

December - 08

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Prime Minister had recently visited Zydus Biotech Park in Ahmedabad, Bharat Biotech facility in Hyderabad and Serum Institute of India in Pune to review vaccine development and manufacturing process.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India in Pune has been chosen for the mass production of Covishield, a COVID-19 vaccine developed by Oxford-Astra Zeneca.
- ❖ Kolkata's Majerhat Bridge has been named "Jai Hind" To Mark Subhas Chandra Bose's 125th Birth Anniversary.
 - The new bridge has been built in the place of an old one that collapsed in September 2018.

NATIONAL

Aadi Mahotsav

- ❖ The virtual edition of the Aadi Mahotsav was launched at Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Aadi Mahotsav is a national tribal festival.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India & Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- ❖ The festival showcases traditional art and handicrafts and cultural heritage of the country.





Farmers Protest at New Delhi

- ❖ The Farmer protests against the three new agriculture-related laws are
 - Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020'
 - Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020' and
 - Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill 2020.
- ❖ The government says these laws will “liberate” farmers from the tyranny of middlemen.
- ❖ They make it easier for farmers to bypass government-regulated markets (known locally as mandis) and sell produce directly to private buyers.
- ❖ They can now enter into contracts with private companies and sell across state borders.
- ❖ This practice is known in India as contract farming,
- ❖ The new regulations also allow traders to stockpile food.
- ❖ It could make it easier for traders to take advantage of rising prices, such as during a pandemic.
- ❖ Such practices were criminal offences under the old rules.

Concerns of farmers

- ❖ More than 86 percent of India's cultivated farmland is controlled by smallholder farmers who own less than two hectares (five acres) of land each.
- ❖ Small farmers fear that they just do not have enough bargaining power to get the kinds of prices when they negotiate to sell their produce to larger companies.
- ❖ The new laws also do not make written contracts mandatory.
- ❖ The new rules do not guarantee any minimum price for any product.
- ❖ The farmers worry that the existing MSP will be abolished at some point.

New Posts in the Indian Army

- ❖ The Defence Ministry has approved the creation of a new post in the Army - Deputy Chief for Military Operations and Strategic Planning.

- ❖ Lt Gen Paramjit Singh is to become the first Deputy Chief of Army of Staff (Strategy)
- ❖ This is the 3rd post of deputy chief in the Army.
- ❖ In addition to this, another new post, the Director General of Information Warfare, is also being created.

Annual Ranking of Police Stations

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs released this ranking.
- ❖ It is being done since 2015.
- ❖ Nongpok Sekmai police station in Thoubal district of Manipur was ranked as the best performing police station in the country.
- ❖ The All Women Police Station of Suramangalam in Salem city of Tamilnadu was ranked second in the list
- ❖ Kharsangh police station of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh ranked third.

| Rank | State | District | Police Station |
|------|---------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Manipur | Thoubal | NongpokSekmai |
| 2 | Tamil Nadu | Salem City | AWPS-Suramangalam |
| 3 | Arunachal Pradesh | Changlang | Kharsang |
| 4 | Chhattisgarh | Surajpur | Jhilmili (Bhaiya Thana) |
| 5 | Goa | South Goa | Sanguem |
| 6 | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | North & Middle Andaman | Kalighat |
| 7 | Sikkim | East District | Pakyong |
| 8 | Uttar Pradesh | Moradabad | Kanth |
| 9 | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | Khanvel |
| 10 | Telangana | Karimnagar | Jammikunta Town PS |

INTERNATIONAL

New classification of Cannabis

- ❖ The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs recently removed Cannabis from the 1961 Single convention on Narcotics.
- ❖ This was done to recognize the medicinal values of the plant.
- ❖ Countries such as Uruguay and Canada have legalized the recreational use of the Cannabis plant.
- ❖ The usage of Cannabis in India is governed by the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

