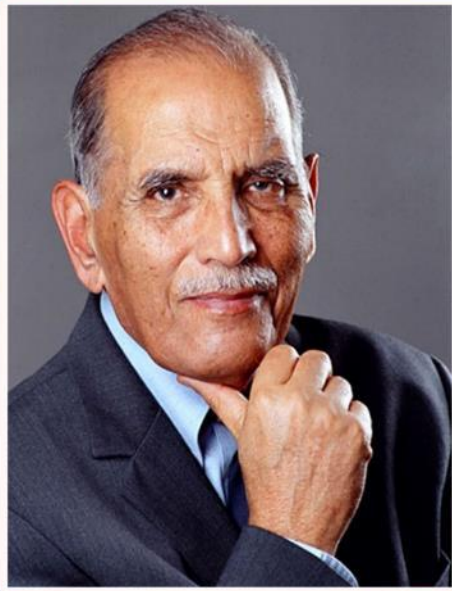


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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Tamil Nadu received the best organ donated state for the sixth consecutive time.
- ❖ Recently, Maharashtra announced the setting up of a desalination plant in Mumbai.
 - Maharashtra will be the fourth state to experiment with Desalination Plants after Tamilnadu, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ The eleventh National Organ Donation Day was observed on November 27, 2020 by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ Russia successfully test-fired a Tsirkon hypersonic cruise missile in the Arctic Region.
 - The missile was fired from the White Sea to the Barents Sea at a speed of over Mach 8.
- ❖ Bhutan has announced that it had established diplomatic relations with Germany.
 - This is the Bhutan kingdom's first diplomatic foray in seven years.
- ❖ Scotland becomes first nation in the World to make sanitary pads, tampons at the free of cost.
 - It is the first nation in the world to take such a step against period (menstrual) poverty.
- ❖ Dr. Gaurav Sharma, MP in New Zealand created history by becoming the first Indian-origin parliamentarian to take oath in Sanskrit language on foreign land.
 - He took oath first in New Zealand's indigenous Maori language and then in Sanskrit.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates recently became the first and probably the last Arab country to generate electricity from coal.
 - Mostly Gulf countries, rich in oil and natural gas, fulfil their electricity requirements from gas-based power plants.
- ❖ The Union Government's fiscal deficit widened to Rs 9.53 lakh crore, or close to 120% of the annual budget estimate, at the end of October of the current fiscal.
- ❖ Razorpay issued India's first corporate credit cards to provide relief and stabilise the financial operations of COVID-19-affected start-ups and Small Medium Enterprises.
- ❖ Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, an Iranian scientist, was "assassinated" in Absard city of Iran.
- ❖ Keith Gomes' Shameless is India's official entry in short film category at 93rd Academy Awards or Oscar 2021.

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has cleared the proposal to rename the Ayodhya airport as Maryada Purushottam Sri Ram Airport.
 - The proposal for the same will be sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation after it is passed by the state Assembly.
- ❖ Ladakh has got the largest solar power project setup at a high altitude in the Leh Indian Air Force station.
- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Accelerator Lab India launched the Grassroot Innovation Database (GRID) to foster inclusive development at the community-level.
 - It has been co-created for public use by GIAN [Grassroots Innovation Augmentation Network], Honey Bee Network Institution and UNDP-Accelerator Lab-India.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The word 'Pandemic' has been chosen as the top word of 2020 by Merriam-Webster dictionary.
- ❖ The "world's loneliest elephant" Kaavan (36) embarked a move from Islamabad zoo in Pakistan to retirement in a Cambodian sanctuary.
 - Kaavan is the only Asian elephant in Pakistan.
- ❖ The Orundoi Scheme is to be launched by the Assam government.
 - Through this scheme, the government seeks to empower women by transferring a minimum amount of Rs.830 each month directly to the bank accounts.
- ❖ AR Rahman was announced as the ambassador for the British Academy of Film and Television Arts' (BAFTA) 'Breakthrough Initiative'.
 - The initiative, supported by Netflix, aims to identify, celebrate, and support up to five talents working in film, games, or TV in India.
- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has released a new book titled 'Future of Regional Cooperation in Asia and the Pacific'.
- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India approved the acquisition of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company by ICICI Lombard General Insurance.
- ❖ The Boko Haram jihadist are blamed for the killing of 110 farm workers in the North Eastern region of Nigeria.
- ❖ Uttarakhand has built its first eco-bridge of the state across Kaladhungi-Nainital highway.



- This bridge has been fully made with eco-friendly items such as bamboo, grass and rope.
- ❖ Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot inaugurated the country's first organ donor memorial in Jaipur.
- ❖ Sandeep Kataria becomes the first Indian to be appointed as global CEO of Bata.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla appointed senior IAS officer Utpal Kumar Singh as Secretary General (SG) of the Lok Sabha in the rank and status of Cabinet Secretary.
 - The Speaker has also appointed Snehlata Shrivastava, the outgoing SG as honorary officer of the House (Lok Sabha).
- ❖ SCO Online Exhibition on Shared Buddhist Heritage was launched at the 19th Meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Council of Heads of Government.
 - It is the first ever of its kind.
- ❖ The Indian skipper Virat Kohli became the fastest cricketer to score 12,000 ODI runs (in 251 innings) breaking the record held by Sachin Tendulkar.
- ❖ The Karnataka High Court ruled recently that the right of any major individual to marry the person of his/her choice is a fundamental right that is enshrined in the Constitution of India.
 - The ruling was given by a bench comprising Justices S Sujata and Sachin Shankar Magadum.
- ❖ China has begun to import rice from India for the first time in at least three decades.
 - India is the world's biggest exporter of rice and China is the biggest importer of rice.
- ❖ Singapore becomes the first country to allow the sale of cultured meat.
 - The meat is created from animal cells without slaughtering chickens.
- ❖ The 10th edition of National science film festival held at Tripura in a virtual mode.
 - It has been jointly organized by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India and Tripura State Government.
- ❖ The Ministry of Communications noted that all fixed to mobile calls will be dialled with prefix '0' from January 15, 2021.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed the AP Gaming (Amendment) Bill 2020 banning online gaming in the state.
- ❖ The Varanasi Annapurna idol is being brought back to India after a century from Canada.

- ❖ GIFT City's regulator International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has become an International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) member.
 - Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City is India's first operational smart city and international financial services centre.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently asked the HDFC bank to temporarily stop all its launches under its Digital 2.0 programme.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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".
- ❖ Puerto Rico's massive Arecibo telescope, famous for its stellar contributions to astronomy, collapsed.
 - Built in 1963, it is the second-largest single-dish radio telescope in the world.
- ❖ Justice Murali Shankar Kuppu Raju and his wife Justice Tamil Selvi were sworn in as judges of Madras High Court.

- Earlier in 2019 Justice Vivek Puri and his wife justice Archana Puri were sworn in as judges of Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- ❖ The startup Pixxel and the New Space India Limited has signed an agreement to launch the first private Remote Sensing satellite of India.
- ❖ On December 4, 2020, the sensex hit 45000 for the first time ever.
- ❖ The Administrator of Lakshadweep Dineshwar Sharma recently passed away.
- ❖ On December 4 2020, the founding day of directorate of revenue intelligence was celebrated.
 - During the celebrations the union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman released the smuggling in India report 2019-20.
- ❖ India's first children's homes for transgender children will soon be established in Bengaluru Urban.
- ❖ The UK has recorded the world's 1st foul air death or death legally certified to have been caused by air pollution.
- ❖ The Famous Tamil publisher Kriya Ramakrishnan recently passed away in Chennai.
 - He was very famous in publishing the Kriya's present Tamil Dictionary (Tamil – Tamil - English).
- ❖ The Gana singer Isaivani of the Casteless Collective from Tamilnadu has been featured on the British Broadcasting Corporation's (BBC) '100 Women 2020' list.
 - Athlete Manasi Joshi, climate activist Ridhima Pandey and protest leader Bilkis Bano are the other Indian women on the list.
- ❖ India has emerged as fourth largest producer of renewable energy in world.
- ❖ Agastya Jaiswal from Hyderabad becomes first graduate in India at just 14 years.
 - He graduated from the Osmania University of Hyderabad.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated two Ayurveda institutions to the country – one at Jamnagar in Gujarat and one at Jaipur in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Chief Executive of Serum Institute of India Adar Poonawalla is one among the six people to be awarded with Asians of the Year.
 - The title is being provided by the Straits Times, a Singapore daily.
- ❖ China recently declared victory in its 8 years drive to eradicate extreme poverty.
- ❖ The Government of India recently renamed the second campus of Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in Kerala after the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh ideologue M S Golwalkar.
- ❖ The construction work of the Agra Metro Project was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi.

