

December - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a commemorative coin of the centennial foundation day of the University of Lucknow.
 - It was founded in the year 1920.
- ❖ Mount Ili Lewotolok, a volcano located in eastern Indonesia, erupted recently.
 - It is one of the three currently erupting in Indonesia along with Merapi on Java Island and Sinabung on Sumatra Island.

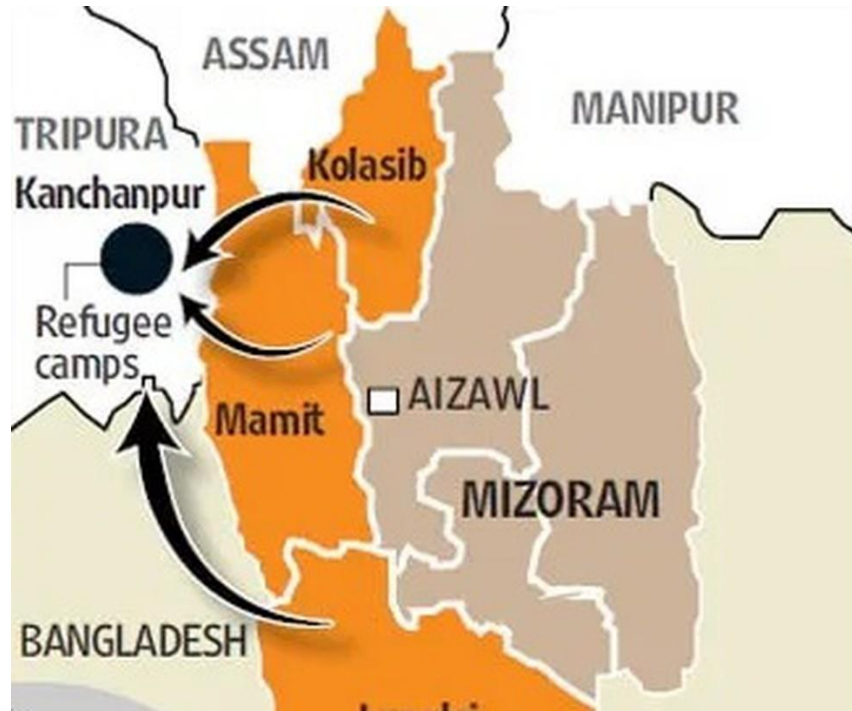
NATIONAL

Disqualification of MLA

- ❖ Lalduhoma was India's first Member of Parliament to have been disqualified from the Lok Sabha in 1988.
- ❖ He has now been disqualified as an MLA in Mizoram in 2020.
- ❖ Disqualification was on the ground that he had declared himself as a representative of a party despite being elected as an independent candidate.

Bru Tribe - Refugee Crisis

- ❖ Bru or Reang tribe is living in the states of Tripura, Assam and Mizoram.
- ❖ In Tripura, this community is recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- ❖ In Mizoram, it is targeted by ethnic organisations demanding its exclusion from electoral rolls.
- ❖ In a bid to ensure their permanent settlement in Tripura, an agreement was signed between the Centre and the two states (Mizoram and Tripura) this year.
- ❖ According to the agreement, 32000 people residing in the camps are to permanently settle in the state of Tripura.
- ❖ This agreement has led to the protests from Mizo groups and the Bengalis in the state of Tripura.



INTERNATIONAL

Word of the Year 2020

- ❖ Quarantine was chosen as the Word of the Year 2020.
- ❖ It was the most searched word on the Cambridge Dictionary.
- ❖ This word defeated other words like 'lockdown' and 'pandemic' to take the top crown.





Uranium Enrichment at Iran

- ❖ The Iranian Parliament has recently passed a bill called the “Strategic Measures for the Removal of Sanctions”.
- ❖ The bill aims to boost the nuclear activity of Iran in the wake of killing of the Iranian nuclear scientist, Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.
- ❖ The bill aims to increase uranium enrichment level to 20% or more.
- ❖ The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action has capped the enrichment level of Uranium at 3.67%.
- ❖ The bill will restore the Arak nuclear reactor.

