prime Minister, emergency and enforcement vehicles, cars carrying school children in uniform have been exempted from the odd-even scheme.
- ❖ Women driving alone, cars having all women as occupants and women accompanied by children aged less than 12 years will also be exempted.
- ❖ Electric vehicles and cars with physically disabled are also exempted.
- ❖ Two-wheelers are exempted from odd-even scheme.
- ❖ There will be no exemption for the vehicles of Delhi government ministers and the chief minister.
- ❖ Privately owned CNG vehicles and hybrid vehicles will not be exempted this time.



Kanpur - world's most polluted city

- ❖ The city of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh held the title for the world's most polluted city in the latest edition of Guinness World Records.
- ❖ A report by World Health Organization (WHO) analyzed that the most polluted city in the world is Kanpur in northern India, with an average PM2.5 level of 173 micrograms/m³ for the year 2016.
- ❖ This PM2.5 level is more than 17 times higher than WHO recommended maximum of 10 micrograms/m³.
- ❖ The book, 'Guinness World Records 2020', lists thousands of new record titles.
- ❖ It is released annually by publisher Penguin Random House.

Air Pollution in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ Pollution levels in Delhi and neighbouring NCR region escalated to hazardous levels.
- ❖ The visibility was dropped significantly after a thick blanket of smog engulfed.
- ❖ The air quality index (AQI) was bordering the 'severe plus' category at several places.
- ❖ In certain places it docked as high as 625.

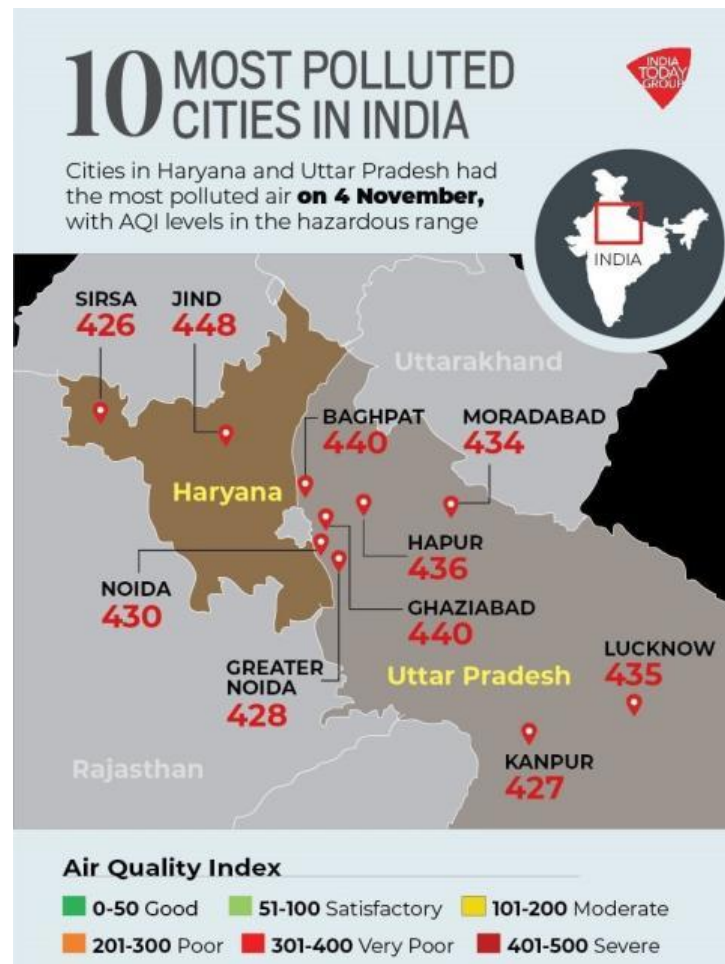
Air Quality Index

- 0-50 is considered as 'good',
- 51-100 as 'satisfactory',
- 101-200 as 'moderate',
- 201-300 as 'poor',
- 301-400 as 'very poor', and
- 401-500 as 'severe'.
- Anything above 500 comes under 'severe-plus emergency' category.

Index Value	Name	Color	Advisory
0 to 50	Good	Green	None
51 to 100	Moderate	Yellow	Unusually sensitive individuals should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Orange	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Red	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Purple	Children, active adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid outdoor exertion; everyone else should limit outdoor exertion
301-500	Hazardous	Maroon	Everyone should avoid all physical activity outdoors.

High pollution

- ❖ Six UP cities were among the top 10 most polluted places in the country with Air Quality Index (AQI) in 'severe category' (400).
- ❖ It is an alarming situation as per the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ The average AQI (Air Quality Index) calculated for 24 hours (November 3, 4 pm to November 4, 4 pm) showed that Jind in Haryana had the most toxic air among 97 cities analysed.
- ❖ A total of 15 cities had an average AQI above 400.
- ❖ Of these, nine are in Uttar Pradesh and five in Haryana, apart from Delhi.
- ❖ Eight UP cities followed Jind for having the most toxic air quality.
- ❖ There are only four cities in India with 'good' air quality, of which two are in Kerala.
- ❖ Eloor, a suburb of Kochi in Kerala, recorded the best air quality with an AQI of 25.
- ❖ Eloor is followed by Thane near Mumbai (AQI 45), Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala (AQI 49) and Kota in Rajasthan (AQI 50).



SC court on Pollution

- ❖ The Apex court said that Punjab and Haryana have to extinguish fire from stubbles in agricultural fields.
- ❖ The court also sought a road-map from the Centre and the governments of Delhi, Punjab and Haryana to stop pollution on long-term.

Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

- ❖ It was formulated in 2016 and approved by the Supreme Court in the same year.
- ❖ When the air quality shifts from poor to very poor, the measures listed have to be followed since the plan is incremental in nature.
- ❖ If air quality reaches the severe stage, GRAP talked about shutting down schools and implementing the odd-even road-space rationing scheme.
- ❖ The plan requires action and coordination among 13 different agencies in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Rajasthan.



Rice for Plastic

- ❖ Residents of Bayanan outside the capital of Manila in Philippines, residents can hand over their plastic trash in return for rice.
- ❖ The Philippines remains one of the leading marine plastic polluters.
- ❖ Over half of the plastic waste comes from just five rapidly growing economies – China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.”
- ❖ According to the UN, around 300 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated every year.
- ❖ Only 9% of the plastic waste ever produced has been recycled, and today, just 14% is collected for recycling.

5th edition of Wastelands Atlas – 2019

- ❖ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar released the fifth edition of Wastelands Atlas - 2019.
- ❖ The Atlas, published jointly by Department of Land Resources and National Remote Sensing Centre, provides robust geospatial information on wasteland.
- ❖ It is helpful in rolling back the wastelands for productive use through various land development programmes and schemes.
- ❖ Wastelands Atlas 2019 also provides State and district wise distribution of different categories of wastelands area in the country and will be helpful in addressing land degradation.



Climate emergency

- ❖ In a paper published in the journal Bio-science, 11,258 signatories (69 from India) declared Global Climate Emergency.
- ❖ They presented climate change trends and methods to mitigate the threat.
- ❖ The report was titled “World Scientists”.
- ❖ The scientists present a list of measures called “Vital Signs” that better represent climate change.

New tree frog Discovery

- ❖ Herpetologists have discovered a new species of tree frog from West Bengal.
- ❖ It has been named Brown Blotched Bengal Tree Frog (*Polypedates bengalensis*).
- ❖ It belongs to the genus *Polypedates* - a genus of tree frog found throughout South and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ The frog’s body colour is yellowish - brown to greenish - brown.

South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme - SACEP

- ❖ Union Minister of Environment and Forest and Climate Change - Prakash Javadekar has attended the 15th meeting of the Governing Council of South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is an intergovernmental organization and headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It was established in 1982 by the governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region.
- ❖ The members of SACEP includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ SACEP also acts as the Secretariat for the South Asian Seas Programme which comes under the purview of UNEP’s Regional Seas Programme.

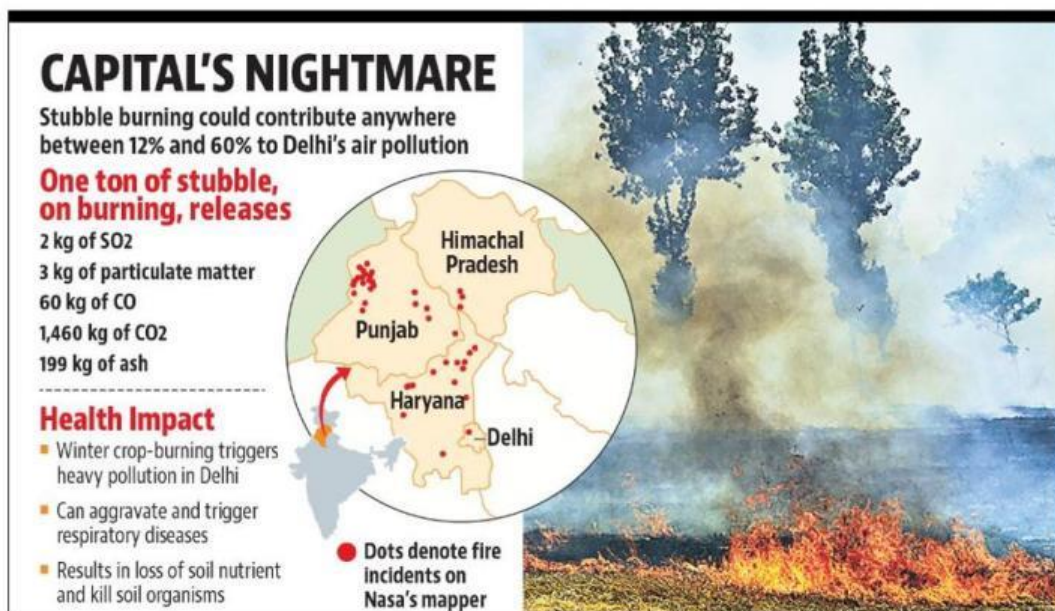
USA – Out of Paris Deal

- ❖ The United States formally notified the United Nations that it was withdrawing from the Paris Agreement on climate change citing "unfair economic burden" on Americans.

- ❖ United States President Donald Trump had announced plans to exit the Paris climate agreement in June 2017.
- ❖ In 2001, the then US President George W Bush announced that the US was withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol, the first international climate agreement.
- ❖ The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance.
- ❖ It adapted in 2015 at CoP21 or 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held at Paris.
- ❖ The Paris Agreement opened for signature on 22 April 2016 – Earth Day – at UN Headquarters in New York.

Report on Stubble Burning

- ❖ The ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Creams Laboratory bulletin stated that there has been reduction of 12% in incidents of Stubble Burning as compared to the same period in 2018.
- ❖ There were burning events in the three states Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as on October 2019.



- ❖ The report says that the reduction is mainly due to the launch of Central Scheme “Promotional of Agricultural Mechanization of In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in Punjab, UP and Haryana and NCT of Delhi”.

- ❖ New Delhi is worst affected due to stubble burning in the three states.
- ❖ The Stubble burning smoke reaching Delhi is greatly influenced by the Western Disturbances.
- ❖ Recently, the Chennai-based M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) established a Rice BioPark at Nay Pyi Taw of Myanmar, funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, which was inaugurated by the President of India.
- ❖ The Rice Biopark showed how stubble can be utilized to make products including paper, cardboard and animal feed.

MS Swaminathan's solution

- ❖ Blaming the farmers would offer no solution.
- ❖ Instead, setting up of rice bio parks could generate employment and cattle feed.
- ❖ There are many economic uses of rice straw.
- ❖ In South India, stubble is not burnt as there's economic value as animal feed.

Nelloptodes gretae

- ❖ Nelloptodes gretae, a species of beetle, was named after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish environmental campaigner.
- ❖ It was named by Scientists at the Natural History Museum in London.
- ❖ Nelloptodes gretae was first found in Kenya in the 1960s.
- ❖ It was later donated to the Natural History Museum in London in 1978.



Bio Bricks

- ❖ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) and KIIT School of Architecture, Bhubaneswar, have developed bio-bricks from agricultural waste.

- ❖ Bio-bricks can not only manage agricultural waste, which often ends up being burnt, but also provide affordable building materials.
- ❖ Over 22 per cent of India's total annual carbon-dioxide emissions is due to the construction sector.




Brown to Green Report – India

- ❖ Climate Transparency, a global NGO has released a report titled Brown To Green Report 2019.
- ❖ It notes that India is the only G20 which is on its way to ensure world's mean temperature rises no further than 1.5° Celsius.
- ❖ The goal is set by the Paris Agreement against global warming.
- ❖ G20 countries represent more than four-fifths of the world's GDP and bulk carbon emissions.
- ❖ The report also lauded India for its investments in renewable energy.