- ❖ Jehan Daruvala created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to win a Formula 2 race during the Sakhir Grand Prix in Bahrain.
- ❖ HCL Technologies' Roshni Nadar Malhotra has topped as the richest women in the country in the global rich list prepared by Hurun.
 - She was followed by Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw.
- ❖ Japan is to host seven-team Club FIFA World Cup in 2021.
- ❖ The turtle population in Red Sea is turning female due to rise in sea temperature.
- ❖ The Global report 'The hidden costs of cybercrime' was generated by McAfee.
- ❖ World record-breakers Mondo Duplantis of Sweden and Yulimar Rojas of Venezuela have been named the male and female World Athletes of the Year at the World Athletics Awards 2020.
- ❖ The Dandupur railway station situated on Lucknow-Varanasi rail section in Uttar Pradesh will be named Maa Barahi Devi Dham.
- ❖ Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the inaugural Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched WHO Foundation.
- ❖ After Sikkim, Lakshadweep is the first Union Territory to become 100 per cent organic.
- ❖ The Indian Railways is to use LiDAR technique to conduct ground survey for the Delhi Varanasi High Speed Rail corridor.
 - LiDAR is Light Detection and Ranging technique.
- ❖ The National Academy of Sciences of the USA has recently found that the microwave radiation is the major cause of the mysterious neurological illness called Havana syndrome.
 - The Havana syndrome started to infect the American diplomats and intelligence officials located in China, Cuba and other countries for more than four years now.
- ❖ Narinder Singh Kapany (94), called the 'father of fibre optics', recently passed at the USA.
 - He was the first to transmit images through fibre optics back in 1954.
- ❖ December 9th is the International Day of Commemoration and Dignity of the Victims of the Crime of Genocide and of the Prevention of this Crime.
 - The same day marks the anniversary of the first human rights related treaty 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide known as the "Genocide Convention".
- ❖ West Bengal approved construction of its first deep sea port in Tajpur.
 - A deep-water port is usually made up for the usage of very large and heavily loaded ships.
- ❖ The essential workers such as doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, delivery people who risk their lives in fighting against the covid-19 pandemic have won TIME's 2020 Person of the Year.

- ❖ On December 8, 2020, the Indian Navy observed the 53rd submarine day to commemorate the maiden unfurling of the naval ensign on INS Kalvari.
- ❖ The international Maritime organization (IMO) recognized the NavIC as a component of the worldwide radio navigation system.
- ❖ Maharashtra Cyber department becomes India's first agency to acquire software 'Crawler' from the Interpol's south Asian wing.
 - This software will be used in Operation Blackface, the state's call to action against Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) across the country.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Submarine Optical Fiber Cable connectivity between Kochi and the Lakshadweep islands.
- ❖ The Indian skipper Virat Kohli has equaled the record for most half-centuries in T20Is, which was held till recently by Rohit Sharma.
- ❖ The Indian Navy ordered Israeli SMASH 2000 Plus systems to tackle drones.
- ❖ The author Amish Tripathi has announced his new non-fiction book 'Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life'.
- ❖ The Justice Rajesh Bindal was appointed by the President as the acting chief justice of the common high court for the union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
 - He was appointed after the retirement of Justice Gita Mittal who was the first female Chief Justice of that High Court.
- ❖ The Army Service Corps (ASC), the oldest and the largest administrative service in the Indian Army celebrated the 260th Corps Day of the Army Service Corps on 08 December 2020.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the license of Maharashtra-based Karad Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.
 - On liquidation of a bank, every depositor is entitled to get repayment of deposits up to Rs 5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- ❖ Canada has become the second country after the United Kingdom to give approval to Pfizer's vaccine for its citizens.
- ❖ The Karnataka assembly passed anti cow slaughter bill.
 - The bill seeks a total ban on slaughter of cows in the state.
- ❖ On December 9, 2020, the BSE sensx closed above 46000 first time.
- ❖ Sheikh Sabah Al-Khalid al-Sabah was appointed as the 8th Prime Minister of Kuwait.
 - It came after the resignation of his predecessor Jaber Al-Mubarak Al-Hamad Al-Sabah.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Koliwar Bridge over the Sone river in Bihar.

- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Survey of India to start the India's largest land and house ownership surveys in the state.
 - It was named as "YSR Jagananna Saswatha Bhoomi Hakku-Bhoomi Rakshana".
- ❖ Molnupiravir has been shown to stop the transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in 24 hours.
 - This is the first oral drug to rapidly block SARS-CoV-2 transmission.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address at FICCI's 93rd Annual General Meeting and annual convention on December 12, 2020.
 - This year's theme of the Annual Convention is "Inspired India".
- ❖ Indian-American, Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is among the 18 astronauts who have been selected by NASA for its Artemis moon-landing programme.
 - This programme aims to land the first woman and next man on the Moon in 2024.
- ❖ Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja informed that a new genus of malaria called 'plasmodium oval' has been detected in the state.
- ❖ The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has accepted the invitation by Prime Minister to be the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day celebrations on January 26, 2021 in New Delhi.
- ❖ The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 will be held on 2022 in New Zealand.
- ❖ The 'Swadhinata Sarak' between India and Bangladesh will be opened on March 26, 2021.
 - The road will be connecting India through Meherpur, Mujibnagar district of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has launched COVID-19 vaccinations in its capital city, Abu Dhabi.
 - This gulf nation is one of the first countries across the world to start widespread vaccination.
- ❖ The India Post payments Bank (IPPB) and the Department of Posts (DOP) launched a new digital payment app 'DakPay'.
- ❖ According to the recently released Smuggling in India report of 2020, Mizoram has emerged as one of the major drug trafficking routes from Myanmar.
- ❖ CinemaSCOpe is a movie series launched by the Indian Embassy in Beijing exclusively for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries.
- ❖ International Olympic Committee has recently confirmed Breakdancing as an official Olympic sport.
 - It is to be added at the 2024 Paris Games.
- ❖ The Indian Railways has recently launched Hospital Management Information System (HMIS).

