

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS - AUGUST 2020

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indians are the largest diaspora to get Australian citizenship in 2019-20.
- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the new Supreme Court built in the capital city of Mauritius Port Louis with Indian grant assistance.
- ❖ Ministry of Finance has allowed Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to have 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Air India.
- ❖ The Polycarbonate facility of SABIC in Spain, is set to become the World's first large scale industry to completely run on renewable power.
- ❖ The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed 'Aashray', the Medical Bed Isolation System to fight against COVID-19 pandemic by controlling the spread of infection released by the patient.
- ❖ Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) launched the underground ballistic missiles during the 'Great Prophet 14' military exercise.
- ❖ The UAE started its first-ever nuclear reactor "Barakah" at Abu Dhabi on the Gulf coast.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs Ram Vilas Paswan extended the One Nation One card scheme to four more states and UT's Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Apple becomes the world's most valuable publicly listed company.
 - It pushed the Saudi Aramco into the second position.
- ❖ India celebrated the International Friendship Day on August 02.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on the eve of Raksha Bandhan launched 'E-Raksha Bandhan', an online training programme on cybersecurity.
- ❖ A unique kiosk named "UV Baggage Bath" was inaugurated at the Bangalore railway station to disinfect the baggage to stop the indirect mode of COVID – 19 transmissions.
- ❖ The Education department of Daman Administration launched the E-Gyan Mitra mobile application to support students of the Union Territory of DNH and DD through online education.
- ❖ British high commissioner to India Philip Barton appointed as the permanent under-secretary to head the newly merged Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
- ❖ Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) has withdrawn from the Women's World Team Squash Championship 2020 which is scheduled in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- ❖ On August 5, 2020, the Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir celebrated their first anniversary of formation.

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched YouTube channel of National Cooperative Development Corporation called “Sahak Cooptube NCDC India”.
- ❖ Union Minister for Jal Shakti Gajendra Singh Shekhawat & Union Minister for Textiles and Women & Child Development Smriti Irani launched the book ‘Swachh Bharat Kranti’ (Hindi) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has approved Sashidhar Jagdishan as the next chief executive officer of HDFC Bank.
- ❖ Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism Prahlad Singh Patel virtually inaugurated the first golf course of Mizoram named “Thenzawl Golf Resort” Project.
 - It is implemented under the Swadesh Darshan (SD) Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ Beirut, the capital of Lebanon witnessed a huge blast in a port warehouse where highly explosive material Ammonium Nitrate was stored.
- ❖ United Nation has released its policy brief on the pandemic’s impact on education.
- ❖ Founder of SS Motivation, Sunil ydv SS was honoured with “Karamveer Chakra Award" by instituted by United Nations and International Confederation of NGO.
- ❖ The Father of Modern Indian theatre, Ebrahim Alkazi passed away.
 - He won the Padma Vibhushan in 2010, Padma Bhushan in 1991, Padma Shri in 1996.
- ❖ The co-creator of the computer mouse, Mr. William English passed away.
 - He built the first mouse in 1963, with the help of the sketches made by Doug Engelbart while they were working on early computing.
- ❖ India's first-ever mobile RT-PCR testing lab was inaugurated at Bengaluru.
 - The lab has been developed by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and will have a capacity of conducting 9000 tests a day.
- ❖ The first women IPS officer of Karnataka, D Roopa Moudgil has been appointed as Home Secretary to Government of Karnataka.
 - Also, she is the first woman officer to hold this post.
- ❖ Japan observed 75th Memorial Day of world's first atomic bomb attack on August 06, 2020.
 - In 1945, the United States warplane Enola Gay dropped an atom bomb named “Little Boy” in the city of Hiroshima.
- ❖ Gujarat has become the second state after Andhra Pradesh to come up with a latest manual for the police.
- ❖ Japan is India’s fourth largest contributor of FDI (Foreign Direct Investment).

- ❖ Union Minister of Education Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has laid the foundation stone of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Sirmaur at Dhaula kuan in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) appointed Professor Pradeep Kumar Joshi as its new Chairman.
 - He succeeds Arvind Saxena.
- ❖ The Forest Department of Uttarakhand has developed a Green Ramayana Park.
 - The park has species in connection with the journey of Rama across four major types of forest in the country.
- ❖ Export-Import Bank on behalf of Indian Government, extended a Line of Credit of USD 250 million (about Rs. 1,870 Crores) to Mozambique to improve the power supply quality of the country.
- ❖ Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju chaired the first General Council meeting of the Khelo India Scheme.
- ❖ Malayalam film 'Moothon' and National Award-winning documentary 'Son Rise' won awards at the 20th edition of New York Indian Film Festival.
- ❖ The famous Journalist and Author, Yatish Yadav wrote a new book titled, "RAW (Research and Analysis Wing): A History of India's Covert Operations.
- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is to set up the first of its kind training cum production centre of silk in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The island of Mauritius declared environmental emergency due to oil spill caused by Japanese owned ship.
- ❖ The Government of India has set up a three-member committee for determination of ceiling rates under Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme under the former Home Secretary GK Pillais.
- ❖ Serum Institute of India (SII) Private Limited has entered into a new partnership with Gavi, the International Vaccine Alliance and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, to accelerate the process of manufacture and delivery of up to 100 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines for India.
- ❖ Pune-based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020, a national-level digital product building competition.
- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has released the book titled 'Connecting, Communicating, Changing' in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Defence Minister has laid the foundation for a missile-seeker facility and a warhead production unit at Bharat Dynamics Limited at Hyderabad.
- ❖ The Prime Minister of Lebanon, Hassan Diab announced his resignation following over the biggest ammonium nitrate blast in the capital of the country, Beirut.

- ❖ India will host the 2021 edition of the T20 World Cup while the postponed 2020 edition will be held in Australia in 2022.
 - India is also set to host the 50-over World Cup in India in 2023.
- ❖ National Thermal Power Corporation Limited has achieved 100 Billion Units (BU) of cumulative power generation in the ongoing fiscal year.
- ❖ Dalai Lama is set to release his new book “Our Only Home: A climate Appeal to the world” on Climate change co-written by German environmental Journalist Franz Alt.
- ❖ Mumbai’s Dadar has become the first city in India to have women symbols on traffic signals and signage.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government has announced its new industrial policy that has a focus on the MSME sector.
 - The policy explicitly supports the MSME sector in the state for its development and growth in the state.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh's Jagdalpur has become the first municipal corporation in the country to provide forest land rights certificates to people of an urban area.
- ❖ The Ministry of Textiles has disbanded All India Powerloom Board after All India Handicrafts and Handloom boards.
- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India recently announced that sale of junk and unhealthy food should be restricted within 50 metres schools and education institutions.
- ❖ As part of Israel-India cooperation to fight the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, Israel has shared Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology and high-end equipment with All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), Delhi, India.
- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has unveiled a microwave device named ‘Atulya’ that can disinfect any premises in just 30 seconds, disintegrating COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ NITI Aayog’s Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched the 2nd edition of Student Entrepreneurship Program (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs.
- ❖ Belarus’s longtime authoritarian leader Alexander Grigoryevich Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive presidential term (1994-present).
- ❖ West Bengal CM Mamta Banerjee has announced that 1st September would be observed as Police Day in the state to recognise work done by the men in uniform, especially during the pandemic.
- ❖ The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) opened a Quality Control Laboratory in Porbandar in Gujarat.
 - The laboratory is to test seafood processors and exporters.
- ❖ A high-level ministerial panel of Goods and Services Tax council recommended e-way bill for intra state movement of gold.

- It will help track movement of gold under tax evasion and smuggling.
- ❖ The State Governments and the 272 District Collectors launched a seven-month-long anti-drugs campaign namely “Nasha Mukta Bharat” or “Drug-Free India” by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The union minister inaugurated a building of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- ❖ The government of UK launched a £3 million “Innovation Challenge Fund 2020” in India to support scientists in academia and industry to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.
- ❖ The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau formed a 5-member panel headed Captain S S Chahar to investigate the circumstances of the Air India Express Dubai-Calicut flight IX 1344 Crash at the Kozhikode airport.
- ❖ Retired Air Vice Marshal Arjun Subramaniam has authored a new book titled, “Full Spectrum: India’s Wars, 1972-2020”.
 - It is the next to his 1st book, ‘India’s Wars: A Military History, 1947-1971’.
- ❖ Dr V Thiruvengadam, famous as the 'Rs 5 doctor' in Chennai's Vyasarpadi, died recently.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu stands first in organ donation for the fifth consecutive year and has received the Central government’s award.
 - So far 8,163 organs have been received from 1,382 donors.
- ❖ Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj passed away recently.
 - He was awarded with honours such as Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.
- ❖ The Ministry of AYUSH has launched a three-month campaign on “Ayush for Immunity” to increase awareness about affordable and easy practices to boost immunity.
- ❖ Singer Shahzan Mujeeb became First Ever National Brand Ambassador of Aligarh Municipal Corporation for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Campaign at National and International level.
- ❖ National Stock Exchange of India Investor Protection Fund Trust and Indian Institute of Management Bangalore have jointly developed and launched an online investor education resource centre named “Platform for Investor Education”.
- ❖ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) launched the digital campaign “Ek India Team India” as a part of the adaptation of the new identity and logo of IOA, marking its 100 years of participation in Olympic games.
- ❖ World Fashion Day observed on 21st August to celebrate and commemorate the glory, spirit and art of fashion throughout the world.
- ❖ The Kerala legislative assembly launched a TV channel, Named Sabha TV to take the proceedings of the assembly to the people.



- ❖ Former CBI Special Director Rakesh Asthana appointed Director-General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- ❖ Union Ministry for Women and Child Development set up a committee to reconsider minimum age of marriage for women and examine matters pertaining to age of motherhood headed by Jaya Jaitley.
- ❖ The TN Health and Family Welfare department nominated Dr P Umanath, the Managing Director of the Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation to Centre's committee for implementation of OBC reservations in medical education.
- ❖ G. Silambarasan, a Thavil artiste, has been awarded the World Record Award by the 'Indian World Records' for documenting on video how to handle 108 rhythms that are part of Carnatic music.
- ❖ Retired IAS Rajiv Kumar was appointed as election commissioner in place of Ashok Lavasa who resigned.
- ❖ Earth Overshoot Day (EOD) is the calculated illustrative calendar date on which humanity's resource consumption for the year exceeds Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources that year.
 - In 2020, EOD lands on August 22 more than three weeks later than 2019, due to coronavirus induced lockdowns around the world.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for leasing out Jaipur, Guwahati and Thiruvananthapuram airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) through Public Private Partnership (PPP).
- ❖ According to Forbes, "The Highest-Paid Actors Of 2020" list, Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar (6th) is the only Indian star to be listed among the top 10.
 - The list has been topped by Wrestler-turned-movie star Dwayne Johnson.
- ❖ The Union Home Ministry has approved the renaming of Manduadih railway station in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district as 'Banaras'.
- ❖ The Punjab Government on Thursday announced that the state achieved first rank in operationalisation of Health and Welfare Centres (HWCs) as per the latest rankings released by the Centre.
- ❖ The sports platform, Dream 11 won the bid of official sponsor for the upcoming edition of the Indian Premier League.
- ❖ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare inaugurated "India Healthcare Week" with the theme "Redefining Healthcare Ecosystem" from 17th – 21st August 2020.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 marked one year of completion of launch by GSLV MkIII –M1.
 - The Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was inserted into lunar orbit on August 20, 2019.
- ❖ The Union Ministry for Road Transport, Highways has set out with an objective of "achieving zero road fatalities by 2030".



- ❖ The Centre decided to increase the sugarcane Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) by Rs 10 to Rs 285 per quintal for the marketing year starting October 2020.
- ❖ Women's Equality Day is celebrated on August 26 to mark the Nineteenth Amendment which granted women the right to vote in USA.
- ❖ The island chain in Maldives, recorded the highest amount of microplastic pollution on its beaches and in waters near shore.
- ❖ Author Chetan Bhagat has released a trailer of his new book named, One Arranged Murder.
- ❖ Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava is awarded the 'Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award 2019' in 'air adventure' category.
- ❖ Ashwani Bhatia has been appointed as the managing director of State Bank of India.
- ❖ Ronnie O'Sullivan defeated Kyren Wilson and won the World Snooker Championship 2020.
- ❖ Mahindra Group Chairman, Anand Mahindra and Adobe Chairman, Shantanu Narayen will be conferred with 2020 Leadership Awards.
- ❖ Dr G. Satheesh Reddy was given a two-year extension as Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
- ❖ South African all-rounder Jacques Kallis, Pakistan's Zaheer Abbas and Pune-born former Australian captain Lisa Sthalekar were inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame.
- ❖ August 24 is a Poet Narmad's birthday and is celebrated as a day dedicated to Gujarati language and literature.
- ❖ ICICI bank become the first bank in India to use satellite data to measure a collection of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make expeditious lending decisions for farmers.
- ❖ Dutch writer, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld has become the youngest author to win the International Booker Prize 'for his "The Discomfort of Evening book.
- ❖ IIT Alumni Council has signed an agreement with Russia's Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Russoft to build the world's largest and fastest hybrid quantum computer in India.
- ❖ West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo become the first bowler to attain the mark of 500 wickets in T20 cricket.
- ❖ Jeff Bezos, Amazon CEO became the first person in the world to hit a net worth of \$200 billion.

TAMIL NADU

AL Somayaji

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government has created a temporary post of Special Senior Counsel for the state Government.
- ❖ It appointed former Advocate General A.L. Somayaji to the post to deal with cases of “special importance and complicated nature.”

Thiyya and Ezhava community

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has accorded Backward Class status to the Thiyya and Ezhava communities.
- ❖ They predominantly live in Nilgiris District and the border of Kerala.
- ❖ The Ezhuva community had been among the BCs in the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State.
- ❖ They remained a BC community in Kanniyakumari district and Shencottah taluk of the erstwhile Tirunelveli district even after the merger of these areas with the erstwhile Madras State.

100th year of Bharathi speech

- ❖ In 1921 July 31, Mahakavi Bharathi came to the Karungalpalayam Reading Room at Erode to deliver a speech for the public on the topic Man is Immortal.
- ❖ The speech he gave in Karungalpalayam was his last public speech.
- ❖ Later it was renamed as Mahakavi Bharathi Memorial Library.
- ❖ It is a Public Library located in Karungalpalayam, Erode.



Renaming Chennai Metro stations

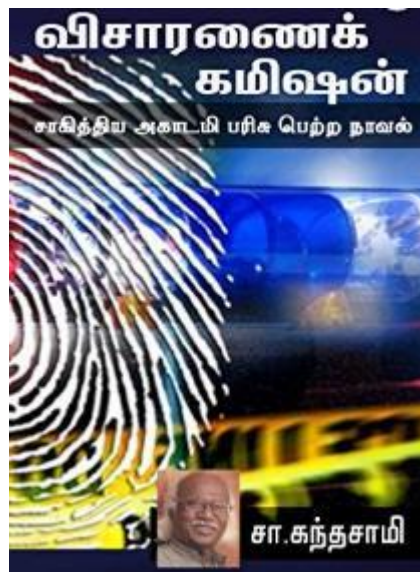
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has passed an order to rename three metro stations in Chennai after three late Chief Ministers of the state.

- ❖ According to a government order, the Alandur station will be called 'Arignar Anna Alandur Metro', the Central Metro as 'Puratchi Thalaivar Dr M G Ramachandran Central Metro' and the CMBT station as 'Puratchi Thalaivi Dr J Jayalalithaa CMBT Metro.'
- ❖ Chennai Metro is the third largest metro system in India after Delhi Metro and Hyderabad Metro.



Sa Kandasamy

- ❖ Famous Tamil writer and documentary filmmaker Sa Kandasamy recently passed away.
- ❖ Kandasamy marked his entry to Tamil literature through his novel 'Saayaavanam' published in 1968.
- ❖ His novel 'Vicharani Commission' (Enquiry Commission) won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1998 for the 'Best Tamil Novel'.



Amma Platinum plus health scheme

- ❖ Tamil Nadu government launched the Amma Platinum Plus package under the Amma Master Health Check-up Scheme during the first-anniversary celebration of the scheme.
- ❖ Amma Master Health Check-up Scheme contains:
 - Amma Gold for Rs 1,000
 - Amma Diamond for Rs 2,000 and
 - Amma Platinum for Rs 3,000.
- ❖ Now the new package allowed for Rs 4,000.

Economic Growth of Tamilnadu

- ❖ Tamil Nadu had achieved higher economic growth rate than the national average for three consecutive years.
- ❖ Against the all-India average figure of 4.2% last year, the State's performance (8.03%) was almost double.
- ❖ The calculations on the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) data have been done at constant prices, keeping 2011-12 as the base year.
- ❖ As far as the per capita income (based on Net State Domestic Product) is concerned, the State's figure for 2019-20 was ₹1,53,853, which was at 6th rank at the all-India level.
- ❖ During 2018-19, the figure was ₹1,42,941 with the State standing at 12th rank.
- ❖ As for the value of the GSDP, the State's rank was consistently placed at second, next to Maharashtra.
- ❖ During 2019-20, it went up to the first place, which could be due to the absence of data for the western State of Maharashtra.
- ❖ As per advance estimates for 2019-20, the growth rate of the primary sector stood at 6.08%, while it was 6.63% for the services.
- ❖ The secondary sector had posted a double-digit growth rate — 10.02%.
- ❖ Within the Secondary sector, manufacturing and construction posted the double-digit figures of 10.27% and 10.49% respectively.
- ❖ Even in the primary sector, the component of agriculture recorded higher rate (7.43%) this time than the 2018-19 figure, which was 5.8%.
- ❖ The previous year's figures for the primary, secondary and the services sectors were 8.49%, 6.49% and 7.83% respectively.



Chief Minister's Special Award

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government presented the Chief Minister's Special Award for 27 frontline workers, who were at the forefront of the State's battle against COVID - 19.
- ❖ Three women from Perambalur district - Senthamil Selvi, Muthammal, and Anandavalli shared the Kalpana Chawla Award this year.

Awards	Winner
Abdul Kalam Award	S Selvakumar, Founder of Anandam Youth Foundation.
Special Award for Covid-19	Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, WHO, Geneva.
Cm's Best Practices Awards	Department of Treasuries and Accounts.
	Greater Chennai Corporation.
	Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture & Plantation Crops and Agricultural Engineering.
	Certificate of appreciation to Tamil Nadu Medical Services Corporation.
	Certificate of appreciation to Cyber Crime Wing of TN Police.

Awards for Exemplary Service For The Welfare Of The Differently-Abled	
Best Institution	CSI Higher Secondary School for Deaf, Santhome High Road, Mylapore.
Best Doctor	Dr G Syamala (63), Jahir Ammapalayam, Salem.
Best Private Employer	Sakthi Masala Private Limited.
Best Social Worker	C Santhakumar.
Best District Central Cooperative Bank	District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Salem.
Award for Services Rendered Towards Welfare of Women	
Best Social Worker	Godhandavalli, from Coimbatore - family counsellor.
Best Institution (For Serving of Women)	Centre for Rural Education and Economic Development
Cm's Awards for Best Performing Local Bodies	
Best Corporation	Vellore
Best Municipality	Villupuram (1st), Karur (2nd), Koothanallur (3rd)
Best Town Panchayat	Vanavasi, Salem district (1st), Veerapandi, Theni district (2nd), Madukkarai, Coimbatore district (3rd)
Cm's State Youth Award	S Arunkumar, Madurai district
	R Ramkumar, Cuddalore district
	S Bhuvaneswari, Cuddalore district



Amma Covid 19 home care scheme

- ❖ TN Govt introduced the Amma Covid Home Care scheme, by which people in home isolation can avail of all diagnostics, medicines, and consultation facilities they would get if they were in a hospital.
- ❖ The care package will be offered for a period of 14 days, at a cost of Rs 2,500.

Jal Jeevan Mission Review

- ❖ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat held a review meeting with Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The mission is under implementation in partnership with States to provide drinking water to every rural household of the country.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is planning 100 per cent coverage by 2024 to accomplish the target of providing tap connection to every rural household of the State.
- ❖ Out of one crore 26 lakh rural households in Tamil Nadu, around 26 per cent of the household are provided with tap connections.
- ❖ In 2020-21, Tamil Nadu has planned to provide tap connections in around 34 lakh households.



Turmeric under 'one district, one product' scheme

- ❖ Turmeric of Erode has been selected under the 'one district one product' (ODOP) approach of the Central government sponsored scheme.
- ❖ Similarly, Carrot is selected for the Nilgiris District.
- ❖ Under the Aatma nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries launched PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PM FME) scheme.
- ❖ Under this, a product from each district is selected

- ❖ ODOP is aimed at providing financial, technical and business support for upgrading existing micro food processing enterprises in the district.
- ❖ The Central government contributes 60%, the State government contributes 40% for the activities.

MUDRA loan scheme Rank

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women.
- ❖ It was followed by West Bengal and Karnataka.

PMMY

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana was launched in 2015 to provide loans to non-corporate, small and micro-enterprises.
- ❖ Under the scheme, loans up to Rs 10 lakhs are provided.
- ❖ The loans are given by Regional Rural Banks, Commercial banks, Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Corporations, Micro-Financial Institutions.

NATIONAL

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the National Education Policy 2020 to reform the higher education sector.

Background

- ❖ In May 2016, Committee for Evolution of the New Education Policy under the Chairmanship of TSR Subramanian, Former Cabinet Secretary, submitted its report.
- ❖ In June 2017, Committee for the Draft National Education Policy was constituted under the Chairmanship of Former ISRO chief Kasturirangan.
- ❖ The last Education policy was released in 1986 that is 34 years back.
- ❖ The first NPE was promulgated in 1968 by the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, the second by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, and the third by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2020.

Highlights

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development (MHRD) has been renamed by Union Cabinet as the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The Public spending on education by states and Centre is to be raised to 6% of the GDP as compared to 1.7% previously.

School education


- ❖ It proposes changing the existing 10+2 Curricular and Pedagogical Structure with 5+3+3+4 design covering the children in the age group 3-18 years.
- ❖ Five years of the Foundational Stage: 3 years of pre-primary school and Grades 1, 2;
- ❖ Three years of the Preparatory (or Latter Primary) Stage: Grades 3, 4, 5;
- ❖ Three years of the Middle (or Upper Primary) Stage: Grades 6, 7, 8;
- ❖ Four years of the High (or Secondary) Stage: Grades 9, 10, 11, 12.
- ❖ Universalise the pre-primary education (age range of 3-6 years) by 2025.
- ❖ Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in school education by 2030.
- ❖ The mother tongue will be a medium of instruction till 5th grade.
- ❖ A new school curriculum with coding and vocational studies from class 6 will be introduced.
- ❖ A National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy will ensure basic skills at the class 3 level by 2025.
- ❖ Instead of exams being held every academic year, school students will only answer three exams, in Classes 3, 5 and 8.

Higher Education

- ❖ The merger of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and University Grants Commission.
- ❖ Four-year undergraduate degrees with multiple entry and exit options will be introduced.
- ❖ By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a four-year integrated B.Ed.
- ❖ M Phil is to be discontinued
- ❖ It also aims to double the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education, including vocational education, from 26.3% in 2018 to 50% by 2035.
- ❖ The National Testing Agency (NTA) will now be given the additional responsibility of conducting entrance examinations for admissions to universities across the country, in addition to the JEE Main and NEET.
- ❖ A Higher Education Council of India (HECI) will be set up to regulate higher education.
- ❖ It is a Single regulator for all higher education except medical and legal courses.

