

December - 09

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The First Dronacharya Awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Kuldeep Handoo has been appointed Prime Minister's 'Fit India' Ambassador.
- ❖ The Chennai Metro Rail bags International Safety Award 2020 from The World Safety Organization (WSO), USA.
- ❖ Uday Shankar has been named as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for the year 2020-21.
 - He will be succeeding the incumbent President Sangita Reddy.
- ❖ India and United States signed a memorandum of understanding on intellectual property.
 - The MoU will facilitate the countries to exchange best practices, knowledge on internet protocol.
- ❖ Oman announces to set up Oman-India friendship Association.
 - This would be the first such initiative launched by Oman in West Asia.
- ❖ The Shiromani Akali Dal patron and the former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal returned his Padma Vibhushan award.
- ❖ The Facebook-backed cryptocurrency Libra has been rebranded as "Diem".
 - Diem is a Latin term meaning "day".

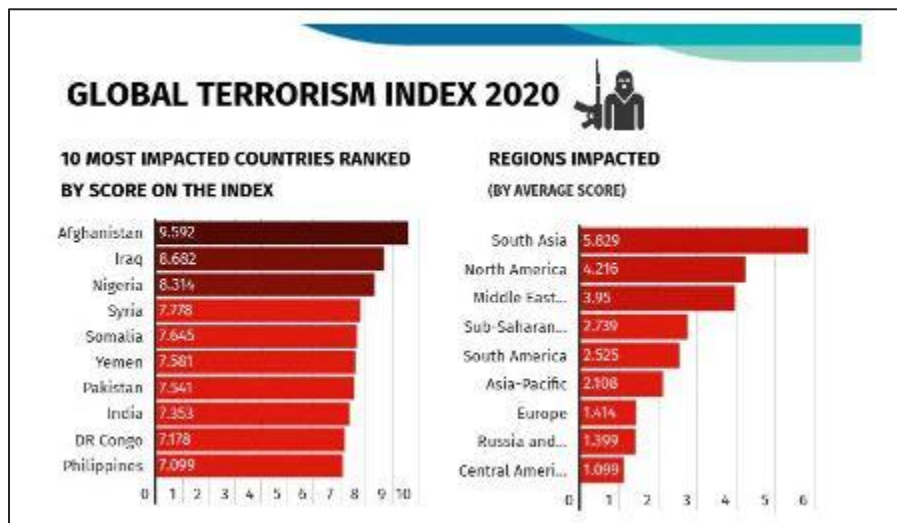
INTERNATIONAL

Culture of Peace session

- ❖ It is organized by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ The UN has organized such sessions each year since 1997.
- ❖ The Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1999.
- ❖ At the latest session, India asked the United Nations to expand its criticism of hatred and violence against religions beyond the three Abrahamic religions — Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

8th Global Terrorism Index 2020

- ❖ The index is prepared by the Institute of Economics and Peace, an Australia-based non-profit organization.
- ❖ For the second year in a row, South Asia was the most impacted region by terrorism in 2019.
- ❖ Afghanistan tops the list followed by Iraq, Nigeria and Syria.
- ❖ Five countries were classified as being in a state of war: Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Somalia and Yemen.
- ❖ India is the eighth-most impacted countries in the world by terrorism in the last decade.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Chhattisgarh are the top two regions in India afflicted by terrorist-related activities.



Time Kid of the year

- ❖ The Indian-American Gitanjali Rao has been named by TIME magazine as the first-ever 'Kid of the Year'.
- ❖ She is chosen for her astonishing work using technology to tackle issues ranging from contaminated drinking water to opioid addiction and cyber bullying.



CLMV conclave

- ❖ The sixth India-CLMV Business Conclave, 2020 was held.
- ❖ It was held under the theme “Building Bridges for Constructive Development yesterday”.
- ❖ CLMV comprises of Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos and Vietnam.