- The trial version of this project has been launched in South Central Railway.
- ❖ The Saksham Offshore Patrol vessel is being built at Goa Shipyard Limited.
 - It is the first and last Offshore Patrol vessel.
- ❖ The US Senate recently passed the National Defence Authorisation Act.
 - It has brought India at par with the NATO allies of America and other countries like South Korea and Israel.
- ❖ Gujarat is the first Indian state to have approved a system to modernise fire safety certification process.
- ❖ Manipur's Ngangom Bala Devi created history by becoming the first Indian woman to score in a professional European football league.
 - She joined the Scottish club in January 2020 and became the first Indian woman to sign a professional football contract overseas.
- ❖ The French president Emmanuel macron has recently announced a referendum to add the fight against climate change to the French constitution.
- ❖ Sandra Lindsay became the first person in the United States to receive the covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ India is to establish a regional climate centre in the Himalayan mountain region.
 - The centre will provide weather related services to India and also to its neighbours.
- ❖ Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla released a book "The Shaurya Unbound-Tales of Valour of the Central Reserve Police Force".
 - It is a book on 2001 Parliament Attack.
- ❖ The winter session of the Parliament is likely to be cancelled due to concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - This was informed by the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard interceptor boat was commissioned at Hazira in Gujarat.
- ❖ The United States electoral college has formally validated the victory of Joe Biden giving him 306 votes.
- ❖ On December 14, 2020, Bangladesh marked the Martyred Intellectuals Day.
 - It is marked to commemorate the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.
- ❖ Pakistan has approved the death penalty and chemical castration for the rapists as the part of new legislation.
- ❖ PM Modi has accepted the invitation of Britain's Prime Minister, Boris Johnson to attend the G7 summit in the year 2021.
 - The summit will be hosted by the United Kingdom.

- ❖ The 55 years old Chilahati-Haldibari (West Bengal) rail link between India and Bangladesh was inaugurated.
 - The link was cut off during the Indo-Pak war in 1965.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Nitin Gadkari unveiled a 'Vedic Paint' to boost the rural economy and generate additional income for farmers.
 - The paint made of cow dung will be launched soon through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission.
- ❖ India has decided to contribute USD 1 million to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) to ensure an atmosphere of the clean sport globally.
 - The contribution made by India is the highest among the contribution made by the governments of Saudi Arabia, China, and Egypt.
- ❖ The Pakistani cricketer Mohammad Amir confirms retirement from International cricket.
- ❖ The San Isidro Movement (MSI) began two years ago in Cuba in protest against the Cuba's censorship of artistic works.
- ❖ The CEO of Prasar Bharati, Shashi Shekhar vempati has been elected as the Vice President of Asia Pacific broadcasting union.
- ❖ The Government of India and the new Development bank has recently signed a loan Agreement of 1 billion USD to support the rural infrastructure of the country and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme.
- ❖ American media personality and reality TV star Kylie Jenner has been crowned the highest-paid celebrity of 2020 by Forbes.
- ❖ The Sports Ministry formally recognised yogasana as a competitive sport.
 - An International Yogasana Sports Federation was formed in November 2019 under the presidentship of yoga guru Baba Ramdev.
- ❖ The Olympic Council of Asia announced that Doha, the Capital of Qatar, will host the Asian Games 2030 edition and Riyadh, the Capital of Saudi Arabia, will host the 2034 edition.
 - Doha will also be hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup.
- ❖ The Government of India released a hundred-page e-booklet called "Putting Farmers First".
 - The booklet highlights the success stories of farmers who have benefited from contract farming.
- ❖ The union Ministry of culture is to open a museum of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Kolkata to commemorate his 125th birth anniversary in 2022.
- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has recently rolled out RuPay Contactless (Offline) feature.
 - The RuPay prepaid card was introduced by NPCI in the year 2014, to offer the feature of one card for all payments.

- ❖ The chairman of Tata Group, Ratan Tata is to be honoured with Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace award.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Karnataka B S Yediyurappa recently launched the “Bengaluru Mission 2022”.
 - The mission aims to provide necessary infrastructure and basic amenities to people of Bengaluru to resolve their day-to-day problems and challenges.
- ❖ The United States Space Force announced a new name for its members.
 - Its space professionals will now be known as 'Guardians'.
- ❖ The UNESCO has recently recognized “Hawker” culture of Singapore.
 - It has included it under the list of intangible cultural heritage.
- ❖ Pakistan is to create a National Sex Offenders Register.
 - This is the first National Sex Offenders Register being created in the country.
- ❖ Solar Winds hack is a cyberattack recently discovered in the United States.
- ❖ The new mutation in corona virus called the N501Y identified in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has ratified the proposal of Parliament dissolution and election dates in 2021.
 - It was presented by Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli.
- ❖ Anshu Malik won a silver medal in the wrestling World Cup in Serbia.
 - It was India’s first medal at the Individual World Cup in Belgrade, Serbia.
- ❖ The Chennai Mathematical Institute is to establish Dr F C Kohli Centre of Excellence for advanced research in mathematical and computing Sciences.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump honoured Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the 'Legion of Merit' award for his role in uplifting the US-India strategic partnership.
 - It was also presented to Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe by the US President.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched Varasat Campaign in the state to curb property and land-related disputes in the rural areas.
- ❖ The National Water Mission in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) launched “Jal Shakti Abhiyan II: Catch the Rain awareness campaign” to promote rainwater harvesting.
 - The Tagline of this campaign is “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls”.
- ❖ The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has launched a call centre for aqua farmers in Vijayawada at Andhra Pradesh

- It is India first call centre in this regard.
- ❖ The Kerala government and UN Women have collaborated to establish India's first Gender Data Hub.
 - It is to be established at the Gender Park headquartered at Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh chief minister Jai Ram Thakur inaugurated the International Gita Mahotsav 2020 at Haryana's Kurukshetra.
- ❖ The 'FRUITS' (Farmer Registration and Unified Beneficiary Information System) portal, is a project of e-governance by Karnataka Government.
 - It was integrated to the Bhoomi portal of the State for validating land details.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the merger of different film bodies - National Film Archives of India, Films Division, Directorate of Film Festivals and Children's Film Society India - with the National Film Development Corporation.
 - India is the largest producer of movies globally.
- ❖ The Kilauea Volcano in Hawaii's Big Island in the USA recently erupted.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its nod to the 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Direct-to-Home (DTH) broadcasting services and increased the license period to twenty years.
 - India is the largest DTH market in the world.
- ❖ Vineet Aggarwal becomes new ASSOCHAM President.
 - He has replaced the Co-founder and MD of Hiranandani Group, Niranjan Hiranandani.
- ❖ The Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju inaugurated eight Khelo India Centres of Excellence across India.
 - The centres are located in the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Telangana, Kerala, Nagaland, Odisha and Karnataka.
- ❖ The UNICEF has recently launched the COVID-19 Vaccine Market Dashboard.
 - The UNICEF is the designated COVAX procurement coordinator and procurement agent.
- ❖ The Ministry for Social Justice and Empowerment launched a mobile application "Swachhata Abhiyan".
 - The application was developed to geotag the data of insanitary latrines and manual scavengers.
- ❖ The Odisha CM announced the construction of the largest hockey stadium of India in Rourkela.
 - The stadium is to host 2023 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup.
- ❖ The joint air force exercise between China and Pakistan named "Shaheen" (Eagle IX) was held at the Sindh province of Pakistan.

- ❖ Maharashtra plans to setup International Sports University at Pune.
- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT-BHU (Banaras Hindu University) at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to set up a Regional Academic Centre for Space (RAC-S).
- ❖ The Air Quality commission recently directed all the industries in the National Capital Region of New Delhi to switch over to Piped Natural Gas.
- ❖ The Ministry of Urban Affairs recently launched a new mobile application and a portal called “E-Sampada”.
 - This application will promote ease of living for government officers and departments.
- ❖ The Jharkhand State Cabinet approved the replacement of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Bima Yojana with its own Fasal Rahat Yojana.
- ❖ The AFSCB (Air Force Sports Control Board) was adjudged as the “Best Company Promoting Sports (Public Sector) 2020” at FICCI India Sports Awards 2020.
- ❖ The Postal Department conferred Meghdoot awards to Postal Employees for their achievements in 2019-20.
- ❖ The 2021 Assembly polls in the Tamilnadu State will see the introduction of postal ballots for voters above 80 years of age and differently-abled.
- ❖ The Junior Asian champion Yash Vardhan of India won the 10m air rifle event at the 6th edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.
 - Yash had finished second in the third edition of IOSC.
- ❖ The PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first driverless train on Delhi metro's Magenta line (Janakpuri West-Botanical Garden).
 - The Delhi Metro, commenced in 2002, is now the largest urban rapid transit system of India.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh (MP) Cabinet has approved the new anti-conversion law, known as Anti-Love Jihad Law, against the forced religious conversions.
 - The new law will replace the MP Religious Freedom Act, 1968.
- ❖ The Department of Revenue recently announced that the GST tax payers should compulsorily pay at least 1% of their tax in cash.
 - This is to come into effect from January 1, 2021.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government is all set to establish India's first mega leather park in Kanpur's Ramaipur village.
 - The project has been recently approved by Union Ministry of Commerce.
- ❖ “In Pursuit of Happiness” is the biography Rajinder Sachar the former Delhi High Court Judge.
 - He is known for his report titled the "Social, Economic and Educational Status of the Muslim Community of India or simply known as the Sachar Committee Report 2006.