National Education Policy 2020
TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS
IN EDUCATION SYSTEM

School Education



- **Universal Access from pre-primary school to Grade 12**
Target to achieve 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio in school education by 2030
- **Early Childhood Care Education**
Education for all children between 3-6 years by 2025
- **Replacing 10+2 with 5+3+3+4**
After five years in pre-primary, students to aim at enhanced skills in new pedagogical system
- **National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy**
Focus on early language and mathematical skills from Grades 1-3 by 2025
- **Multilingualism and the power of language**
Medium of instruction till Class 5, preferably till 8, to be home language/mother tongue
- **Reforms in exams**
Board exams to be broken into two, to test core capabilities
- **New National Assessment Centre PARAKH**
A standard-setting body for assessment of students pan-India
- **Equitable and inclusive education**
Emphasis on socially disadvantaged, girls, socio-cultural identity children for education
- **Teacher recruitment and career path**
National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) to be developed by 2022 for teachers
- **Standard-setting and Accreditation for School Education**
State School Standards Authority to be set up in all States/UTs
- **Vocational Education**
By 2025, at least 50% of students to have exposure to vocational education

Authorities/Curricular under NEP 2020

- ❖ The following bodies will be setup under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early Childhood Care and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8.
- ❖ A comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education (NCFSE 2020-21) will be developed by the NCERT.
- ❖ A National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) will be set up as a standard-setting body.
- ❖ The National Research Foundation (NRF) will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture.
- ❖ A comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE 2021), will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in consultation with NCERT.
- ❖ For recruitment of teachers, a common National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) will be developed by the NCTE by 2022.
- ❖ For standard-setting and accreditation for school Education, states/UTs will set up an independent State School Standards Authority (SSSA).

- ❖ An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology.
- ❖ Setting up an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit, and strengthening of Sanskrit and all language departments in Higher Education Institutes (HEIs).
- ❖ Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.

Indo Islamic Cultural Foundation

- ❖ This trust has been set up to build a mosque in Ayodhya.
- ❖ It is in line with the November 2019 order of the Supreme Court in the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid title dispute case.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board will be the founder trustee of the trust.

AIM iCREST

- ❖ NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) has launched AIM iCREST.
- ❖ AIM has joined hands with Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Wadhvani Foundation for the program.
- ❖ It is an Incubator Capabilities enhancement program for a Robust Ecosystem focused on creating high performing Start-ups (iCREST).
- ❖ This is a first of its kind initiative for advancing innovation in India to encourage and enable holistic progress in the incubator ecosystem across the country.

Mukundakam Sharma committee

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports came up with a selection committee for selecting awardees for various sports awards for the year 2020.
- ❖ Retired Justice of Supreme Court Justice Mukundakam Sharma is made the Chairperson of the Committee.

Gramodyog Vikas Yojana

- ❖ The Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has approved a programme for the benefit of artisans involved in manufacturing of Agarbatti under the 'Gramodyog Vikas Yojana' (As a pilot project).
- ❖ Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) will provide training, and assist artisans working in this area.

SKOCH Gold Award

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) has received SKOCH Gold Award for its “Empowerment of Tribals through IT enabled Scholarship Schemes” project.
- ❖ It is the highest civilian honour in the country conferred by the SKOCH, an independent organisation.
- ❖ It recognises people, projects and institutions that aims to make India a better nation.
- ❖ It is given to both institutions/organisations and individuals.



Bharat Air Fibre Services

- ❖ These are introduced by BSNL as part of digital India initiatives by the Government of India.
- ❖ It aims of providing Wireless Connectivity in the range of 20 KMs from the BSNL Locations.

Chinese Language

- ❖ The National Education Policy (NEP) has dropped Mandarin or ‘Chinese’ from its list of examples of foreign languages that can be taught in schools.
- ❖ In addition to high quality offerings in Indian languages and English, foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level.

100th Death Anniversary - Tilak

- ❖ Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak’s 100th death anniversary was observed on August 1st.
- ❖ He was a part of the Lal-Bal-Pal (Lala Lajpat Rai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal) troika.
- ❖ He was called ‘father of the Indian unrest’ by British colonial rulers.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru called him the ‘father of Indian revolution’.

- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi described Tilak as 'the maker of modern India'.
- ❖ He was the strongest proponent of 'purna swaraj' or 'total self-rule'.
- ❖ His famous slogan was 'Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it'.

Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Grand Finale of Smart India Hackathon-SIH (Software) 2020 and interacted with the participants through video conference.
- ❖ The Hackathon has been organized by the Ministry of HRD (MHRD), Government of India; All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Persistent Systems and i4c.
- ❖ The SIH is a nationwide initiative to provide students with a platform to solve some of the complex issues faced in our daily lives.
- ❖ It aims to inculcate a product innovation culture and a problem-solving mindset.
- ❖ The first edition of Smart India Hackathon was held in 2017.



Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan

- ❖ The Union Minister for Ministry of Science and Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched Vidyarthi Vigyan Manthan.
- ❖ It is a national level programme for popularizing pure science among school students of Class 6th to 11th.
- ❖ It is India's largest Science talent search examination for New India using Digital Devices.
- ❖ It is an initiative of Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Government of India and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- ❖ Vijnana Bharathi (VIBHA) is a national movement for propagation and popularization of Science & Technology among the students and masses.

Pradip Shah Committee

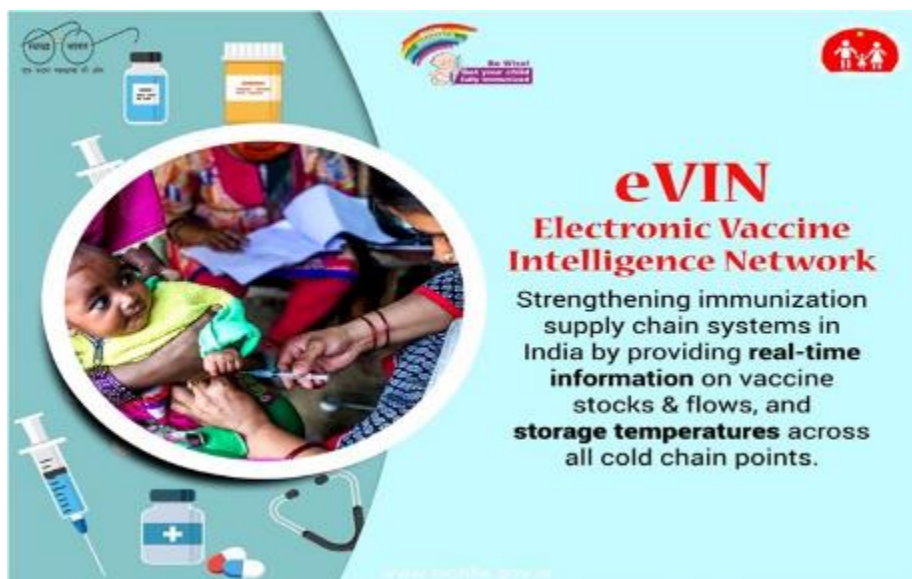
- ❖ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) announced the establishment of an expert committee headed by Pradip Shah.
- ❖ It works to suggest on how to develop the international retail businesses in International Financial Services Centres (IFSC).

Standardized Transport Vehicles Dimensions

- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has published a notification to amend Rule-93 relating to dimensions of motor vehicles under the Central Motor Vehicle Rules 1989.
- ❖ These amendments would provide for standardization in the dimensions of the Motor Vehicles which would be in line with international UNECE standards.
- ❖ It is a step to improve the logistics efficiency in the country as the enhanced dimensions would provide for extra passengers or extra carrying capacity within the prescribed weight.

Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (Evin)

- ❖ Eight Indian States are using the eVIN application with 100 % adherence rate to track State specific COVID-19 material supplies, ensure availability and raise alerts in case of shortage of 81 essential drugs and equipment.
- ❖ The Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network is an innovative technological solution aimed at strengthening immunization supply chain systems across the country.



Defense Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020

- ❖ Ministry of Defence released the draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP 2020).
- ❖ The DPEPP 2020 is envisaged as overarching guiding document of MoD to provide thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.

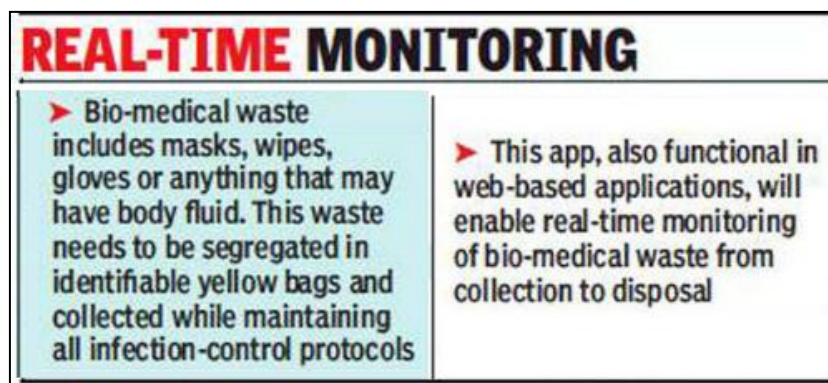
First-ever Vyapar Mala express train

- ❖ The Northern Railway ran its first Vyapar Mala Express train from Kishanganj in Delhi bound for Jirania in Tripura.
- ❖ It will help small traders to move their cargo in short time, cost effective, convenient and environment-friendly mode of transportation.



COVID19BWM App

- ❖ The app was developed by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- ❖ Now the Supreme Court has made it mandatory for all municipal corporations and state pollution control boards to use the 'COVID19BWM App' to track biomedical waste on a daily basis.
- ❖ This ensures that the waste is collected, transported and sent to a registered common biomedical waste treatment facility.



Foundation of Ram mandhir

- ❖ Indian PM Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for a Hindu temple in the northern city of Ayodhya on 5 August 2020.
- ❖ Hindus and Muslims claimed ownership over the site for decades.
- ❖ Last year, the supreme court gave the site to Hindus.



SIH 2020

- ❖ The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) won the first prize in the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2020.
- ❖ The SIH grand finale was held at the Noida Institute of Engineering and Technology, Uttar Pradesh.

New CAG of India

- ❖ Former J&K Governor, Girish Chandra Murmu has been appointed as a 14th Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India.
- ❖ He succeeds Rajiv Mehrishi who completes his term on August 2020.

New Version of the India Water Resources Information System

- ❖ The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) has launched a new version of the India Water Resources Information System (India-WRIS) with new functions and features.
- ❖ It is open to the public, and accessible through the web portal www.indiawris.gov.in.

- ❖ Also, the MoJS has established a dedicated organization, National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) to maintain and update India-WRIS.

Online Training Programme for PE (Physical education) Teachers & Principals

- ❖ The Sports Authority of India announced that will host an online training programme on “Khelo India Fitness Assessment of School Going Children”.
- ❖ This training conducted through the Khelo India Mobile App (KIMA) to the Physical Education teachers and head of the institutions from CISCE schools.
- ❖ For this, it associates with Education Boards Council for The Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Envistats India 2020 report

- ❖ The National Statistical Office recently released the Envistats India 2020 report.
- ❖ The report says that the number of heat wave days in 2019 increased over 80%.
- ❖ The report was prepared by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Some Key findings

- ❖ The highest number of heat wave days was recorded in Rajasthan followed by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The deaths due to acute respiratory infection in 2018 was the highest in six years.
- ❖ The highest number of deaths due to respiratory infection were reported in West Bengal.
- ❖ Delhi had the highest number of registered motor vehicles in the country followed by Bengaluru.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh had the highest number of slum population followed by Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Mobile App & Website for Handloom Scheme

- ❖ The Union Minister of Textiles launched the Mobile App & Backend Website for Handloom Mark Scheme (HLM) for the weavers on the occasion of 6th National Handloom Day.
- ❖ A website portal, ‘My Handloom’ for the individual weavers and organization was also launched by the minister.

Submarine optical fibre cable

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi on inaugurated the submarine optical fibre cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep (Havelock), Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat of the Island.



Tabletop airports and Kozhikode incident

- ❖ An Air India Express Flight on special “Vande Bharat” Mission overrun the runway at Kozhikode and fell into a valley.
- ❖ In 2010, similar incident occurred in Mangalore airport.
- ❖ The Tabletop Airport is an airport that is built on top of hilly surfaces or plateau.
- ❖ The runways in these airports have one or both ends overlooking a drop.
- ❖ The tabletop airports in India include Shimla and Kullu (Himachal Pradesh), Lengpui (Mizoram), Pakyong (Sikkim), Kozhikode and Kannur (Kerala) and Mangaluru (Karnataka).
- ❖ The other Tabletop airports outside India include Kathmandu in Nepal and Paro in Bhutan.



Ban on 101 Defense items import

- ❖ The list of 101 items was prepared by the Defence Ministry.
- ❖ This is being done to make India self-reliant under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ The Defence Procurement Procedure, 2020 that was unveiled in March 2020 aims to increase indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment.
- ❖ It is to support “Make in India” initiative.
- ❖ A new category of Buy (Global-Manufacture in India) has been introduced with minimum 50% indigenous content.

SOME ON BAN LIST

- 7.62x51 Sniper Rifle
- Shipborne Cruise Missiles, Short-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles
- Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) MK I A and Light Combat Helicopter
- Fixed Wing Mini UAVs
- Wheeled Armoured Fighting Vehicle
- Light Machine Gun and Assault Rifle 7.62 x 39mm

Air Suvidha portal

- ❖ Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) has developed AIR SUVIDHA portal.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind portal allowing international arriving passengers to:-
 - Fill a mandatory self-declaration form and
 - Eligible passengers to apply for exemption from compulsory institutional quarantine for coronavirus.
- ❖ It will make passengers’ journey more convenient and comfortable in a contactless way as they won’t have to fill the physical copies of the forms on arrival.

Gandagi Mukh Bharat

- ❖ Prime Minister launched "Gandagi Mukh Bharat", a week-long campaign for 'swachhata' in the run-up to Independence Day.
- ❖ During this week, each day will have special 'swachhata' initiatives in urban and rural India to re-enforce the 'jan andolan' for 'swachhata'.

Dashboard of the National Infrastructure Pipeline

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister has launched the dashboard of the National Infrastructure Pipeline.
- ❖ It will manage and integrate all the details regarding the projects at one place.
- ❖ This online portal is now showcasing 6800 live projects being implemented in the country.

National portal of Project Elephant

- ❖ The National Portal named, Surakhsya has been launched on the occasion of the World Elephant Day on August 12.
- ❖ Booklet on “Best practices of Human-Elephant Conflict Management in India” also was released on that occasion.
- ❖ This portal is going to help in the collection of data for analysis and inferring important outcomes based on that data.
- ❖ Project Elephant was launched in 1992
- ❖ The Indian Elephants come under:
 - Appendix I of the Convention of Migratory Species.
 - Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



Equal heirship rights to daughters

- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that the daughters in the Hindu families have equal coparcenary rights in the joint Hindu family property even if the father died before the Hindu Succession (Amendment) Act, 2005.
- ❖ The verdict makes it clear the amendments to the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, granting equal rights to daughters to inherit ancestral property would have retrospective effect.

Tribal freedom fighters' museums

- ❖ The Tribal Affairs Ministry has stated that all the nine museums dedicated to tribal freedom fighters will be completed by 2022.
- ❖ New museums will be sanctioned in the future in collaboration with the states.
- ❖ The largest of these museums is being built in Rajpipla in Gujarat.



Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020

- ❖ The Human Resources Development Minister, Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', has launched the 'Minimum Standards of Architectural Education Regulations, 2020.'
- ❖ The previous Regulations were made in 1983.
- ❖ The regulations have been prepared by the experts of the Council of Architecture.
- ❖ It is a statutory body constituted by the government under the provision of the Architects Act 1972.

New Railway Museum

- ❖ The Ministry of Railways has inaugurated a dedicated museum for railways in Hubballi, Karnataka.
- ❖ It aims to preserve and portray the glorious heritage of various branches of Railways and displays the gradual evolution of advanced systems in all spheres of Railway.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind museum in Northern Karnataka and second in South Western Railways after the historic railway museum at Mysore, Karnataka.

Atma Nirbhar Week celebration - August 7 to 14

- ❖ The Defence Minister of India launched the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Saptah' (Atma Nirbhar Week celebration) to focus more on the vision of the government to shift to local manufacturing and 'Make in India'.

- ❖ The main idea behind this is to emphasize the importance of domestic defence production in the country.



First e-Lok Adalat of India

- ❖ Chhattisgarh government has organised the first e-Lok Adalat of India amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The “e-Lok Adalat” was organized by the High Court and Chhattisgarh State Legal Services Authority.



Cotton Advisory Board

- ❖ The Ministry of textiles has abolished its advisory body, Cotton Advisory Board (CAB).
- ❖ It also, notified that all eight Textiles Research Associations (TRAs) have ceased to be “affiliated bodies” of the ministry.
- ❖ Hereafter, TRAs will be approved bodies for conducting testing, research and developmental activities related to the textiles sector.
- ❖ Any disposal/sale/transfer of assets created out of the central government grant shall require prior specific approval of the ministry.

India@75 Summit – Mission 2022

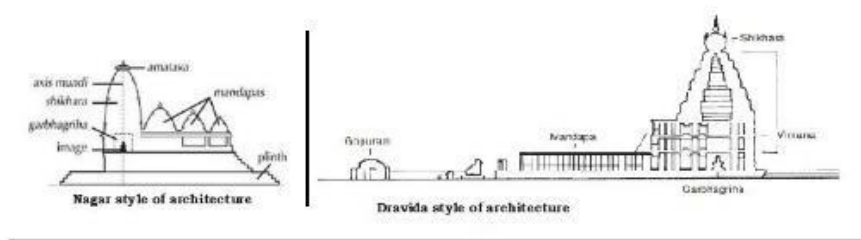
- ❖ The confederation of Indian Industries (CII) organised the “India@75 Summit – Mission 2022”.
- ❖ It was focused on ‘reinventing technology in India’.

Foundation Day of TRIFED

- ❖ The 33rd Foundation Day of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) was observed on 6th August 2020.
- ❖ It is the national level cooperative body mandated to bring about socio-economic development of tribal of the country by institutionalising the trade of Minor Forest Produce (MFP) & Surplus Agricultural Produce (SAP) collected/cultivated by them.
- ❖ It was established in 1987.
- ❖ It is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Foundation to Ram Mandhir construction

- ❖ The temple construction officially started again after a ground-breaking ceremony on 5 August 2020.
- ❖ Modi laid the foundation of the Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- ❖ PM Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit Ram Janmabhoomi at Ayothoya.
- ❖ He is also the first Prime Minister to visit Hanuman Garhi, the shrine to Hanuman.
- ❖ The grand temple at Rama Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya will follow the Nagara style of temple architecture.
- ❖ The Nagara style of temple architecture is found in northern India.



Katra - Delhi Express Road Corridor

- ❖ First-of-its-kind Katra (Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir)- Delhi Express Road corridor works are expected to be completed by 2023.
- ❖ The express Corridor is expected to reduce the travel time between Katra and Delhi to around six and half hours.

- ❖ The Express Corridor is being built under the Bharatmala Pariyojana, which is a centrally-sponsored and funded Road & Highways project of the Government of India.
- ❖ Katra is a town in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir houses the holy shrine of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi.
- ❖ The Road Corridor will connect the holy cities of Amritsar, Punjab and Katra -Vaishno Devi, Jammu & Kashmir.

Swachh Bharat Mission Academy

- ❖ Union Minister for Jal Shakti launched the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Academy.
- ❖ It is an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) based free mobile online training course with modules on the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus programme.
- ❖ It is launched as part of 'Gandagi Mukht Bharat', the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign.

New Platform of IT department

- ❖ Prime Minister launched a platform for "Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest".
- ❖ It provides faceless assessment and appeal and taxpayers' charter, as a part of direct tax reforms.
- ❖ The objective of the platform is to ease the tax compliance and expediting refunds, benefiting honest taxpayers.

Online Accreditation System for Agricultural Institutions

- ❖ Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar virtually launched:
 - The Krishi Megh along with the KVC ALUNET (Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Chhatr Alumni Network) and
 - Online Accreditation System for Higher Agricultural Educational Institutions on the lines of the Digital India initiative.
- ❖ National Agricultural Research & Education System - Cloud Infrastructure and Services known as Krishi Megh is aimed at protecting the data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- ❖ KVC ALUNET - "KVC Alumni Network" that acts as a medium for sharing of information or social networking among alumni of all the 74 Agricultural Universities.

Atma Nirbhar App Innovation Challenge winner

- ❖ The Centre has announced 24 winners in the eight categories of “Aatma Nirbhar App Innovation Challenge”.

Category	App Name
Entertainment	CaptionPlus, Meme Chat, FTC Talent.
News	Logically, IsEuqalTo.
Games	Bitwicket Superstars - 3D Cricket Strategy Game, ScarFall - The Royal Combat, World Cricket Championship-2
Business	Zoho Invoice, Books & Expense, Mall91, Gim Books.
Office	Zoho Workplace & Cliq, SureMDM.
Health	StepSetGo, iMumz.
eLearning	Disprz, Kutiki Kids Learning App , Hello English.
Social	Chingari, YourQuote, Koo
Others	MapmyIndia Move - Maps, Navigation & Tracking, AskSarkar, Myitreturn.

National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration

- ❖ The Central Government has formulated an expert committee namely “National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration” under the chairmanship of Dr VK Paul.
- ❖ This group will consider the logistics, ethical aspects of procurement, and administration of COVID-19 vaccine in discussion with all state governments and vaccine manufacturers.

National Digital Health Mission

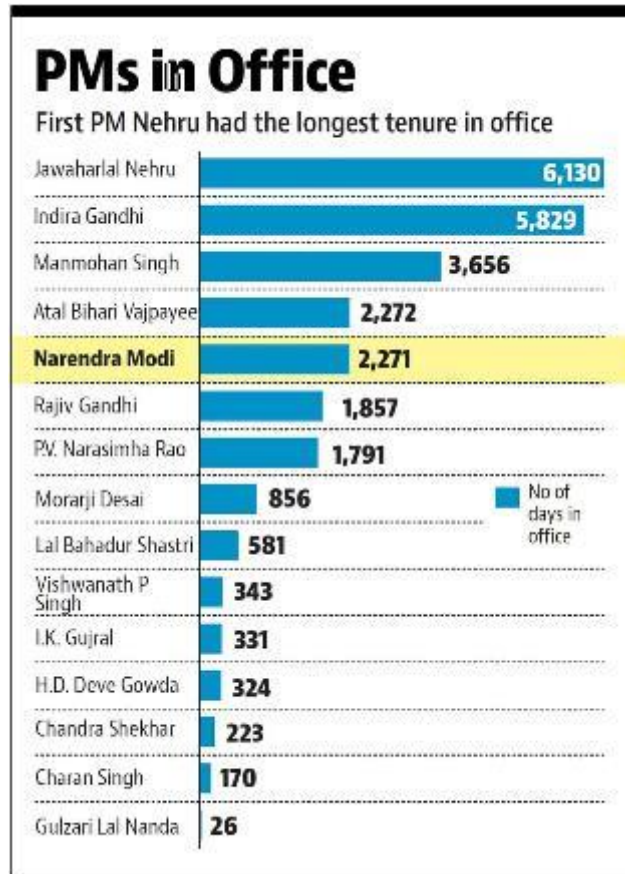
- ❖ PM Modi launched the National Digital Health Mission during his address at the 74th Independence Day celebrations.
- ❖ Under the mission, every Indian is to get a Health ID card.