IndAIR

- ❖ The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) along with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has launched India's first web repository documenting air quality studies done in the last 60 years.
- ❖ It is named as IndAIR (Indian Air quality Studies Interactive Repository).

TRACKING AIR POLLUTION STUDIES IN INDIA		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ First air pollution study in India was done for Bengal Smoking Nuisance Act in 1905 ➤ Studies by SC Roy from Meteorological Office examined cloud seeding for dealing with famine-ridden areas in 1954 ➤ In 1970, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Central 	<p>Public Health Engineering Research Institute (now NEERI) and National Productivity Council were assigned task of fabricating air pollution monitoring equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prior to that, dust and Ringelmann's charts were used to study plume from stack and decide on pollution levels 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Seminars and events to discuss ills of air pollution began wholeheartedly in 1970s... ➤ ..But studies were done as early as 1950s by key researchers in India ➤ Delhi-NCR has most number of studies – 262 – on air pollution

- ❖ The aim of the project is to make air quality research available to everyone.
- ❖ It includes all major legislations in the country dating back to 1905.
- ❖ CSIR-NEERI is a research institute created and funded by the Government of India under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
- ❖ It was established in Nagpur in 1958.

Signal Fish Discovered in Kerala

- ❖ Scientists from the University of Kerala and the Ocean Science Foundation, USA have reported the discovery of the new species of signal fish.
- ❖ It has been discovered in the deep waters of the Lakshadweep sea off the Kerala coast.
- ❖ It is called *Pteropsaron indicum* and is the first one of the genus recorded in Indian waters.
- ❖ The signal fish has unusual colour pattern and communicates with others of the same species by flipping its highly specialised dorsal fins.





Ethanol production

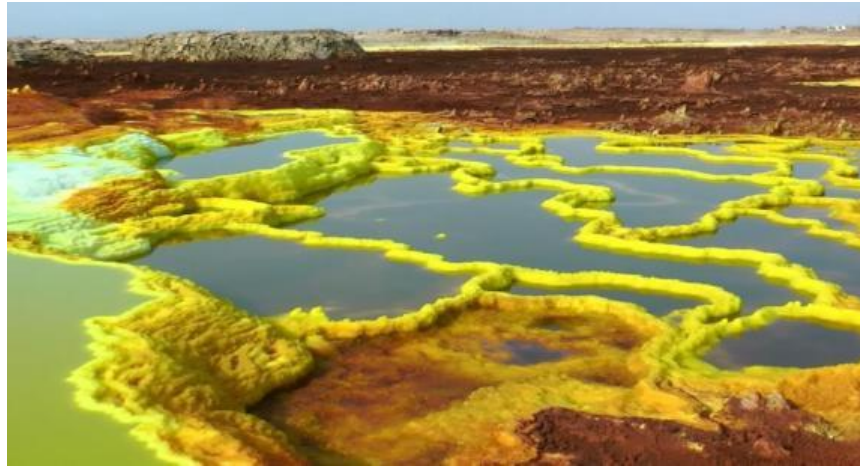
- ❖ The Central Government has declared that no separate environmental clearance is required to produce additional ethanol from B-heavy molasses in place of using C-heavy Molasses.
- ❖ All such proposals are intended to undertake additional production of ethanol from B-heavy Molasses, sugar cane juice, sugar syrup or sugar.
- ❖ It does not contribute to the pollution load in the existing distilleries or sugar mills to which environmental clearance have already been granted.
- ❖ It will give benefits to farmers and sugar industry.

Plastic Parks

- ❖ Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister DV Sadananda Gowda has announced that six plastic parks will be established in different parts of the country.
- ❖ These parks will be located in Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ A plastic park at Tamot in Madhya Pradesh is already functional.
- ❖ The Scheme provides “common infrastructure” to support the plastic production units for hazardous waste management, plastic recycling, tooling, designing, etc.

Most Inhabitable Place – Dallol, Ethiopia

- ❖ Researchers have found an aquatic environment on the Earth with complete absence of any forms of life on Earth at Dallol geothermal field in Ethiopia.
- ❖ Any form of microbial life was absent in the hot, saline, hyperacid ponds of the Dallol geothermal field.
- ❖ Dallol is known as one of the driest and hottest places on the planet.
- ❖ It is also one of the lowest land points, lying 125 m (410 ft) below mean sea level.
- ❖ The research shows that the presence of liquid water on a planet alone does not directly imply the presence of life.



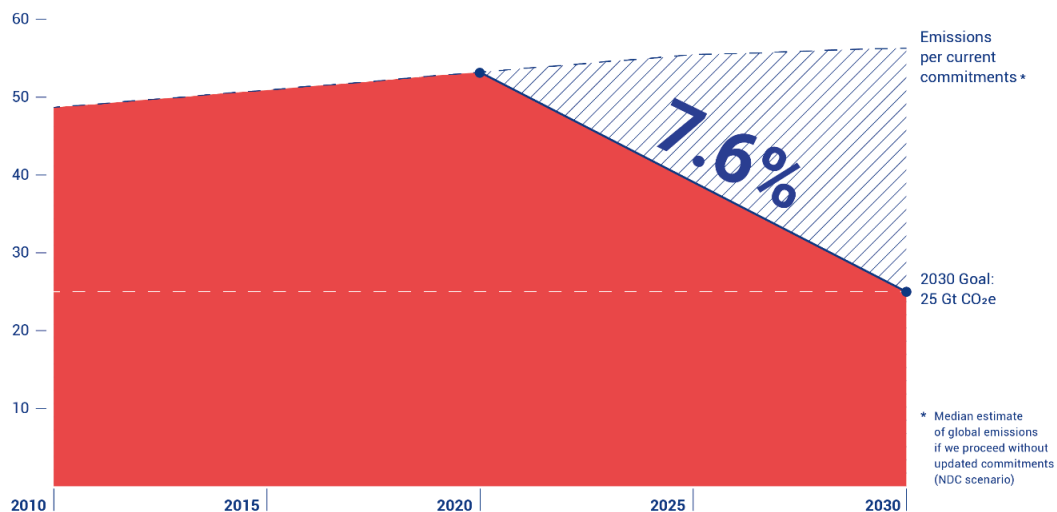
Emissions Gap Report – 2019

- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) has released its annual 10th Emissions Gap Report for the year 2019.
- ❖ This report assesses the gap between anticipated emissions in 2030 and levels consistent with the 1.5°C and 2°C targets of the Paris Agreement.

Findings

- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions have risen 1.5 per cent per year over the last decade.
- ❖ Emissions in 2018 = 55.3 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent.
- ❖ Even if Paris Agreement is implemented, temperature is expected to go up by 3.2°C over pre-industrial levels.

Target





- ❖ To meet the 1.5°C temperature goal of the Paris Agreement, global greenhouse gas emissions must fall by 7.6 per cent each year between 2020 and 2030.

Top Polluters

- ❖ India is the third-largest emitter behind the top polluters United States and China respectively.
- ❖ per capita emissions of India is significantly below US, China and lowest within G20 Countries.
- ❖ The G20 (a group of 19 countries, plus the EU) account for 78% of all emissions.

Climate Emergency – European Parliament

- ❖ The European parliament has declared a global “climate and environmental emergency” as it urged all EU countries to commit to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ The resolution as crafted by Pascal Canfin, French Liberal, Member of the European Parliament (MEP).
- ❖ Europe thus becomes the first continent to declare climate and environment emergency.
- ❖ MEPs also call on the new European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to include a 55% reduction target of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 in the European Green Deal.

6th Asian Dendrochronology Conference

- ❖ The 6th Asian Dendrochronology Conference was held at Lucknow.
- ❖ This is the first time that the conference is being held in India.
- ❖ Dendrochronology is the study of tree rings.
- ❖ Tree rings hold a wealth of information about not only a tree’s past but also that of the ecosystem in which it lives.
- ❖ Scientists at the conference have said that “Reconstructions of past responses of vegetation from different ecosystems can predict the impact of climate change”.



STATES

Public Health Emergency – Air Quality at Delhi

- ❖ Delhi Authorities have declared a public health as severe pollution levels continued to choke the National Capital Region (NCR) for the fifth day.
- ❖ According to Chairman of Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), Bhure Lal air quality was now at severe+ level.
- ❖ Since Diwali the concentrations of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 has reached extremely hazardous levels in National Capital Region (NCR).
- ❖ According to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR) of the Ministry of Earth sciences, PM2.5 concentration touched its highest of 411.
- ❖ Air Quality Index (AQI) subsequently reached 484 (severe) and 550 (severe+) levels.
- ❖ AQI in Ghaziabad, Noida and Greater Noida spiked to “dangerous” levels of 688.
- ❖ The share of biomass plume in Delhi’s pollution has increased 46%, against the estimated 25% rise.
- ❖ Stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana has recorded an increase.

Odisha – Social Registry

- ❖ To create a ‘single source’ of authenticated family details for all welfare programmes, the Odisha government has proposed to come up with a Social Registry.
- ❖ The state aims for better beneficiary identification by accessing the socio-economic data of citizen to strategise new scheme and target beneficiary.
- ❖ The registry is expected to identify target beneficiaries and weed out ghost and ineligible beneficiaries.
- ❖ The move assumes significance as 3.41 lakh fake beneficiaries were provided ₹170 crore recently under the State’s flagship ‘KALIA’ scheme for farmers.

Buddhist structure collapses in Vizag - Thotalakonda, AP



- ❖ The Mahastupa of the 2000 year old Buddhist heritage site of Thotalakonda at Andhra Pradesh near Vizag collapsed during torrential rainfall.
- ❖ It belongs to the Satavahana period.

Haryana's New CM

- ❖ Manohar Lal has been sworn-in as a new Chief Minister of Haryana.
- ❖ Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya administered him the oath of office and secrecy at a function at Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive term for Manohar Lal as Chief Minister.





Entry law for visitors

- ❖ The Meghalaya Cabinet approved amendments to the Meghalaya Residents Safety and Security Act (MRSSA) 2016.
- ❖ This amendment aims to include demands for an inner line permit (ILP) system to stop illegal immigration into the state.
- ❖ This act was previously applicable only to tenants.
- ❖ It makes registration on entry mandatory for visitors who intend to spend more than 24 hours in the state.
- ❖ Central and state government employees are exempt from the new entry rule.

Inner Line Permit (ILP) system

- ❖ ILP is based on the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act (BEFR), 1873.
- ❖ It is a special permit required by “outsiders” from other regions of the country to enter the three states where it is currently in force.
- ❖ This system currently in force in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram.

Assam’s Bhaona

- ❖ Assam’s Bhaona has now reached Abu Dhabi in an English avatar.
- ❖ It was almost 500 years after saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva experimented this with the literary language of Brajavali.
- ❖ Bhaona is a traditional form of entertainment in Assam.
- ❖ It was the creation of saint-reformer Srimanta Sankardeva who started the neo-Vaishnavite movement.

Tipu Sultan – Out of syllabus

- ❖ Karnataka state government has removed the chapters of Tipu Sultan from its state school syllabus.
- ❖ The State government has already decided to cancel Tipu Jayanti celebrations this year, which was started in 2015.
- ❖ Tipu Sultan, also known as Mysore Tiger was the ruler of the erstwhile Mysore Kingdom from 1782 to 1799.



Bamboo Tech parks

- ❖ The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Council (NEC) will set up new Bamboo Technology parks in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories.
- ❖ The nodal agency CBTC (Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre) under the Ministry of NEC will implement the project.
- ❖ There will be three new Bamboo Technology Parks in Jammu, Srinagar and Leh.

6 Lakh Diyas

- ❖ New history was created in Ayodhya as over six lakh diyas light up Sarayu's river banks.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh government broke its own Guinness World Record for the largest display of oil lamps.
- ❖ This year's count of the earthen lamps lit on the river bank far surpassed the three lakh-plus number of 'diyas' lit last year.

Gottiprolu at Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) recently discovered that the present-day state of Andhra Pradesh had a maritime center near the banks of Swarnamukhi river around 2,000 years ago.
- ❖ The sizes of the bricks were common in the Satavahana/Ikshvaku period of the Krishna valley.
- ❖ Also, the team unearthed four armed sculptures of Lord Vishnu. The sculpture belongs to Pallava period according to the analysis of headgear and drapery.

Minimum Wages hike in Delhi

- ❖ Around 55 lakh contractual workers in the national capital will be benefited from the increased wages decided by the Delhi state government.
- ❖ As per the latest notification, unskilled workers will now get ₹14,842 per month, for semi-skilled workers, it is ₹16,341 per month and for skilled workers, it will be ₹17,991.
- ❖ It was also recently approved by the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Delhi's minimum wage is three times more than the national minimum wage.
- ❖ National minimum wage is ₹4,628 per month while in Delhi, it is ₹14,842 per month.