TAMIL NADU

World's oldest nanostructures

- ❖ Scientists have discovered the oldest known human-made nanomaterials in the “unique black coatings” of ancient pottery shards
- ❖ These potteries, dated to 600 BC, were unearthed from the archeological site in Keezhadi, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The research was published recently in the journal Scientific Reports.
- ❖ It revealed that these coatings are made of carbon nanotubes (CNTs).
- ❖ CNTs are tubes of carbon that are a billionth of a metre in diameter.
- ❖ CNTs are tubular structures of carbon atoms arranged in an ordered manner.
- ❖ They have enabled the layer to last more than 2600 years.
- ❖ CNTs have superlative properties, including high thermal and electrical conductivity, and very high mechanical strength.
- ❖ Before this, the oldest known carbon nanostructures were found in Damascus blades at Syria from the 16th-18th century CE.



Highest number of women judges

- ❖ The Madras High Court retained its position as the High Court with the highest number of women judges.
- ❖ This High Court has thirteen women judges out of 75 Judges.

Tamil Nadu ban on Rummy

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit promulgated an ordinance banning online gambling games including rummy.
- ❖ The people who are found gaming will be punished with a fine of Rs 5000 and six-months imprisonment.

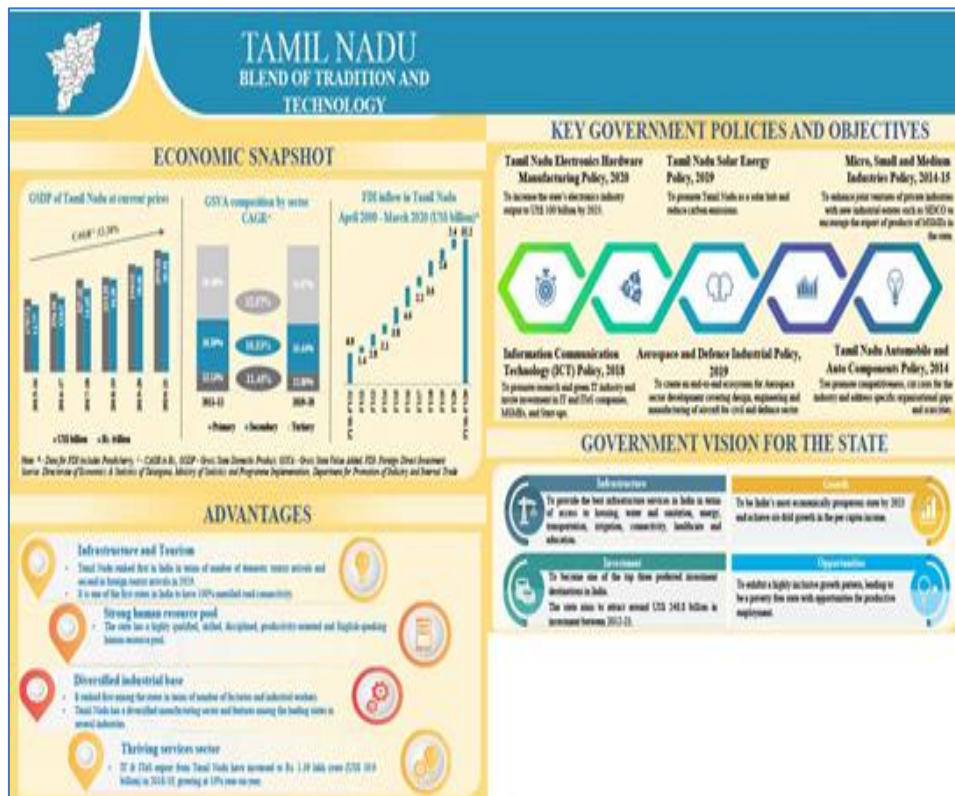
- ❖ The ordinance promulgated by governor Banwarilal Purohit is amending the following acts ;
 - Tamil Nadu Gaming Act 1930,
 - Chennai City Police Act 1888, and
 - The Tamil Nadu District Police Act 1859.

State of the States report

- ❖ For the third time in a row, Tamil Nadu, under the AIADMK government, has emerged as the “Best Performing Big State (Overall)”
- ❖ It topped in the “India Today-MDRA State of the States study 2020”.
- ❖ It was conducted by Marketing and Development Research Associates (MDRA), a Delhi-based premier research agency.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh and Punjab came second and third respectively.
- ❖ In the ‘COVID-19 Management’ category, among the big states, Tamil Nadu came second after Assam.
- ❖ In the small states, Goa has been the best performing state overall for three years in a row.

Tamil Nadu's Performance

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is India's second-largest economy after Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is sixth most populous state in India.
- ❖ It has the third highest GDP per capita in the country.



- ❖ It is the most urbanised and industrialised state in the country.
- ❖ The malnutrition in the Tamilnadu State is among the lowest in the country.
- ❖ For the third consecutive year, Tamil Nadu registered a higher economic growth rate than the national average.
- ❖ At 8.03 per cent, it was double the all-India average of 4.2 per cent in 2019-20.
- ❖ The state's per capita income based on Net State Domestic Product in the same year was Rs 1,53,853.
- ❖ It is taking Tamilnadu from 12th place in the previous year to sixth position now.
- ❖ During 2018-19, the figure was ₹1,42,941 with the State standing at 12th rank.

Persons Studied in Tamil Medium (PSTM) quota

- ❖ The Governor of Tamilnadu Banwarilal approves Bill for providing 20 pc quota for Tamil medium candidates in TNPSC.
- ❖ It will now be filled by candidates who had completed their education in the State language, Tamil.
- ❖ According to the amendment, the candidate will have to have completed their studies up to the qualifying exam as specified by the exam.
- ❖ The Tamil Medium Act 2010 came into force during DMK regime.

International Bharati Festival

- ❖ Prime Minister Modi on December 11, 2020, virtually addressed the International Bharati Festival 2020.
- ❖ PM Modi also conferred Bharati Award 2020 virtually to writer and author Seeni Vishwanathan.
- ❖ Visvanathan made a voluminous compendium on Subramanya Bharati in chronological order.
- ❖ The event was organized by the Vanavil Culture Centre in Chennai.
- ❖ It was held to honor the national poet Mahakavi Subramanya Bharati on his 138th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Subramanya Bharati was born in 11th December, 1882 at Ettayapuram.

Protected monuments of Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Tamilnadu State government announced following two monuments in the State as protected sites.
 - Ammakulam at Keezhravanthavadi village in Tiruvannamalai district and

- An elephant statue at Azhagarmalai village in Ariyalur district.
- ❖ Ammakulam might date back to the 16th century during the reign of the Nayakkar kings.
- ❖ The elephant statue at Azhagarmalai likely dates back to 16th -17th century.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu archaeology department has already had 92 protected ancient monuments under its control.