- ❖ The ID card will contain all relevant information about the person's past medical condition, treatment and diagnosis.
- ❖ The mission is completely technology based.
- ❖ The mission aims to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of health care in India.
- ❖ It is to operate under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana or Ayushman Bharat.



Longest serving non-Congress PM

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has become the longest-serving non-Congress PM (From 26 May 2014) of the country as on August 13th.
- ❖ And also, he has also been at the helm of an elected government for a period of 18 years, which is the longest such tenure by the head of the government.
- ❖ This includes his term as the Chief Minister of Gujarat (7 October 2001 to 22 May 2014) before assuming the charge of the PM of the country in the year 2014.
- ❖ The Prime Minister has completed his term as the Chief Minister and now as the PM for over 18 years and 306 days.
- ❖ Before this, the first PM of India, Nehru served as the PM of the country for a period of 16 years and 286 days.
- ❖ Indira Gandhi had the third-longest tenure as the head of the elected government in the country with a length of 15 years and 350 days as the Prime Minister.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Manmohan Singh - all from the Congress - are the three longest serving Prime Ministers in that order.



AMRUT scheme Ranking

- ❖ Odisha has retained top position in the implementation of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- ❖ According to rankings released by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Odisha regained its top followed by Union Territory of Chandigarh and Telangana.

AMRUT Scheme:

- ❖ The AMRUT scheme was launched in June 2015.
- ❖ It focusses to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.

OPV Sarthak

- ❖ An OPV (Offshore Patrol Vessels) for Indian Coast Guard was launched and re-inaugurated as Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) "Sarthak".
- ❖ Sarthak, the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the ICG.
- ❖ It has been designed and built indigenously on the lines of "Make in India" which has about 70% indigenous content.

Launch of 15 Defense Products

- ❖ As a part of the Atma Nirbhar Week celebration Union Defence Minister launched 15 products of Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).
- ❖ Nag Missile Carrier: it can act as an import substitution of around Rs. 260 Cr.
- ❖ 14.5 mm Anti Material Rifle: It is a fully indigenous Rifle manufactured at Ordnance Factory of Tiruchirappalli.
- ❖ Thermal Imager Cum Day Sight for T90 Main Battle Tank: It is an upgraded version developed by Rifle Factory Ishapore in West Bengal.
- ❖ Prototype of 8.6×70 mm Sniper: It is also developed by Rifle Factory Ishapore for engaging long range targets.
- ❖ 150 Ton payload capacity Dump Truck: It is one of the biggest Electric Mining Dump Trucks.
- ❖ Super Giant Mining Excavator of 180 Ton Capacity: With this the expected foreign exchange savings are Rs. 220 Crores.
- ❖ GAUR: It is a Medium Bullet Proof Vehicle built on a high mobility chassis, with customizable protection levels and custom built with 85 % indigenization level.
- ❖ Heli portable 100 HP Dozer: It has high indigenization of 94%.
- ❖ 150th Do-228 aircraft: It is christened as IN-259 is dedicated platform for Indian Navy in the Maritime Reconnaissance & Intelligence Warfare role.
- ❖ 1kW Transmitter Aerial Switching Rack: it providing better long-term support to Indian Navy, are genuine indigenized products.
- ❖ Linear Variable Differential Transducer: It is used to attain accuracy & precision in guiding and seeking the target.
- ❖ Konkurs Missile Test Equipment & Konkurs Launchers Test Equipment: They are developed to replace the earlier imported system from Russia.
- ❖ Portable Pedestrian (Assault) Bridge: It is first of its kind made of Carbon Fibre Polymer Composite Material, to meet the requirements of the Indian Army.
- ❖ Gearbox: It is developed for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) project.
- ❖ Underwater Remote Operated Vehicle: It commenced its Field Evaluation Trials at Chennai.

SWASTHYA Portal and ALEKH e-newsletter

- ❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched Tribal Health and Nutrition portal called “SWASTHYA”.
- ❖ The portal is first of its kind.
- ❖ It provides information related to health and nutrition of tribal population in India.

- ❖ Also, the ministry launched the “ALEKH” e-newsletter on health and nutrition.
- ❖ It is to be released on quarterly basis and to showcase the works of different stakeholders involved in improving health and nutrition of tribal.
- ❖ According to Census 2011, the tribal population in India is 104 million.

NCC deployment in Border areas

- ❖ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) is to be expanded to 173 border areas and coastal districts.
- ❖ With the deployment of NCC, the border areas are to get trained manpower for disaster management.
- ❖ Also, the youth in the area will get skill trainings to make their career in armed forces.
- ❖ The NCC cadets also participate in war.
- ❖ During Bangladeshi-Pakistani war of 1971 and Indo-Pakistani war of 1965.
- ❖ During his address at the 74th Independence Day celebration, PM announced that around 1 lakh NCC cadets from bordering areas are to extended for the youths in the region.

Atal Tunnel

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced that “Atal Tunnel” will be inaugurated by the end of September 2020.
- ❖ The tunnel is being built under Rohtang Pass in the Pir Panjal range on the Leh-Manali highway.
- ❖ It is located at 3,100 metres above the sea level.
- ❖ The length of the tunnel is 8.8 kilo metres.
- ❖ The route is important as it feeds military supplied to the military sub sector that are located in Siachen Glacier and Aksai Chin.
- ❖ The proposal of the tunnel dates back to 1860, proposed for the first time by the Moravian Mission.



Flood forecasting Initiative

- ❖ The Central Water Commission along with Google has launched flood forecasting initiative.
- ❖ Under the initiative, numerous alerts can be sent to the public regarding flood situation in the region.
- ❖ Google is offering colour-coded maps indicating flooded areas.
- ❖ Zooming the map will give better understanding about the current water level in these regions.
- ❖ In order to avail the initiative, the user has to search for “flooding” followed by the name of the affected region on Google maps.

ATL AI Step Up Module

- ❖ The NITI Aayog, Atal Innovation Mission along with the collaboration of NASSCOM launched the “ATL AI Step Up Module” on the eve of independence-day.
- ❖ The module is to drive AI education and innovation to next levels in schools all over India.
- ❖ The AI step up module provides “Learn it yourself” modules for those who wish to expand their knowledge base after learning the basics of Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ Also, there is no background is required to learn the module.

Organic Farming Rank

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare recently announced that India ranks first in Organic Farming in the World.
- ❖ Also, India ranks ninth in terms of areas under Organic Farming.
- ❖ Sikkim was the first state in the world to become completely organic.
- ❖ India has launched following two schemes to assist farmers in adopting organic farming.
 - Mission Organic Value Chain Development for the North East Region
 - Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana

“SRIJAN” online portal

- ❖ Defence Minister Raj Nath Singh launched “SRIJAN”, an online portal to promote indigenization of Defence production.
- ❖ The portal is to display those items that are currently being imported by Indian Defence Industry.
- ❖ The Defence Public Sector Units and the Ordnance Factory Board shall display items that are being imported on the portal.

National Public Procurement Conclave

- ❖ Union Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal virtually inaugurated the 4th edition of 'National Public Procurement Conclave (NPPC) 2020: Digital Exhibitions and Conferences'.
- ❖ Theme of the edition is "Technology enabled Govt Procurement - Towards efficiency, transparency, and Inclusiveness".
- ❖ It is organized by Government e Marketplace (GeM), in association with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) through CII Hives Digital Platform.

New French Course

- ❖ The Lok Sabha has launched a new French Course at beginner level for the staff and officials.
- ❖ The course is being launched as it is essential to acquire knowledge of French language in the interconnected world.
- ❖ The initiative is to be implemented by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracy (PRIDE).
- ❖ PRIDE was set up in 1976 to provide training to parliamentary staff, parliamentarians and others in various disciplines of parliamentary institutions.

Oracle Cloud engaged in Aspirational Districts

- ❖ NITI Aayog announced that it has selected Oracle Corporation to modernise vital IT infrastructure in 112 most backward districts under its Aspirational Districts Programme.
- ❖ The selected 112 districts constitute 28% of Indian population.
- ❖ The Oracle Corporation will provide new cloud solution and will aid the District Magistrates to transform the lives of the citizens in these Aspirational districts and also to improve their overall performance.
- ❖ The Aspirational Districts Programme is implemented by NITI Aayog.
- ❖ The main objective of the programme is to monitor real time progress of aspirational districts. It is based on 49 indicators from 5 thematic areas.

PM's 74th Independence Day Speech

- ❖ On August 15, 2020, PM announced new projects during the 74th Independence Day from Red Fort, New Delhi.
- ❖ It was his 7th consecutive Independence Day speech and focused on the themes of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)", "Vocal for local" and "Make in India to Make for World".

Announcements

- ❖ The launch of the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) under which every Indian will get a health ID that will store the individual's medical records.
- ❖ Optical fibre link connecting Lakshadweep and mainland India.
- ❖ On the lines of "Project Tiger" and "Project Elephant", he announced the "Project Dolphin".
- ❖ Centre has set up a committee to reconsider the minimum age for marriage for women.
- ❖ The Ladakh, Leh and Kargil region will be developed and declared to be a carbon neutral region.

E-pathshala - a Web Platform

- ❖ The All India Football Federation and the Sports Authority of India, jointly launched the E-Pathshala platform.
- ❖ It is a web platform to recognise creativity of the children and to develop their interest in football.
- ❖ The platform develops the children's interest through cognitive approaches like painting, skills, building blocks and others.

Biodegradable Face Mask and Body Suit

- ❖ Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, developed an Ayurvedic based Biodegradable Nanofibres Face Mask "Pavitrapati".
- ❖ Pavitrapati acts a virus neutralizer to resist against the bacteria / virus.
- ❖ And it also developed anti-microbial body suit in the name of "Aushada tara".

Naval Innovation and Indigenization Organization

- ❖ The Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) has been launched by the Defence Minister of India.
- ❖ It aims to foster innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence in keeping with the vision of Atma nirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation
 - Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC)
 - Working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects
 - Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU)

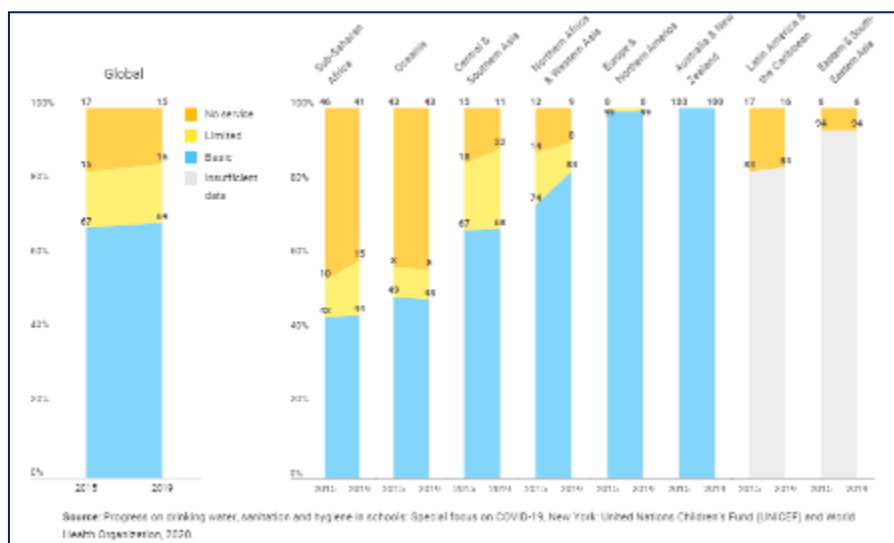
- ❖ The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), in collaboration with the Karnataka State Drug Control Department, has launched the Price Monitoring and Resource Unit in the state.
- ❖ The main objective of the PMRU is to help the NPPA in monitoring the prices of drugs and also the availability of such drugs in the state.
- ❖ NPPA is Constituted in 1997 and it is a government regulatory agency that controls the prices of pharma drugs in the country.
- ❖ Karnataka is 12th state where PMRU was setup.
- ❖ Already setup - Kerala, Odisha, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Mizoram.

Google Assignments

- ❖ Google has announced new education tools for teachers and students to facilitate learning in the virtual education space.
- ❖ This feature will be available with all the products of Google such as Meet, G Suite and Classroom.
- ❖ This new tool will have some of the features rolled out in the coming months whereas the rest of the features will be available later this year.

WHO and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Program report

- ❖ The report pointed out that India has rapidly increased coverage of handwashing facilities with water but many of these still lack soap.
- ❖ Globally, over 462 million children had no hygiene service at their school in 2019.
- ❖ 244 million are from sub-Saharan Africa, 125 million are from central and southern Asia, of which 92 million are from India.



Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA)

- ❖ Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements 2020 classified the institutes into two broad categories and six subcategories.
- ❖ The objective of ARIIA is to rank higher education institutions and universities in India as per Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Start-ups, and Development amongst faculty and students.
- ❖ ARIIA is an initiative by the Ministry of Education and is implemented by AICTE and Ministry's Innovation Cell.

Category	Top 3 Winners
Centrally Funded Institutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ IIT Madras ❖ IIT Bombay ❖ IIT Delhi
Women (only higher educational institutions):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women ❖ Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women
Private Institutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ S R Engineering College, Telangana ❖ G. H. Rasoni College of Engineering, Nagpur ❖ Sri Krishna College of Engineering and Technology
Private/Deemed Universities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Odisha ❖ SRM Institute of Science and Technology ❖ Vellore Institute of Technology
State-Funded Autonomous Institutions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ College of Engineering Pune, Maharashtra ❖ PES College of Engineering, Karnataka ❖ Coimbatore Institute of Technology, Tamil Nadu
State-Funded Universities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Institute of Chemical Technology, Maharashtra ❖ Punjab University ❖ Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University

National Recruitment Agency

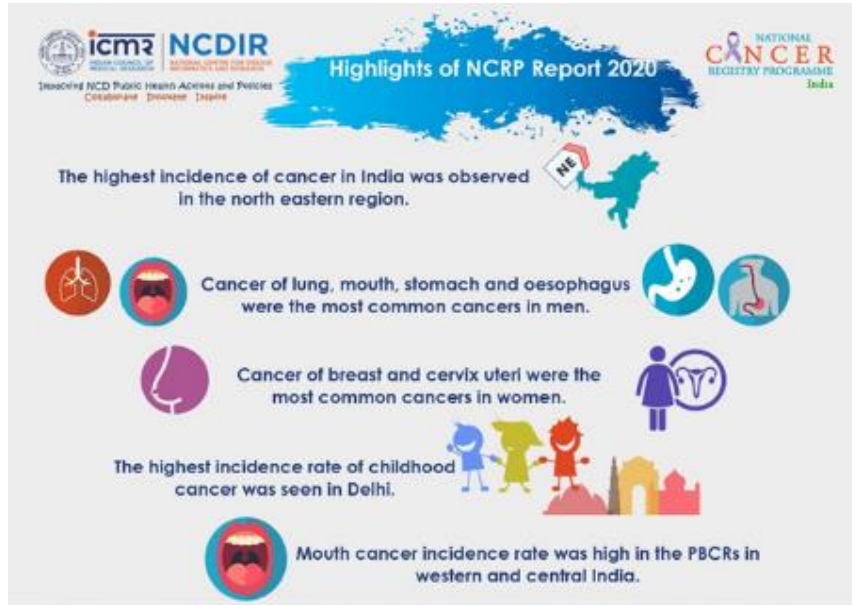
- ❖ The Union Cabinet decided to set up a [National Recruitment Agency \(NRA\)](#) to conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government.
- ❖ The NRA will conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks.

- ❖ This test aims to replace multiple examinations conducted by different recruiting agencies for selection to government jobs advertised each year, with a single online test.
- ❖ The present recruitment agencies– Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB) and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) — will remain in place.
- ❖ Initially, CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies: viz. SSC, RRB and IBPS at Group B and C (non -technical) posts.
- ❖ CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be valid for three years.
- ❖ National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.



National Cancer Registry Programme Report 2020

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research released “National Cancer Registry Programme Report”, 2020.
- ❖ According to the report, the number of cancer patients in India are to increase to 15.7 lakhs by 2025.
- ❖ Tobacco related cancers are to account to 27.1% of India’s cancer burden in 2020.
- ❖ The highest incidence of cancer in India was observed in North East region.
- ❖ Aizawl district in Mizoram and Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest age adjusted rates (AAR) of cancer per 1 lakh population.
- ❖ The highest incidence of breast cancer was observed in Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi and Bengaluru.



Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana

- ❖ Employee's State Insurance Corporation had approved relaxation in eligibility criteria and enhancement in the payment of unemployment benefit under its Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana.
- ❖ It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern.

Relaxation

- ❖ The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50% of average of wages from 25%.
- ❖ Relief payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.
- ❖ The Insured Person can submit the claim directly to ESIC Branch Office instead of the claim being forwarded by the last employer and the payment shall be made directly in the bank account.

Swachh Survekshan 2020 Ranking

- ❖ It is the 28 days long completely digitized and paperless nationwide survey and also world's largest cleanliness survey.
- ❖ Indore was retained as the cleanest Indian city position for the fourth consecutive time, followed by Surat on the second spot and Navi Mumbai on the third position.

Other Winners

- ❖ India's Cleanest Capital – New Delhi Municipal Corporation, Delhi
- ❖ India's Cleanest Small City – Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh
- ❖ India's Cleanest Medium City – Mysuru, Karnataka

- ❖ India's Cleanest Big City – Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- ❖ India's Cleanest Mega City – Amdavad, Gujarat
- ❖ India's cleanest city (< 1 Lakh Population)– Karad, Maharashtra

In Tamil Nadu

- ❖ Coimbatore is the cleanest city in Tamil Nadu, securing the 40th rank.
- ❖ Madurai and Chennai were ranked 42nd and 45th, respectively.
- ❖ Trichy secured 102 Rank, Tirunelveli (159), Salem (173) and Tirupur got 173rd place.
- ❖ Best Mega City in Innovation and Best Practices - Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ None of the Tamil Nadu cities was on the top 10 list in their respective categories.

Category	Winner
States with Less than 100 Urban Local Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jharkhand • Haryana • Uttarakhand
States with More than 100 Urban Local Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chhattisgarh • Maharashtra • Madhya Pradesh
National Ranking (Cities 1 – 10 Lakh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambikapur – Chhattisgarh • Mysore- Karnataka • New Delhi
Ganga Towns Ranking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chunar (Less than 50 K Population) • Kannauj (50 K – 1 Lakh Population) • Varanasi (Above 1 Lakh Population)



Greater than 10 Lakh Population						
RANK #	STATE NAME	DISTRICT NAME	CITY/ULB NAME	ULB CODE	SCORE BEFORE VALIDATION	SCORE AFTER VALIDATION
1	MADHYA PRADESH	INDORE	INDORE	802273	1860.00	1632.
2	MADHYA PRADESH	BHOPAL	BHOPAL	802312	1830.00	1523.
3	GUJARAT	SURAT	SURAT	802629	1736.00	1497.
4	MAHARASHTRA	NASHIK	NASHIK	802776	1733.58	1468.
5	GUJARAT	RAJKOT	RAJKOT	802501	1713.00	1442.

National Teachers Award 2020

- ❖ Forty-Seven teachers from across the country will be conferred the National Teachers Award for the year 2020.
- ❖ Among them the following two Teachers are selected from Tamil Nadu.
 - R C Saraswathi, headmistress of Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Ashok Nagar in Chennai and
 - S Dhillip, an English teacher from Government Higher Secondary School in Sathyamangalam in Villupuram.

Drone based Surveillance System



- ❖ The Ministry of Railways announced that the drone-based surveillance system is to be introduced for the purpose of railway security.
- ❖ The drones are to be implemented in Central Railway, South Eastern Railway and South Western Railway.
- ❖ In order to implement the surveillance, the Ministry has procured Ninja UAV.
- ❖ These drones are capable of video streaming and real time tracking.

National Commission on Population

- ❖ The National Commission on Population submitted its report on population projections for the period of 2011-36.
- ❖ The commission was set up by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Highlights

- ❖ The report says that the sex ratio of the country is to increase from 943 (2011) to 957 (2036).

- ❖ The population of India is to reach 1.52 billion by 2036 with reference to 2011.
- ❖ India's population is expected to grow by 25% in 2036 as compared to 2011.
- ❖ Between 2011 and 2021, the population growth rate will be 12.5%.
- ❖ It is to decrease further to 8.4% in 2021-31.
- ❖ By 2031, India will overtake China and will be the most populous country in the world.
- ❖ Bihar and UP also have the highest Total Fertility rates 3.5 and 3.7 respectively.
- ❖ Between 2001 and 2011, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh were the major net-out migration states.
- ❖ At the same time, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Delhi and Haryana had positive in-migration.
- ❖ The southern states Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu is projected to account to only 9% of population growth.
- ❖ The report projects that urban population in the country is to increase to 57% in 2036.
- ❖ Kerala could become the only Indian state to have life expectancy above 80 for women and 74 for men by 2036.

Trifood Project

- ❖ Two new tertiary processing centres – TRIFOOD have been launched by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It aims to increasing the value addition to the non-timber forest products collected by tribal forest gatherers.
- ❖ It will be implemented jointly by TRIFED and Ministry of Food Processing.

Kormo Jobs App

- ❖ Google has announced the launch of its Kormo Jobs app for India to help entry-level job seekers to find and apply for the job positions.
- ❖ Jobs was originally piloted in Bangladesh and subsequently launched in Indonesia.



- ❖ It has since grown into a job platform that can help job seekers and businesses of all sizes in multiple markets.

Hallmarking of precious metals

- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs has declared that the provision of mandatory hallmarking of precious metals like gold jewellery and artifacts will be effective from 1st June 2021.
- ❖ Hallmarking is a certification process for accurate determination and official recording of precious metal.
- ❖ It ensures the purity and fineness of the metal.

National Council for Transgender Persons

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons.
- ❖ The Social Justice Minister would be the Council's chairperson and its members would include officials from some other Ministries.
- ❖ Five nominated members from the community - Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Gopi Shankar of Madurai, Meera Parida, Zainab Javid Patel and Kak Chingtabam Shyamcand Sharma are also part of the Council.
- ❖ The council is formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

First state to implement NEP

- ❖ Karnataka is going to be the first state in India to implement the new National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
- ❖ Necessary administrative reforms and amendments are reportedly being implemented by the state government to welcome the newly launched National Education Policy.
- ❖ The National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 seeks to line up itself with the objective of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all in the next 20 years.

INS Viraat to be dismantled in Gujarat

- ❖ INS Viraat that served the Indian Navy for more than 30 years is to be dismantled at Alang, Gujarat.
- ❖ The ship was decommissioned three years back.
- ❖ It was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987.

- ❖ Previously the ship served the British Navy as HMS Hermes between 1959 and 1984.
- ❖ It was a centaur-class aircraft carrier.
- ❖ Also, it was the flagship of Indian Navy before INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in 2013.
- ❖ Currently, the Indian Navy's only aircraft carrier is INS Vikramaditya.

National GIS-enabled Land Bank System

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry launched National GIS (Geographic Information System) enabled Land Bank System.
- ❖ The platform is to provide database of industrial clusters all over India.
- ❖ It will serve as one-stop solution to free and easy accessibility of industrial information.
- ❖ It holds information related to forest, raw material heat maps, drainage and multiple layers of connectivity.