Free Travel for Women in Buses – Delhi

- ❖ The Delhi state cabinet approved free travel for women in buses in the national capital.
- ❖ The scheme is voluntary and women travellers can choose to not avail the plan.
- ❖ In June, the State Government announced free travel for women in the metro and buses in Delhi.
- ❖ While the Centre is a stakeholder when it comes to Metro services, city buses come under the jurisdiction of the Delhi government.

Gujarat anti-terror law

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Gujarat Control of Terrorism and Organised Crime (GCTOC) Bill.
- ❖ One of the key features of the new Act is intercepted telephonic conversations, which would now be considered as a legitimate evidence.
- ❖ This bill also provides for the creation of a special court as well as the appointment of special public prosecutors.
- ❖ The bill, earlier named as the Gujarat Control of Organised Crime (GUJCOC) Bill, had failed to get the presidential nod thrice since 2004.

Exhibition on Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day

- ❖ Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on 29 October.
- ❖ There was an exhibition opened in this regard.
- ❖ It is observed to commemorate destruction brought by Super Cyclone 1999 and to prepare ourselves for future disasters.
- ❖ Theme of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day for year 2019 was 'Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience'.

'Odisha Mo Parivar' initiative

- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik launched 'Odisha-Mo Parivar' (Odisha My Family), a social service initiative of the party.

- ❖ It is aimed at encouraging environment protection, blood donation and the welfare of Odias in distress.
- ❖ It will also come to the rescue of Odias stranded in foreign countries.
- ❖ The initiative is a tribute to late Biju Patnaik (former Chief minister of Odisha).

Suranga Bawadi – Ancient Water Supply System

- ❖ Suranga Bawadi, an integral part of the ancient “Karez system” of supplying water through subterranean tunnels in Karnataka has been included in the World Monument Watch list for 2020.
- ❖ The monument has been selected under the “Ancient Water System of the Deccan Plateau” by the NGO, World Monuments Fund (WMF).



- ❖ WMF monitors the restoration of ancient monuments across the globe.
- ❖ Karez underground system was built in the 16th century by Ali Adil Shah-I of the Bijapur Sultanate.
- ❖ His successor Ibrahim Adil Shah-II added more structures to strengthen it.
- ❖ ‘Karez’ is believed to be one of the best water supply systems in the world but it is in bad condition owing to lack of maintenance.



Largest Shivalingam - Kerala

- ❖ The 111.2-foot Shivalingam at the Maheswaram Sri Shiva Paravathi Temple, Chenkal, Kerala has entered the India Book of Records for being the tallest such structure in India.
- ❖ Once certified, it will make it way to the record books as the largest Shivalingam in the world in terms of height and width.
- ❖ Currently, the record is held by the Kotilingeshwara temple in Kolar, Karnataka, which measures 108 ft (33m).

Access to Internet - Kerala

- ❖ The Kerala Cabinet approved a fiber optic network project to provide “free” high-speed internet connection to around 2 million BPL (below poverty line) households in the state.
- ❖ The Kerala government has already promised to make internet access a ‘citizen's basic right’.
- ❖ Only a few countries such as Finland, Estonia, France, Spain, Greece, and Costa Rica have declared the internet as a basic human right.

President’s Rule in Maharashtra

- ❖ After the results of Maharashtra assembly elections were declared, none of the major parties or pre-poll coalitions were found to have won majority to form the government.

MAHARASHTRA

2019		Assembly election	
TOTAL SEATS 288			
	Seats won	2014 Seats won	Trends
BJP	105	122	-17
Shiv Sena	56	63	-7
INC	44	42	+2
NCP	54	41	+13
Others	29	20	+9



- ❖ So, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari invited the largest party in Assembly to form a majority government.
- ❖ Since the option failed, he invited the second largest and third largest parties to explore the possibility of forming a government.
- ❖ The Governor then sent a report to President to proclaim President's Rule under Article 356 (1) of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister approved the recommendation to the President and Maharashtra has now been placed under President's rule.
- ❖ The Assembly will be kept under suspended animation.

Disqualification of Karnataka MLAs

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the disqualification of the 17 MLAs in Karnataka but allowed them to contest the upcoming bypolls in the state.
- ❖ A three-judge bench held that the Speaker was not empowered to disqualify the lawmakers for the entire tenure of the term, which lasts until 2023.
- ❖ The Speaker had disqualified these MLAs from the 16th Karnataka Legislative Assembly on July 25 and 28 this year under the Tenth Schedule, or the anti-defection law.
- ❖ Also, they barred from contesting elections during the tenure of the current Assembly.

Lightning Strikes in India

- ❖ As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there were 9 lakh lightning strikes between April 1 and July 31 this year.
- ❖ This is the first time the weather monitoring body has released the data on total lightning strikes across the country.
- ❖ The data for the months of April till July was compiled by IMD's Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROSPC).
- ❖ The report was prepared as part of a three-year study period under Lightning Resilient India campaign.

Findings

- ❖ Odisha recorded the highest number of lightning strikes in the country, while Jammu and Kashmir recorded the least number of strikes.
- ❖ Most number of deaths due to lightning strikes were reported from Uttar Pradesh.



- ❖ The highest intensity lightning strikes were observed in Chhotanagpur plateau in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- ❖ The area also received the maximum number of strikes for a district.

Crop Compensation Scheme BBY – Haryana

- ❖ Haryana has included additional crops under 'Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojna (BBY)' scheme.
- ❖ The crops are – Carrots, peas, kinnow, guava, capsicum and brinjal.
- ❖ Under BBY, farmers get compensated for selling their crop at a price lower than that fixed by government.
- ❖ The scheme was started in 2018.

Shishu Suraksha App – Assam

- ❖ Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal has launched a mobile app called "Shishu Suraksha".
- ❖ It is an initiative of Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights.
- ❖ The app enables users to file complaints against child rights violation instantly.

NISHTHA launched in Kashmir

- ❖ National Initiative for School Heads' and Teachers' Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA) has been launched in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Earlier, the scheme had been launched all over the country in August 2019.
- ❖ It is a Mission aimed at improving learning outcomes at Elementary level through integrated Teacher Trainings.
- ❖ To build the capacities of 42 lakh participants covering all teachers and Heads of Schools at elementary level in all Government Schools across the country.

RT-PCR Diagnosis Machines @ Kolkatta

- ❖ The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has installed first of its kind high-end Reverse Transcription-Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) machines in India.
- ❖ They will be used for quick detection of diseases like dengue, tuberculosis and swine flu.



- ❖ These machines are to serve as a 'third umpire' in situations when medical reports and blood tests reveal contradictory results.
- ❖ The purpose is to give an accurate DNA report on blood tests in order to ascertain the exact cause of illness.

Forest Rights Act Revoked in Mizoram

- ❖ The Mizoram Government has revoked the Scheduled Tribe & Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 (Forest Rights Act).
- ❖ It has revoked on the grounds that it directly encroached on the special status the state enjoyed under Article 371 (G) of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ Under Article 371 (G), all legislations of Parliament pertaining to land ownership and transfer need to be first passed by the state's assembly through a resolution before it can be implemented in the state.
- ❖ With the abrogation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006, forest lands in Mizoram will remain with the traditional communities holding ownership and the state forest department.

Legal Marijuana - Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh government has decided to legalise the cultivation of cannabis in the state for medical and industrial purpose.
- ❖ It plans to allow the farming of hemp - a type of marijuana.
- ❖ Hemp will be used for medical purposes like in the treatment of cancer and the cultivated hemp will not be used for consumption or trading.

Amaravati on Political Map

- ❖ The Union Government has added Andhra Pradesh capital "Amaravati" to its map, as the Survey of India released a new political map of India.
- ❖ Amaravati was missing from the new map, which was released by the Survey of India on November 2, 2019.
- ❖ The new map was issued after reorganisation of the new union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, which was officially done on October 31.
- ❖ Telangana has Hyderabad as its capital and it is the capital for Andhra Pradesh too for a period of 10 years from the date of bifurcation from 2014.



Arundhati Swarna Yojana Scheme – Assam

- ❖ The Assam government announced that it will offer ‘10 grams of gold’ as a gift to every adult bride who has completed at least 10th standard and has registered her marriage.
- ❖ The family has to register their marriage under the Special Marriage (Assam) Rules, 1954.
- ❖ Assam has about three lakh marriages every year but only 50,000-60,000 are registered.
- ❖ The scheme is implemented from January 2020.

World’s Biggest Islamic Congregation – Bhopal

- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, the 4-day Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima, world’s biggest Islamic Congregation has begun in Bhopal.
- ❖ More than one million people from 54 countries are expected to attend the congregation.



- ❖ It is a forum for delivering important religious-spiritual messages to Muslims around the world.
- ❖ Ijtima started in the era of Nawabs in Bhopal and now it has become the identity of Bhopal worldwide.
- ❖ The first “Aalmi Tablighi Ijtima” took place in Bhopal in 1944 and only 14 people attended it then.

Nadu Nedu programme

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has launched the ‘Nadu-Nedu’ programme.
- ❖ It seeks to transform all government schools with required infrastructure and up-gradation of skills besides setting up English labs.
- ❖ Under the programme English medium will be introduced in Classes 1 to 6.
- ❖ It also seeks to provide basic amenities such as clean water, furniture, compound wall, toilets etc.

Living Root Bridge

- ❖ Researchers from Germany are investigating the ‘living root bridges’ of in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.
- ❖ They have proposed to integrate them in modern architecture and potentially help make cities more environment-friendly.
- ❖ Young flexible, aerial roots growing from Ficus elastica (India rubber) are placed in hollow Areca catechu tree trunk or native bamboo trunks.
- ❖ Over time, the aerial roots increase in strength and thickness and then areca or bamboo is not required.
- ❖ The jing kieng jri or living root bridges have been used by generations in Meghalaya to cross streams and rivers.
- ❖ They have also become world-famous tourist attractions.



Kalaburgi Airport of Karnataka

- ❖ The first flight from Kalaburagi Airport to Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru took off after the inauguration of Kalaburagi airport by the CM of Karnataka.
- ❖ The airport has been built under the UDAN-RCS Scheme of Union Government.
- ❖ It will act as a gateway for various tourist destinations including the famous Gulbarga Fort.

Gandhi Villages, Rajasthan

- ❖ The Rajasthan government has decided to constitute a new Department of Peace and Non-Violence, along with “Gandhi villages” in each district.
- ❖ Such villages will promote Gandhian ideology through exhibitions in schools, spread the digital contents and publicise his role in the freedom struggle.

Guru Ghasidas National Park Tiger Reserve – Chhattisgarh

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh government has decided to declare Guru Ghasidas National Park in the state's Korea district as a tiger reserve.
- ❖ Presently the state has three tiger reserves, namely Indravati in Bijapur district, Udanti-Sitanadi in Gariaband and Achanakmar in Bilaspur.



Seats for Disabled - Panchayath Polls Chhattisgarh

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Cabinet has approved an amendment to the State Panchayati Raj Act, 1993
- ❖ The presence of a person with disabilities in all panchayats across the state has been made mandatory.
- ❖ This will make it the only State to have such members in all panchayats.
- ❖ Every panchayat will now have differently abled members, either elected or nominated.
- ❖ If differently abled members are not elected through the electoral process, then one member (either male or female) would be nominated as a panch.