Amma Mini-Clinics

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the “Amma mini clinic” in Chennai on 14th December.
- ❖ Chennai will have a total of 200 such clinics and Tamil Nadu will get 2,000 such clinics soon.
- ❖ The State has 1,851 primary health centres.
- ❖ The mini clinics will be opened in places where there are no primary health centres and where a large number of poor people live.
- ❖ Each Amma clinic will have a doctor, a nurse, and an assistant and will help in public consultation and basic investigation.
- ❖ The mini clinics will provide basic healthcare facilities like checking body temperature, blood oxygen, blood pressure, haemoglobin, blood sugar, urine samples.



Ola Scooter Factory

- ❖ Ola is to set up world's largest scooter manufacturing facility at Hosur in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Ola signed an MoU with the Tamil Nadu government for an investment of Rs 2,400 crore in setting up its first factory in the state.

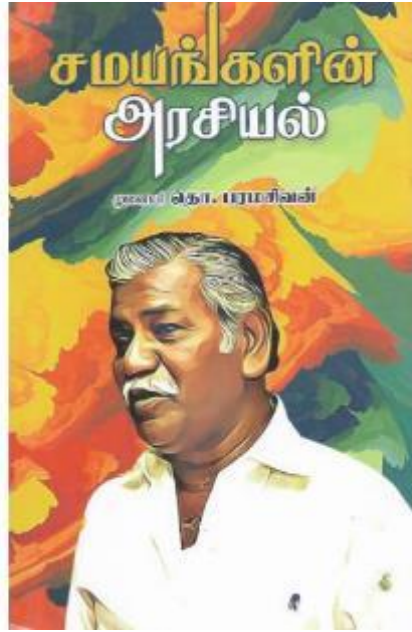
Gold Treasure

- ❖ This treasure was found from the Kuzhambeswarar (குழம்பேஸ்வரர்) temple located near Uthiramerur.
- ❖ The temple is said to belong during the reign of Kulotunga Chola II in the 11th century.
- ❖ Uthiramerur is a place in the Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ There are also inscriptions at Uthiramerur from the period of Parantaka Chola I (907–950), Rajaraja Chola I (985–1014), Rajendra Chola I (1012–1044) and Kulothunga Chola I (1070–1120).
- ❖ The temple inscriptions of Uthiramerur are notable for their historical descriptions of the rural self-governance.



Tho. Paramasivan

- ❖ He passed away on December 24.
- ❖ He was an Indian anthropologist and writer of Tamil ancestry.
- ❖ He was a Tamil professor in the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University.
- ❖ He was Known for his research into the tradition of Tamil society.
- ❖ Paramasivan redefined the cultural space of the Tamils in the light of epics such as Chilapathikaram.
- ❖ Paramasivan authored more than 15 books, including Alagar Kovil, Panpaattu Asaivukal, Ariyappadaatha Thamilagam, Valithadangal, Samayam, Samayankalin Arasiyal, Uraikal, Naal Malarkal, Maanuda Vaasippu, Marabum Puthumaiyum and Idhuve Jananaayagam.



Chinnamanna Narayanaswamy Naidu Award

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami announced this award
- ❖ It will be given to farmers for obtaining highest yield of paddy through the System of Rice Intensification method.
- ❖ It is named after the farmers' leader late C Narayanasamy Naidu.
- ❖ He who strove for the rights of the farmers for many decades.
- ❖ Narayanasamy launched the Tamil Nadu Farmers Association in 1973.
- ❖ He passed away on December 21, 1984 at Kovilpatti.



Abdul Jabbar

- ❖ Abdul Jabbar was a Tamil radio broadcaster and cricket commentator in Tamil.
- ❖ He also served as a coach of Tamilnadu Cricket team.
- ❖ He recently passed away on December 22 at 81.



Pongal bonanza

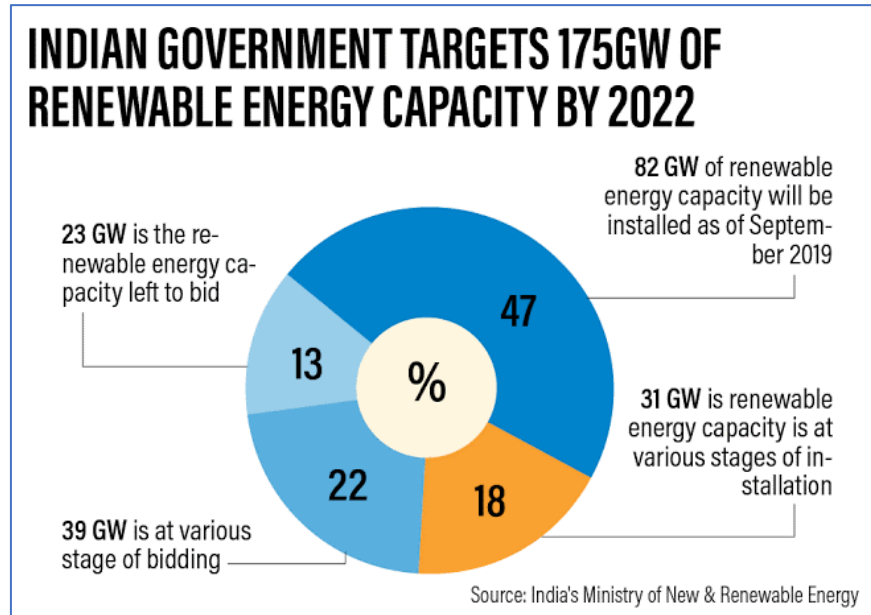
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palanisamy announced Pongal bonanza of Rs 2,500 in cash and gift hamper
- ❖ It will be given to all the 2.6 crore rice ration cardholders in the state to celebrate the harvest festival.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government had given Rs 1000 to the ration cardholders last year.
- ❖ This year it has been increased by Rs 1500 to Rs 2500.
- ❖ In 2014, the people of the state started receiving Rs 100 along with 1 kg rice and 1 kg sugar by the AIADMK government.

NATIONAL

3rd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (RE-Invest 2020)

- ❖ The summit is organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is 'Innovations for Sustainable Energy Transition'.
- ❖ The partner countries of Re-INVEST are Australia, France, Denmark, Germany, UK, Maldives, European Union and US.
- ❖ The partner states are Gujarat, MP, HP, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ India's renewable power capacity is the 4th largest in the world.
- ❖ It is growing at the fastest speed among all major countries.
- ❖ The renewable energy capacity in India is currently 136 Giga Watts.
- ❖ It is about 36% of our total capacity.
- ❖ India's annual renewable energy capacity addition has been exceeding that of coal based thermal power since 2017.

- ❖ In the last 6 years, India has increased installed renewable energy capacity by two and half times.
- ❖ Hydroelectricity is administered separately by the Ministry of Power and not included in MNRE projects.



Lachit Divas

- ❖ It was celebrated in the country on November 24.
- ❖ The day was celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Lachit Borphuran.
- ❖ Lachit Borphukan was a commander in Ahom kingdom.
- ❖ It is marking the most present-day Assam.
- ❖ He was known for his leadership in the 1671 Battle of Saraighat.
- ❖ The battle was fought between the Mughal forces led by Ram Singh and the Ahom forces led by Lachit Borphukan.
- ❖ It held on the banks of the Brahmaputra river at Saraighat, now in Guwahati.
- ❖ Mir Jumla was the king of Ahom when the battle was fought.
- ❖ Ram Singh was the elder son of Mirza Raja Jai Singh, the ruler of Amber.

'India Climate Change Knowledge Portal'

- ❖ The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar virtually launched this portal.
- ❖ The portal will hold major information about the steps taken by the government at both National and international levels to address climate change issues.
- ❖ India is the only G20 country that is on track to meet the 2015 Paris agreement.