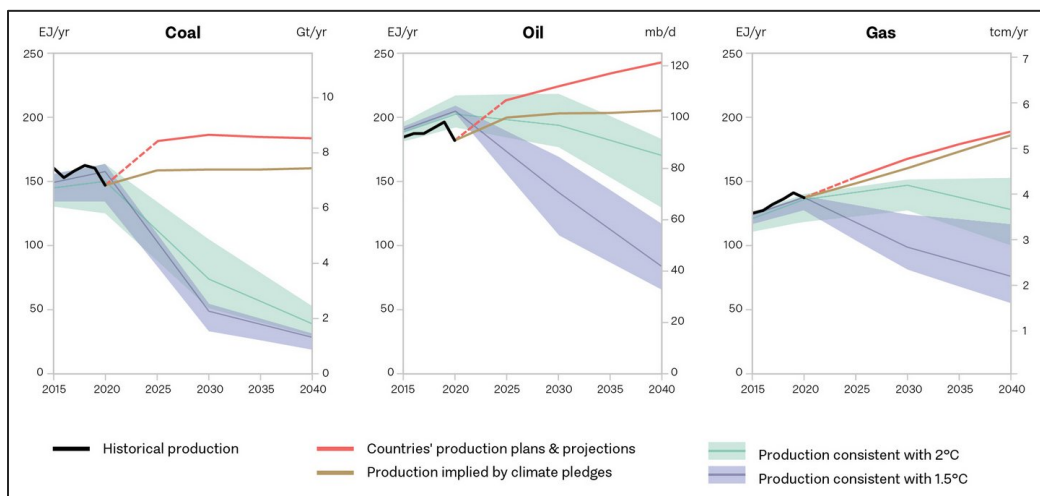
7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum

- ❖ Malaysia is hosting the 7th International Energy Forum (IEF)-International Gas Union (IGU) Ministerial Gas Forum.
- ❖ Theme of this time is “Towards Recovery and Shared Prosperity: Natural Gas Opportunities for a Sustainable World”.
- ❖ In India, Gujarat is the leading example with 25% share of natural gas in primary energy mix against 6.3% at national level.

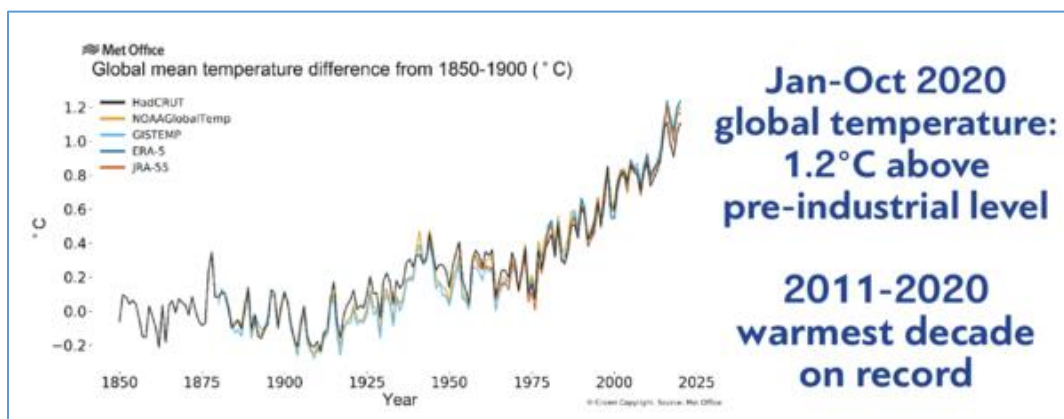


The Production Gap, 2020

- ❖ It is produced by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ The countries must decrease production of fossil fuels by 6 per cent per year, between 2020 and 2030, if the world is to avert "catastrophic" global temperature rise.
- ❖ But in reality, the countries are planning to increase 2% annually for coal, oil and gas production.
- ❖ As per this report, the 8 key countries produce 60% of the World's fossil fuel – Australia, Canada, China, India, Indonesia, Norway, Russia and the USA.



State of the Global Climate Provisional Report



- ❖ This report was released by the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❖ The decade 2011-2020 would be the warmest ever on record.
- ❖ Also, the year 2020 is set to be among the three warmest on record.

- ❖ Scientific evidence indicates increasing temperatures are a direct result of human-led global warming, an impact of Green House Gas emission.