KIRAN helpline service

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched 'Kiran', a toll-free helpline number for mental health rehabilitation.
- ❖ The helpline number (1800-599-0019) has been developed by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment along with its partners.
- ❖ It aims to provide first aid, support for the early screening, distress management, psychological support, preventing deviant behaviours, mental well-being, psychological crisis management, among others.
- ❖ Kiran Helpline will be able to offer support in 13 languages.

Export Preparedness Index (EPI) report 2020

- ❖ NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) report 2020.
- ❖ EPI is the first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states.
- ❖ The index ranked states on four key parameters – policy; business ecosystem; export ecosystem; export performance.

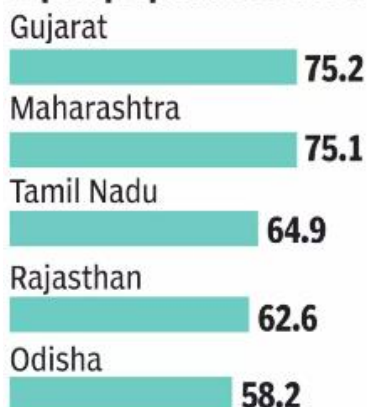
Highlights of the report:

- ❖ At present, 70 per cent of India's export has been dominated by five states – Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

Category	Winners
Top 3 states	Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.
Top 3 landlocked states,	Rajasthan followed by Telangana and Haryana.
Top 3 Himalayan states,	Uttarakhand followed by Tripura and Himachal Pradesh.
Top 3 Union Territories/City States	Delhi followed by Goa and Chandigarh.
Top 3 on policy parameters	Maharashtra followed by Gujarat and Jharkhand.
On business ecosystem parameter	Gujarat followed by Delhi and Tamil Nadu.
In the export ecosystem parameter	Maharashtra followed by Odisha and Rajasthan.
On the export performance parameter	Mizoram followed by Gujarat and Maharashtra.

LEADING THE PACK

Export preparedness score



New Circles of Archaeological Survey of India

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture, India has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ❖ New circles have been created in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal and Gujarat.
- ❖ Trichy, Raiganj, Rajkot, Jabalpur, Jhansi & Meerut have been announced as new circles.
- ❖ The Hampi city in Karnataka is a place of international repute hence Hampi Mini Circle has been converted into a full-fledged circle.
- ❖ Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across the country.

INTERNATIONAL

5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

- ❖ It was held virtually under the theme of Connecting for Tomorrow.
- ❖ The meet saw the re-election of Jin Liqun of China as AIIB President.
- ❖ Currently, India has a 7.65% vote share in the AIIB, while China holds 26.63% stake in the organisation.
- ❖ During the meet, the Board of Governors approved the application of Liberia to join the Bank.
- ❖ AIIB has grown from 57 founding members to 103 approved members.
- ❖ The sixth Annual Meeting will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 2021.
- ❖ It will be the first annual meeting in the Middle East.

The Toxic Truth

- ❖ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the international non-profit organization Pure Earth authored and published the first of kind report on the health crisis.
- ❖ It has been titled "The Toxic Truth: Children's Exposure to Lead Pollution Undermines a Generation of Future Potential".
- ❖ It highlights the lead poisoning which affects large number of children all across the globe.

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative (CHRI)

- ❖ A report on slavery was recently released by the CHRI and an international anti-slavery organisation Walk Free on the occasion of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.
- ❖ Commonwealth countries account for about 40% of people living in conditions of modern slavery in the world.
- ❖ India accounts for one-third of all child brides in the world.
- ❖ CHRI is an independent, non-profit, international non-governmental organisation working in the area of human rights.
- ❖ It is headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Statue from UK

- ❖ A rare late ninth century stone statue of Lord Shiva will be returned to the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

- ❖ It was stolen from a temple in Rajasthan and smuggled to the UK.
- ❖ It is originally from the Ghateswara Temple at Baroli, Rajasthan.
- ❖ It was constructed by the Gurjara-Pratiharas, also known as the Pratihara Empire.
- ❖ They ruled much of Northern India from the mid-7th to the 11th century.



Tax on Royalty

- ❖ Australia will force US tech giant Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc's Google to pay Australian media publishers for news content.
- ❖ It will help its native media company
- ❖ Australia will become first such country to gain royalty under the royalty-style system.

1947 pact on Gorkha soldiers

- ❖ Recently, Foreign Minister of Nepal said that the 1947 agreement among India, Nepal and the United Kingdom that deals with the military service of Gorkha soldiers has become redundant.
- ❖ Following the Anglo-Nepalese War of 1814-16, the British decided to recruit Gorkha soldiers in 1815.
- ❖ After India's Independence in 1947, the question of Gorkha soldiers was settled by the Britain-India-Nepal Tripartite Agreement.
- ❖ Currently, the Gorkhas comprise up to 3% of the British Army, and in 2015 completed 200 years of service there.



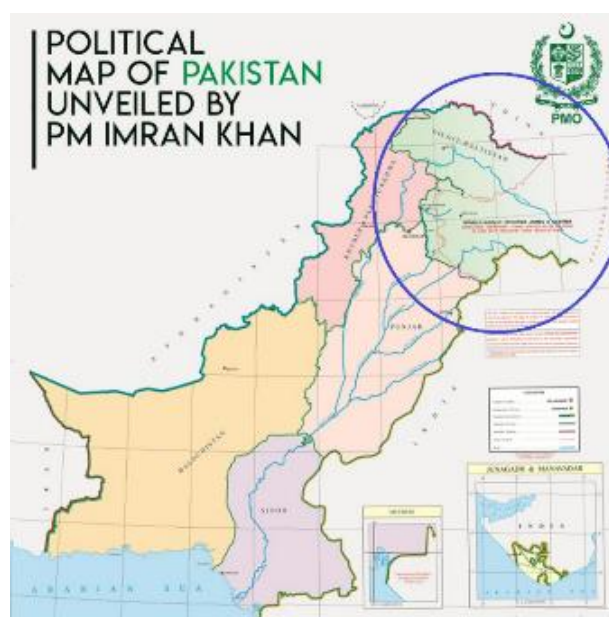
Galapagos archipelago and China

- ❖ Equator has expressed an official discomfort over the sighting of Chinese fishing vessels named “floating city” near the Galapagos archipelago.
- ❖ The Galapagos Islands are located in the Pacific Ocean around 1,000 km away from the South American continent.
- ❖ In 1978, the islands became UNESCO’s first World Heritage Site.



New political map of Pakistan

- ❖ Pakistan recently released a new political map claiming the entire territory of Jammu & Kashmir, and part of Gujarat as part of its territory.
- ❖ It also shown the region of the erstwhile state of Junagadh as part of its territory.
- ❖ In the early version of the map, the part of Kashmir and Ladakh border with China was not marked and it was described as “Frontier Undecided”.



Education during COVID-19-UN's Policy

- ❖ (UN) launched the report titled "Policy Brief: Education during COVID-19 and beyond".
- ❖ According to that around 23.8 million additional children and youths may drop out or not have access to school in 2021 due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.
- ❖ The Policy brief was built on United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s data and features recommendations on ways to avoid the emerging disaster.

Sri Lankan Parliamentary elections

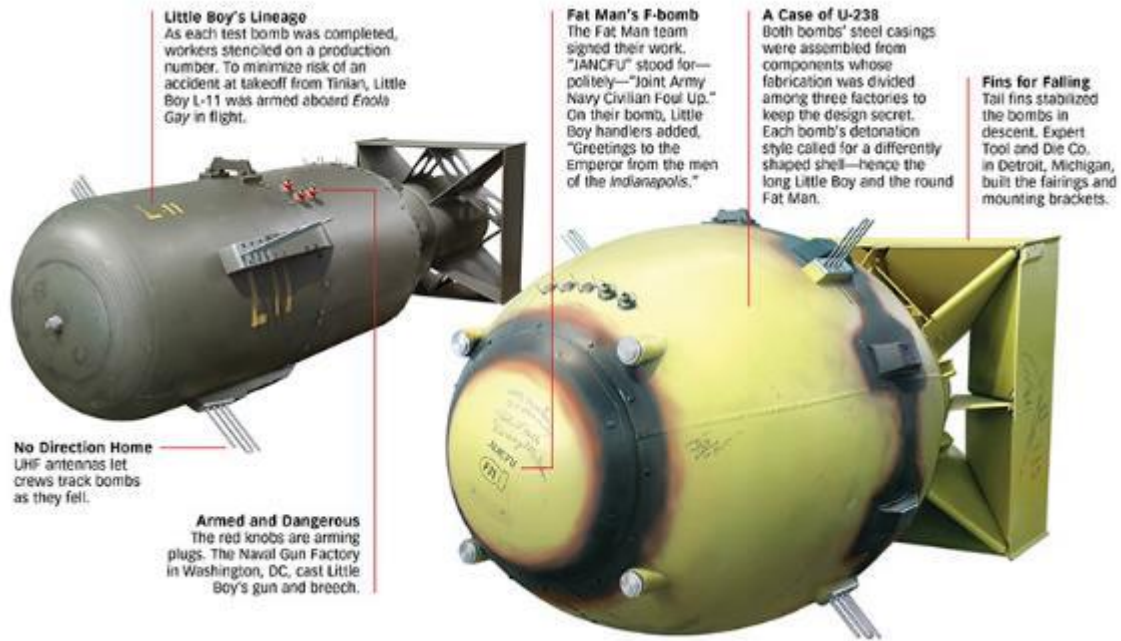
- ❖ Mahinda Rajapaksa has won 145 (plus five more seats from allies) in the elections, securing two-thirds majority in the parliament of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The two-thirds supermajority will give them powers to change the constitution.
- ❖ Sri Lanka is a democratic republic and unitary state, which is governed by a semi-presidential system, a mixture of parliamentary and presidential system.

New Platform to Reduce Global Food Loss and Waste

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) unveiled a new Platform, to support the global reduction of food loss and waste.
- ❖ The official launch of the platform will be on the first International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste (IDAFLW) which will be observed on 29th September 2020.
- ❖ The platform will have information on measurement, reduction policies, alliance, actions and examples of models that were successful in reducing the food loss and wastages in the period of global pandemic.

75th Nagasaki Day

- ❖ On 9 August 2020, 75th Nagasaki Day is observed to remember the people and innocent children who were killed as the US dropped an atomic bomb on the Nagasaki city of Japan.
- ❖ On 9th August 1945, the US dropped the atomic bomb named "Fat Man".
- ❖ Consequently, on August 14th, Japan surrenders and ends the world war II.



Loya Jirga assembly

- ❖ A three-day Loya Jirga-grand assembly has been called in Afghanistan to decide on freeing about 400 Taliban fighters convicted for serious crimes including murder and abductions.
- ❖ It is a mass national gathering that brings together representatives from the various ethnic, religious, and tribal communities in Afghanistan.
- ❖ It is a highly respected centuries-old consultative body that has been convened at times of national crisis or to settle national issues.
- ❖ According to the Afghan Constitution, a Loya Jirga is considered the highest expression of the Afghan people.
- ❖ It is not an official decision-making body and its decisions are not legally binding.

War memorial for Indian soldiers

- ❖ The Bangladesh Government is to construct war memorial for Indian soldiers killed in 1971 war.
- ❖ The memorial is to be constructed in Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria bordering Tripura.
- ❖ This is mainly due to its significance in the Liberation War of 1971.
- ❖ India entered the war after Pakistan launched "Operation Chengiz Khan" striking 11 Indian airfields.

IC - IMPACTS Annual Research Conference

- ❖ The India-Canada IC-IMPACTS Annual Research Conference was held in order to discuss the ways for taking cooperation between the two countries to a new level.
- ❖ This conference is organized virtually by the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS).

Indian flag at Times Square

- ❖ For the first time, a leading diaspora group (Federation of Indian Associations) in the US will hoist India's National Flag at the Times Square in New York on August 15.
- ❖ This is the first occasion on which the tricolour will be unfurled at the iconic location in the US.

Indian Origin nominated as US Vice President candidate

- ❖ The US elections are due for the year 2020.
- ❖ President Donald Trump from the Republic party has one more term to run for US elections, he is to be challenged by the opponent Joe Biden from the Democratic Party.
- ❖ Joe Biden was the Vice President of the US during President Obama's period.
- ❖ The Presidential Candidate Joe Biden has chosen Kamala Harris to run for Vice President on behalf of the Democratic Party.
- ❖ She will be the first black woman and the first person of Indian origin to be nominated for the national office.

BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group Meeting

- ❖ The 4th Session of the BRICS Anti-Drug Working Group was chaired by Russia and was held through video conference.
- ❖ All the member countries of the group such as India, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa participated in the session.
- ❖ Misuse of darknet and technologies for drug trafficking was the main theme.

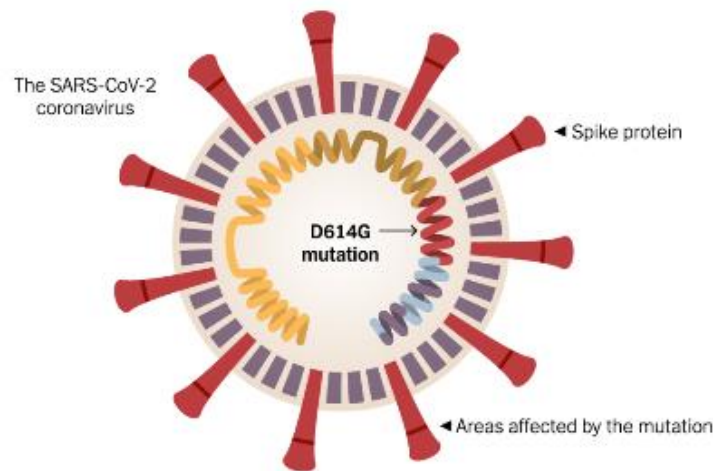
New COVID-19 strain

- ❖ Malaysia has recently detected a new COVID-19 strain that is 10 times more infectious.
- ❖ The mutation of the virus is called DG14G.

- ❖ The researchers from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) of India have so far found 73 new variants of COVID-19 in their three months of research.

About mutation

- ❖ It is the change in structure of gene caused due to insertion deletion or rearrangement of larger sections of genes.
- ❖ This does not mean that mutation should be anthropogenic.
- ❖ Mutation also occurs naturally and mainly when a gene is passed on from one generation to other.
- ❖ Sometimes, mutation can even lead to a weaker virus.



World Solar Technology Summit

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance will hold World Solar Technology Summit for the first time on September 8, 2020.
- ❖ The summit aims to bring the world scientists and engineers together to address the challenges to make energy affordable.
- ❖ The summit will showcase next generation solar technologies.

Israel-UAE Peace Pact

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates became the first Gulf country to sign peace agreement with Israel.
- ❖ The Agreement is also called Abraham Accord.
- ❖ Israel is the third Arab country after Egypt (1979) and Jordan (1994) to sign the peace agreement.
- ❖ The name Abraham has been provided to honour three major Abrahamic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam.
- ❖ The deal has stopped Israel annexation of West Bank.

West Bank issue

- ❖ The West Bank is sandwiched between Israel and Jordan.
- ❖ The West Bank was captured by Jordan at the end of Arab-Israeli war.
- ❖ During the 1967, Israel was defeated by the combined forces of Syria, Egypt and Jordan.

Nirmanshree project

- ❖ European Union has launched project 'Nirmanshree' for enhancing the women skill towards housing construction sector.
- ❖ This is the first-of-its-kind sustainable housing on a large scale in India.
- ❖ The project will be implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts of Odisha.



Repeal of 19th amendment

- ❖ Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has declared his intention to repeal the landmark 19th Amendment to the Constitution.
- ❖ It introduced in 2015 and has some important provision as:
 - The reduction in the terms of President and Parliament from six years to five years.
 - Re-introduction of a two-term limit that a person can have as President.
 - The power of President to dissolve Parliament only after four and a half years.
 - The President remains the head of Cabinet and he can appoint Ministers on the advice of Prime Minister.

Digital Quality of Life Index 2020

- ❖ The index is prepared by Surfshark, a virtual private network (VPN) provider based in the British Virgin Islands.
- ❖ Top 3 countries are Denmark and Sweden (topped the index), with Canada rounding up the top three.
- ❖ Israel offered the cheapest internet.
- ❖ Singapore, the UK and the US performed the best on the e-government indicator.
- ❖ The UK, France and Lithuania offer the most security.
- ❖ Best Internet Quality is provided by Singapore, Sweden and the Netherlands.

India's Position

- ❖ Overall, India is ranked 57th.
- ❖ India ranked 9th on the internet affordability indicator, and 15th on e-government.
- ❖ India secured 15th position in e-government indicator.
- ❖ India performed poorly in Security, and got 57th position.
- ❖ In Internet quality with a rank of 78, it fell behind countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria and the Philippines.
- ❖ On electronic infrastructure, India ranked 79th, behind neighbours Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal.

World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament.
- ❖ The conference was organized by Parliament of Austria and Inter-Parliamentary Union, Geneva with the support of United Nations.
- ❖ Theme: Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and the planet

6th Round Table of ASEAN-India network of think tanks

- ❖ The sixth-round table of ASEAN-India network of think tanks has been held through video conference.
- ❖ The theme of the round table was "ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era".
- ❖ This is comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives.
- ❖ It was established at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand - 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.

Supply Chain Resilience Initiative

- ❖ The Supply Chain Resilience Initiative first proposed by Japan.
- ❖ The initiative aims to reduce the dependency in China.
- ❖ Japan is to be joined by India and Australia.
- ❖ It is a direct response to companies that are concerned about Chinese political behaviour and disruption to supply chain.
- ❖ Their geographic locations value the triangular approach to Indo-Pacific Diplomacy.

Military Coup in Mali

- ❖ Recently, Mali's President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has resigned after soldiers had arrested him and Prime Minister Boubou Cisse in the capital Bamako as part of a coup.
- ❖ Mali, having gained independence in 1960, was long held in high esteem for its democratic principles.
- ❖ Since 2012, however, the country has been rocked by a succession of violent confrontations with Islamic extremists after the military staged a coup.



Africa free of Wild Poliovirus

- ❖ The African Continent was declared free of wild polio by the independent body, the Africa Regional Certification Commission (ARCC).
- ❖ ARCC is responsible for certifying the eradication of wild poliovirus in the World Health Organization (WHO) African Region.
- ❖ The last case of wild poliovirus in Africa was detected in 2016 in Nigeria's Northeastern Borno state.
- ❖ The Poliovirus is now found only in Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ India was officially declared polio-free in 2014.

ECONOMY

Future Brand Index 2020

- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited, Oil and Gas Company, ranked as the Second Biggest Brand.
- ❖ Future Brand Index, the global perception study based on the assessment of the company's performance, reordered the PwC's Global Top 100 Companies which was based on the Market Capitalisations.
- ❖ Other brands
 - Apple - Rank 1
 - Samsung Electronics - Rank 3
 - Tata - Rank 65

Innovation Hub

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India launched "Innovation Hub" for ideation and incubation of new capabilities that can be leveraged to deepen financial inclusion.
- ❖ The hub is being launched to promote the start-ups in the country.
- ❖ The hub is to act as a centre to create viable and innovative financial products.
- ❖ One such recent initiative is the "Regulatory Sandbox".
- ❖ A Regulatory Sandbox refers to live testing of new products and services in a controlled regulatory environment.

Liquidation Process Regulations- 2016 Amendment

- ❖ Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) amended the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulations, 2016.
- ❖ It is amended by the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2020.

RBI Monetary Policy

- ❖ In its 7th Bi-monthly Monetary Policy 2020-21, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to maintain the "accommodative" stance and keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%.
- ❖ The decision has been taken to revive the growth and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on Indian Economy.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank has consequently decided to keep the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 3.35 percent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 4.25 percent.

- ❖ The Reserve Bank's business assessment index (BAI) for first-quarter hit its lowest mark in the survey's history.

Consumer Confidence Survey

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently released its report of Consumer Confidence Survey.
- ❖ It is aimed to find out how optimistic the consumers are in regard to their financial situation.
- ❖ The current index dropped to 53.8 in July, 2020 from 63.7 in May.

KV kamath committee for stressed assets

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has constituted a five-member committee under K V Kamath.
- ❖ The panel will make recommendations on financial parameters that are to be considered to structure loans that are impacted by COVID-19.
- ❖ Basically, the committee is to suggest parameters that will help in resolution of COVID-19 related stressed assets.

Startups under Priority sector lending

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has assigned priority sector lending (PSL) status to India's start-up sector.
- ❖ This will make more funds for lending to start-ups.
- ❖ It means those sectors which the Government of India and RBI consider as important for the development of the basic needs of the country and are to be given priority over other sectors.

REVISED RULES
Priority sectors
● Agriculture
● MSMEs
● Export Credit
● Education
● Housing
● Social Infrastructure
● Renewable Energy
Banks have to offer 18% of priority loans to agriculture, of which 8% has been fixed for small & marginal farmers

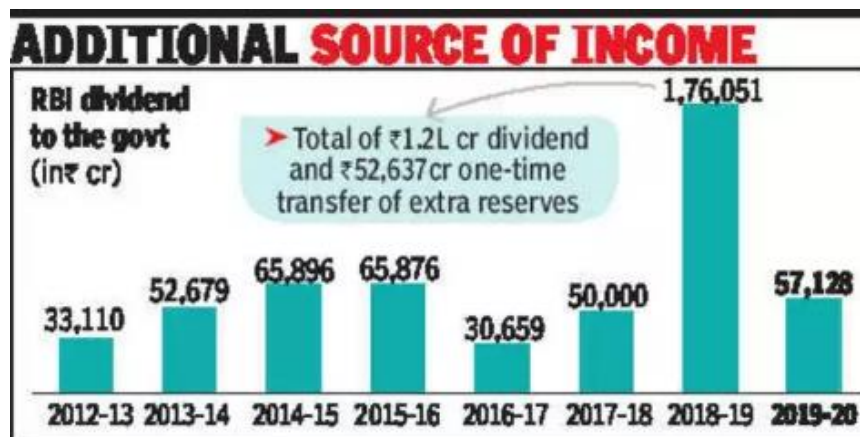
- ❖ As per the RBI guidelines for PSL for scheduled commercial banks, 40% of the total net bank credit should go to a priority sector advances.

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- ❖ The Prime Minister launched a financing facility of Rs. 1 lakh crores under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.
- ❖ It will be used for agri-startups, entrepreneurs, farmer groups, agri-tech players for the post-harvest management and nurturing farm assets.
- ❖ In July 2020, Union cabinet had approved Agriculture Infrastructure Fund as part of the over Rs. 20 lakh crores stimulus packages.

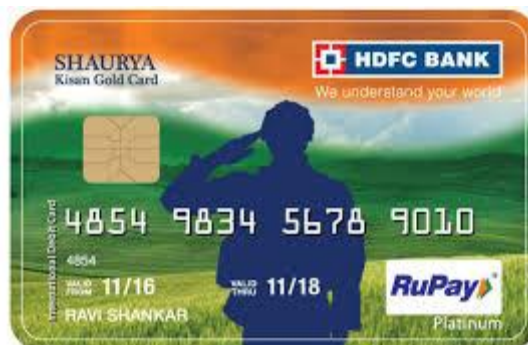
Surplus transfer to govt

- ❖ The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India approved the transfer of Rs 57,128 crore as surplus or dividend to the central government for accounting year 2019-20.
- ❖ It is sharply lower by 67.5 per cent from Rs 1.76 lakh last year.
- ❖ The RBI's central board last year accepted the recommendations of the high-level panel, under the leadership of former RBI Governor Bimal Jalan.
- ❖ This panel was formed to recommend ways to utilise RBI's excess cash reserve and part transfer to the government.