Ban Extended on Bodos Movement

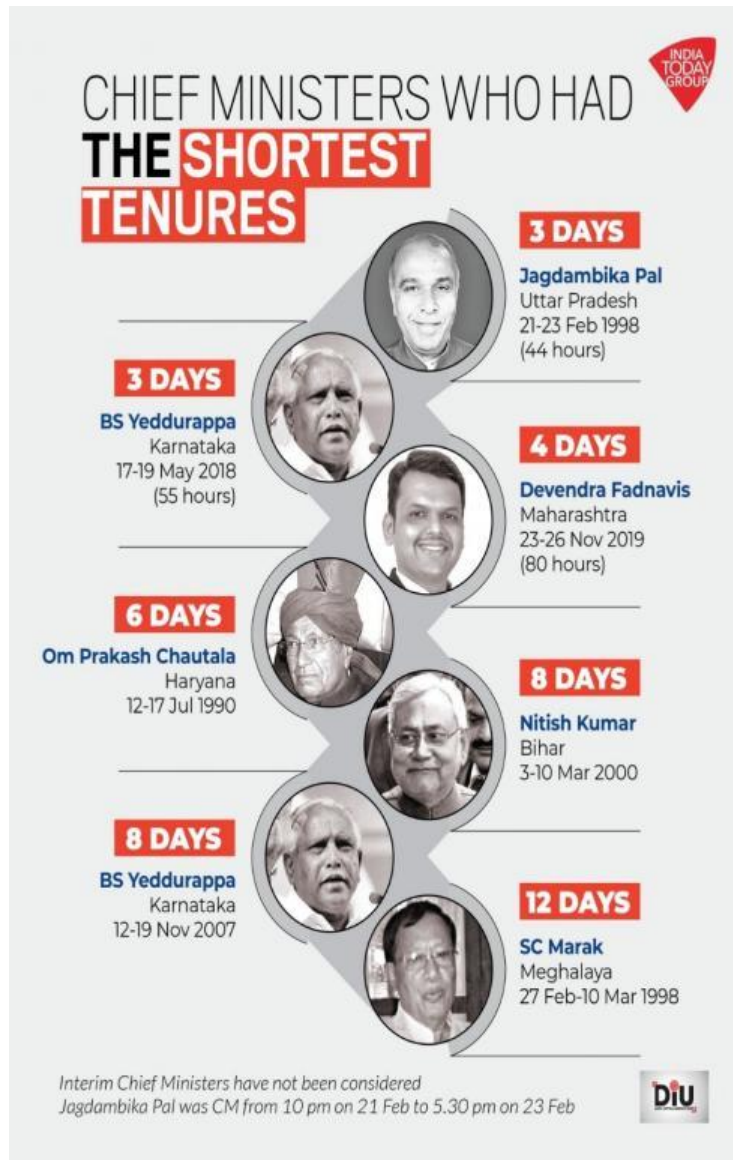
- ❖ The Union government has extended the ban on the Assam-based insurgent group NDFB under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 by five more years.
- ❖ National Democratic Front of Bodoland has been banned for its involvement in violent activities and for joining hands with anti-India forces.
- ❖ Bodos are the single largest tribal community in Assam (5-6% of state's population).
- ❖ They have had a long history of separatist demands, marked by armed struggle.

Etawah Lion Safari – Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Etawah Lion Safari, formally known as Etawah Safari Park was thrown open for public in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Permission from Central Zoo Authority (CZA) is waited for allowing people for Lion Safari.
- ❖ Thus drive-through park is one of the biggest safari parks in Asia (860 acres).
- ❖ It has been developed as an educative tourist destination for children and youth.

Short tenured CM – Maharashtra

- ❖ On his resignation, Devendra Fadnavis became the chief minister with the shortest tenure in Maharashtra's history (80 hours).
- ❖ His terms is also the third shortest by a Chief Minister since 1947.



- ❖ Jagadambika Pal still holds the distinction of the shortest tenure as the chief minister (44 hours).

‘Water 4 Change’ – Kozhikode

- ❖ The Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) with the support of six prominent institutes has come up with a new project called ‘Water 4 Change’.
- ❖ It is implemented on a pilot basis in Kozhikode and would be expanded to Bhuj, Bhopal, and Shimla.
- ❖ It is a comprehensive urban water management system.



Loktak Inland Waterways Project – Manipur

- ❖ Union Ministry of Shipping has approved the Loktak Inland Waterways project in the Manipur.
- ❖ Loktak Lake is the largest freshwater lake in Northeast and is famous for the phumdis floating over it.
- ❖ Phumdis are a series of floating islands, exclusive to the Loktak Lake.
- ❖ The largest single mass of phumdis covers an area of 40 km².
- ❖ This mass constitutes the world's largest floating park, named Keibul Lamjao National Park.
- ❖ The lake is located at Moirang in Manipur and is also home to endangered Sangai deers.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Sakharov Prize - Professor Ilham Toti

- ❖ The European Parliament has awarded the “Sakharov Prize for human rights” to Uighur intellectual Ilham Tohti.
- ❖ He has been unfairly sentenced to life imprisonment in China for “separatism”.
- ❖ The outspoken former Professor of economics at a Beijing university was sentenced in 2014.
- ❖ European Parliament head David Sassoli urged China to immediately release Ilham Tohti and called for the respect of minority rights (Muslims) in China.

Uighurs

- ❖ The Uighurs are a Muslim ethnic minority mostly based in China's Xinjiang province.
- ❖ They make up around 45% of the population there.
- ❖ Xinjiang is officially designated as an autonomous region within China, like Tibet to its south.
- ❖ Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have submitted reports to the UN committee documenting claims of ‘mass imprisonment of Uighurs’.
- ❖ The World Uyghur Congress said in its report that ‘detainees’ are held indefinitely without any charge.

Indira Gandhi Award

- ❖ Chandi Prasad Bhatt, a Gandhian and environmentalist, who is associated with the Chipko movement of Uttarakhand, has been given the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration for the years 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ It is a prestigious award accorded annually by the Indian National Congress, after former Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi from 1985.

2019 SEED Awards

- ❖ Fourteen start-ups were selected for 2019 SEED (Science For Equity Empowerment and Development) Awards.
- ❖ SEED was founded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg.
- ❖ This year's categories include SEED Low Carbon, SEED Africa Awards, SEED South Africa Climate Adaptation Awards and SEED Gender equality award.
- ❖ Under the SEED Low Carbon category, an organisation called Aikya Organics, located in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has won the award from India.
- ❖ Apart from Aikya, four more finalists have been selected from India which include Stonesoup, Aarohana Ecosocial Development, Ecozen Solutions and Farmers Fresh Zone.





Special Operation Medal for 2019

- ❖ Teams of Delhi Police Special Cell and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) were awarded Union Home Minister's Special Operation Medal for 2019.
- ❖ The prestigious Home Minister's Special Operation Medal was instituted in June 2018.
- ❖ It aims to promote high professional standards of Investigation of Crime in State and Union Territory Police and Central Investigating Agencies (CIAs) in India.

Vyas Sammaan

- ❖ Noted Hindi poet Leeladhar Jagoori, received the 28th Vyas Samman Award of 2018 for his collection of poems, Jitne Log Utne Prem.
- ❖ The Vyas Samman is a literary award in India, first awarded in 1991.
- ❖ It is awarded annually by the K.K. Birla Foundation for an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen published during the last 10 years.

JCB Prize for Literature 2019

- ❖ Madhuri Vijay wins JCB Prize for Literature 2019 for her debut novel, The Far Field.
- ❖ JCB Prize for Literature is an Indian literary award established in 2018.
- ❖ The JCB Literature Foundation was established to maintain the award.
- ❖ It is funded by the English construction manufacturing group JCB.
- ❖ It is awarded to a distinguished work of fiction by an Indian writer working in English or to a translated fiction by an Indian writer.

Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice

- ❖ The recipients of this award in this year as follows
 - Office for the Rescue of Yazidis, Director, Hussein Al-Qaidi,
 - Nobel Peace Prize recipient and founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan Kailash Satyarthi,
 - Priti Patkar – founder of Prerana,
 - Hasina Kharbhih - founder of a non-profit organisation Impulse,



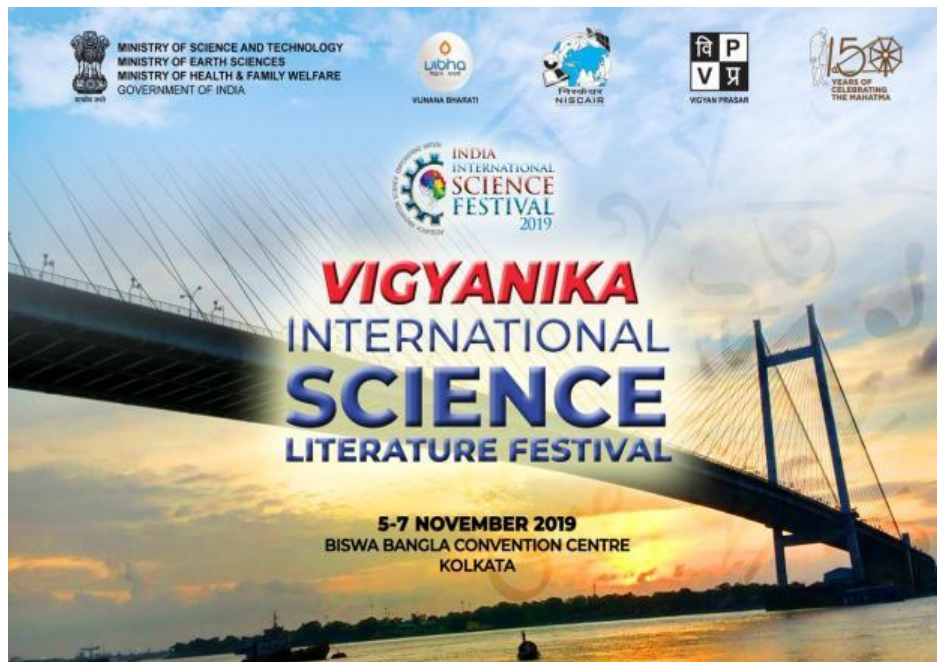
- Chief Executive Officer of UK-based charitable organisation War Child - Rob Williams,
- Filmmaker Robert Bilheimer,
- Dr Kiran Kamal Prasad - founder of NGO Jeevika,
- Dr. Torsten Trey, Founder of Doctors Against Forced Organ Harvesting,
- Founder of non-profit organization Urban Light Aezandra Russel,
- Social activist working against child sex trade Ajeet Singh,
- Former Congo child soldier Nzita Nsuami,
- Evelien Holsken - Founder of Free a Girl.

About

- ❖ Mother Teresa Awards have been given since 2004 annually or biannually.
- ❖ They are an initiative of Harmony Foundation, an organization created by Abraham Mathai in Mumbai.
- ❖ It is the only award in the name of Mother Teresa recognized by the Missionaries of Charity.

Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival

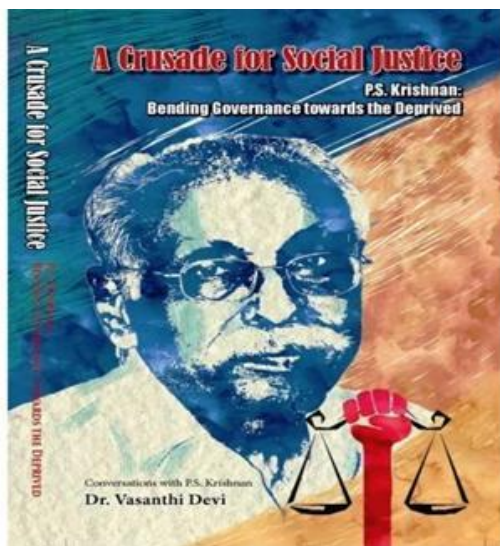
- ❖ Vigyanika - International Science Literature Festival, was organised as part of the 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 at Kolkata.



- ❖ IISF 2019 is an annual event organised jointly by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha).
- ❖ It is being coordinated by the CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (CSIR-NISCAIR), Vigyan Prasara and Vigyan Bharati.
- ❖ The theme for this year's festival is RISEN India — Research, Innovation, and Science Empowering the Nation.

PS Krishnan IAS Passes Away

- ❖ Former Secretary to Government of India P.S. Krishnan known for his work in empowering Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes has passed away.
- ❖ A 1956 batch Andhra Pradesh cadre IAS Officer, he was the architect of the SC and ST Atrocities (Prevention) Act, 1989.
- ❖ In 1979, he was associated with the appointment of the B P Mandal Commission that recommended 27 percent job reservation for OBCs in government sector.
- ❖ He was the Secretary of the Ministry of Welfare in 1990 when the VP Singh-government implemented the Mandal Commission Report.
- ❖ He was also the first member - Secretary of National Commission for Backward Classes.
- ❖ Krishnan's report on Backward Class status for Muslims formed the basis for allowing the 4% reservation to them in jobs and education in Andhra Pradesh.





TN Seshan Passed Away

- ❖ 1955 Tamilnadu cadre IAS Officer and Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Tirunellai Narayanaiyer Seshan has passed away.
- ❖ He earlier served as the 18th Cabinet Secretary of India in 1989.
- ❖ He was made CEC in 1990 during the Prime Ministership of Chandrasekhar.
- ❖ It was during Mr. Seshan's period that the Election Commission was made a multi-member body in October 1993.
- ❖ He was known as a no-nonsense CEC and one who had enforced discipline on political parties and contestants, especially during the Model code of conduct.
- ❖ Some of reforms he implemented include enforcement of election code of conduct, Voter IDs for all eligible voters, limit on election candidates' expenditure, appointing election officials from states other than the one facing polls.
- ❖ He curbed several malpractices like bribing or intimidating voters, distribution of liquor during elections, use of government funds and machinery for campaigning, appealing to voters' caste or communal feelings, use of places of worship for campaigns, use of loudspeakers and high-volume music without prior written permission.
- ❖ He was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay award in 1996.
- ❖ Mr. Seshan was the only one to hold the post of CEC for six years from 1990 to 1996 in the last 50 years.