- ❖ India has successfully achieved its voluntary target of reducing the emission intensity of GDP by 21 percent over 2005 levels, by the year 2020.
- ❖ India is also poised on achieving a 35% reduction well before the target year 2030.
- ❖ The following are the three national determined contributions of India
 - To reduce emission intensity of GDP by about one-third by 2030
 - To achieve 40% of installed capacity of electricity from non-fossil fuel sources
 - To achieve additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion to 3 billion tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent forest cover for tree cover by 2030.

National Portal for Transgender Persons

- ❖ Recently, Union Social Justice & Empowerment ministry has e-launched a 'National Portal for Transgender Persons'.
- ❖ The portal will help the transgender community to apply for identity card and certificate online.
- ❖ It is an important provision of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- ❖ 'Garima Greh: Shelter Home for Transgender Persons' has been inaugurated, in Vadodara, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Ministry has identified 10 cities to set up the 13 Shelter Homes and extend the facilities to Transgender persons.
- ❖ The cities include Vadodara, New Delhi, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Kolkata, Manipur, Chennai, Raipur and Mumbai.

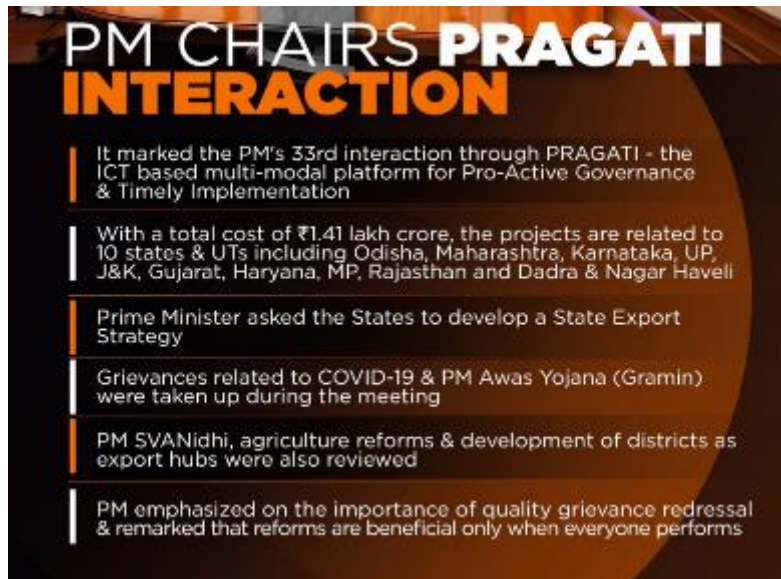
HRMS – Indian Railways

- ❖ Indian Railways has recently launched the digitised online Human Resource Management System (HRMS).
- ❖ It is a high thrust project for Indian Railways to leverage improved productivity & employee satisfaction.

33rd Pragati interaction

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Pragati meeting.
- ❖ PRAGATI means Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation.
- ❖ It was launched in 2015.
- ❖ It is a three-tier system that includes the Prime Minister Office, Government of India secretaries and Chief Secretaries of the state.
- ❖ It is a multi-modal and multi-purpose platform that aims to address the grievances of a common man.

- ❖ It also monitors and reviews projects of Government of India and also projects flagged by the State Governments.
- ❖ The programme is held once in every month, which is on fourth Wednesday.
- ❖ This day is called “PRAGATI Day”.



Mitigation and Management of Covid-19

- ❖ It was released by Niti Aayog.
- ❖ It highlighted the practices from India's states and Union territories to contain the Covid.
- ❖ Kerala's efforts in fighting the pandemic has found special mention in this report.

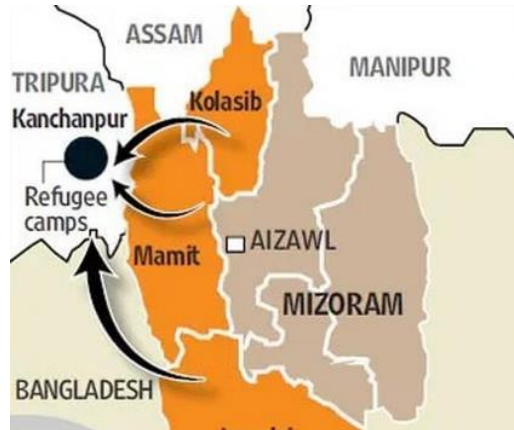
Disqualification of MLA

- ❖ 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.



National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre

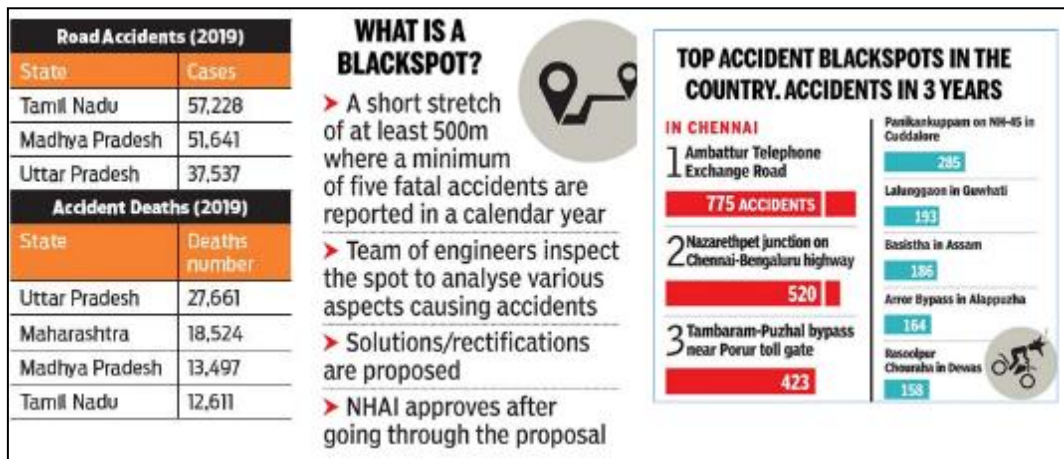
- ❖ The Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) will become a National Maritime Domain Awareness (NDMA) centre.
- ❖ It is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.
- ❖ Located in Gurugram, IMAC tracks vessels on the high seas.
- ❖ It is the nodal centre of the National Command Control Communication and Intelligence System (NC3I).

Karnataka MLC disqualified

- ❖ The Karnataka High Court has held that Vishwanath stands disqualified under the anti-defection law and hence cannot be inducted into the state cabinet.
- ❖ Vishwanath has incurred disqualification under Article 164 (1B) and Article 361 (B) of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ Vishwanath had been appointed as the Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) despite the fact that Vishwanath had lost the bye-poll held for the State Legislative Assembly.
- ❖ Already he was disqualified as per the Supreme Court judgement in 2019.
- ❖ It was argued that a disqualified member can become eligible to hold the position of a minister only if they win the bye-elections from the same constituency.

Road Accidents in India

- ❖ With over 156 road accident cases per day, Tamil Nadu ranks first for the third year in India.
- ❖ It was the data according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ It was followed by Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ With regards to deaths on National Highways, Tamil Nadu stood third, behind Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Under the mega cities, Chennai holds the second place in road accident deaths after Delhi.
- ❖ The Union road transport ministry's accident report 2019 placed three spots in Chennai as the country's deadliest accident blackspots.



100 Octane Petrol

- ❖ The Indian Oil Corporation recently launched the first 100 Octane petrol.
- ❖ This is the first time 100 Octane fuel is being launched in the country.
- ❖ It is usually used in luxury vehicles that demand high-performance.
- ❖ It is available only in six countries in the world namely Germany, United States, Greece, Malaysia, Indonesia and Israel.
- ❖ Octane ratings are the measure of fuel stability.