Shaurya KGC Card

- ❖ HDFC Bank, launched digitally the 1st of its kind card named Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card.



- ❖ It is a tri colour themed card for Indian armed forces personnel, i.e, Army, Navy, Air force and Para military forces and their families.
- ❖ The product is based on the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) guidelines by the government.

National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025 (NSFE)

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has released a national strategy for financial education to be implemented in the next five years.
- ❖ The multi-stakeholder led approach is aimed at creating a financially aware and empowered India.
- ❖ It is the second NSFE, the first one being released in 2013.
- ❖ It is prepared by in consultation with the four financial sector regulators
 - Reserve Bank of India,
 - Securities and Exchange Board of India,
 - Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India and
 - Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.

Green Deposit Programme

- ❖ A “Green Deposit Programme” has been launched by the HSBC India exclusively for corporate clients.
- ❖ Under this programme, the bank will use the deposits to finance green initiatives and environment friendly projects.
- ❖ The scheme will finance eligible businesses and projects that encourage the transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient, and sustainable economy.

Ramesh Chand Task Force

- ❖ Ramesh Chand task force set up by NITI Aayog has recommended to link sugarcane prices to sugar rates.
- ❖ The task force highlighted that it is essential to keep the industry in a good financial health.
- ❖ In its report, the task force has recommended for a one-time increase in the minimum sugar price at Rs 33 per kg.
- ❖ This report of the task force was finalized in March 2020 and published on August 20.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Mars Perseverance Rover 2020

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has its Mars mission named Mars Perseverance Rover 2020.



- ❖ The Mars Rover aims to reach the Red Planet by the year 2021.
- ❖ The rover was launched by Atlas V-541 from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida of USA.
- ❖ The Mars Perseverance rover has a robot that will deploy first-ever interplanetary helicopter named Ingenuity.

Suraksha

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) along with AMESYS INDIA developed a microorganism decontamination box, 'Suraksha'.
- ❖ The box sanitizes an object in the span of 10 – 15 minutes using heat and UVC light.

International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER)

- ❖ The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) has entered its years-long assembly phase.
- ❖ It is an international nuclear fusion research and engineering mega project.
- ❖ It will be the world's largest magnetic confinement plasma physics experiment.
- ❖ It is an experimental tokamak nuclear fusion reactor that is being built in southern France.
- ❖ It is to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful use.
- ❖ It will be the first fusion device to produce clean, cheap, and abundant energy.
- ❖ The project is funded and run by seven member entities the European Union, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States.
- ❖ Fusion is the energy source of the Sun and stars.

Aditya Boat

- ❖ It won the 1st 'Gussies' electric boat awards.
- ❖ It is officially known as 'Gustave Trouvé Award for Excellence in Boats and Boating'.
- ❖ It is India's first & largest Solar Powered ferry.
- ❖ It is operating under the Kerala State Water Transport Department (KSWTD).



AJO-Neo

- ❖ Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre For Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India developed a device named "AJO-Neo".
- ❖ It is used for "No-touch" & "Painless" non-invasive bilirubin level screening in new-borns.



Beidou

- ❖ China says its Beidou system now fully operational.
- ❖ It is joining an elite group providing space-based systems comprising the US's GPS, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.
- ❖ India's is called Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC).
- ❖ India is developing its own navigation satellite system called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.
- ❖ IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system being developed by India.
- ❖ It is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India as well as the region extending up to 1500 km from its boundary.

NASA Astronauts

- ❖ Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley two US astronauts return to the planet Earth safely following a 21-hour journey from the International Space Station.
- ❖ The astronaut were sent by NASA in collaboration with Elon Musk's company Space-X from NASA's Kennedy Space Centre in Florida at USA.
- ❖ With this successful landing, the Elon Musk's Space-X has become the first-ever private company to achieve this success.

Yellow Fever

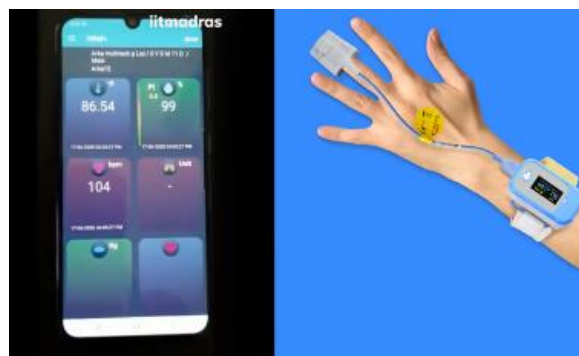
- ❖ Yellow fever is caused by a virus that is spread by the Aedes aegypti mosquito.
- ❖ According to new study the disease is projected to shift to Central and East Africa from West Africa by 2050.
- ❖ It is endemic in 34 countries in the sub-Saharan African region.

Hammer Missiles

- ❖ France has agreed to supply HAMMER missiles to India for the Rafale combat aircraft.
- ❖ HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) is a medium-range air-to-ground weapon. It has the capability to take out any types of targets at the range of around 60-70 kms.
- ❖ It belongs to the Armement Air-Sol Modulaire (AASM) family of missiles i.e. it is an Air-to-Ground Modular Weapon.
- ❖ The weapon is modular because it can integrate different types of guidance units and different types of bombs.

Remote Patient Monitoring Solution

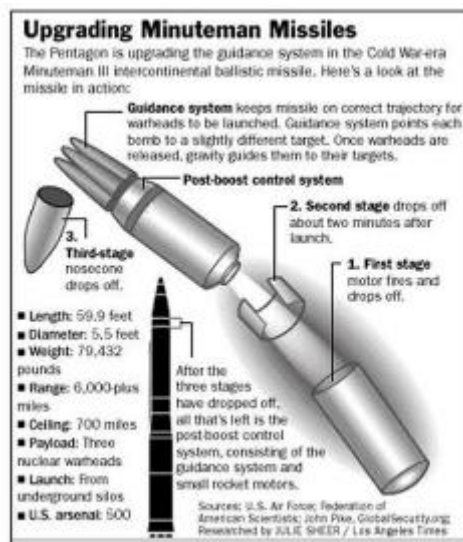
- ❖ IIT Madras and partner healthcare startup jointly developed a first of its kind remote patient monitoring device for COVID-19.
- ❖ This device is self-contained, portable and wireless which can be easily clipped on to the patients fingers.



- ❖ The device was aimed to reduce the close contact with the patients by the healthcare workers like doctors and nurses and savings in PPE.

Minuteman III missile

- ❖ US Air Force conducted a scheduled test launch of an LGM-30G Minuteman III, an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
- ❖ It carried a load of three unarmed re-entry vehicles.
- ❖ This missile is a long-range, solid-fuel, three-stage ICBM with the capability to carry single or multiple nuclear warheads.



Ammonium Nitrate

- ❖ Ammonium Nitrate is a white, crystalline chemical that is soluble in water.
- ❖ It is the main ingredient used to manufacture commercial explosives.
- ❖ Under the UN classification of dangerous goods, ammonium nitrate is classified as an oxidiser.
- ❖ However, it can be used as an explosive when mixed with other contaminants.
- ❖ The Improvised Explosive Devices used by terrorists in the world contain Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil (ANFO).

Metamaterial grid

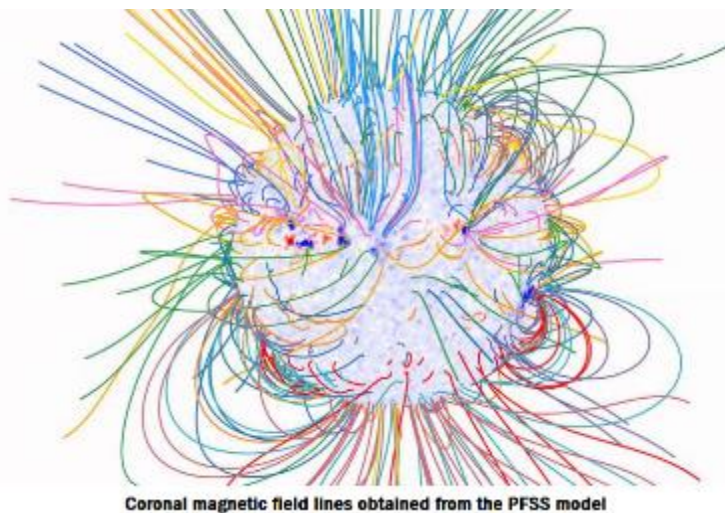
- ❖ The IIT Guwahati, and Imperial College London, have developed nanoparticles the 'meta-grid' or 'metamaterial grid'.
- ❖ This grid makes the light-emitting diodes (LED) brighter, energy-efficient and durable.
- ❖ Meta-grid is a specifically patterned array of nanoparticles acting as metamaterials and it is capable of exhibiting extraordinary optical properties.

First registered COVID 19 vaccine

- ❖ Russia has named its first COVID 19 vaccine as 'Sputnik V' for the foreign markets.
- ❖ This name is a reference to the first artificial satellite of the world.
- ❖ Russia is the first country to register a vaccine for the COVID 19 disease.

Coronal Magnetic Field

- ❖ For the first time, an international team of solar physicists has recently measured the global magnetic field of the solar corona.
- ❖ Corona is the outer most layer of the Sun's atmosphere.
- ❖ Until now, routine measurements of the solar magnetic field have only been achieved at the surface of photosphere.



Coronal magnetic field lines obtained from the PFSS model

Project Cheetah

- ❖ The Indian Armed Forces have decided to revive "Project Cheetah".
- ❖ Under the project, around 90 Heron drones of the services are to be upgraded with laser-guided bombs; air launched anti-tank guided missiles and air to ground anti-tank guided missiles.
- ❖ The upgrade will help the Armed forces ground stations to operate the drones from far distances and also control them through satellite communication system.

SpaceX's SN5 Starship prototype

- ❖ It is a prototype of SpaceX's uncrewed "Mars ship".
- ❖ It is a part of the Starship spacecraft.
- ❖ The prototype recently completed its first test flight.

- ❖ It will act as a reusable transportation system for crew and cargo to the Earth's orbit, Moon and Mars.
- ❖ SpaceX has described Starship as "the world's most powerful launch vehicle".

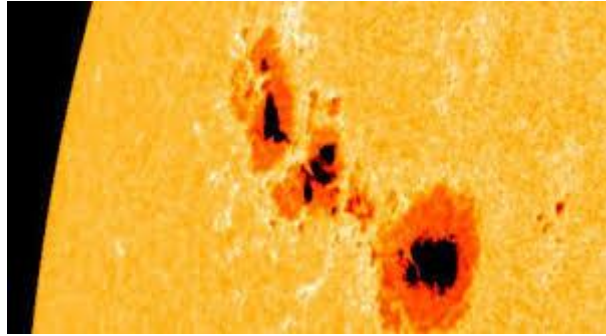


Test Fire of Upper Stage Rocket Engine

- ❖ Skyroot Aerospace, Indian aerospace startup successfully test fired an upper stage rocket engine "Raman".
- ❖ This is an India's first 100% 3D printed bi-propellant liquid rocket engine injector named after the Nobel laureate Sir CV Raman.
- ❖ It also became the first private aerospace company in India to test a rocket engine developed in India.
- ❖ Raman is a lightweight 3D printed rocket engine featuring a fewer number of moving parts.
- ❖ It can place a satellite of 250 to 700 kilograms into the lower orbits.

Sunspot group - AR2770

- ❖ A massive Sunspot group, AR2770, was observed recently using images of the Sun's surface from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO).
- ❖ A Sunspot is an area on the Sun that appears dark on the surface and is relatively cooler than surrounding parts.
- ❖ Also, in this area, star's magnetic field is the strongest, around 2,500 times more than the Earth's magnetic field.
- ❖ These spots, some as large as 50,000 km in diameter, are the visible markers of the Sun's magnetic field.



Arrow-2 Ballistic Missile Interceptor

- ❖ Israel has successfully tested their advanced missile defence system, Arrow-2, a ballistic missile interceptor.
- ❖ It serves as the top tier integrated Israeli shield made to withstand various missile salvos, was built with the support of the United States.
- ❖ Arrow 2 is designed to defend the short and mid-range rockets and long range missiles.

TESS's Primary Mission

- ❖ TESS (Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite) completed its primary mission of imaging 75% of the starry sky during the two-year survey and found 66 new exoplanets.
- ❖ TESS uses the Transit Method to monitor the stars for brightness dip caused by planets orbiting across the stars.
- ❖ TESS the exoplanet-finding Space telescope was launched into the Earth's orbit in April 2018.

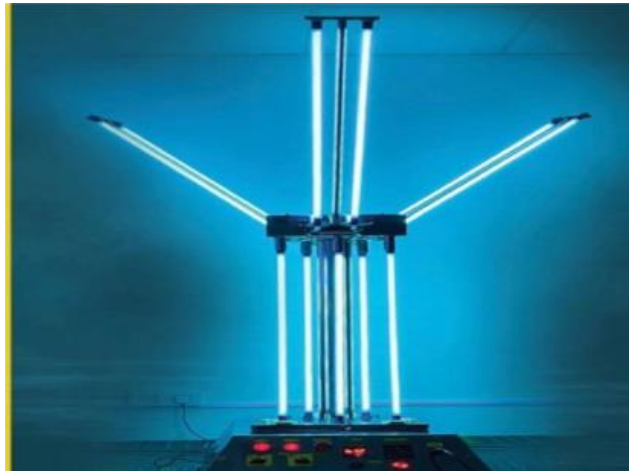
He-enhanced star

- ❖ Indian Scientist discovered a Helium (He)-enhanced cool bright star among metal rich samples of the globular cluster, Omega Centauri.
- ❖ This is the first ever spectroscopic determination of He-abundance in the Omega Centauri.
- ❖ The study gave the important clue for the origin of the He-enhanced population.

UVGI Based Room Disinfection Device

- ❖ IIT- Ropar developed "UVSAFE", a state-of-the-art room disinfection device based on Singular Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI).
- ❖ The device's foldable wings provide a 360-degree disinfection on the frequently used surfaces.

- ❖ The remote-controlled device enables the operator to stay at a safe distance.



Anti-drone system

- ❖ DRDO's anti-drone system was deployed for PM security on August 15.
- ❖ The anti-drone system can detect micro drones up to 3 kilo metres.
- ❖ It uses LASER to bring down target up to 1-2.5 kilo metres.
- ❖ It can detect and identify drone threats.
- ❖ Drones are Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and they are controlled remotely by militants to carry explosives.
- ❖ The DRDO developed counter drone systems were first deployed to provide security cover to Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro when he first arrived in India.



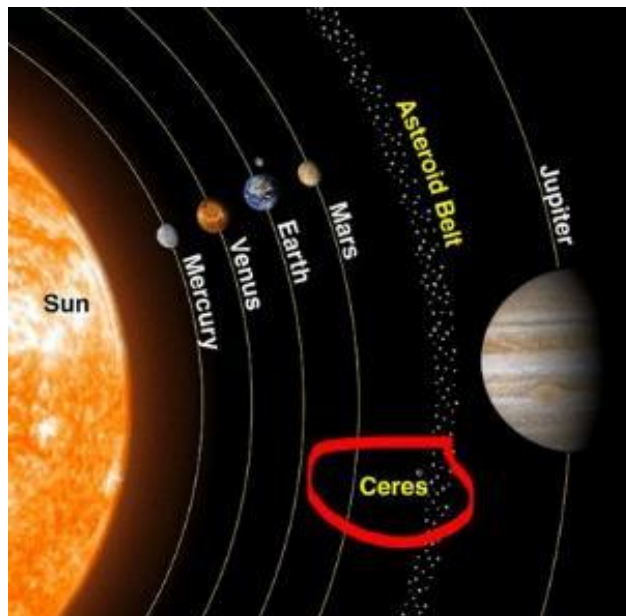
“SALIVA DIRECT” test to detect COVID-19

- ❖ The United States Food and Drugs Administration authorised the emergency use of saliva based diagnostic test for COVID-19.
- ❖ This provides the results rapidly.
- ❖ The testing method has been named “SALIVA DIRECT”.

- ❖ Saliva Direct testing method is simpler and is less expensive as compared to traditional method called the Nasopharyngeal swabbing.

Ceres: An Ocean World

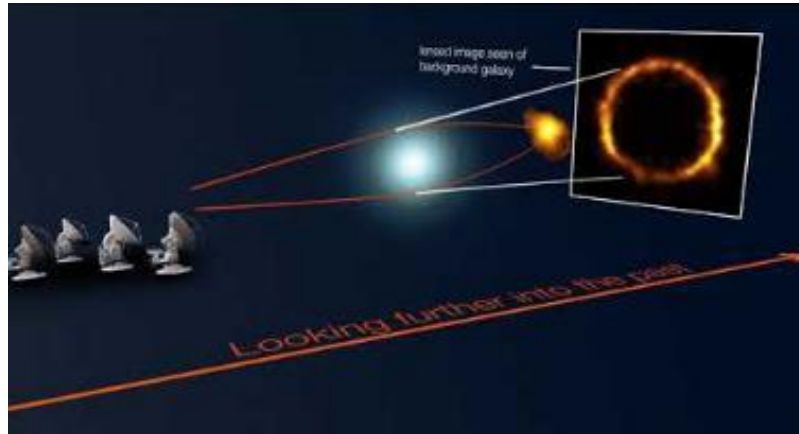
- ❖ Scientists have announced that Ceres, the largest object in the asteroid belt between Jupiter and Mars is an 'Ocean World' which has a big reservoir of salty water under its frigid surface.
- ❖ Other Solar system bodies beyond Earth where subsurface oceans have been known or have appeared to exist include
 - Saturn's moon Enceladus,
 - Jupiter's moon Europa,
 - Dwarf planet Pluto and
 - Neptune's moon Triton.



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SPT0418-47 galaxy

- ❖ The Astronomers at the Max Planck Institute of Astrophysics found a baby galaxy called "SPT0418-47".
- ❖ It is look-alike of the Milky galaxy at 12 billion light-years away.
- ❖ It does not have any spiral arms like the Milky Way but has a rotating disc and a bulge which are similar to the Milky Way.
- ❖ The team utilised gravitational lensing concept using the Atacama Large Millimetre/sub-millimetre Array (ALMA) Telescope.



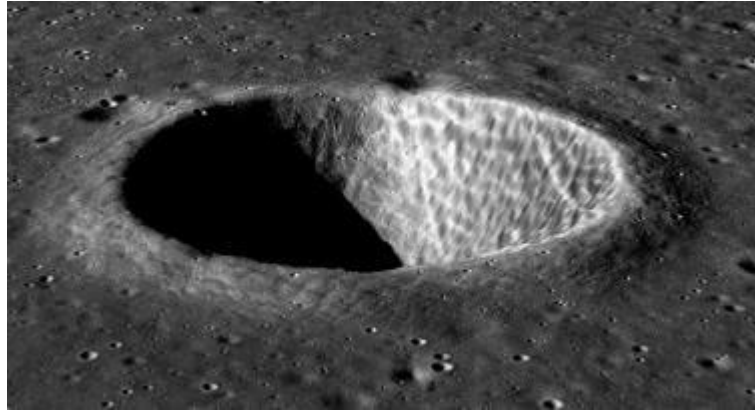
Process to make bricks on lunar surface

- ❖ Team of researchers of Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, and ISRO developed a sustainable process for making brick-like structures named “Space Bricks” on the surface of the moon.
- ❖ The process uses the lunar soil, bacteria and guar beans to make the space brick.
- ❖ The process uses the Urea – sourced from human urine and lunar soil as the raw materials for the construction on the lunar surface which reduces the overall expenditure.



Sarabhai Crater

- ❖ ISRO announced that Chandrayaan-2 has captured images of Crater of the Moon by Terrain Mapping Camera – 2 and named one of the craters as ‘Sarabhai Crater’.
- ❖ Dr Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai is regarded as the Father of Indian Space program.
- ❖ Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai’s 100th birth century was observed on 12th of August, 2020.



"Betelgeuse" and Hubble telescope

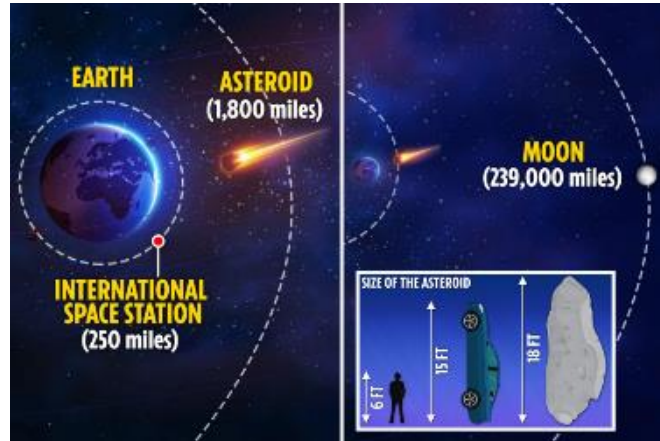
- ❖ Several ground-based telescopes observed the star, Betelgeuse decreasing in brightness in its southern hemisphere in late 2019.
- ❖ This sudden dimming has mystified astronomers, who scrambled to develop several theories for the abrupt change.
- ❖ By April 2020, the star returned to normal brightness.
- ❖ Now, the Hubble observations suggest a dust cloud covering a portion of the star.
- ❖ Betelgeuse, is a star which is about 725 light-years away.

South Atlantic Anomaly

- ❖ The NASA Scientists have discovered a small but an evolving dent in the earth's magnetic field.
- ❖ The dent has been found over South America and South Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ It is an unusually weak spot and is called South Atlantic Anomaly.
- ❖ The South Atlantic Anomaly allows the charged particles to dip closer to the earth's surface than normal.
- ❖ This knocks out onboard computers and is capable of interfering with data collection from satellites.

Asteroid closest fly-by earth

- ❖ Three to six meters long Asteroid has made a record for coming closer to Earth than any other known Near-Earth Asteroids (NEA) without impacting it.
- ❖ As per the reports, it has passed 1,830 miles (2,950 km) above the Southern Indian Ocean.
- ❖ It Dubbed as '2020 QG' and has entered the record books as the closest known non-impacting asteroid.



First Rockets Produced by Private Sector

- ❖ The first ever Pinaka rockets fully manufactured by the private sector company “Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL)” have been successfully test fired at Pokhran.
- ❖ These rockets have been manufactured on the lines of the transfer of technology (ToT) agreement between DRDO and private sector.
- ❖ The Pinaka is a home developed multi barrel rocket launcher system that is already in service with the Indian Army.

Iran’s new Missiles

- ❖ Iran has inaugurated a following locally made surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.
 - Martyr Qassem Soleimani- range of 1,400 km
 - New cruise missile, called Martyr Abu Mahdi - range of over 1000 km.
- ❖ The surface-to-surface ballistic missile is named after Iran’s most powerful military commander, General Qassem Soleimani.
- ❖ The new cruise missile is named after Iraqi militia commander Mujahideen Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.
- ❖ Both were killed in an American drone airstrike at Baghdad International Airport in Iraq in January 2020.