Asia Society's Game Changer Awards – Kung Fu Nuns of Himalayas

- ❖ Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel felicitated the Kung Fu Nuns at New Delhi.
- ❖ The Kung Fu Nuns of the Drukpa Order, recently received the Asia Society's prestigious Game Changer Award in New York.
- ❖ They were awarded for their path-breaking work to empower women and dismantle gender stereotypes in the Himalayas.
- ❖ The 700-strong community of Kung Fu nuns belong to the Drukpa Lineage, a thousand-year-old Buddhist tradition that began in the Himalayas.

About the Award

- ❖ The Asia Society is dedicated to promoting mutual understanding and strengthening partnerships among people, leaders and institutions of Asia and the United States in a global context.
- ❖ It was founded in 1956.



Ganga Utsav

- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), in coordination with the Jal Shakti Ministry, organized 'Ganga Utsav' in the Major Dhyanchand stadium in the national capital.
- ❖ Ganga Utsav is celebrated on November 4 because Ganga was declared as the country's national river on this day.
- ❖ This utsav is celebrated to mark the 11th anniversary of Ganga being declared as the national river in 2008.
- ❖ The event was organized in a bid to create awareness and gather public participation in the efforts to clean River Ganga and its tributaries.

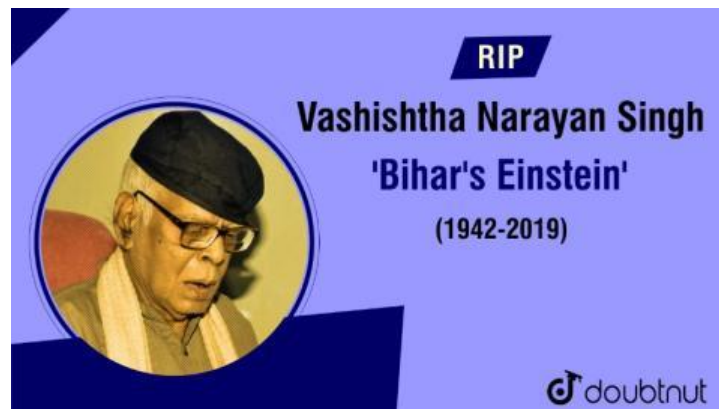


BRICS-Young Innovator Prize

- ❖ Ravi Prakash, a PhD scholar from Bengaluru, has won the BRICS-Young Innovator Prize for inventing an affordable indigenous milk-chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers.
- ❖ The temperature of raw milk could be brought from 37°C to 7°C within 30 minutes by using nano-fluid based phase change materials.
- ❖ The award was given at the 4th BRICS-Young Scientist Forum (YSF), 2019 held at Brazil.

Vashishtha Narayan Singh

- ❖ Mathematical genius Vashishtha Narayan Singh, who was famous for his 1969 PhD dissertation at University of California, Berkeley, USA has passed away.
- ❖ He had challenged Einstein's theory and earned worldwide recognition.
- ❖ He was an associate professor at Washington University and worked at IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay and ISI Kolkata.
- ❖ He suffered from Schizophrenia for 40 years.



RBS India - Earth Heroes Awards

- ❖ RBS India, the innovation and operations hub of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) announced the winners of RBS Earth Heroes Awards (REHA), who have played significant role in combating climate change.
- ❖ The year 2019 is the 9th edition of REHA.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 awards was 'Climate Change'.



RBS Earth Heroes Awards (REHA)2019 Winners

- Bholu Abrar Khan of Bharatpur (Rajasthan): Green Warrior,
- Dimbeshwar Das of Assam: Green Warrior,
- Ela Foundation (Pune): Earth Guardian,
- Aishwarya Maheshwari (Uttar Pradesh): Save the Species,
- Sathish (Tamil Nadu): Save the Species,
- Jalal Ud Din Baba (Jammu & Kashmir): Inspire,
- Pramila Bisoyi (Odisha): Lifetime Achievement.

3 books on teachings of Guru Nanak ji

- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Food Processing Industries minister Harsimrat kaur launched National Book Trust's 3 prestigious books on Guru Nanak Dev ji.
- ❖ The following books were launched to commemorate the 550th year of Guru Nanak Dev ji.
 - Guru Nanak Bani,
 - Nanak Bani &
 - Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev,
- ❖ The books were launched to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji writings among readers of Indian sub-continent.

Infosys Prizes 2019

- ❖ The winners of the Infosys Prize 2019 in six categories including Humanities, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Social Sciences, Engineering and Computer Sciences were announced by Infosys Science Foundation (ISF).

About Infosys Prize

- ❖ It is an annual award given by the Infosys Science Foundation.
- ❖ It is conferred to scientists, researchers, engineers and social scientists of Indian Origin (not necessarily born in India).
- ❖ The prize was awarded in 2008 and is ranked among the highest monetary awards in India to recognize research.



Aadi Mahotsav

- ❖ TRIFED an organisation of Ministry of Tribal Affairs has started a new concept of organising “Aadi Mahotsav – National Tribal Festival”.
- ❖ The theme of the festival is “a Celebration of the Spirit of Tribal Crafts, Culture and Commerce”, which represents the basic ethos of tribal life.

Raja Ram Mohan Roy National Award

- ❖ Rajasthan Patrika group chairman Gulab Kothari has been chosen for the prestigious Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, presented by the Press Council of India, for his outstanding contribution towards journalism.
- ❖ The award was presented on November 16 on the occasion of the National Press Day.
- ❖ The Press Council of India (PCI) also announced other winners of the National Awards for Excellence in Journalism 2019.

George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science

- ❖ Wildlife biologist K. Ullas Karanth was awarded the Wildlife Conservation Society’s (WCS) George Schaller Lifetime Award in Wildlife Conservation Science
- ❖ He is currently the Director of Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ❖ He is the first recipient of WCS’s award.
- ❖ It is named after WCS’s Dr. George Schaller, considered to be one of the greatest wildlife scientists and conservationists globally.

Justice R. Banumathi – Collegium Member

- ❖ Justice R Banumathi will be the first woman judge in more than 13 years to be inducted into the Supreme Court collegium.
- ❖ She will replace outgoing chief justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ Ruma Pal was the last woman member of the collegium.
- ❖ She is only the second woman sessions court judge to rise to the country's highest court.



Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019

- ❖ The Union Minister of Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat conferred the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 awards to top ranked states, union territories, and districts.
- ❖ Awards were given in the various categories on the occasion of World Toilet Day (November 19).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has been ranked first among the states followed by Haryana and Gujarat.
- ❖ Peddapalli district in Telangana stood first among districts, followed by Faridabad (Haryana) and Rewari (Haryana).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh was the state with maximum participation.

Fortune's Annual Business Person of the Year

- ❖ Fortune's Businessperson of the Year 2019 list comprises names of three Indian-origin people.
- ❖ These include Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Master Card CEO Ajay Banga and Arista head Jayashree Ullal.
- ❖ Satya Nadella ranks first in this list. Ajay Banga is on 8th and Jayashree Ullal is 18th rank.

World Athlete of the Year Award

- ❖ Eliud Kipchoge, the first man to run a marathon in less than two hours, and 400 metres hurdles world champion Dalilah Muhammad won the World Athlete of the Year awards.
- ❖ Kipchoge recently ran the marathon distance of 42.195 kilometres (26.219 miles) in 1hr 59min 40.2sec.
- ❖ Dalilah Muhammad of USA set a world record of 52.20 seconds in 400 metres hurdles and broke the 2003 record.



Manipur Sangai Festival

- ❖ Every year the State of Manipur celebrates the “Manipur Sangai Festival” from 24th to 30th November.
- ❖ The festival is named after the state animal Sangai deer, which is found only in Manipur.
- ❖ The first such festival was conducted in 2010.





DRDO Chairman becomes Fellow of RAeS

- ❖ Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) London has conferred the Honorary Fellowship of the Society for the year 2019 to G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO.
- ❖ He is the first Indian recipient of this prestigious award in over 100 years.
- ❖ He was recognised for contributions to India's frontline military systems and world-class missile technologies.

About the Award

- ❖ This fellowship is considered as Nobel Prize in the aerospace.
- ❖ It is the world's highest distinctions, awarded for only most exceptional contributions to the aerospace profession.
- ❖ The first Honorary Fellowship was awarded in the year 1917.

United Nations Global Climate Action Awards 2019

- ❖ A project led by an NGO called Mahila Housing Sewa Trust (MHST) has won this award.
- ❖ MHST has been commended for organising and empowering women in low-income households to increase their resilience to impacts of climate change.
- ❖ It has so far helped 25,000 low-income families across seven cities in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.
- ❖ The award will be given at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25), hosted by the Chilean government in Madrid in Spain, on December 10.
- ❖ The COP25 is being held from December 2-12.

50th International Film Festival (IFFI), Goa

- ❖ The Golden Jubilee edition of the IFFI has ended at Goa.
- ❖ For completing 50 years, the IFFI was awarded the ICFT-UNESCO Fellini medal, issued by UNESCO.
- ❖ This award was first given by UNESCO in 1994 on the 125th anniversary of Mahathma Gandhi.
- ❖ Awards
 - Best Film: 'Particles' directed by Blaisse Harrison
 - Best Director: Lijo Jose Pellissery for his film "Jallikattu"



- Best Actor: Seu Jorge for the film Marighella
- Best Actress: Usha Jadhav for Marati film 'Mai Ghat'
- ❖ The next IFFI will celebrate films themed around Sathyajith Ray to celebrate his centenary year.

Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri – Gananpith Awardee

- ❖ Noted Malayalam poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboodiri was declared the recipient of the 55th Jnanpith Award, the country's highest literary honour.
- ❖ He is said to be the proponent of modernism in Malayalam poetry through his work - Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam
- ❖ He is also known for his advocacy against social evils that are said to be prevalent in the Namboothiri (Brahmin) community.
- ❖ He was awarded Padma Shri in 2017.
- ❖ He is the sixth Malayalam writer to be conferred this award after G Sankara Kurup, Thakazhi, SK Pottokatt, MT Vasudevan Nair and ONV Kurup.

Akkitham's well-known works

- Akkithathinte Thiranjedutha Kavithakal (selected poems): 1985
- Sparsamanikal (collection of poems): 1991
- Balidarsanam (narrative poem): 1970
- Irupatham Noottandinte Ithihasam (narrative poem): 1952
- Anaswarante Ganam
- Idinjupolinja Lokam
(collection of poems): 1961
- Vennakkalinte Kadha (collection of poems): 1961
- Dharmasooryan (narrative poem): 1998
- Desa Sevika (story): 1947
- Akkitham Kavithakal
(complete poems): 2002
- Anthimahakalam (collection of poems): 2007

SPORTS

Under-23 World Wrestling Championships

- ❖ The 2019 World U23 Wrestling Championship was held in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ Pooja Gehlot (53kg) claimed India's second silver medal after going down to Japan's 2017 world champion Haruna Okuno.
- ❖ Three-time World Junior Wrestling Championships medallist Sajan Bhanwal (77kg) won bronze.



FIFA U-17 Emblem

- ❖ The official emblem of the FIFA U-17 womens World Cup was unveiled.
- ❖ It will be the 7th edition of the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, the biennial international women's youth football championship.
- ❖ The tournament will be held in India in November 2020.
- ❖ It will mark the first time that India has hosted a FIFA women's football tournament.



Anti-Match-fixing Bill – Sri Lanka

- ❖ Sri Lanka has become the first South Asian nation to criminalise several offences related to match-fixing.
- ❖ It has passed the "Prevention of Offences Related to Sports" which deals with offences related to corruption in sports.
- ❖ The bill also criminalises "acts of omission", which includes failure to report corrupt approaches.

2023 Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ India will host the 15th Men's Hockey World Cup in January, 2023.
- ❖ The 2023 Men's World Cup will follow the same format as the 2018 edition which was played in Bhubaneswar of Odisha.
- ❖ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced Netherlands, Spain as co-hosts for the Women's World Cup event in July, 2022.
- ❖ This is the fourth time that India have been picked to host a World Cup since its start in 1971.
- ❖ The previous editions were 1982 (Mumbai), 2010 (New Delhi) and 2018 (Bhubaneswar) where Belgium triumphed.
- ❖ India, however, have not won the quadrennial tournament since 1975.



Deepak Chahar

- ❖ Deepak Chahar from Uttar Pradesh became the first Indian male cricketer to take a hat-trick in a Twenty20 International.
- ❖ He became only the second Indian bowler after Ekta Bisht of Indian female cricketer to make this record.
- ❖ He achieved this feat against the match with Bangladesh.

Manu Bhaker – Air Pistol Shooter

- ❖ India's Manu Bhaker created history at World Cup Finals in Women's 10m Air Pistol event.
- ❖ She bagged India's first gold medal in the tournament this year.
- ❖ She claimed the top prize in the season-ending tournament of International Shooting Sport Federation at Putian in China.
- ❖ Serbia's Zorana Arunovic won the silver while Quian Wang of China bagged the bronze.

