

April - 22

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Central Government has decided to open up COVID-19 vaccination for all above the age of 18 years from May 1, 2021.
- ❖ Israel recently announced its Plan to reduce 80% of Greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as compared to that of 2015.
 - The plan aims to shut down all coal-fired power plants by 2025.
- ❖ The Madras High Court cleared the decks for the former Chief Secretary Girija Vaidyanathan to assume office as an Expert Member of National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s Southern Bench.
- ❖ The 8th Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Special Forces Exercise "Khanjar" was inaugurated at Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
 - It focusses on high-altitude warfare, mountain warfare and counter-extremism exercises.
- ❖ The two biggest polluters of the world China and US have agreed to work together in tackling climate change issues.
 - They will work together to uphold Paris Agreement.

INTERNATIONAL

Henley Passport Index



- ❖ It releases list which measures the world's most travel-friendly passports.
- ❖ India stands at number 84 on the list, as the Indian citizens can visit Visa-Free or Visa-on-Arrival in over 58 places.

- ❖ Japan, Singapore and Germany, South Korea stand in Top 3 respectively.

World Press Freedom Index 2021

- ❖ The Reporters Without Borders, a not-for-profit body recently published this.
- ❖ It ranked 180 countries.
- ❖ India was ranked 142 in the index.
- ❖ India was at the same position in 2020 as well.
- ❖ Norway topped the index followed by Finland and Denmark.
- ❖ The index was topped by Norway in 2020 as well.
- ❖ Eritrea received the last rank in the index.
- ❖ China ranked 177th out of 180 countries.
- ❖ North Korea was at rank 179 and Turkmenistan was at rank 178.
- ❖ The report classified India under “BAD” category along with Brazil, Russia and Mexico.
- ❖ The report has named India as one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists.

**REPORTERS
WITHOUT BORDERS**
FOR PRESS FREEDOM

ECONOMY

Sudarshan Sen Committee

- ❖ The RBI has set up a committee headed by Sudarshan Sen to undertake a comprehensive review of the working of asset reconstruction companies (ARCs)

in the financial sector ecosystem and recommend suitable measures for enabling them to meet the growing requirements.

- ❖ ARC is a specialized financial institution that buys the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from banks and financial institutions
- ❖ The asset reconstruction companies or ARCs are registered under the RBI.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- ❖ It aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- ❖ It was announced in the 'Prarambh: StartupIndia International Summit' that marks the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.
- ❖ The SISFS will Secure seed funding, inspire innovation, support transformative ideas, facilitate implementation, and Start start-up revolution.
- ❖ The government has approved Rs. 945 Crore corpus for the fund, which will be divided over the next 4 years.
- ❖ The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.
- ❖ Nodal Department: Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

Prevention of Marine Litter

- ❖ It was signed between Republic of India and Federal Republic of Germany in 2019.
- ❖ It will help India achieve the goal of phasing out single use plastics by 2022
- ❖ India and Germany recently signed agreement on 'Cities combating plastic entering the marine environment'.
- ❖ Marine litter threatens ecosystems and adversely affects fishery and tourism industries around the globe.
- ❖ It affects public health with increased concerns about micro-plastic and risk of particles entering the food chain.
- ❖ The project is to be implemented mainly in the states of Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ It will mainly support cities such as Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur.
- ❖ India is the twelfth largest source of marine litter in the world.
- ❖ By 2025, it is expected to become the fifth largest source of marine litter.



- ❖ It is estimated that 15-20% of all plastics are entering oceans via riverine ecosystems of which 90% are contributed by 10 of the world's most polluting rivers.
- ❖ Two of these river systems are located in India, namely Ganga and Brahmaputra.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

SpO2 oxygen system

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a SpO2-based supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers serving in extremely high-altitude areas & COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ This automatic system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO2 (blood oxygen saturation) levels & prevents the person from sinking into a state of hypoxia, which is fatal in most cases.
- ❖ Hypoxia is a condition in which the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues is inadequate to fulfil all the energy requirements of the body.

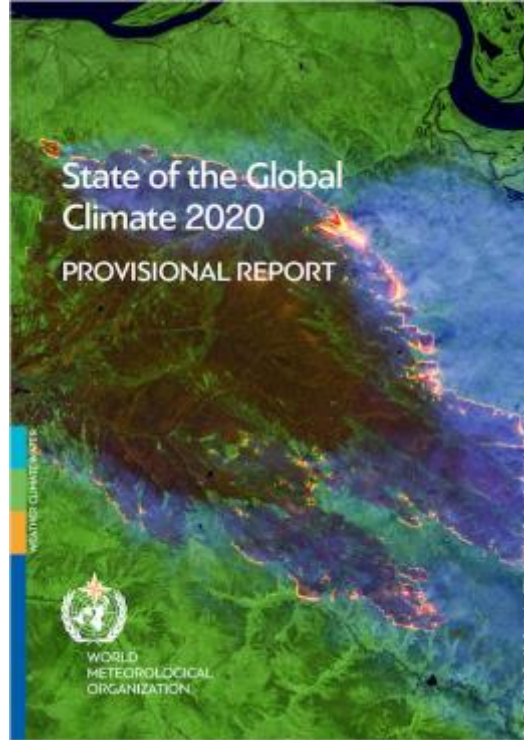
Luna Space Mission

- ❖ The Russian Space Agency 'Roscosmos' is to launch its spacecraft 'Luna 25' on October 2021, towards the icy South pole of the Moon.
- ❖ The last spacecraft 'Luna 24' was launched in August 1976 by the Soviet Union.
- ❖ They are taking up the project to study the water beneath the surface at the South pole of the Moon.

ENVIRONMENT

State of the Global Climate 2020 Report

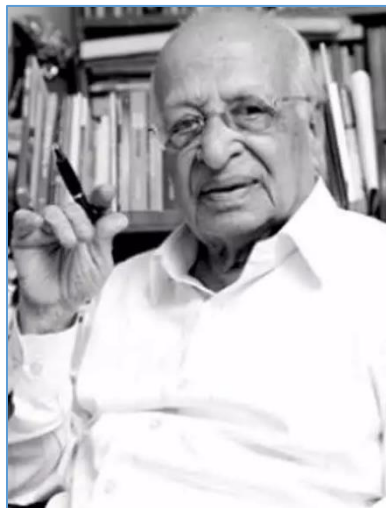
- ❖ The World Meteorological Organisation recently released this report.
- ❖ 2011-2020 was the warmest decade in record.
- ❖ 2020 is one of the three warmest years on record.
- ❖ The Cyclone Amphan is the costliest tropical cyclone on record in the North Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The Cyclone made a landfall in May 2020 near India-Bangladesh border.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Ganjam Venkatasubbiah

- ❖ He recent passed away at the age of 107.
- ❖ He was a Veteran Kannada writer.
- ❖ He was commonly known as a walking encyclopaedia of Kannada language and culture.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Liver day – April 19



- ❖ The theme for this year is ‘Keep your liver healthy and disease-free.’
- ❖ It is observed every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body.
- ❖ The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.
- ❖ Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs.
- ❖ Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.