95 New cool brown dwarfs

- ❖ A research team, discovered 95 cold brown dwarfs near our sun through the NASA-funded citizen science project “Backyard Worlds: Planet 9”.
- ❖ These cool worlds offer the opportunity for new insights into the formation and atmospheres of planets beyond the solar system.
- ❖ Brown dwarfs are unusual celestial objects, much heavier than planets but not massive enough to become stars.

ENVIRONMENT

Ammonia in Yamuna Water

- ❖ High levels of ammonia (3 ppm) were recently detected in the Yamuna river.
- ❖ The acceptable maximum limit of ammonia in drinking water, as per the Bureau of Indian Standards, is 0.5 ppm.
- ❖ Ammonia is a colourless gas and is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, synthetic fibres, dyes and other products.

Conservation Assured | Tiger Standards [CA|TS]

- ❖ It is a conservation tool developed in 2013.
- ❖ Tigers are the first species selected for the initiative.
- ❖ CA|TS is being adopted for use beyond tigers, including potentially jaguars, lions and freshwater dolphins.
- ❖ The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) is helping tiger range countries to implement CA|TS.
- ❖ National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) announced the adoption of the across all of the country's 50 Tiger Reserves.
- ❖ This announcement further strengthens India's contribution to the global goal set in 2010 to double the number tigers in the wild, known as TX2.
- ❖ These 50 Tiger Reserves are spread across 18 states containing over 70% of the world's tiger population.
- ❖ By this, India becomes first among the 13 tiger range countries to nationally adopt CA|TS.
- ❖ As per the Tigers Report 2018, an increasing rate of 6% per annum of Tiger population in India from the year 2006 to 2018 was observed.



Aerial Seeding

- ❖ The Haryana Forest Department has started aerial seeding across the state on a pilot basis.
- ❖ This technique will allow plantation in sections of the Aravallis that are either difficult to access or inaccessible altogether.
- ❖ This technology is a boon for areas which are inaccessible or disconnected with the rest of the civilization.

Dhole

- ❖ A research paper on conserving the endangered dhole was published in Mammal Review.
- ❖ Dhole is also known as Asian wild dog, Asiatic wild dog, Indian wild dog, whistling dog, red dog, and mountain wolf.
- ❖ Besides the tiger, the dhole is the only large carnivore in India that is under the IUCN's 'endangered' category.
- ❖ India has the highest number of dholes in the world.
- ❖ Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh rank high in the conservation of the endangered dhole in India.



Indian Leopard

- ❖ As part of its global tiger census, the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is set to release a dedicated report on leopard sightings by the month-end.
- ❖ The last formal census on India's leopards was conducted in 2014 which estimated the cat's population at between 12,000 and 14,000.
- ❖ They also estimated 8,000 leopards in the vicinity of tiger habitat.
- ❖ Leopard Status:
 - Listed on a par with Tigers under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.

- Listed in Appendix I of CITES.
- Listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List.

E-FLOW

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has told the Centre that it has planned to fix the minimum environment flow for the polluted stretches of at least six rivers.
- ❖ E-flow is the minimum limit of flow required to maintain a river in the desired environmental state.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government has planned to regulate the E-flow for polluted stretches of Saryu, Hindon, Ramganga, Betwa, Ghaghara and Rapti rivers.
- ❖ So far, Ganga is the only river in the country for which E-flow has been fixed by the Centre.
- ❖ In 2018, the Ministry of Jal Shakti had issued a notification, fixing the E-flow for Ganga.

India's first snow leopard conservation center

- ❖ The Uttarakhand government has decided to open India's first Snow Leopard Conservation Centre.
- ❖ It will be built by the Uttarakhand forest department along the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ It is a part of its six-year long project securing livelihoods, conservation, sustainable use and restoration of high range Himalayan ecosystems (SECURE) Himalayas.



- ❖ Snow Leopard is listed under
 - Schedule – I of Wildlife Protection Act of India which gives the big cat absolute protection against hunting and poaching.
 - “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red list.

New twig hopper species

- ❖ After a span of 116 years, a first new species of twighopper, (genus *Cladonotus* Saussure) was discovered from the Sinharaja rainforest of Sri Lanka by Croatian and German researchers.
- ❖ This cockcomb-shaped twighopper has been named as *Cladonotus bhaskari* after Dhaneesh Bhaskar, a young conservation biologist and grasshopper expert from Kerala Forest Research Institute.



Future of Polar Bears in Arctic

- ❖ The new study of University of Toronto Scarborough was published in the journal of Nature Climate Change titled “Fasting season length sets temporal limits for global polar bear persistence”.
- ❖ As per the study, climate change is starving the polar bears into extinction and concluded that the Polar bears in the Arctic will become extinct by 2100.
- ❖ The study is the first of its kind to offer a timeline on the loss of arctic sea ice that will affect the reproduction and survival ability of the polar bears.
- ❖ Polar bears are listed as vulnerable to extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with climate change a key factor in their decline.



Tick-borne SFTS virus

- ❖ It has re-emerged in China.
- ❖ The virus was first detected in 2009 and China had isolated pathogen of the virus in 2011.
- ❖ The virus belongs to the Bunyavirus category.
- ❖ It causes severe fever with thrombocytopenia syndrome (SFTS).
- ❖ The virus is known to infect mammalian hosts including cats, mice, hedgehogs, weasels, brushtail possums and yak.

Critical pathogens in Yamuna

- ❖ A team of researchers from the IIT Delhi has found some pathogens that are actually critical in nature, in the Yamuna River.
- ❖ The resistant bacteria found are very much harmful to rivers and they can also harm animals as well as human beings.
- ❖ Pathogens is a term used to define infectious microorganism or agent such as virus, bacteria, protozoa, etc.

Mount Sinabung

- ❖ Volcanic Mountain Sinabung on Sumatra Island in Indonesia erupted recently.
- ❖ It was the second eruption of the volcano in as many days.
- ❖ It is one of the 120 active volcanoes in the country and it is also prone to seismic activity on the Pacific Ring of Fire.



77 new species of butterflies

- ❖ The study conducted by Bombay Natural History Society has found 77 new species of butterflies in the ecologically sensitive forest of Matheran hill station in Mumbai.
- ❖ With this the total number of butterfly species in the forest has gone up to 140.
- ❖ This is the first study in the forest in 125 years after 1894.

BEEG seed balls

- ❖ IIT Kanpur has developed indigenous seed balls named BEEG (Bio compost Enriched Eco friendly Globule).
- ❖ It will help people and farmers in plantation with safety in Corona times and will also provide employment to people.



New species of the Genus Ardisia

- ❖ The scientist of Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, identified a new species of the Genus Ardisia in the Akkamalai forest in the Anamalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The new species Ardisia ramaswamii, named after the 20th Century Botanist M.S. Ramaswami.
- ❖ It is included in the Red list of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

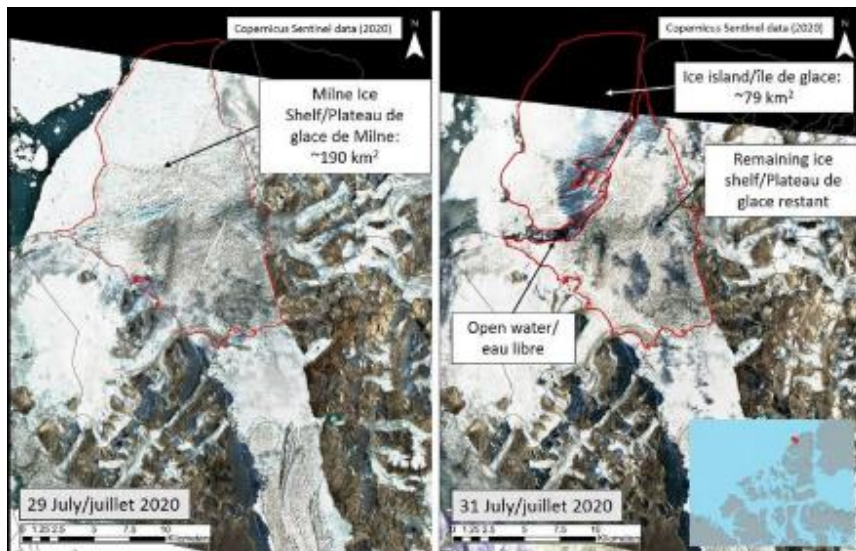
TRAFFIC study on leopards

- ❖ TRAFFIC India has released a paper titled “SPOTTED” in Illegal Wildlife Trade: A Peek into Ongoing Poaching and Illegal Trade of Leopards in India.
- ❖ Of the total of 747 leopard deaths between 2015-2019 in India, 596 were linked to illegal wildlife trade and activities related to poaching.
- ❖ The highest numbers of poaching incidents were reported from the States of Uttarakhand and Maharashtra.

- ❖ TRAFFIC, the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, is the leading non-governmental organisation working globally on the trade of wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity and sustainable development.
- ❖ It was founded in 1976 as a strategic alliance of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Arctic ice split

- ❖ A mass of ice measuring about 81 square km detached from the northern part of the Arctic ice shelf (Milne Ice Shelf) and began drifting north.
- ❖ The Milne ice shelf lost more than 40 per cent of its ice over two days end of July 2020.
- ❖ The Arctic region is warming at twice the rate compared to the rest of the planet due to a feedback mechanism known as the Arctic amplification.



Project Lion and Project Dolphin

- ❖ Prime Minister on August 15, 2020, announced that the centre will launch Project Lion and Project Dolphin using modern technology to replicate the success of Project Tiger.
- ❖ The projects will be launched by the central government for the biodiversity conservation of two endangered species in India.
- ❖ Project Lion is to involve conservation of Asiatic Lions.
- ❖ It will focus on habitat development by engaging modern technologies.
- ❖ The Gangetic Dolphin is one of those indicator species whose status provides information on the overall condition of the ecosystem.
- ❖ The Gangetic Dolphins have been declared 'Endangered' under IUCN Red List of Endangered Species.

- ❖ It has been listed under CITES Appendix-1.

Corals and Indian Monsoon

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) has recently stated that the Corals in the North Indian Ocean have vital answers about the onset and withdrawal of Indian Monsoons.
- ❖ The study states that the bands growing on the coral surface is capable of revealing about paleoclimatic conditions, ambient water temperature, rainfall and other aspects in the past.
- ❖ This is similar to that of the tree rings used to determine the information about the past climate.

Boomerang earthquake

- ❖ Now, an international team of researchers have recorded a 'boomerang' earthquake in the Atlantic Ocean (The Romanche Spreading Zone).
- ❖ It is the rupture initially spreads away from initial break but then turns and runs back the other way at higher speeds.
- ❖ Conventionally, Earthquakes occur when rocks suddenly break on a fault - a boundary between two blocks or plates.



3 cheetahs from South Africa

- ❖ Mysuru Zoo in Karnataka has acquired one male and two female African hunting Cheetah from Ann Van Dyke Cheetah Centre at Johannesburg, South Africa as part of the Animal Exchange Program.
- ❖ The zoo earlier received African hunting cheetahs which widely considered as the fastest terrestrial animal from Germany in 2011.
- ❖ Mysuru zoo is the second zoo in the country to house hunting cheetahs after Hyderabad zoo which has a pair of big cats.

Natural Gas reserves in Black Sea

- ❖ According to the announcement made by the Turkish President, 320 billion cubic metres of natural gas has been discovered in black Sea.
- ❖ Turkey is highly dependent on Russia, Iran and Iraq for its energy resources.
- ❖ Thus, the discovery of oil exploration will help to reduce its imports.



STATES

Capital of Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The Governor of Andhra Pradesh Biswa Bhusan Harichandan gave his assent to the Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Bill 2020.
- ❖ The clearance of the decentralisation Bill facilitates the development of Amaravati, Kurnool and Visakhapatnam as the Legislative, Judicial and Executive Capitals respectively.

Valmiki Community

- ❖ Valmiki get domicile certificates in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The community members will now get a right to life, right to vote, right to government jobs, right to professional colleges and reservation.
- ❖ They came to Jammu and Kashmir as “sanitary workers” on the request of the then government before Sixty-three years.

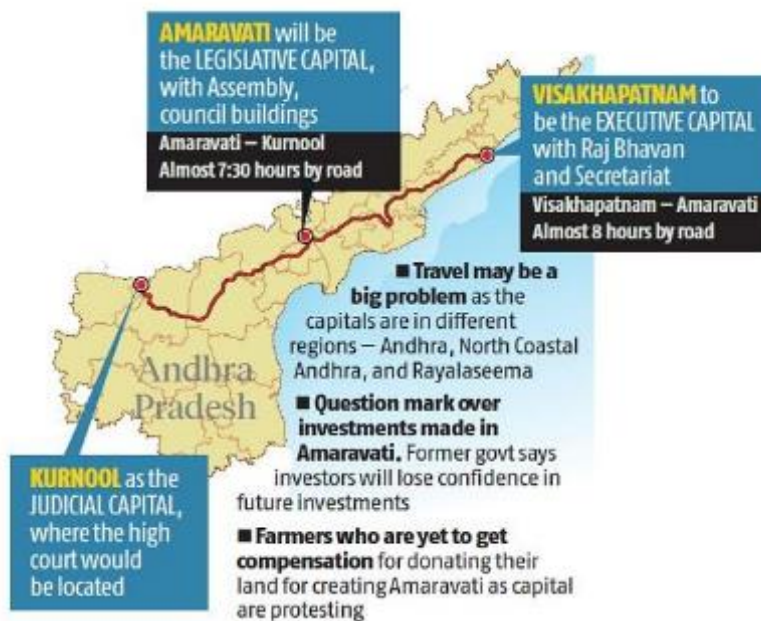
Indira Rasoi Yojana

- ❖ Rajasthan State Government plans to start Indira Rasoi Yojana.
- ❖ It's motto is 'No Hunger No Sleep'.
- ❖ The scheme was inspired by Chennai's “Amma Ki Rasoi”.

Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi” awareness campaign

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh launched a public awareness campaign “Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi” from August 1-15.
- ❖ “Ek Mask-Anek Zindagi” – means one mask, many lives.
- ❖ The campaign will spread awareness about wearing masks as prevention from Covid-19 infection.

Three capitals for Andhra Pradesh



- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh high court has stayed the notifications on the formation of three capitals for the state.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Assembly, in January 2020, passed The Andhra Pradesh Decentralisation and Equal Development of All Regions Bill, 2020.
- ❖ This law paves the way for three capitals for the state.
 - Amaravati– legislative capital.
 - Visakhapatnam– executive capital.
 - Kurnool– judicial capital.

Parivar Pehchan Patra-PPP

- ❖ It is Launched by Haryana government.
- ❖ PPP will enable the citizens to get the benefits of various central and state government schemes at their door-step in a fair and transparent manner.
- ❖ PPP will provide a unique identity to complete family and it would have name of the head of the family on top.

Works Management System” Web Portal

- ❖ Haryana’s Urban local bodies and Home Minister Anil Vij launched the first of its kind, “Works Management System”.
- ❖ It is a web-based, paperless and centralised web portal for the management and monitoring of the development works in the Urban Local Bodies (ULB) in Haryana.
- ❖ This centralised web portal will bring in all the workings of ULB in Haryana under a single platform and any kind of delay in the completion of works will be displayed on the portal.

Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ Girish Chandra Murmu, Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir resigned from his office.
- ❖ He was the first Lt Governor of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and appointed in October 2019.
- ❖ Now Manoj Sinha, former Union Minister, is the new Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir

Partnership with Google for Learning Tools for Schools

- ❖ The Government of Maharashtra announced the partnership with Google which will provide google provided learning programmes that integrate the classroom approach into online learning.
- ❖ Maharashtra became the first state in India to collaborate with Google India for state-wide distribution of G suite for Education and Google Classroom.

The YSR Cheyutha Scheme

- ❖ It is to be launched in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It aims to empower women from minority castes.
- ❖ The AP Government will also launch the YSR Asara Scheme along with YSR Cheyutha Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme is to benefit 90 lakh women of self-help group.

Tendu leaves scheme

- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Chief Minister (CM) Bhupesh Baghel launched a social security scheme namely “Shaheed Mahendra Karma Tendupatta Sangraha Samajik Suraksha Yojana” for tendu leaves collectors in the state.
- ❖ Tendu leaves are used for making bidis (leaf-wrapped cigarettes).

Schemes for girls & women

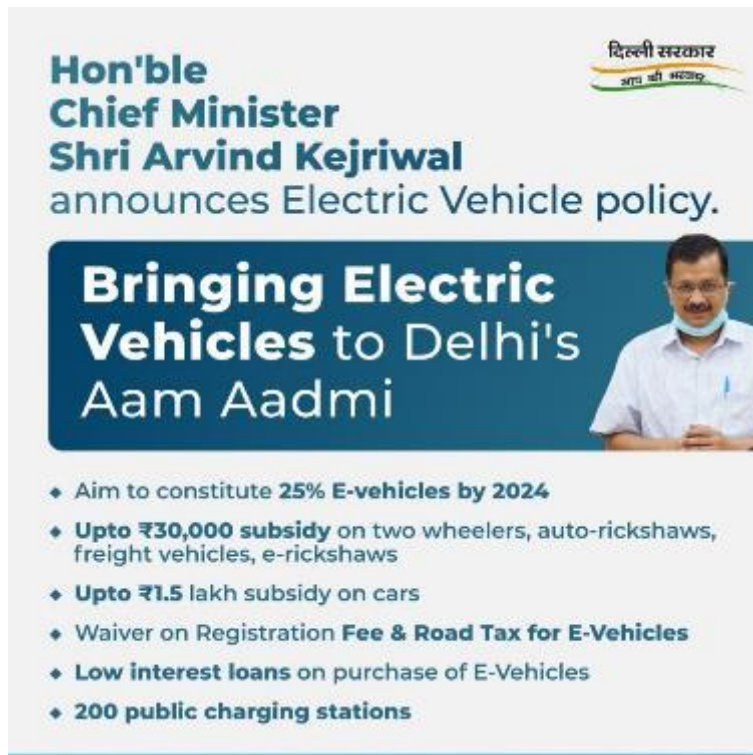
- ❖ In order to give a major boost to "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign, Haryana Govt launched 2 new schemes.
- ❖ "Mahila Evam Kishori Samman Yojana" is to provide free sanitary napkins to girls and women of below poverty line (BPL) families.
- ❖ "Mukhya Mantri Doodh Uphar Yojana" to provide fortified flavoured skimmed milk powder to women and children.

Gujarat Industrial Policy 2020

- ❖ The Gujarat State Government launched the "Industrial Policy 2020".
- ❖ Under the policy, the State Government will appoint dedicated "relationship managers" to host Vibrant Gujarat Summit in January 2021.
- ❖ The policy will help industries willing to relocate from China through "Relocation Incentives".

Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy

- ❖ Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched "Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy".
- ❖ Under the new policy, the State Government of Delhi will waive registration fee and road tax.
- ❖ The policy aims to boost economy, create jobs and reduce pollution levels.
- ❖ Also, it aims to constitute 25% electric vehicles by 2024.



The infographic features a header with the Delhi Government logo and the text 'Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal announces Electric Vehicle policy.' Below this, a large blue box contains the title 'Bringing Electric Vehicles to Delhi's Aam Aadmi' next to a photo of the Chief Minister. A list of policy points follows, each preceded by a diamond icon.

Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Arvind Kejriwal announces Electric Vehicle policy.

Bringing Electric Vehicles to Delhi's Aam Aadmi

- ♦ Aim to constitute **25% E-vehicles by 2024**
- ♦ **Upto ₹30,000 subsidy** on two wheelers, auto-rickshaws, freight vehicles, e-rickshaws
- ♦ **Upto ₹1.5 lakh subsidy** on cars
- ♦ **Waiver on Registration Fee & Road Tax for E-Vehicles**
- ♦ **Low interest loans** on purchase of E-Vehicles
- ♦ **200 public charging stations**

Reservation of Seats for Women in Village Employment Councils

- ❖ Meghalaya cabinet approved the “Policy on Reservation of seats for Women in Village Employment Councils.
- ❖ This policy is reserving 50% seats for women in the village level community institutions.
- ❖ This policy ensures the empowerment of Women by establishing a forum for women to exercise their leadership and freedom.

Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana - Gujarat

- ❖ The Gujarat government has launched the ‘Mukhya Mantri Kisan Sahay Yojana’ as a temporary replacement of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) for a year.
- ❖ The main reason has been cited as the high premiums quoted by insurance firms in the state.
- ❖ PMFBY was launched in 2016 to provide comprehensive insurance coverage against crop failure and all kinds of oilseed and annual commercial/horticulture crops are covered.

Indira Van Mitan Yojana - Chhattisgarh

- ❖ On the occasion of the World Tribal Day (9th August), Chhattisgarh government has decided to launch Indira Van Mitan Yojana.
- ❖ This scheme will open employment opportunities for the tribal people so that they become self-reliant and also prosper in life.

Smartphones to students - Punjab

- ❖ The Punjab government has started to distribution of smartphones to students free of cost.
- ❖ Previously the state government had announced to give smartphones to all boys and girls studying in Class XII in all the government schools in the state.
- ❖ The reason is that online classes have become very much necessary in this pandemic situation.



First Silk Training cum Production Center

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has decided to open the first of its kind training and production centre of silk in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ This centre will come up in Chullyu village in the state.
- ❖ KVIC is a statutory body formed in April 1957 and apex organization under the Ministry of MSME.

New GI Tags to Goa

- ❖ Goa's Harmal Chillies, Moira bananas & Khaje gets Geographical Indications (GI) from the Geographical Indications Registry.
- ❖ Harmal Chillies are grown only in Harmal village and adjacent areas of Pernem taluka- specifically in the coastal village of Arambol.
- ❖ Moira bananas are unique bananas grown in Moira village of Bardez taluka & Bicholim Taluka.
- ❖ Khaje, the traditional state sweet is an integral part of the Hindu jatras and Catholic feasts held in the state.

Karma Sathi Prakalpa scheme

- ❖ On the occasion of International Youth Day 2020, the West Bengal government launched the 'Karma Sathi Prakalpa' scheme.
- ❖ Under this scheme 1 lakh unemployed youth will be provided soft loans and subsidies so as to make them self-reliant.

YSR Cheyutha scheme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh govt launched "YSR Cheyutha" a scheme to ensure the sustainable livelihood of women by providing a financial assistance.
- ❖ This scheme aims to:

- To support the contribution of women in economic progress.
- To provide technical assistance to the women interested to invest money in business.

Ordinance to Enhance Punishment

- ❖ The State Cabinet of Odisha approved a proposal which will enhance the penalty for violators of the COVID-19 regulations.
- ❖ The State proposals to effect necessary amendments in the Epidemic Diseases Act 1897.
- ❖ The provision to levy punishments has been provided in the Section 3 of the Act.

Patriots' Day - Manipur

- ❖ Patriots' Day is observed annually on August 13 in Manipur.
- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the 1891 Anglo-Manipuri war during which many sacrificed their lives to safeguard the independence of the State.

German Vocational Training

- ❖ Government of Goa signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Siemens Limited and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) India.
- ❖ It aims to provide world class German dual vocational education and training in Goa's Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs).
- ❖ This is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between the state government, industry and an international development for skill training in Goa.

AI for Agricultural Innovation Program

- ❖ The Government of Telangana has launched Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation Programme (AI4AI).
- ❖ For this govt collaborate with Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR) & World Economic Forum (WEF) – India.