ISSF World Cup Finals

- ❖ Elavenil Valarivan has won gold in in the women's 10m air rifle competition held at Putian, China.
- ❖ In the same event, 17 years old Divyansh won gold medal in the 10m air rifle event.
- ❖ Along with Manu Bhaker's gold medal, India completed the tournament with three gold medals.

First Day Night Test – Pink Ball Test

- ❖ Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and Mamata Banerjee rung the customary Eden Bell at Eden gardens cricket ground in Kolkata and inaugurated the first Day/Night test match.
- ❖ Unlike the traditional start time of 9:30 am for Test matches in India, play will start at 1 pm IST and end by 8:00 pm.
- ❖ Bangladesh skipper Mominul Haque elected to bat in what is the "first pink ball Test" for the two countries.

- ❖ The first Day/Night Test match was played between Australia and New Zealand at the Adelaide Oval from November 27, 2015 to December 1, 2015.

Pink Ball

- ❖ Test matches are played with a red ball but in case of Day/Night Tests, because the natural light fades away and artificial lights come in effect, a pink coloured ball is used.
- ❖ In India, cricket balls including pink balls are supplied by sports equipment supplier Sanspareils Greenland (SG), Meerut.



Syed Mustaq Ali Tournament – Abhimanyu Mithun

- ❖ On the eve of the Karnataka-Haryana Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 semis clash, Abhimanyu Mithun created history.
- ❖ He becomes only the second bowler to pick five wickets in six balls in T20 history (5 for 39), including a hattrick of three wickets.
- ❖ The Tournament is named after Syed Mustaq Ali who holds the distinction of scoring the first overseas Test century by an Indian player when he scored 112 against England at Old Trafford in 1936.
- ❖ It is held by BCCI since 2009-10.

CREATING HISTORY IN INDIAN CRICKET

By claiming five wickets in the final over, including four off the first four balls against Haryana at Surat, Abhimanyu Mithun has not only created cricket history but also became the first bowler to accomplish a hat-trick in all three formats

Format	For	Opponent	Inns	Venue	Season
FC (Ranji Trophy)	Karnataka	Uttar Pradesh	Second	Meerut	2009-10
	(6/86 + 5/95) Wickets: Piyush Chawla, Amir Khan & RP Singh				
List A (Vijay Hazare)	Karnataka	Tamil Nadu		Bangalore	Oct.25, 2019
	(5/34) Wickets: Shahrukh Khan, M Mohammed & M Ashwin				
T20 (Syed Mushtaq Ali)	Karnataka	Haryana		Surat	Nov.29, 2019
	Wickets: HJ Rana, R.Tewatia, Sumit Kumar & A.Mishra – four wickets off successive balls				

Steve Smith – Fastest 7,000 Test Runs

- ❖ Steve Smith has become the fastest cricketer to score 7,000 Test runs (126 innings), shattering a record that had stood since 1946.
- ❖ He achieved the milestone during the second Test against Pakistan in Adelaide.
- ❖ The record was held for 73 years by Englishman Wally Hammond who played 131 innings) to score 7000 runs.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Tamilnadu Day – November 1

- ❖ For the first time in six decades since the Linguistic Reorganisation of States in 1956, Tamil Nadu state formation day was celebrated on November 1.
- ❖ November 1, 1956, is the day on which the present landscape known as Tamil Nadu was carved out from erstwhile Madras Province after States Reorganisation Act, 1956 came into force.
- ❖ The landscape was named as Madras state.
- ❖ Late CM Arignar Anna, as MP, had raised his voice in the Parliament for this demand and many Tamil scholars too strove for this cause.
- ❖ In 1967, Perarignar Anna became the Chief Minister of State.
- ❖ The name of the state was officially renamed as Tamil Nadu with effective from January 14 of 1969.

Category	Names
Symbol	Srivilliputhur Andal temple
Language	Tamil
Animal	Nilgiri tahr
Bird	Emerald dove
Flower	Glorosa lily
Tree	Palm tree
Fruit	Jack fruit
Song	Tamil Thai Valthu
Sport	kabaddi
Dance	Bharata Natyam
Butterfly	Tamil yeoman

World Vegan Day – November 1

- ❖ World Vegan Day is an annual event celebrated by vegans around the world every 1 November.
- ❖ World Vegan Day raises awareness about animal rights and advocates the widespread adoption of a vegan lifestyle.
- ❖ The day was created in 1994 by British animal rights activist, Louise Wallis, as a way to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of The Vegan Society in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Adherents of veganism refrain from using anything that may have been made from animals, such as meat, eggs, milk, and honey.



State formation day

- ❖ On November 1 Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu are observing the State formation day.
- ❖ Delhi, Chandigarh, Puducherry, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar were given the status of union territories on this day.
- ❖ Haryana was formed on 1966.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh was formed on 2000.

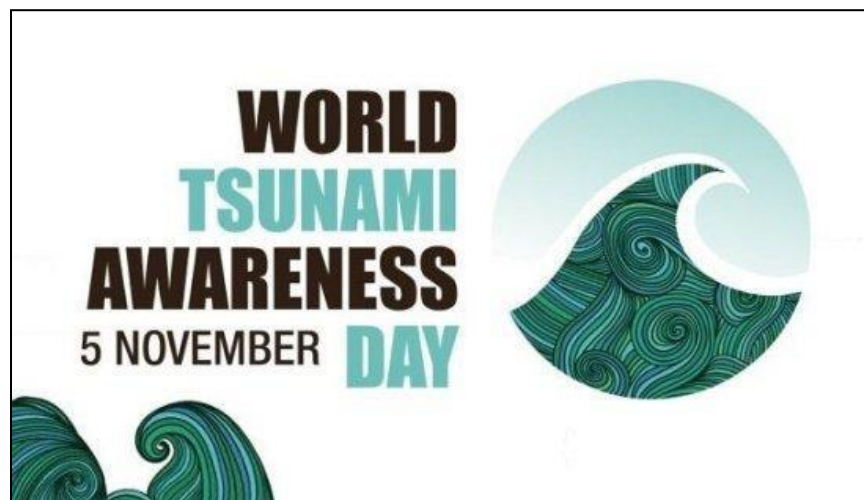


Coal India Foundation Day – November 1

- ❖ Coal India Limited (CIL) celebrated 45th Foundation Day on November 1.
- ❖ On this occasion, the Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi said that the Coal India Limited (CIL) will produce 750 million tonnes of coal by the Financial Year 2020-21 and would further produce one billion tonnes of coal in the financial year 2023-24.
- ❖ The CIL is currently given the target of producing 660 million tonnes of coal amounting to 82% of the country's coal output.
- ❖ Recently the Union Government has allowed 100% FDI under automatic route in Coal sector.

World Tsunami Awareness Day – November 5

- ❖ The World Tsunami Awareness Day is dedicated to promoting a global culture of tsunami awareness around the world.
- ❖ It is observed on 5 November every year.
- ❖ In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated 5 November as World Tsunami Awareness Day.
- ❖ In the past 100 years, 58 tsunami incidents have claimed more than 2.6 lac lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster.
- ❖ The deadliest Tsunami ever was recorded in the Indian Ocean in 26, December 2004.
- ❖ This year Tsunami Awareness Day promotes the targets of the "Sendai Seven Campaign."



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – November 6

- ❖ On 5 November 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict.
- ❖ The day aims to ensure that the environment is not destroyed during incidents of armed confrontations.

Infant Protection Day – November 7

- ❖ It is celebrated on 7 November.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness about the safety of infants and protect their lives by taking proper care of infants.
- ❖ India has reduced its infant mortality rate (IMR) by 42% over 11 years - from 57 per 1,000 live births in 2006 to 33 in 2017.
- ❖ India's rural areas had an IMR of 37 and urban areas had IMR of 23.
- ❖ Despite the reduction, India's IMR in 2017 remained higher than the global 29.4, a rate equivalent to that of the West African nation of Senegal and higher than most South Asian neighbours' except that of Pakistan and Myanmar.

National Cancer Awareness Day – November 7

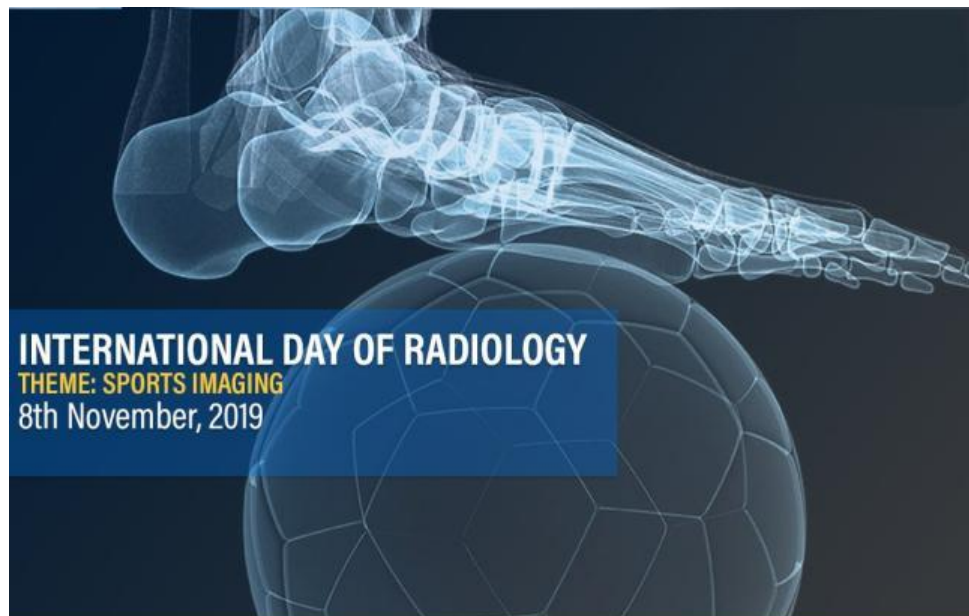
- ❖ National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced by the Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan in September 2014.



- ❖ It is celebrated in India on 7 November to educate people about cancer, its treatment, and its symptoms.
- ❖ The government of Kerala proposed the "Suhurtham" scheme for making cancer treatment free in districts and medical college hospitals.
- ❖ According to the Lancet report about cancer, India is the second biggest killer after heart disease.
- ❖ World Cancer Day is also celebrated on 4 February annually to raise awareness about cancer globally.

International Day of Radiology – November 8

- ❖ It was established in 2012 to celebrate the changing role in modern healthcare of medical imaging.
- ❖ It is organised by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT).
- ❖ International Day of Radiology (IDOR) celebration is a week-long celebration as National Radiologic Technology Week from 3 November to 9 November 2019.
- ❖ The 8th of November is also the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen in 1895.
- ❖ 2019 theme is Sports Imaging.





World Radiography Day – November 8

- ❖ World Radiography Day is observed on 8 November since 2007, to mark the date of the discovery of Roentgen's discovery of X-radiation.
- ❖ In fact, International Radiology Day is also followed by the World Radiography Day.
- ❖ The European Society of Radiology (ESR) in 2011 resolved that there should be a celebration regarding radiology annually to mark the discovery of X-Radiation done by Roentgen on 8 November, 1895.
- ❖ Together ESR and the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) decided to observe the International Day of Radiology on 8 November and the first time it was celebrated in 2012.

Tamil Lexicography Day – November 8

- ❖ In a first, Tamil Nadu celebrated its first Tamil Lexicography Day on November 8.
- ❖ It marks the birth anniversary of Italian missionary Constantine Joseph Beschi, also known as Veeramamunivar.
- ❖ He was responsible for bringing out the first Tamil dictionary Chaturakarati (சதுரகரதி).
- ❖ Earlier, scholars used to document words that were in usage.
- ❖ Those collections were called 'Nigandu'.

About Veeramamunivar

- ❖ Veeramamunivar came to Tamil Nadu in 1710.
- ❖ He translated and explained in Latin the "Thirukkural".
- ❖ He also translated into European languages several other important Tamil literary works such as Devaaram (தேவாரம்), Thiruppugazh (திருப்புகழ்), Nannool (நன்னூல்) and Aaththichoodi (ஆத்திசூதி).
- ❖ His biggest poetical work is the Thembavani.
- ❖ He also wrote a prabandham (a minor literature) called Kaavalur Kalambagam (காவலுர் கலம்பகம்), a grammatical treatise called Thonnool (தண்ணூல்), a guide book for catechists with the title Vedhiyar Ozukkam (வெதீயர் ஒழுகம்), and Paramarthaguruvin Kadhai (பரமர்த்தகுருவின் கதைய் - The Adventures of Guru Paramartha).