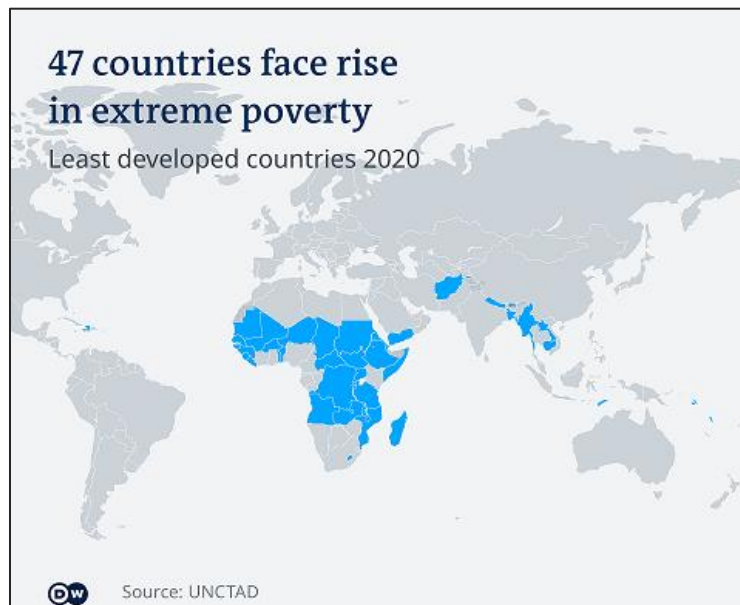
3RF Framework

- ❖ It was launched by the United Nations to revitalize Beirut.
- ❖ It was prepared by United Nations, World Bank and European Union.
- ❖ 3RF stands for Reform, Recovery and Reconstruction Framework.
- ❖ In August 2020, there was a deadly blast at Beirut, the capital of Lebanon.



Least Developed Countries Report 2020

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) released this report.
- ❖ The least developed countries (LDCs) will experience their worst economic performance in 30 years in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ It could push 32 million people into extreme poverty in the 47 countries.





ECONOMY

Monetary Policy 2020-21

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India announced its bi-monthly monetary policy review statement.
- ❖ It decided to keep the policy Repo Rate unchanged at 4 percent.
- ❖ Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends to banks.
- ❖ The Reverse Repo Rate too stands unchanged at 3.35 percent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank rate also remained unchanged at 4.25 percent.

Taxes on Lottery

- ❖ The Supreme court held that lottery, betting and gambling were “actionable claims”.
- ❖ It came within the definition of ‘goods’ under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017.
- ❖ The Court said the state governments can put levy of GST on lotteries.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Defence Geo Informatics Research Establishment

- ❖ The Defence Research Development Organization recently launched this new laboratory.
- ❖ The new lab was established by merging existing labs – the Manali-based Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) and the Delhi-based Defence Terrain Research Establishment.
- ❖ This new lab will focus on researching terrain and avalanches along the borders with China and Pakistan.

C32 LH2 Propellant tank

- ❖ It is a cryogenic propellant tank made of aluminum alloy.

- ❖ It is the largest-ever cryogenic propellant tank developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ❖ It was delivered to ISRO recently.
- ❖ It is designed to increase the payload capability of ISRO'S Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV Mk III) from 4 tonnes to 6 tonnes.



Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder (ASKAP)

- ❖ It is a new type of radio telescope developed by Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).
- ❖ Recently, this telescope had helped the mapping around 300 million galaxies in approximately 300 hours to create a 'new atlas of the universe'.

ENVIRONMENT

CPCB-IITD survey on Pollution

- ❖ The Indo-Gangetic Plain continues to be the most polluted region in the country.
- ❖ The rate of increase in pollution levels in southern and eastern India is far greater than the Gangetic plain between 2000 and 2019.
- ❖ It was a study Jointly by the Central Pollution Control Board and IIT-Delhi.

- ❖ The study, conducted on the basis of satellite data, is the first of its kind to look at air pollution spatially.

STATES WITH HIGH PM 2.5 INCREASE		
State	Urban	Rural
Kerala	24.2%	21.9%
Goa	36.4%	37.3%
Andhra Pradesh	20.1%	18.9%
Maharashtra	24%	21%
Odisha	28%	28%

** Data from 2000-2019;
source: CPCB-IIT Delhi study*

Climate emergency

- ❖ New Zealand declared a climate emergency.
- ❖ It pledged that its public sector would become carbon neutral by 2025.
- ❖ With this, New Zealand joins 32 other countries including Japan, Canada, France and Britain that have declared a climate emergency.

STATES

Swasthya Sathi Health Scheme

- ❖ The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee decided to expand the 'Swasthya Sathi' health scheme in order to cover the entire population of the state.
- ❖ It is a health scheme which was officially launched by the West Bengal government in December 2016.

- ❖ It provides basic health cover for secondary and tertiary care up to 5 lakh INR per annum per family.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Banks – December 04

- ❖ This year is the first time for this celebration.
- ❖ On 19 December 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to celebrate this day.



World Soil Day – December 05

- ❖ The day is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) operating under the United Nations.
- ❖ Theme for this year is Keep Soil Alive, Protect Soil Biodiversity.
- ❖ The International Union of Soil Sciences recommended to celebrate this day.
- ❖ Under the leadership of Thailand, the FAO supported the formal establishment of World Soil Day.
- ❖ It corresponds with the official birthday of late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the King of Thailand

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2014.



International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development – December 05



- ❖ It is more commonly referred to as International Volunteer Day (IVD).
- ❖ It is an international observance mandated by the UN General Assembly in 1985.
- ❖ It is celebrated by many non-governmental organizations, civil society, and the private sector, among others.



- ❖ It is also supported by the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Together We Can Through Volunteering".