2021 Republic Day Guest

- ❖ India has reportedly invited UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson to be the Chief Guest at Republic Day 2021.
- ❖ If the invitation is accepted, then he will be the first British PM to grace the Rajpath parade in 27 years.
- ❖ The last UK PM to be the chief guest at the January 26 parade was John Major in 1993.

- ❖ If the visit is confirmed, it will be the first in-person visit of any head of government to India amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The last head of government to visit India was Myanmar President Win Myint and US President Donald Trump in February 2020.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant

- ❖ This Indigenous Aircraft Carrier is set to be commissioned into service by end of 2021 or early 2022.
- ❖ The carrier is in the final stages of its construction at Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
- ❖ The motto of INS Vikrant is “Jayema Sam Yudhi Sprdhah”.
- ❖ It was taken from Rig Veda.

Cyclone Burevi

- ❖ It is likely to cross the shores between Pamban and Kanyakumari in South Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The name is contributed by the Maldives.

Learning Management System (LMS)

- ❖ It was launched by the Karnataka government in digital mode.
- ❖ It will be implemented in government colleges within the state.
- ❖ It is said to be the first of its kind initiative in the country.
- ❖ It is aimed at encouraging digital learning and improving the Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education.

Ramayan Cruise Service

- ❖ A tour service on the Saryu river in Ayodhya at Uttar Pradesh will be launched.
- ❖ It will be first-ever luxury cruise service on the Saryu river (Ghagra/National Waterway).

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

7th WASH (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene) Conclave

- ❖ It was organized by UNICEF and National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj.
- ❖ The theme of the conclave was “Hygiene Matters”.

- ❖ The Government of India has set the target to provide access to and use of safe and adequate drinking water to all households within 2024.



Most trusted Brand

- ❖ Dell has achieved top slot as India's Most Trusted Brand second year in a row in TRA's Brand Trust Report (BTR) 2020.
- ❖ It is followed in second place by Mi Mobiles.
- ❖ Samsung Mobiles secures the 3rd place, followed by Apple iPhone and LG Television staking 4th and 5th ranks, respectively.

India's Most Trusted Brands 2020: TRA report	
1. DELL	LAPTOPS
2. MI	MOBILE PHONES
3. SAMSUNG	MOBILE PHONES
4. APPLE IPHONE	MOBILE PHONES
5. LG	TELEVISIONS
6. OPPO	MOBILE PHONES
7. SONY ENTERTAINMENT	HINDI - GEC
8. MARUTI SUZUKI	4 WHEELER
9. SAMSUNG	TELEVISIONS
10. VIVO	MOBILE PHONES

Pfizer India

- ❖ Pfizer India has become the first pharma company to approach the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) to seek an emergency use authorization of its vaccine for COVID-19 in India.
- ❖ Already UK and Bahrain have given their permission for Pfizer's vaccine BNT162b2.
- ❖ This vaccine requires the extremely low temperature for storing at minus 70 degrees Celsius.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India (SII) seeks emergency use authorization for the Oxford - Astra Zeneca vaccine COVID-19 vaccine candidate 'Covishield'.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India (SII) is the World's largest vaccine manufacturer.

9th International Sand art festival

- ❖ The ninth edition of the International Sand Art Festival has begun at the Chandrabhaga Beach of Konark in Odisha's Puri district.
- ❖ Sudarsan Pattnaik, world-renowned sand artist and Padmashree Awardee, has been appointed as Chief Curator of the festival.
- ❖ Odisha is the only state in the country that provides a national and international platform for this art form.
- ❖ This year, the main themes of the sculptures are 'Environment' and 'Covid-19'.



Global understanding of India project

- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) recently launched the Global understanding of India project.
- ❖ Under the project, the ICCR will survey the text books that are taught in schools of other countries.
- ❖ This has been done under the Urban Landscape City Programme of UNESCO.

COVAXIN

- ❖ Bharat Biotech applied for the emergency use authorization to the Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) for its indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine 'COVAXIN'.
- ❖ With this step, Bharat Biotech, based in Hyderabad, has become the third applicant of the vaccine after Pfizer and Serum Institute of India to apply for the approval of emergency use in India.
- ❖ COVAXIN has been indigenously developed by Bharat Biotech in joint collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ The Indian arm of Pfizer became the first applicant in India only after getting clearance in the United Kingdom and Bahrain.
- ❖ Serum Institute of India became the second firm to apply for the emergency approval.
- ❖ Serum Institute has applied for the approval of the COVIDSHIELD vaccine.
- ❖ It has been co-developed by Oxford University and pharma company AstraZeneca.

India Mobile Congress 2020

- ❖ The Department of Telecommunications and Cellular Operators Association of India are organizing the Indian Mobile Congress.
- ❖ It is being organized under the theme "Inclusive Innovation-Smart, Secure, Sustainable".
- ❖ It will mainly focus on Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Block Chain, Data Analytics and Smart Cities and Internet of Things.

Invest India

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) recently declared "Invest India" as the winner of the United Nations Investment Promotion Award, 2020.
- ❖ The award ceremony took place at the headquarters of UNCTAD in Geneva.
- ❖ The award by United Nations recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements of the best practice investment promotion agencies of the world.
- ❖ Invest India was set up in 2009 under the Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade Department, Minister of Commerce and Industry, India.
- ❖ It is a National Investment promotion and facilitation agency of India which acts as the first point of reference for Indian investors.
- ❖ It is a non-profit venture.



Tharu Tribes

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has recently launched a scheme to take the unique culture of its ethnic Tharu tribe across the world.
- ❖ They belong to the lowlands located in the Shivalik or the lower Himalayas.
- ❖ The Tharus live in both India and Nepal.
- ❖ In the Indian terai, they live mostly in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar.

Malaria in India

- ❖ India has been the only high endemic country that reported a decline of 17.6% in 2019 compared to previous years.
- ❖ Meghalaya has topped the list in reducing malaria cases by 59 per cent in the country.
- ❖ It is followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

Urban Governance Index

- ❖ The Praja Foundation recently released the Urban Governance Index.
- ❖ The ranking was done based on urban governance reforms.
- ❖ Odisha topped the list of states.
- ❖ It was followed by Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Manipur and Nagaland were at the bottom of the list.

The National Digital Health Mission

- ❖ It will be rolled out across India in January 2021.
- ❖ It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech in August 2020.
- ❖ The National Health Data Management Policy is the basis of rolling out the National Digital Health Mission.
- ❖ This would be the first time India would make a foray in digital health sector.

- ❖ It will provide a unique health account to every Indian citizen, enabling them hassle-free access to healthcare across the country.
- ❖ The National Digital Health Mission had a pilot run in the Union Territories.

One Nation One Ration Card

- ❖ The Finance Ministry has informed that the 'One Nation One Ration Card' policy has been successfully implemented in 9 states of India.
- ❖ The 9 states that successfully implemented the policy are Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, and Gujarat.
- ❖ Under the scheme, beneficiaries are able to buy the subsidized food grains from any Fair Price Shops all over the country.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the biggest beneficiary of this scheme.
- ❖ It was followed by Karnataka and Gujarat.
- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution under Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution is the nodal department for this scheme.

Co-WIN App

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has developed this digital platform.
- ❖ It will work for real-time monitoring of COVID-19 vaccine delivery, recording data and to enable people to get themselves registered for vaccination.
- ❖ Through this 'Co-WIN' platform, the people will be able to register themselves for vaccination.

New Parliament Building

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the New Parliament Building at Sansad Marg in Parliament Complex.
- ❖ Tata Projects Ltd has been given the contract for the construction of this project.
- ❖ It will come up in an area covering 64,500 sqm at a cost of Rs 971 crore.
- ❖ It is expected to be finished by or before 2022.
- ❖ The country will celebrate its 75th Independence Day in 2022.
- ❖ The new Parliament building will have a bigger Lok Sabha and Rajya Chamber with the lower house having 888 seats, while the upper house will have 384 seats.
- ❖ It will be able to accommodate 1224 members during a joint session of the parliament.
- ❖ The new Parliament building will not have a central hall unlike the existing one.