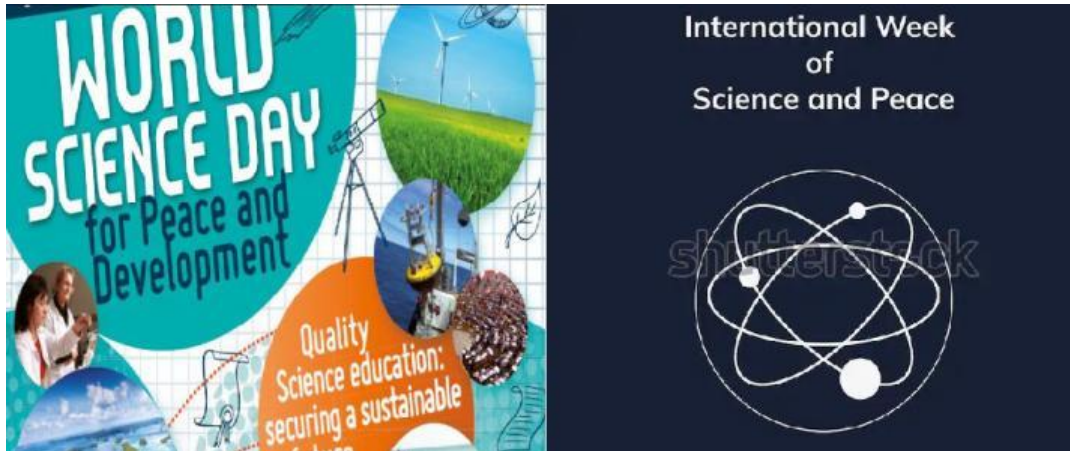
National Legal Services Day – November 9

- ❖ It commemorates the enactment of the Indian Legal Services Authorities Act 1987.
- ❖ The act was taken into effect on 9 November 1995.
- ❖ India's National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) was constituted under its provisions on 5 December 1995.
- ❖ It is celebrated to make people aware of the various provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act and the right of the litigants.
- ❖ NALSA undertook activities including free legal aid and advice to the needy, disposal of cases through mediation and amicable settlement.



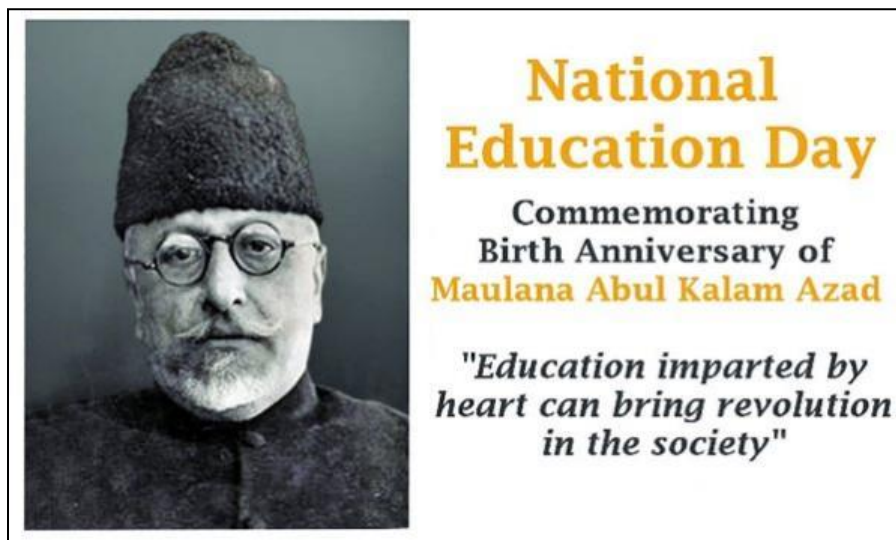
International Week of Science and Peace - November 9 to 14

- ❖ The observance of 'International week of peace and development' was declared by UN in 1988.
- ❖ The first such week was observed during 1986 as a part of the observance of the International Year of Peace.
- ❖ The week is observed to strengthen public awareness on the role of science for peaceful and sustainable societies.
- ❖ The theme of observance for 2019 is "Open science, leaving no one behind".
- ❖ Also, the World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed every year on November 10 in sync with the week.



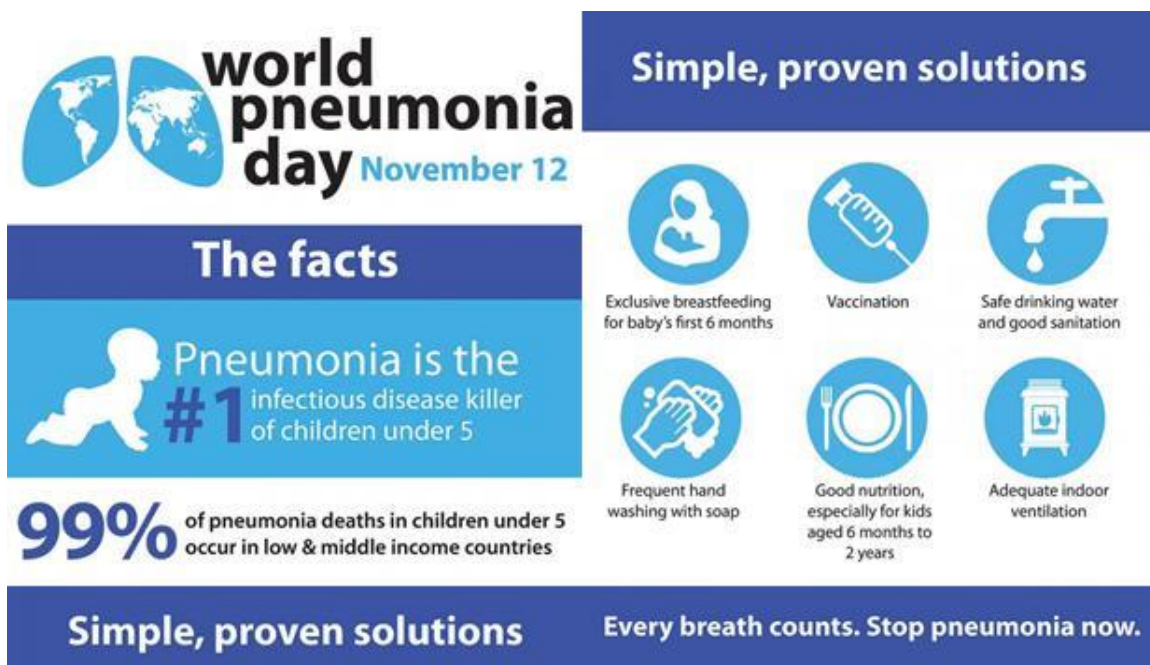
National Education Day – November 11

- ❖ National Education Day is an annual observance in India to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ❖ It is observed since 2008.
- ❖ Azad was independent India's first education minister.
- ❖ He established University Grants Commission (UGC) on 28 December 1953, IISCs, School of Architecture and Planning and was the brain behind IITs.
- ❖ He founded the Sangeet Natak Akademi (1953), Sahitya Akademi (1954) and Lalit Kala Akademi (1954) to promote education and culture in the country.
- ❖ The day is an occasion to remember Azad's contribution in laying the foundations of the education system in an independent India and evaluating current performance of education system.



World Pneumonia Day – November 12

- ❖ The world pneumonia day is observed every year on November 12.
- ❖ More than 100 organizations representing the interests of children joined forces as the 'Global Coalition against Child Pneumonia' to hold the first World Pneumonia Day on 2 November 2009.
- ❖ This year the theme for World Pneumonia Day is "healthy lungs for all".
- ❖ Pneumonia is a respiratory disease - the biggest killer of children under five across the world.
- ❖ India alone accounted for 70% of the global pneumonia burden in the year 2016.



The infographic for World Pneumonia Day (November 12) features a central graphic of two lungs. The text 'world pneumonia day November 12' is prominently displayed. A dark blue banner at the top right reads 'Simple, proven solutions'. Below this, six circular icons represent key interventions: Exclusive breastfeeding for baby's first 6 months, Vaccination, Safe drinking water and good sanitation, Frequent hand washing with soap, Good nutrition, especially for kids aged 6 months to 2 years, and Adequate indoor ventilation. A section titled 'The facts' states that pneumonia is the #1 infectious disease killer of children under 5, and that 99% of pneumonia deaths in children under 5 occur in low & middle income countries. A dark blue banner at the bottom reads 'Simple, proven solutions' and 'Every breath counts. Stop pneumonia now.'

Public Service Broadcasting Day – November 12

- ❖ The Public Service Broadcasting Day is celebrated in India every year on November 12.
- ❖ The day commemorates the first and only visit of Gandhi to All India Radio on 12 November 1947.
- ❖ On that day he addressed the people who had temporarily settled at Kurukshetra in Haryana after partition.



Guru Nanak Jayanthi – November 12

- ❖ Guru Nanak Jayanti is a sacred festival of the Sikh community and is widely celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ❖ This year it falls on 12 November and is also celebrated as the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji.
- ❖ Guru Nanak Jayanti is also known as Guru Parv, Gurupurab or Guru Prakash Parv.
- ❖ The birth place of Guru Nanak (born on 1469) is located in Nankhana Sahib, Pakistan.

World Diabetes Day – November 14

- ❖ World Diabetes Day is the primary global awareness campaign focusing on diabetes mellitus and is held on 14 November each year.
- ❖ It coincides with the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin alongside Charles Best.
- ❖ The day was started as an awareness day in 1991 by World Health Organization and IDF.
- ❖ It became an official UN day in 2006.
- ❖ The theme of 2019 observance is “Family and Diabetes”.

UN World Diabetes Day 14 November

Prevention
People
Professionals
Policy makers
Politicians
Passion
Power



UNite to defeat
this major global
health challenge

www.fend.org



World Quality Day – November 14

- ❖ World Quality day is usually observed in the second week of November.
- ❖ The 2019 World Quality day was observed on November 14.
- ❖ It also marks the centenary anniversary of the Chartered Quality Institute (CQI).
- ❖ The theme of this year's celebration is "100 years of Quality".
- ❖ The day recognises the contributions of quality professionals across the globe.

National Cooperatives Week – November 14 – 20

- ❖ National cooperative week is celebrated every year all over the India from 14th of November to 20th of November.
- ❖ This year 66th National cooperatives week is celebrated.
- ❖ The objective of the week is to highlight the contribution of the co-operatives in the economy of the nation.
- ❖ The celebrations are organized by the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI), which is the apex organization of the Indian cooperative movement.
- ❖ The main theme for 2019 celebrations is “Role of Cooperatives in India” focusing on how cooperatives in India can help in strengthening the rural economy and increase the earning of farmers.

International Day for Tolerance – November 16

- ❖ The International Day for Tolerance is an annual observance day declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.
- ❖ It is observed every year on 16 November.
- ❖ In 1995, UNESCO established the biennial ‘UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence’.
- ❖ It was to recognise Indian career diplomat Madanjeet Singh IFS devotion to the cause of communal harmony and peace.

National Press Day – November 16

- ❖ National Press Day 2019 was observed across India on November 16 and is symbolic of a free and responsible press in India.
- ❖ It commemorates the establishment of ‘Press Council of India (PCI)’.



- ❖ Though it was established on July 4, 1966 PCI started functioning from November 16, 1966.
- ❖ Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad is the current Chairman of the Press Council of India.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – November 17

- ❖ The World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims takes place on the third Sunday in November every year.
- ❖ It is a day to acknowledge victims of road traffic crashes and their families.
- ❖ It was started by Brigitte Chaudhry, head of British road crash victim charity, RoadPeace, in 1993.
- ❖ It was later adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005.

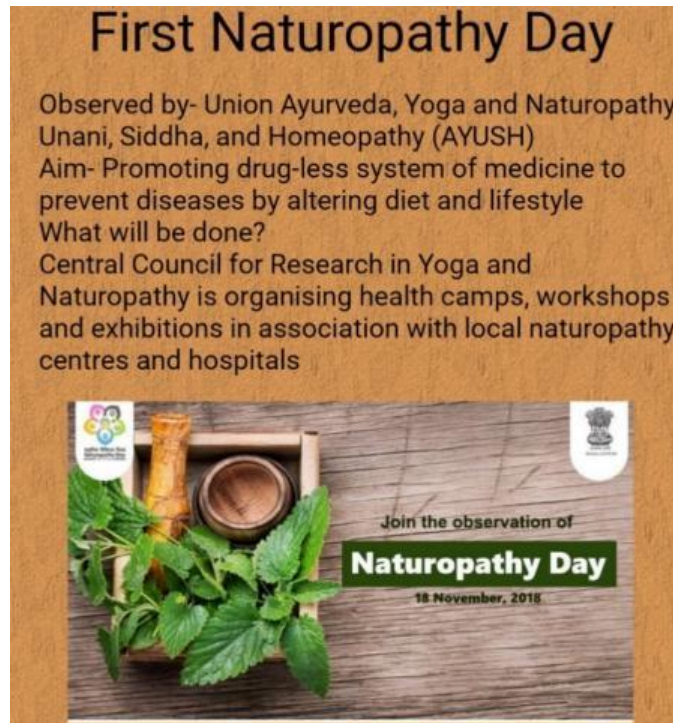
International Students Day – November 17

- ❖ International Students' Day is an international observance of the student community, held annually on November 17.
- ❖ The date commemorates the anniversary of the 1939 Nazi storming of the University of Prague, Czechoslovakia and the killing of 9 students.
- ❖ The first such day was observed in 1941.
- ❖ It celebrates student activism around the world.