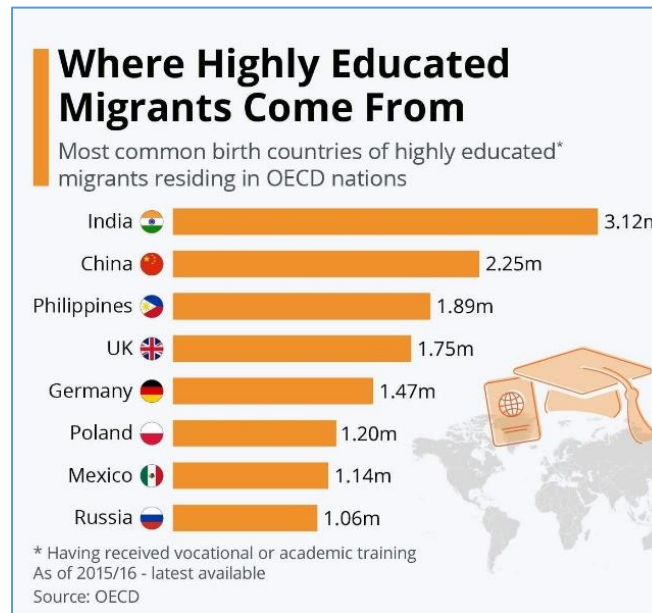
Five Eyes

- ❖ The Five Eyes countries recently issued a joint statement expressing their concern about increasing Chinese curbs on the autonomy of Hong Kong.
- ❖ The Five Eyes (FVEY) is an intelligence alliance consisting of Australia, Canada, the UK, New Zealand and the US.

Country	Year of Joining	FVEY Coverage
United Kingdom	1946 (UK & US formed the FVEY in 1946)	UK monitors Middle East, Europe, European Russia & Hong Kong
United States		US monitors Middle East, the Caribbean, Africa, China & Russia.
Canada	1948	Canada monitors China & Russia
Australia	1956	Australia monitors South and East Asia
New Zealand	1956	New Zealand monitors Southeast Asia, South-west of Blenheim, North Island at Tangimoana & South Island at Waihopai Valley

Highly educated Migrants

- ❖ India topped the list of sending highly educated migrants in the OECD countries.
- ❖ It is sending roughly more than 3 million people as of 2015/16.



The State of Food and Agriculture 2020

- ❖ It is a report released by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ The theme of this report is 'Overcoming water challenges in agriculture'.
- ❖ It highlights that 1 out of 6 people in the World faces severe water security.
- ❖ FAO is the custodian of SDG Indicator 6.4.2, which measures the pressure of human activities on natural freshwater resources.

ECONOMY

RTGS Timing

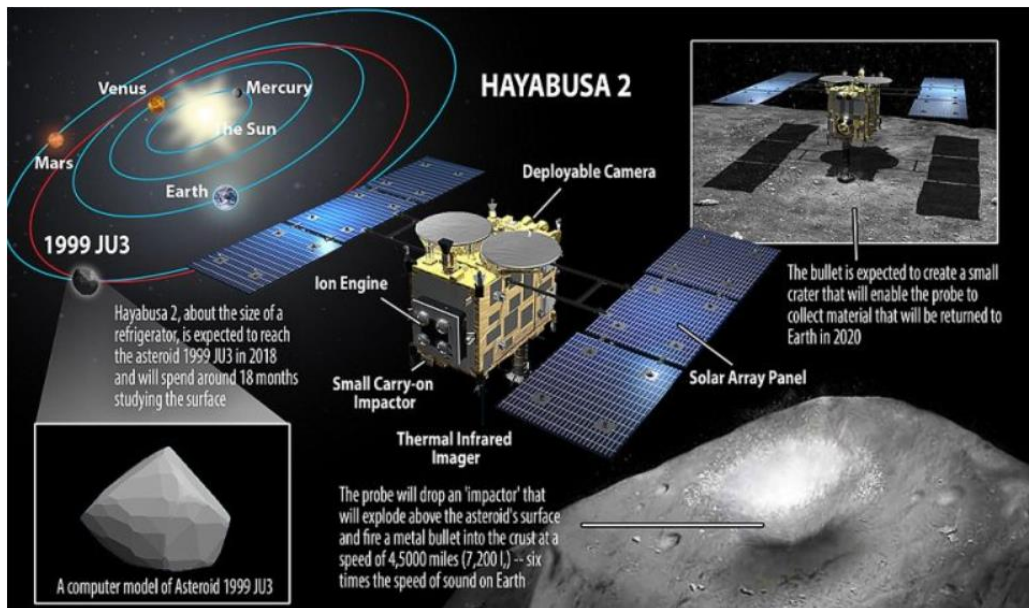
- ❖ RBI has made the transfer of funds through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system available to the customers 24x7 on all days of the week.
- ❖ It is a fund transfer system that is generally used for large-value transactions.
- ❖ It happens in real-time.