Orunodoi Scheme

- ❖ The Government of Assam will roll out the 'Orunodoi' Scheme from October 2, 2020.
- ❖ It will provide Financial Assistance through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to around 17 Lakh Families in the state.
- ❖ It is expected to be the largest direct benefit Transfer scheme in Assam.

Early Warning System at Guwahati

- ❖ Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) was launched by The Energy and Resources Institute's (TERI) in Assam.
- ❖ It is a Fully automated web-based tool and it will alert the local authorities to predict flash floods and heavy rainfall in Guwahati.
- ❖ Guwahati will be the third city after Chennai and Mumbai to have a Flood Warning system.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Earth Science has plans to set up similar systems in Kolkata and Bengaluru by 2021.

Industrial corridor between Mysuru and Bidar

- ❖ Karnataka announced that the State Government is to build an industrial corridor between Mysuru and Bidar.
- ❖ This is being done to augment the development of commerce and industry in the state.
- ❖ An industrial corridor in India is a multi-modal transport service that will pass through several states.

Other New Industrial corridors

- ❖ In December 2019, the following five industrial corridors were announced by Government of India.
 - Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor.
 - Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor.
 - Bengaluru-Mumbai Economic Corridor.
 - Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor.
 - East Coast Economic Corridor.

World Tallest Pier Bridge in Manipur

- ❖ The Indian Railways is constructing world's tallest pier bridge in the state of Manipur.
- ❖ The bridge is 141 metres high.

- ❖ It has surpassed the record of 139 metres tall Mala-Rijeka bridge in Montenegro, Europe.
- ❖ The bridge is a part of the 111 km long Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal railway line project.
- ❖ The project is to have 45 tunnels.
- ❖ The 12th tunnel in the project will be the longest tunnel in the North East.



Naga Independence Day

- ❖ On August 14, 2020, the 74th Naga Independence Day was celebrated in the states of Nagaland and Manipur.
- ❖ Nagaland became a state in 1963.
- ❖ However, a section of Naga leaders is continuing the movement claiming for sovereignty.
- ❖ Nagaland celebrates its Statehood Day on December 1.
- ❖ The state was carved out of Assam in 1963 as the 16th state of the country.

Panel for autonomous Region

- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh Government formed a committee to discuss possible solutions of the Patkai Autonomous Council and Mon autonomous Region.
- ❖ This is created under the chairmanship of Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein.
- ❖ The regions under the Autonomous councils of Arunachal Pradesh are currently under the Fifth Schedule of Indian Constitution.
- ❖ This does not provide special rights for the indigenous communities as that of the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The Sixth Schedule includes 10 autonomous district councils in 4 north eastern states.

- ❖ It seeks to safeguard the rights of the tribal population by forming Autonomous District Councils.

Powers of the Autonomous Councils

- ❖ These Autonomous Councils can make laws on land management, forest management, formation of village council, public health and sanitation, marriage, social customs, mining, money lending, inheritance of property, village and town level policing.

‘Padhai Tuhar Para’ scheme

- ❖ Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel launched the ‘Padhai Tuhar Para’ scheme.
- ❖ It aims to enable school students to learn from their respective localities as the classes are being suspended due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.
- ❖ He informed that the following schemes also will be introduced and committees will be set up for new appointments and promotions in the state.
 - Bluetooth-based programme ‘Bultu Ke Bol’,
 - ‘Mukhyamantri Slum Swasthya Yojana’,
 - ‘Radhabai Diagnostic Centre Scheme.

Yellow Chain e-commerce platform

- ❖ Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, launched ‘Yellow Chain’ an e-commerce platform.
- ❖ It aims to promote local business & entrepreneurship.
- ❖ It has also released an app for mobile services in the same name.
- ❖ Using the platform any seller/service provider/Individual/Group can register and upload their products, skills or services to enable the customer to purchase it.

Restart Meghalaya Mission

- ❖ CM of Meghalaya launched the restart Meghalaya Mission to revive the development activities which were stalled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This mission was based on the recommendations on the short, medium- and long-term measures to revive the state’s economy.

African Swine Fever in Meghalaya

- ❖ African swine fever has spread to Meghalaya, more than 17,000 pigs have died due to the highly-contagious disease in adjoining Assam.
- ❖ It is a contagious haemorrhagic viral disease affecting domestic and wild pigs.

- ❖ The disease was first detected in Kenya in 1909 and are later found in regions of Asia, Europe and Africa.
- ❖ According to the World Organisation for Animal Health, ASF is caused by a large DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family.
- ❖ The virus can be spread by ticks and can also be transmitted by direct or indirect contact with infected pigs, faeces or body fluids.

Domicile based Job Quota

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently made announcement that that the state government jobs will only be given to the "children of the state".
- ❖ But the following Article of Indian Constitution clearly prohibits discrimination based on place of birth.
- ❖ **Article 16:** This Article prohibits states from discriminating in matters of employment on grounds of place of birth or residence.
- ❖ **Article 16(2):** It states that in respect of employment or office in the state, no citizen should be discriminated on the grounds of "religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them".
- ❖ Exception in **Article 16(3):** This clause provides an exception by stating that the Parliament can form a law "prescribing" the requirement of residence for jobs in any state.
- ❖ However, this can only be done by Parliament, not by state legislatures.

Thumbi mahotsavam 2020

- ❖ It is the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala.
- ❖ World Wide Fund for Nature - India (WWF – India) State unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbi puranam for the festival.
- ❖ The Dragonfly Festival started in 2018.



Jharkhand GOVT New Logo

- ❖ Jharkhand unveiled its new logo for the state.
- ❖ The Ashok pillar has been boiled in its central part.
- ❖ This reflects India's best cooperative federalism and Jharkhand's participation in it.

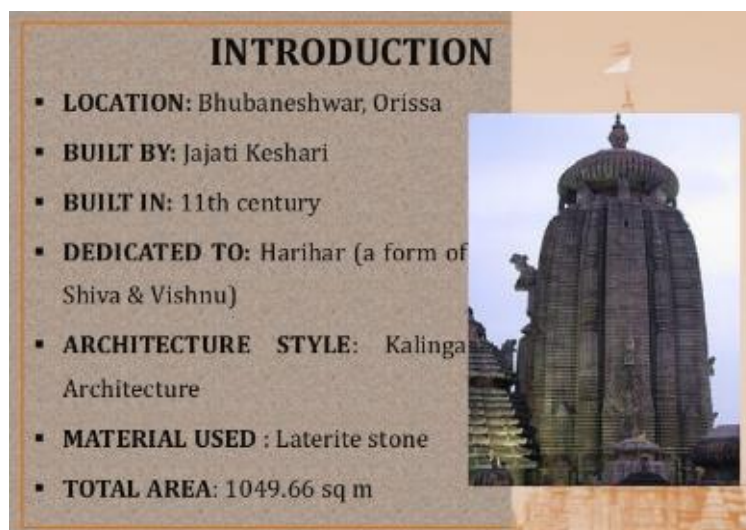


Dhanwantari Rath

- ❖ Under the initiative the health services are to be provided at the door steps of Delhi Police families.
- ❖ The mobile unit that is to provide the services are named “Dhanwantari Rath”.
- ❖ The Dhanwantari Rath launched is a continuation of the “Ayuraksha”.
- ❖ The Ayuraksha is a joint venture of All India Institute of Ayurveda and Delhi Police.
- ❖ It aims to maintain health of frontline COVID-19 warriors.

Revamp of Lingaraj Temple

- ❖ The Odisha government has decided to give a facelift to the 11th century Lingaraj Temple, akin to its pre-350-year structural status.



- ❖ Further, the government is planning a barrier-free access between the Temple and Bindusagar lake.
- ❖ Lingaraj Temple, built in 11th century AD, is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is considered as the largest temple of the city Bhubaneswar.

India's Longest River Ropeway

- ❖ The Guwahati Passenger Ropeway Project connecting the Northern and Southern banks of the Brahmaputra River was inaugurated.
- ❖ The ropeway service is 1.8 Kilometres long, making it the longest ropeway distance over a river in the entire country.



First Marine Ambulance

- ❖ The Government of Kerala has launched Marine Ambulance services, PRATHEEKSHA to provide more efficient rescue.
- ❖ This ambulance is capable of providing critical care to up to five people simultaneously.
- ❖ The other marine ambulances that are to be deployed are Pratyasha and Karunya.
- ❖ The ambulances to be deployed are as follows:
 - Pratheeksha in Thiruvananthapuram,
 - Pratyasha in Ernakulam,
 - Karunya in Kozhikode.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

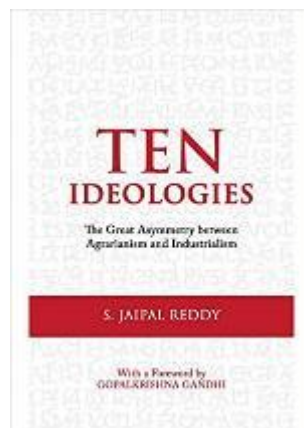
Burnt Sugar - Book

- ❖ A debut novel 'Burnt Sugar' authored by Avni Doshi has been published in the United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ A version of the same novel has been published in India under the title Girl in White Cotton.
- ❖ It was one among the 13 authors longlisted for the prestigious 2020 Booker Prize.
- ❖ The award is based on a novel of the year written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.



Padi Bhavajaalalu - Book

- ❖ M Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India virtually unveiled the "Padi Bhavajaalalu" book.
- ❖ It is the Telugu version of Ten Ideologies book authored by former Union Minister Late S Jaipal Reddy.



National Awards for excellence in Earth System Science

- ❖ The Ministry of Earth Sciences has announced these awards.
- ❖ The Ministry has awarded the Lifetime Excellence Award 2020 to Professor Ashok Sahni for his major contributions in the field of Biostratigraphy, Geology and Vertebrate Paleontology.
- ❖ The National Award for the Ocean Science and Technology has been awarded to Dr. V.V.S.S. Sharma.
- ❖ He is a Senior Principle Scientist at National Institute of Oceanography at Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ M Ravichandran, Director of National centre for Polar and Ocean Research of Goa has also been awarded the National Award for Ocean Science and Technology.

Mr. Democracy

- ❖ The former Taiwanese President Mr. Lee Teng-hui died at Taipei City, Taiwan.
- ❖ He was popularly known as “Mr. Democracy” for eradicating the dictatorial rule in Taiwan.

Food Vision 2050

- ❖ US-based Rockefeller Foundation has selected Naandi Foundation, a Hyderabad based non-profit organisation, as one of the top 10 ‘Visionaries’ in the world for the Food Vision 2050 Prize.
- ❖ This model leads to the Food Vision 2050 that follows an ‘ABCDEFGH’ framework - Agriculture, Biology, Compost, Decentralised decision-making, Entrepreneurs, Families, Global Markets, and ‘Headstands’, or turning current approaches on their head.

Online patriotic film festival

- ❖ The National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) is organized a first of its kind, online patriotic film festival.



- ❖ The virtual film festival will be a part of Independence Day Celebrations 2020 by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- ❖ The festival will be showcasing Indian History that marks the bravery of the country's freedom fighters and will aim at creating a festive and patriotic mood in the present times among the Indians across the world.

Ajay Tyagi

- ❖ The SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi has been given a term extension of 18 months till February 2022.
- ❖ The decision was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister.
- ❖ The government had granted a 6-month extension to him before the expiry of his three-year tenure on March 1, 2020.

John Hume

- ❖ John Hume, the Nobel Peace Prize Winner and a prominent Northern Ireland politician passed away.
- ❖ Mr. Hume had played a major role in the peace talks which ultimately led to the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.
- ❖ The Good Friday Agreement or Belfast Agreement is a pair of agreements signed on April 10, 1998.
- ❖ It led to the end of most of the violence of troubles, which was a political conflict in Northern Ireland that had been going on since the 1960s.
- ❖ The present devolved system of government in Northern Ireland is based on this agreement.

Prem Bhatia award 2020

- ❖ Prem Bhatia award 2020 is conferred upon,
 - Indian Express reporter Dipankar Ghose – 'Outstanding Political Reporting of The Year' and
 - People's Archive of Rural India (PARI), a non-profit journalism website – 'Outstanding Environmental Reporting of The Year'.
- ❖ The Prem Bhatia awards were instituted in 1995 by the Prem Bhatia Memorial Trust, in memory of eminent journalist Prem Bhatia.

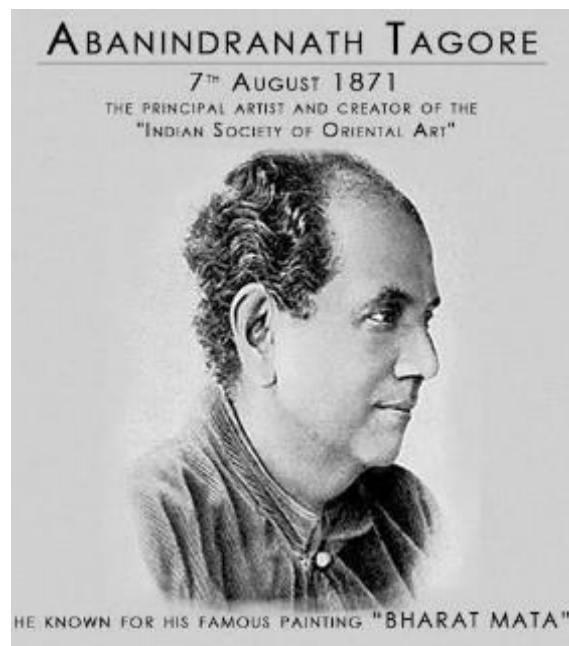
GYTI Awards 2020

- ❖ Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI) Awards 2020 is bestowed to a group of researchers from IIT Kharagpur.

- ❖ This is given for developing a mechanism for generating electricity from wet clothes left under sunlight to dry.
- ❖ The same award was presented separately to another team of the IIT Kharagpur for addressing the problem of energy conservation and thermal management in wearable and flexible electronic devices.

150th Birth Anniversary of Abanindranath Tagore

- ❖ National Gallery of Modern Art is organised the virtual tour titled “The Great Maestro Abanindranath Tagore” to commemorate the 150th anniversary.
- ❖ He was one of the most prominent artists of Bengal school of art in India.
- ❖ He was the first major supporter of swadeshi values in Indian art.
- ❖ He first created the ‘Indian Society of Oriental Art’ and later went on to establish Bengal school of art.
- ❖ Famous paintings are: Bharat Mata, The Passing of Shah Jahan (1900), My Mother (1912–13), Fairyland illustration (1913), Journey’s End (1913).



MS Swaminathan Award

- ❖ Telangana State Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor V Praveen Rao has won the 7th Dr MS Swaminathan Award for the period 2017-2019.
- ❖ The award recognising his contributions in the fields of agricultural research, teaching, and administration.
- ❖ Praveen Rao handled 13 research & 6 consultancy projects on micro-irrigation in India, Israel and South Africa.

Asian College of Journalism Award 2019

- ❖ Asian College of Journalism award 2019 was conferred upon:
 - Nitin Sethi for investigative journalism and
 - K P Narayana Kumar Memorial Award 2019 for Social Impact Journalism is bestowed upon Shiv Sahay Singh.

Gallantry and Police Awards

- ❖ The President approved 84 awards and decorations to the Armed Forces personnel and members of the Paramilitary Forces.
- ❖ The awards include one Kirti Chakra, nine Shaurya Chakras, five Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 60 Sena Medals (Gallantry), four Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and five Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- ❖ Kirti Chakra, country's second highest peacetime gallantry award was awarded posthumously to Abdul Rashid Kalas, Head Constable, J&K Police.
- ❖ Shaurya Chakra is the third highest peacetime gallantry award while Ashok Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award.
- ❖ A total of 926 Police personnel has been awarded Medals.
- ❖ Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) have been awarded to 215 police personnel for their conspicuous gallant action.
- ❖ President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service has been awarded to 80 police personnel.
- ❖ Police Medal for Meritorious Service awarded to 631 police personnel.

National Sports Awards 2020

- ❖ National Sports Awards 2020 were announced by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ The total of 73 awardees in 7 categories will receive their awards from the President of India.
- ❖ This is the first time in the history of National Sports awards that 5 sportspersons named for Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award and 27 athletes for Arjuna Award.
- ❖ Also, 8 para-sports personalities named in the National Sports Awards 2020.
- ❖ Rohit Sharma is only the 4th cricketer after Sachin Tendulkar (1st), Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Virat Kohli to get Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.
- ❖ Vinesh Phogat became the first woman wrestler to win an Asian Games gold medal in 2018.
- ❖ Rani became the third hockey player and first female hockey player to be recommended for this award.

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award	
Rohit Sharma	Cricket
Mariyappan Thangavelu	Para Athletics
Manika Batra	Table Tennis
Vinesh Phogat	Wrestling
Rani Rampal	Hockey

Millennium Alliance Round 6 & COVID19 Innovation Challenge-Award

- ❖ It awarded 49 innovative solutions in 5 focus sectors of India.
- ❖ Also, 16 innovators were awarded in the category COVID 19 Innovation Challenge.
- ❖ The 5 focus sectors in India's are Education, Health, Clean Energy, Water & Sanitation, Agriculture.
- ❖ These awarded innovations were selected after a rigorous evaluation process undertaken by FICCI with the help of the program partners and subject matter experts.



Swachhta Hi Seva 2019 Award

- ❖ Neyveli Lignite Corporation has bagged the award for making an extremely valuable contribution in the implementation of the "Swachhta Hi Seva Programme".
- ❖ Award was conferred to the following three units of NLCIL:
 - Township Administration Office: First rank
 - Thermal Power Station-1: Second rank
 - Mines Sub-Stores: Third rank

World's Fastest Human Calculator title

- ❖ Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash Jonnalagadda of Hyderabad has bagged the first ever Gold Medal for India in Mental Calculations (MC) World Cup (MCWC).
- ❖ He holds 4 World Records and 50 Limca records for being the fastest human calculator in the world.
- ❖ Lebanese contender Mohammed El Mir secured the Silver Medal and Asmita Pal from the UAE bagged the Bronze medal.
- ❖ India's Aryan Shukla got fourth place.



SPORTS

Lewis Hamilton

- ❖ Formula One Champion Mercedes Lewis Hamilton (British) won British Grand Prix 2020 (officially known as the Formula 1 Pirelli British Grand Prix 2020) held at the Silverstone Circuit in Silverstone, United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ This is his 7th time to win this title.
- ❖ He is the only racer to win most in British GP.

M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina retirement

- ❖ Indian Cricket players M S Dhoni and Suresh Raina announced their retirement from International Cricket.
- ❖ Dhoni was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2018, Padma Shri in 2009 and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2007-08.
- ❖ Under his captainship, India won the 2011 World Cup.
- ❖ Indian Army conferred with honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 2011.
- ❖ Raina was the first Indian to hit T20 century.

- ❖ He was the first Indian player and second in the world after Chris Gayle to hit 100 sixes in IPL.



1st fast bowler to take 600 Test wickets

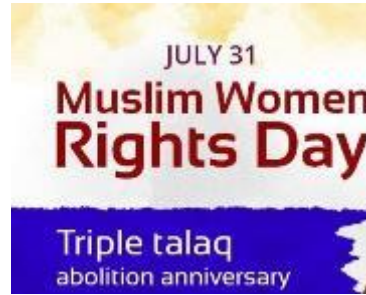
- ❖ England pacer James Anderson has become the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets in the third Test against Pakistan.
- ❖ He is the fourth bowler in the test cricket to join the 600-Plus Club with the three legendary spinners Sri Lankan Muttiah Muralitharan (800), Australian Shane Warne (708) and Indian Anil Kumble (619).



IMPORTANT DAYS

Muslim Women Rights Day - July 31

- ❖ It was commemorating the first anniversary of the law against instant triple talaq.
- ❖ The law, formally called the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, 2019, was passed last year.
- ❖ It prohibits the practice of instant divorce by Muslim men.
- ❖ Any violation of the law is punishable by jail term of up to three years.



World Breastfeeding Week

- ❖ It is celebrated annually in the first week of August (from 1st of August to 7th of August).
- ❖ The theme for the year 2020 is, “Support Breast feeding for a healthier planet”.
- ❖ The day commenced after signing the Innocenti Declaration in August 1990.
- ❖ It is organised by the WABA, WHO and UNICEF.
- ❖ The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a network of people working on a global scale to eliminate obstacles to breastfeeding

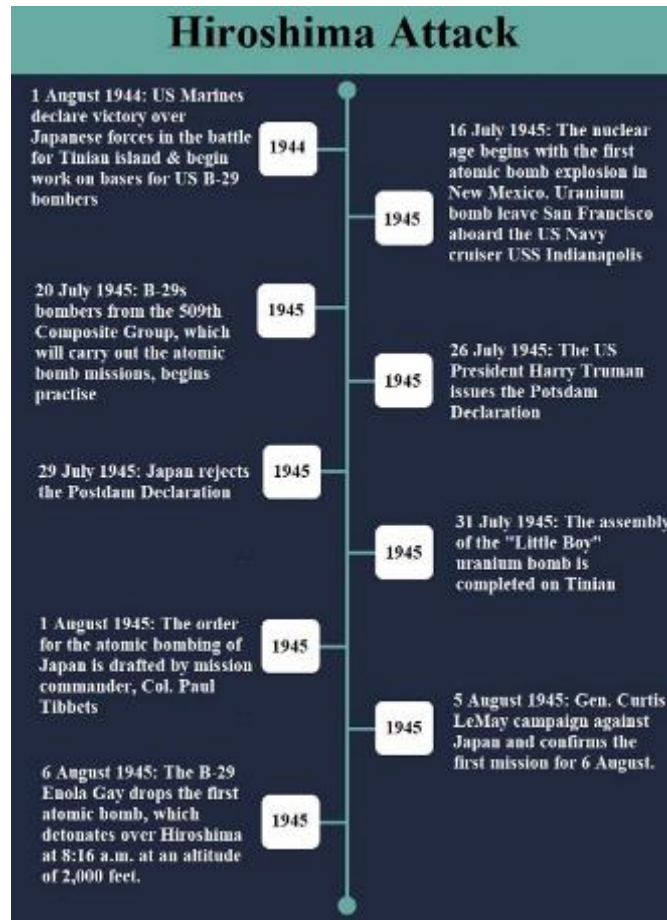
World Breastfeeding Week:
Support Breastfeeding
For a Healthier Planet

World Sanskrit Day - August 3

- ❖ The Government of India declared to celebrate the world Sanskrit day on the Sharvana poornima, in 1969.
- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) broadcast its first ever special program titled, ‘Bahujan Bhasha-Sanskrit Bhasha’ on this day
- ❖ The New Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) with an aim to multilingualism, promotes Sanskrit language in school and higher educational level.

Hiroshima Day - August 06

- ❖ Hiroshima Day is observed to mark the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan by the US in 1945.
- ❖ Hiroshima Day 2020 marks the 75th year of walking the path of the atomic bomb.
- ❖ The day aims to promote peace politics against the war.



World Lung Cancer Day - August 1

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about the causes and treatment of lung cancer and its global impact, creating an educational movement to understand the risks of lung cancer and early treatment around the world.
- ❖ The World Lung Cancer Day campaign was initiated in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) in collaboration with the members of the international lung health community such as
 - The International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC)
 - The American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST) in the U.S.
- ❖ The IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) is the largest organisation in the world of its kind that only deals with lung cancer.