First Naturopathy Day – November 18

- ❖ The Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy (Ayush) ministry celebrated the first Naturopathy Day on November 18.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to promote the drug-less system of medicine to prevent diseases by altering the diet and lifestyle.



World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day – November 20

- ❖ World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day (COPD) is observed every year on the third Wednesday of November.
- ❖ COPD is an umbrella term used to describe chronic lung diseases that cause limitations in lung airflow.
- ❖ It is an important awareness day as COPD is the third leading cause of death, claiming an estimated three million lives from 2005 to 2015.

Universal Children’s Day – November 20

- ❖ World Children’s Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day.
- ❖ It is celebrated on 20 November each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide and improving children's welfare.
- ❖ Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date on which the UN General Assembly adopted
 - The Declaration of the rights of the child, in 20.11.1959
 - The Convention on children's rights, in 20.11.1989



World Philosophy Day – November 21

- ❖ World Philosophy Day was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO.
- ❖ In 2005 the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed that World Philosophy Day would be celebrated every third Thursday of November.
- ❖ The observance of the day underlines the enduring value of philosophy for the development of human thought, for each culture and for each individual.
- ❖ The 2019 edition aims to highlight the importance of philosophy in different regional contexts.

International Men's Day – November 19

- ❖ It is mainly observed to focus on the health of men and boys, improving gender relations, promoting gender equality and highlighting male role models.
- ❖ In 2007, India celebrated International Men's Day for the first time.
- ❖ The theme is "Making a Difference for Men and Boys."



World Toilet Day - November 19

- ❖ It was established by the World Toilet Organization in 2001.
- ❖ Twelve years later, the UN General Assembly declared World Toilet Day an official UN day in 2013.
- ❖ UN-Water is the official convener.
- ❖ In 2019 the theme is 'Leaving no one behind'.



National Integration Day - November 19

- ❖ It is celebrated on 19th November to mark the first female Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- ❖ The motive of celebrating a National Integration day is to spread unity across the nation.
- ❖ The "Qaumi Ekta" Week, or the "National Integration" Week, is also scheduled to be observed nationwide for the period between November 19 to November 25.



World Heritage Week 2019

- ❖ It is being observed by the UNESCO from 19th November, 2019 to 25th November, 2019.
- ❖ The objective of the celebration is to make people more aware of and also for the preservation of cultural heritage and monuments.
- ❖ There are 38 UNSECO World Heritage sites in India.
- ❖ It includes 30 cultural site, 7 natural sites and 1 mixed site.

NCC Day – November 24

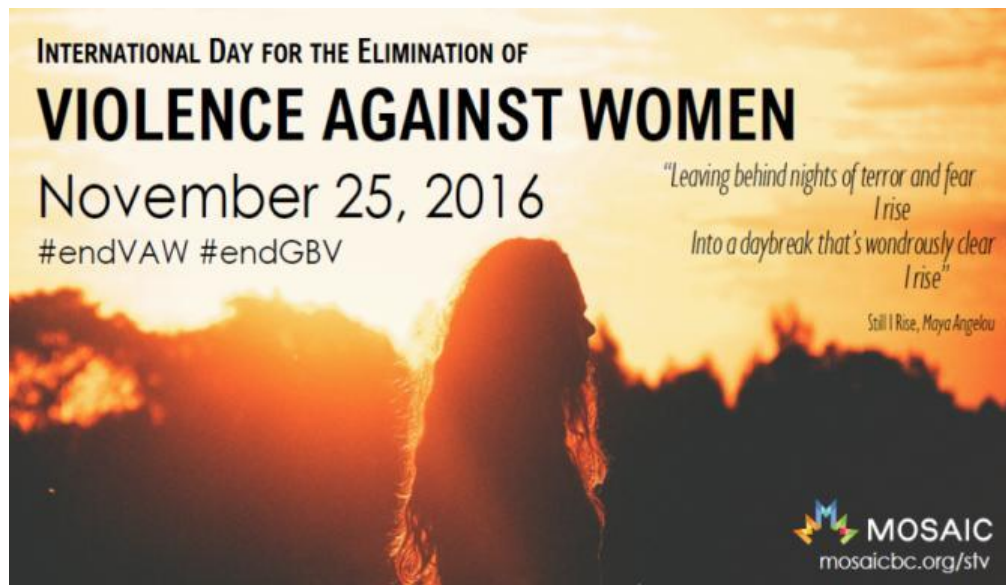
- ❖ The National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, is celebrating its 71st Raising Day.
- ❖ It was found on 16 April 1948.
- ❖ The motto of NCC is Unity and Discipline.
- ❖ Recently NCC has reviewed its syllabus and lowered the entry level age as 15 from 16.



International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women – November 25

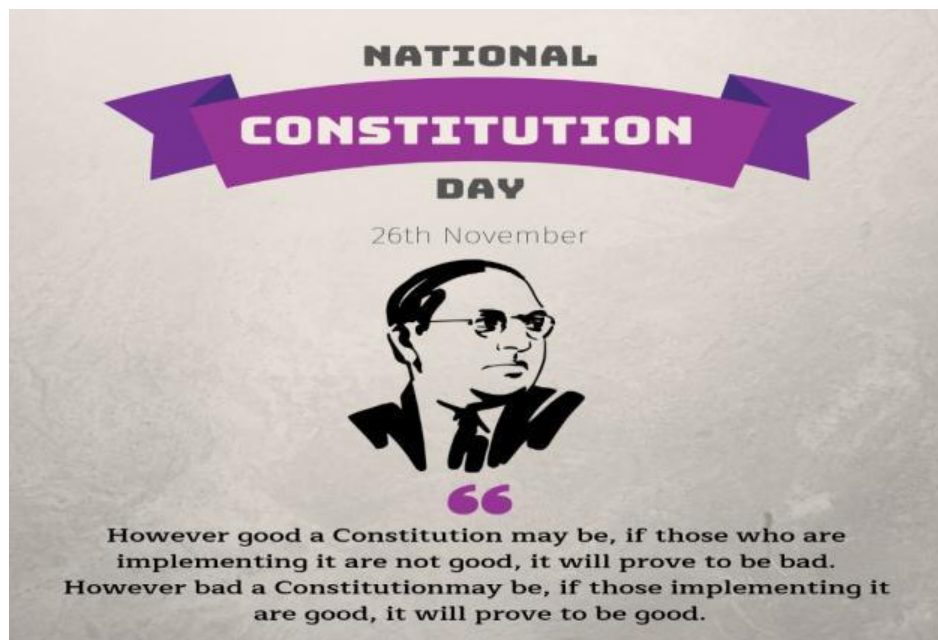
- ❖ The international day for the elimination of violence against women is observed annually on November 25.
- ❖ The day aims to raise awareness of the fact that women around the world are subject to rape, domestic violence and other forms of violence and that such issues are hidden.

- ❖ The theme of observance for 2019 is "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands Against Rape".
- ❖ The first such day observed by Latin American and Caribbean feminists on November 25, 1981.
- ❖ The UN formally recognised the day in 1999.



National Constitution Day or Law Day – November 26

- ❖ The Constitution Day of India is observed every year on November 26.



- ❖ It is also known as Samvidhan Divas or National Law Day or National Constitution Day.
- ❖ The day marks the occasion of formal adoption of Constitution of India on November 26, 1949.
- ❖ The draft of the constitution was prepared under the Chairmanship of Dr. BR Ambedkar.
- ❖ The day is celebrated as a tribute to Dr. Ambedkar and to make citizens aware of the importance of constitution and constitutional values.
- ❖ Since 2015, it is being recognised as such due to the 125th Birth Anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar.

National Milk Day – November 26

- ❖ National Milk Day' was celebrated on November 26 to mark the birth anniversary of Varghese Kurien, the father of India's White Revolution.
- ❖ In 2014, all the dairy majors of the country and Indian Dairy Association, resolved to observe Dr. Verghese Kurien's birthday (November 26) as National Milk Day.
- ❖ He was a social entrepreneur who led Operation Flood – the world's largest agricultural dairy development programme.
- ❖ He served in the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF) from 1973 to 2006.



- ❖ Its brand is AMUL (Anand Milk union Limited).

- ❖ India is the world's largest producer of milk (22% of the world's total milk production or 187.7 million tonnes per year).
- ❖ India's milk output surpasses that of all the European Union countries combined, which is followed by the US, China.

International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People – November 29

- ❖ Established in 1977, it marks the day in 1947 when the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution partitioning Palestine into an Arab State and a Jewish State.
- ❖ It being observed from 1978.
- ❖ The observance day is a sign of UN's unwavering commitment to the Palestinian people in their ongoing struggle to achieve self-determination, independence and sovereignty.



Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare – November 30

- ❖ The day is a tribute to the victims of chemical warfare and to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the eliminate of the threat of chemical weapons.
- ❖ This UN day is observed since 2005.



MISCELLANEOUS

Pakistan's Coin on the 550th Prakash Parv Of Guru Nanak

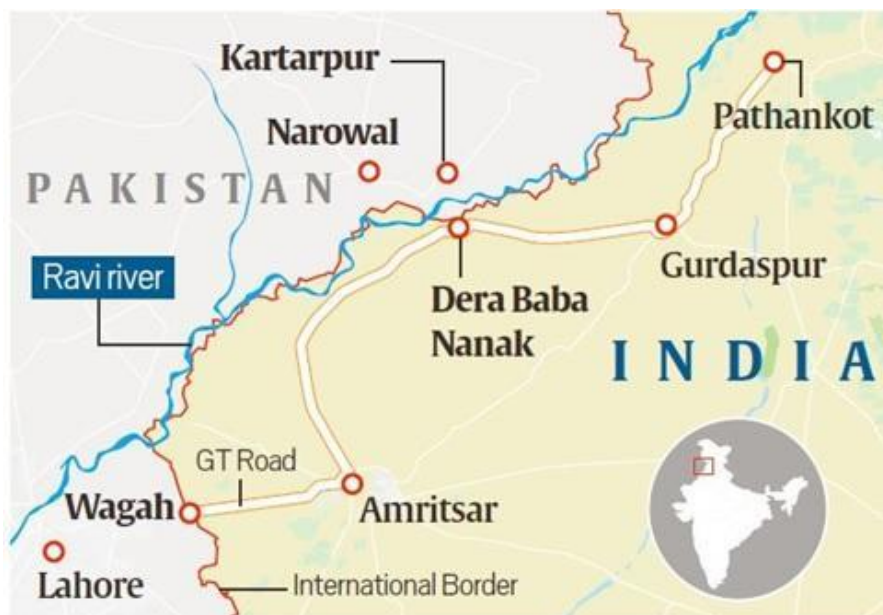
- ❖ Pakistan government has issued a silver coin in memory of the 550th Prakash Parv of Guru Nanak.



- ❖ The value of this coin is 50 rupees.

Kartarpur Sahib Corridor Agreement

- ❖ India has signed the Agreement with Pakistan recently for operationalisation of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor at Zero Point, International Boundary, Dera Baba Nanak.





- ❖ It is now conceived as a visa-free corridor for Sikhs from India.
- ❖ It will be developed from Dera Baba Nanak village in Gurdaspur, Punjab (India) to Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur (Pakistan).
- ❖ Kartarpur Sahib is revered as Guru Nanak's final resting place until his death in 1539.

World Records for the largest astrophysics' assembly

- ❖ The Guinness World Records for the largest astrophysics lesson (45 minutes) and assembly of spectroscopes was successfully achieved by Kolkata students at Science City, Kolkata.
- ❖ The record was attempted on the first day of 5th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2019 in which over 1,598 students participated.
- ❖ The session was dedicated to Meghnad Saha and Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman.
- ❖ The session was organized by Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics.

ICGS Annie Besant

- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) delivered Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) ICGS Annie Besant to Indian Coast Guard (ICGS) in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ❖ This is second in the series of five such FPVs being built by GRSE for Indian Coast Guard and the 101st warship to be delivered by shipyard.
- ❖ It is a medium-range vessel which is designed for a maximum speed of 34 knots.