- ❖ The minimum amount to be transferred through RTGS is Rs 2 lakh and there is no maximum limit.
- ❖ In the case of RTGS, every transaction is settled individually.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

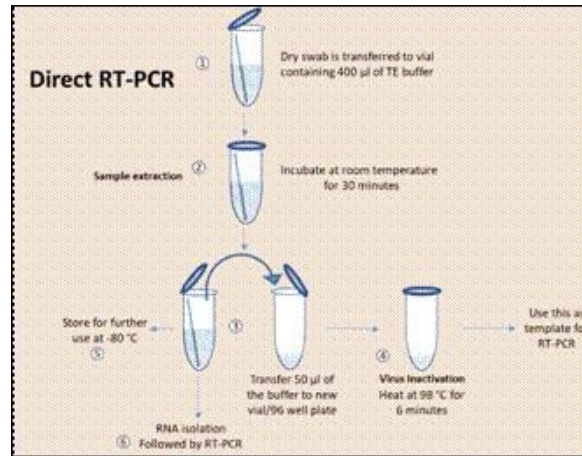
Hayabusa2 Spacecraft

- ❖ The Hayabusa2 spacecraft of Japan is nearing the earth after a yearlong journey from asteroid Ryugu.
- ❖ The asteroid is located at a distance of about 300 million kilometres from the Earth.
- ❖ The spacecraft is to reach the earth in Southern Australia carrying precious samples from the asteroid.
- ❖ In February 2019, the spacecraft collected surface dust samples from the asteroid Ryugu.
- ❖ Later in July 2019, the spacecraft collected underground samples from the asteroid.
- ❖ This was the first time in the history of world space underground samples are collected from an asteroid.



Dry swab-direct RT-PCR method

- ❖ The ICMR approves dry swab-direct RT-PCR method to ramp up COVID-19 testing.
- ❖ It has been Developed by CSIR - Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB).
- ❖ It is an RNA extraction testing method.



ENVIRONMENT

New Gecko in the Eastern Ghats

- ❖ A new species of lizard *Cnemaspis avasabinaem* has been discovered in the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ It is commonly known as Sabin's Nellore dwarf gecko.
- ❖ It is the smallest known Indian gekkonid.
- ❖ It lives in dry evergreen forest and measures less than 2.9 cm.
- ❖ In India, 45 species of genus *Cnemaspis* have been found, of which 34 are from the Western Ghats.



US Air Quality Index

- ❖ Lahore has once again topped the list of world's most polluted cities in the world.
- ❖ It was followed by New Delhi and Kathmandu.
- ❖ The Air Quality Index is calculated based on five major air pollutants such as ground level Ozone, Sulphur Dioxide, carbon monoxide, Nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter.

STATES

Hornbill Festival

- ❖ It is called the Festivals of Festivals.
- ❖ It is an annual cultural festival of Nagaland.
- ❖ It showcases the rich and diverse of Naga ethnicity.
- ❖ The start of this festival (December 1) marks the Nagaland statehood day.
- ❖ The festival is named after the Indian Hornbill Bird.
- ❖ In a first, the 21st edition of this festival is to go digital.