ECONOMY

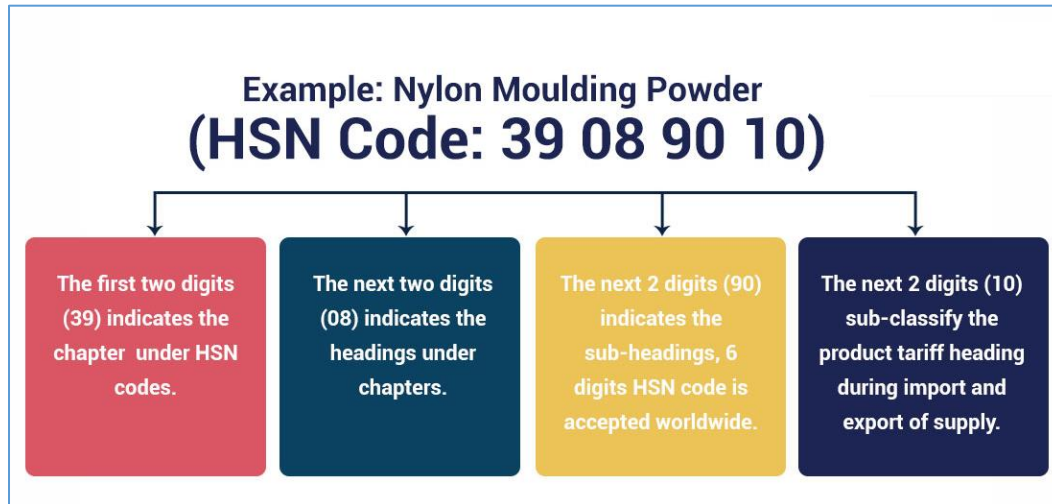
1.5 times formula for MSP

- ❖ The 1.5 times formula is used to determine the minimum support price (MSP) for crops.
- ❖ This was introduced during the Union Budget 2018-19.
- ❖ According to this formula, the MSP is fixed at 1.5 times the production cost for crops as a 'pre-determined principle'.
- ❖ Under this formula, the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices only has to determine the production cost for a season and apply the formula.
- ❖ This Commission does not do any field-based cost estimates.
- ❖ Every year the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices operating under the Ministry of Agriculture will recommend minimum support prices for 23 crops.
- ❖ This includes 14 crops that are grown during the post monsoon or kharif season and six crops grown in winter or Rabi season.
- ❖ It also projects three other kinds of production cost for every crop.
- ❖ They are A2, C2 and A2+FL.
- ❖ A2 covers all the costs incurred by the farmer.
- ❖ This includes fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, higher labour, irrigation.
- ❖ The A2+FL includes all the cost incurred under A2 and the value of unpaid family labour.
- ❖ C2 is a comprehensive cost that includes rental, interest foregone on own land and fixed capital assets along with the A2+FL cost.

HSN Code

- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has made it mandatory to mention the 8-digit HSN code in tax invoices for 49 chemical-based products.

- ❖ The move is expected to reduce tax evasion.
- ❖ HSN or Harmonized System of Nomenclature code is a system for classification of goods across the world.
- ❖ The code is called the universal economic language for goods.
- ❖ It was developed by the World Customs Organization.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Damaru-Inspired Lattice

- ❖ IIT Kanpur developed a 'Dambaru' or 'Damaru' inspired Lattice.
- ❖ A lattice is an ordered array of points describing the arrangement of particles that form a crystal.





ENVIRONMENT

Migratory Bird Festival

- ❖ Bihar is holding this bird festival for the first time.
- ❖ It is being organised in Bhagalpur district of Bihar.
- ❖ The 60-km stretch of Bihar's Vikramshila Dolphin Sanctuary between Sultanganj and Kahalgaon had long been a hub of migratory birds.

STATES

Renaming of areas

- ❖ Maharashtra cabinet approved a proposal seeking to rename all residential colonies having names based on caste.
- ❖ With this, all residential colonies with names such as Brahman-wada, Mahar-wada, Dhor-vasti, Bouddh-wada, Mali-galli and Mang-wada will be given new names such as Samata Nagar, Bhim Nagar, Jyotinagar, Shahunagar and Kranti Nagar.
- ❖ These caste-based colonies were established during the British rule to divide people.