World Lung Cancer Day August 1



**Early Detection
SAVES LIVES**

**You can help.
Pass on this message.**

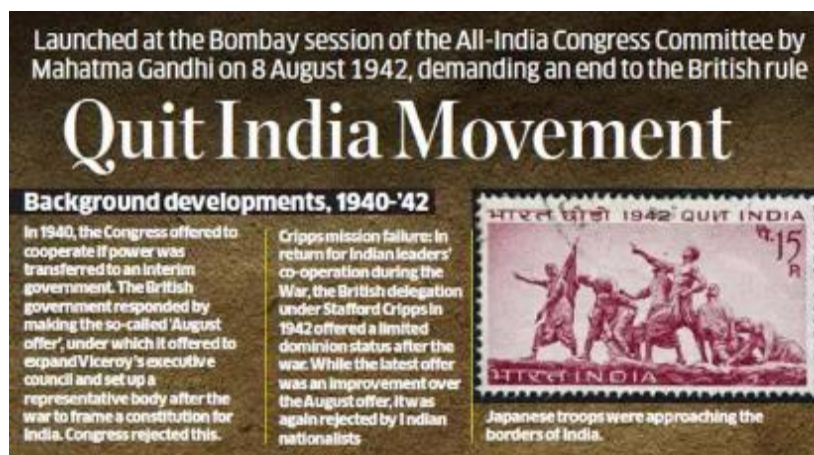
National Bone and Joint Day- August 04

- ❖ It aims to create awareness among the public about the perils of common orthopaedic illnesses that afflict society.
- ❖ 'Prevention of deformity in degenerative disease' is the theme for this year.
- ❖ The National Bone and Joint Day was an initiative started in 2012 by the then President of the Indian Orthopaedic Association.



Quit India Day - August 9

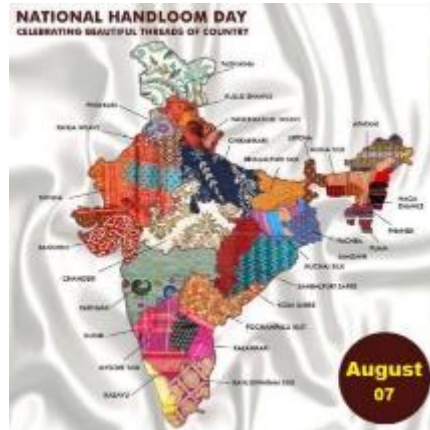
- ❖ Bharat Chodo Andolan or August Kranti Movement was launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee on August 8, 1942.
- ❖ The movement was started on August 9, 1942 in Gowalia Tank.
- ❖ It is also known as August Kranti Maidan.
- ❖ On this day, Gandhi gave a 'do or die' call to the people of India in a final push to make the British quit.
- ❖ The first half of the movement was peaceful with demonstrations and processions.



- ❖ But the second half of the movement was violent with raids and setting fire at government buildings and railway stations.

- ❖ After the arrest of major leaders, young Aruna Asaf Ali presided over the AICC session.

National Handloom Day - August 7



- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in 1905.
- ❖ The movement was launched in Calcutta Town Hall to protest against partition of Bengal by the British Government.
- ❖ It was first declared as National Handloom Day in 2015.
- ❖ It is being celebrated under the coordination of Ministry of Textiles.

International day of the world's indigenous peoples- August 9

- ❖ It aims to create awareness and to conserve the rights of indigenous people.
- ❖ The day was first pronounced by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1994.
- ❖ 1995-2004 observed as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.
- ❖ This year's theme is "COVID-19 and indigenous peoples' resilience"



World Biofuel day - August 10

- ❖ The day aims to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- ❖ Bio-fuels are basically green fuels which are environment friendly fuels and their utilization would address global concerns about containment of carbon emissions.
- ❖ On August 10th in 1893, Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of the diesel engine) for the first time successfully ran mechanical engine with groundnut oil.
- ❖ Thus, to mark this achievement, World Biofuel Day is observed per year on 10th August.
- ❖ In India, the Government approved the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 in June 2018.
- ❖ It has the objective of reaching 20% ethanol-blending and 5% biodiesel-blending by the year 2030.



National Deworming Day - August 10

- ❖ Every year National Deworming Day is observed twice on February 10th and August 10th.
- ❖ The days aim at eradicating intestinal worms also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH), among children in the age group of 1-19 years.
- ❖ It was started in 2015 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ The program is implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Human Resource Development.

World Lion Day - August 10

- ❖ It aims to create awareness and educate people about lions and issues concerning the conservation of the species.
- ❖ The Gir Forests is the only natural habitat of Asiatic lions.
- ❖ It was declared as a sanctuary in 1965 and a national park in 1975.

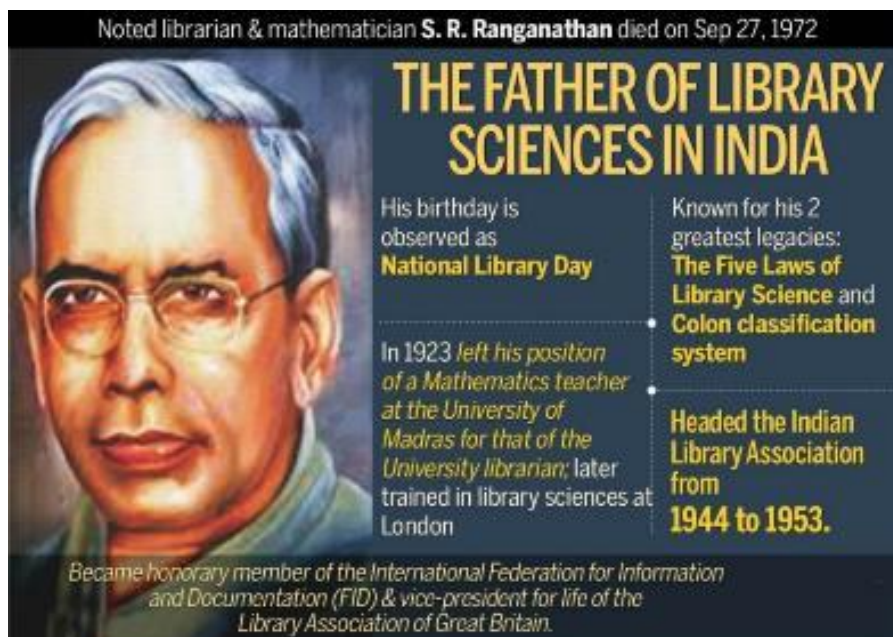
- ❖ The Asiatic lion found in India is listed as endangered in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list.
- ❖ The “Asiatic Lion Conservation Project” has been launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change in 2018.

World Elephant Day - August 12

- ❖ The first international Elephant Day was celebrated on August 12, 2012.
- ❖ It is observed annually to create awareness on the need to conserve and preserve the elephants and their habitats.
- ❖ Beta Version of a portal called “Surakhsha” to support the management of conflicts on real time basis were launched in India.

National Librarians Day - August 12

- ❖ National Library Day is celebrated in India on 12th of August Every year in memory of Birthday of Mr. S.R. Ranganathan.
- ❖ This had led the development of Library Science in India.



International Youth Day - August 12

- ❖ International Youth Day was designated by the United Nations (UN) in the year 1999 to raise awareness regarding the cultural and legal issue concerning youth.
- ❖ The First International Youths day was observed on 12th August 2000.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is ‘Youth Engagement for Global Action’.



International Left-Handers Day - August 13

- ❖ The World Left-Handers Day is observed every year on August 13 to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of Southpaws.
- ❖ It was first observed in 1976.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about everyday issues that lefties face.
- ❖ Around 10 per cent of the world's population is left-handed, with men more likely being so.

World Organ Donation Day - August 13

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation and motivate people for donating organs after death.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India launched the 6th World and 1st ever Indian Organ Donation Day and Organ Donation Congress in 2010.
- ❖ Maharashtra observe Organ Donation Week from August 13 to August 20, 2020.
- ❖ There are two types of organ Donation: Living and Deceased Donation.

National Mourning Day in Bangladesh - August 15

- ❖ It commemorates the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, known as the 'Father of the Nation' on this day in 1975.



- ❖ Often referred to as 'Mujib' or 'Sheikh Mujib', he is regarded as the prime architect of the independent nation, Bangladesh.
- ❖ Mujib began his political career in 1949 as a co-founder of the Awami League.
- ❖ In January 1972 Mujib became the country's first prime minister.
- ❖ Mujib and most of his family members were assassinated during a military coup on August 15th 1975.

- ❖ One of his survived daughters, Sheikh Hasina Wazed, is the current prime minister of Bangladesh.

World Photography Day – August 19

- ❖ This day celebrates the art, craft, science, and history of photography.
- ❖ This day marks the day when the people who share a passion for photography come together to raise awareness and share ideas about the field of photography.
- ❖ The first durable colour photograph was taken in the year 1861.
- ❖ The first digital photograph was invented in 1957.

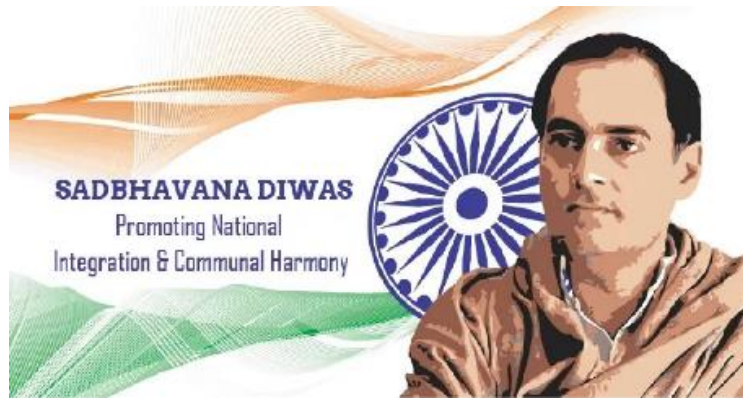
World Humanitarian Day – August 19

- ❖ It aims to remember the real-life heroes who chose humanitarian service in most difficult circumstances.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day in 2009.
- ❖ This year World Health Organization has a global campaign that celebrates #RealLifeHeroes, who have "committed their lives to helping others."



Sadbhavana Diwas – August 20

- ❖ This day is observed to encourage the national integration, peace, affection and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions.
- ❖ 'Sadbhavana' in English language means goodwill and bonafide.
- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.



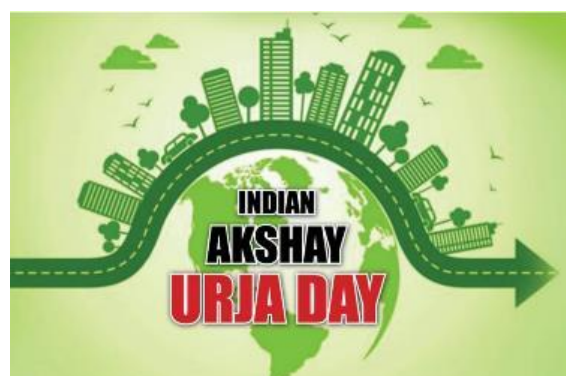
World Mosquito Day – August 20

- ❖ World Mosquito Day commemorates Sir Ronald Ross' 1897 discovery of the link between mosquitoes and malaria transmission.
- ❖ The event raises awareness about the threat of malaria and other diseases transmitted by the world's deadliest animal.



Indian Akshay Urja Day – August 20

- ❖ Renewable Energy Day or Indian Akshay Urja Day was established in 2004 to support renewable energy development programs.
- ❖ Indian Akshay Urja is observed to mark the importance of renewable energy resources in India.
- ❖ The energy derived from sources and getting exhausted over time is called “non-renewable energy.”



World Senior Citizen's Day – August 21

- ❖ It was first proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 14, 1990.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the condition of older people and to support them throughout the aging process.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism - August 21

- ❖ The day is observed to pay tribute to the individuals across the globe who have been attacked, injured, traumatized or lost their lives because of terrorist attacks.
- ❖ An online high-level event entitled “Not Forgotten: Stories of Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism”, was held.
- ❖ The day was designated by United Nations General Assembly in 2017 and the first time the day was observed in 2018.



International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - August 22

- ❖ It aims to honour victims and survivors of heinous acts who often remain forgotten.
- ❖ On 22 August 2019 for the first time the world is observing this day.



Madras Day – August 22

- ❖ This year commemorates the 381st founding of the city of Madras (now Chennai) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Madras came into being on 22 August 1639, when East India Company signed the land deed in the village of Madraspatnam.
- ❖ It came under the control of the Mughals in 1687.
- ❖ In 1748, Madras returned to the British.
- ❖ Post-independence, Madras became the capital city of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In 1998, the city was renamed as Chennai.

International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition - August 23


- ❖ It aims to pay tribute to all those who fought for freedom, and, in their name, to continue teaching about their story and the values therein.
- ❖ The day designated by UNESCO to memorialize the transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ In late August 1791, an uprising began in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that would have a major effect on abolishing the transatlantic slave trade.
- ❖ It marked the beginning of the destruction of the slavery system, the slave trade and colonialism.

European Day of Remembrance for Victims of Stalinism and Nazism - August 23

- ❖ It is known as Black Ribbon Day to remembrance the victims of totalitarian regimes, specifically Stalinism, Communism, Nazism and Fascism.
- ❖ It symbolizes the rejection of “extremism, intolerance and oppression”.
- ❖ It was designated by the European Parliament in 2008/2009 and has been observed annually by the bodies of the European Union since 2009.

National Sports Day – August 29

- ❖ National Sports Day is observed to commemorate the birthday of Indian hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand.
- ❖ Major Dhyan Chand was the captain of the Gold medal winning Indian hockey team at the Berlin Olympics in 1936.
- ❖ Dhyan chand joined the Indian army as the soldier in 1922.
- ❖ Government of India has decided to celebrate his birthday as the National Sports Day since 2012.



MAJOR DHYAN CHAND

(29 AUGUST 1905 – 3 DECEMBER 1979)

Greatest field hockey player of all time. | Won 3 Olympic gold Medals (1928, 1932, & 1936)

Everyone around world doubted if his stick was made of something else other than wood.

THE HOCKEY WIZARD

Known as "The Wizard" for his superb ball control. He scored more than 400 goals during his international career. | National Hockey stadium in Delhi was renamed as Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in 2002 in his honor.

Awarded Padma Bhushan Award in 1956.

Telugu Language Day – August 29

- ❖ The day falls on August 29 because on this day, prominent Telugu writer Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy was born.
- ❖ Spoken Telugu is different from written Telugu due to which learning written Telugu was not helpful during understanding or communicating.
- ❖ With the help of Ramamoorthy, the spoken Telugu came to be standardized and was accepted by scholars.

International Day against Nuclear Tests – August 29

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions.
- ❖ It was observed for first time in 2010 and since then observed annually to galvanize necessity of banning nuclear weapon tests.
- ❖ It commemorates closure of Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site of Kazakhstan (also known as The Polygon) on 29 August 1991.

INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

CELEBRATED ON
29 AUGUST

NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING BEGAN ON
16 JULY 1945

UNITED STATES conducted 1054 tests during 1945-1992

2 December 2009
declared 29 August as
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

2010
marked the inaugural commemoration of
THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS

WHY?

- Nuclear Tests result into Human and Environmental tragedies
- Considered as means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world
- To enhance public awareness and education about the effects of nuclear weapons test explosions
- Educational events, activities and messages aim to prevent further nuclear weapons testing


MAJOR HEALTH HAZARD FROM NUCLEAR TEST
Increasing risk of developing cancer due to radioactive particles

ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED ON THE DAY
Symposia, conferences, exhibits, competitions, publications, lectures in academic institutions, media broadcasts and other initiatives

The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War has estimated that roughly **2.4 million** people will eventually die as a result of the atmospheric nuclear tests conducted between 1945-1980

NEARLY
2,000 TESTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE

MORE THAN
60 TEST LOCATIONS AROUND THE GLOBE



Small Industry Day - August 30

- ❖ National Small Industry Day is observed each year to commemorate as a part of its effort to provide balanced growth to existing small, medium, and large-scale enterprises to support and promote small industries.
- ❖ An extensive policy package was announced for this sector on 30th August 2000 which provided a substantial measure of support to small businesses in India.
- ❖ It was then decided that the Ministry would commemorate 30th August of every year as 'Small Scale Industry Day'.



International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances - August 30

- ❖ The UN General Assembly declared this day on 21 December 2010.
- ❖ The involuntary or enforced disappearances are a result of abduction, detention or arrest or other factors or reasons.
- ❖ This year marks the 40th anniversary of the Declaration for on the Protection of all Persons from Enforced Disappearances, and the 10th anniversary of the Convention for the Protection of All Persons against Enforced Disappearances.



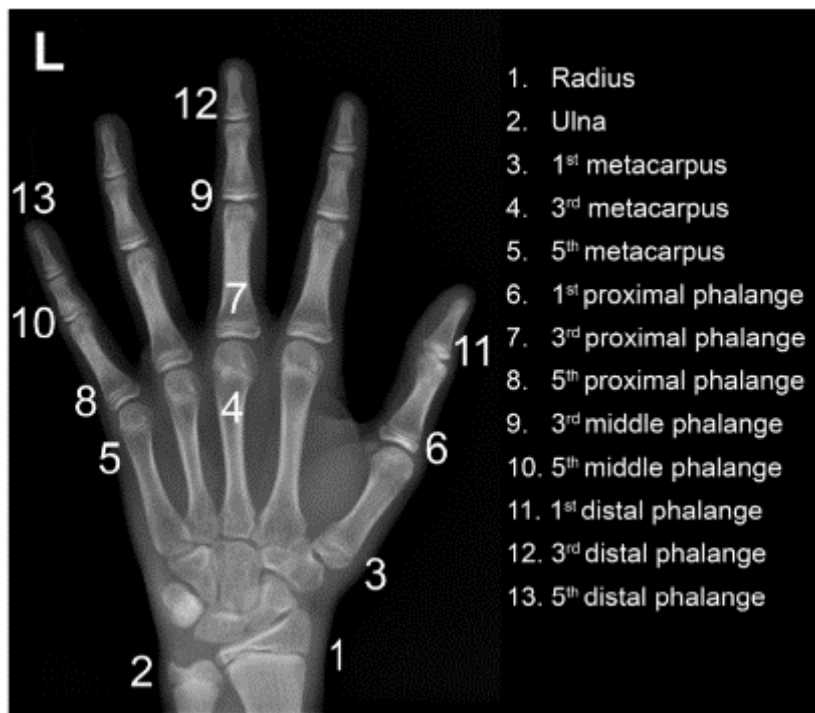
MISCELLANEOUS

Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources

- ❖ National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) and ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) have entered into a MoU to conserve the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Genetic Resources (MAPGRs).
- ❖ The conservation will be done in long-term storage module in the National Gene bank and/or at Regional Station for medium term storage module.

Tanner-Whitehouse 3 (TW3) Test

- ❖ The All India Tennis Association (AITA) made it compulsory for all junior players competing at the nationals to undergo an age-verification test.
- ❖ The most popular age-verification test is called the Tanner-Whitehouse 3 (TW3), being used by the BCCI and proposed by AITA.
- ❖ TW3 essentially involves an x-ray of the left wrist to check what stage of bone fusion a child has reached.



UNESCO Recognition for Two Coastal Villages

- ❖ UNESCO recognised the two coastal villages of Odisha as “Tsunami Ready” for their overall preparedness to face the tsunami.
- ❖ The two villages are Venkataipur and Noliasahi.
- ❖ Odisha became the first state in India and India became the first country in the Indian Ocean Region to achieve this status.



Cleanliness Week - August 10 to 15

- ❖ Indian Railways has decided to observe 'Cleanliness Week' starting from August 10 till August 15.
- ❖ It aims to give the message of the importance and significance of cleanliness for the national transporter.

Bloomberg Billionaires Index

- ❖ As per the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Mukesh Ambani become the world's fourth-richest person.
- ❖ Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg topped the list.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani is the only Indian in the list of Top Ten Billionaires across the world.
- ❖ Bloomberg Billionaires Index is a daily ranking of the World's richest people.

Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee

- ❖ On August 16, 2020, India commemorated death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced, "The Gwalior-Chambal Expressway will be named Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Chambal Progress way.
- ❖ Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical University is a state collegiate university in Lucknow, is expected to open in this year.

“Elephants. Not Commodities” Report

- ❖ The International Animal Welfare Organization, World Animal Protection on the event of World Elephant Day (August 12) released the report named, “Elephants. Not Commodities”.
- ❖ According to the report, India is home to second-highest number of elephants used in tourism in Asia.
- ❖ The organization works to end animal cruelty in the world.
- ❖ The headquarters of the organization is located in London.

5 Commemorative Postage Stamps

- ❖ India Post has issued 5 Commemorative Postage Stamps namely: -
 - Historic City of Ahmedabad- Sarkhej Roza,
 - Churches and Convents of Goa- Church of Bom Jesus,
 - Group of Monuments at Pattadakal- Karnataka,
 - Khajuraho Group of Monuments Javeri Temple - Madhya Pradesh and
 - Qutub Minar its Monuments, Delhi.
- ❖ It also issued 1 miniature sheet consisting of all the above stamps on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India-III.
- ❖ The Sarkhej Roza, is obtained the tag of India’s 1st UNESCO World Heritage Metropolis in July 2017.



Tackling the Covid-19 youth employment crisis in Asia and the Pacific

- ❖ According to the report, around 6.1 million youth in the 15-24 age group are likely to lose their jobs in 2020 if India takes six months ending September.
- ❖ This will be around 40% of the total job losses the Asia-Pacific region is expected to witness.

- ❖ India will be followed by Pakistan where around 2.3 million youth may lose their jobs and Indonesia may see 1.9 million youth out of work.
- ❖ Youth unemployment rate in India may touch 32.5%, third highest unemployment rate predicted among the 13 countries in the region.
- ❖ Only Sri Lanka (37.8%) and Fiji (36.85) will have a higher youth unemployment rate than India.
- ❖ The report jointly released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and International Labour Organization (ILO).

World Water Week 2020: August 24-28

- ❖ The World Water Week 2020 was observed as the World Water Week at Home (WWWeek at Home) from 24th August to 28th August 2020.
- ❖ It is an annual global event organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) since 1991.
- ❖ The theme of WWWeek at Home 2020 is 'Water and Climate change: Accelerating Action'.
- ❖ It aims to address the planet's water issues and related concerns of international development.



Nuakhai Juhar

- ❖ Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival, also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat has celebrated on 23rd August, 2020.
- ❖ This is the festival of Western Odisha, southern Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Simdega (Jharkhand).
- ❖ It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- ❖ Nuakhai is a combination of two words that signifies eating of new rice as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.

Mother Teresa's 110th birth anniversary

- ❖ Mother Teresa's 110th birth anniversary observed on August 26, 2020.
- ❖ She was born on the 26th of August 1910 in Macedonia and moved to India in the late 1920s and taught history and geography for 15 long years at Calcutta's St Mary's High School.
- ❖ In 1950, she laid the foundation of the Roman Catholic religious congregation, which is now popularly known as the Missionaries of Charity.
- ❖ She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, but she refused to accept it and urged to contribute the prize money of 192,000 dollars for helping the poor in India.
- ❖ She also received the
 - Padma Shri in 1962
 - The Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding in 1969.
 - The Bharat Ratna in 1980.