Meat at IVC

- ❖ A new study has found the presence of animal products in the Indus Valley Civilization.
- ❖ It is including cattle and buffalo meat in ceramic vessels.
- ❖ The people also kept the cattle for their dairy needs.
- ❖ The study also found that both summer and winter-based cropping was practiced.
- ❖ There is evidence of barley, wheat, rice and millets.
- ❖ It is dating back about 4,600 years at Indus Valley Civilisation sites.
- ❖ The study was essentially done in five sites: four villages – Alamgirpur in Uttar Pradesh; and around five places in Haryana.
- ❖ It was conducted by Akshyeta Suryanarayan at Cambridge.
- ❖ It was published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.

India Water Impact summit

- ❖ It is the first ever summit in this kind.
- ❖ It will disseminate and discuss the need for modalities of embracing the method cleaning of Ganga.
- ❖ It is being organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Centre for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.
- ❖ Theme of this summit is 'Comprehensive analysis and Holistic management of rivers and water bodies with a focus on Arth Ganga'.

Urban Quality of Life

- ❖ It was compiled by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B).
- ❖ The study quantifies the relative holistic urban development of 14 cities in India.
- ❖ Gender parity was taken into consideration for the first time.

Important points

- ❖ Top city is Mumbai.
- ❖ The worst city is Patna.
- ❖ Most women-friendly city is Chennai.
- ❖ Least women-friendly city is Patna.
- ❖ Highest crime rate against women is at Jaipur
- ❖ Lowest crime rate against women is at Chennai

IIT-B RANKING OF INDIAN CITIES		
Index	Highest ranked	Lowest ranked
Basic amenities	Pune	Patna
Economic development	Mumbai	Patna
Safety and security	Kolkata	Patna
Transportation access	Delhi	Indore
Environmental impact	Mumbai	Lucknow
Infrastructure development	Kolkata	Patna
Gender role	Chennai	Patna

SBI study on pandemic management

- ❖ The North-eastern states have topped the list of states in managing Covid-19.
- ❖ It is followed by Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Himachal Pradesh are at the bottom of the list.
- ❖ The northeast topped the list in the macroeconomic parameters as well.
- ❖ It was followed by Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal were at the bottom in this category.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra were at the top on performance in the Centre's schemes.
- ❖ While Goa, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh were the most laggard.
- ❖ Five schemes were taken into account for this yardstick - one nation one ration card, PM Svanidhi, PM Samman, emergency credit linked guarantee scheme and PM Awas Yojana.
- ❖ Combining all the schemes, the Northeast topped the list followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Himachal Pradesh came at the bottom.

VISVAS Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will introduce Vanchit Ikai Samooch aur Vargon ki Aarthik Sahayta (VISVAS) scheme.
- ❖ It is an interest subvention scheme for the self-help groups (SHGs) or SCs and OBCs households with an annual income of up to ₹3 lakh.

‘Vision 2035: Public Health Surveillance in India’

- ❖ NITI Aayog has released this white paper.
- ❖ This paper calls for integration of the 3 tiers of healthcare system in India (primary, secondary and tertiary) into Ayushman Bharat.

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit

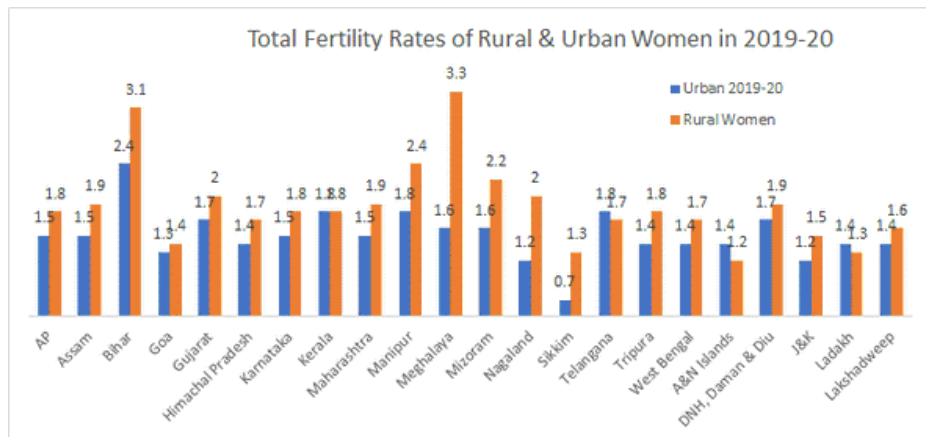
- ❖ The ninth edition of this Summit commenced in Dehradun of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Theme of this year is ‘Emerging Pathways for Building Resilient Post COVID-19 Mountain Economy, Adoption, Innovation and Acceleration’.
- ❖ The summit was organised by Indian Mountain Initiative.

National Centre for Divyang Empowerment (NCDE)

- ❖ It is first of its kind in India.
- ❖ It was established by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- ❖ It aims to re-skill and rehabilitate Divyang warriors of the force suffering from disability that occurred in line of duty.
- ❖ The Centre is located at the CRPF Group Centre Rangareddy, Telangana.

National Family Health Survey for the 2019-20 fiscal (NFHS-5)

- ❖ It was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- ❖ It was released by four years after the last survey (NFHS-4, 2015-16)
- ❖ The total fertility rate (TFR) has decreased across majority of the states.
- ❖ Except for Bihar, Manipur and Meghalaya, all other states have a TFR of 2.1 or less.
- ❖ It implies that most states have attained replacement level fertility.
- ❖ Sex ratio in Assam is now skewed in favour of females.
- ❖ There were 1,012 females born during 2019-2020 per 1,000 males.



Vigyan yatra

- ❖ It is a promotional activity to promote scientific temper.
- ❖ It is being carried out as a part of the 6th India International Science Festival.
- ❖ The festival is organised by the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare.



Overseas Citizens of India

- ❖ Recently, the High Court of Karnataka held that the Students under the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) category are to be considered as “citizens of India” for admission to professional courses.
- ❖ Government of India launched the ‘Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme’ by making amendments to Citizenship Act of 1955 in 2005.
- ❖ On 09 January 2015, the Government of India discontinued the PIO card and merged it with OCI card.

Brand India Mission

- ❖ The Government of India is to launch this Mission to promote quality of products that are manufactured in the country.

- ❖ This mission is being piloted by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The main aim of the mission is to increase the local production.
- ❖ The mission is to initially focus on tyre and Rubber Industry ecosystem.

Postal Voting

- ❖ The Election Commission has named a few countries where it would like to have postal voting introduced for NRIs on a pilot basis.
- ❖ The proposal may get implemented first for voters based in the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Japan, Australia, Germany, France, and South Africa.
- ❖ Out of 1.18 lakh NRI voters, the largest number (about 89,0000) are registered to vote in Kerala.
- ❖ The second-largest cohort (roughly 7,500) are registered in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ India's diaspora population is the largest in the world at 16 million people.
- ❖ Voting rights for NRIs were introduced only in 2011, through an amendment to the Representation of the People Act 1950.
- ❖ An NRI can vote in the constituency in which their place of residence, as mentioned in the passport, is located.
- ❖ They can only vote in person and will have to produce their passport in original at the polling station for establishing identity.

eSanjeevani Telemedicine

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently announced that the eSanjeevani Telemedicine has crossed one million tele-consultations.
- ❖ The eSanjeevani is the first of its kind in delivering health services online.
- ❖ It is implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC) scheme.
- ❖ The top two states that have registered the highest number of tele-consultations are Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.



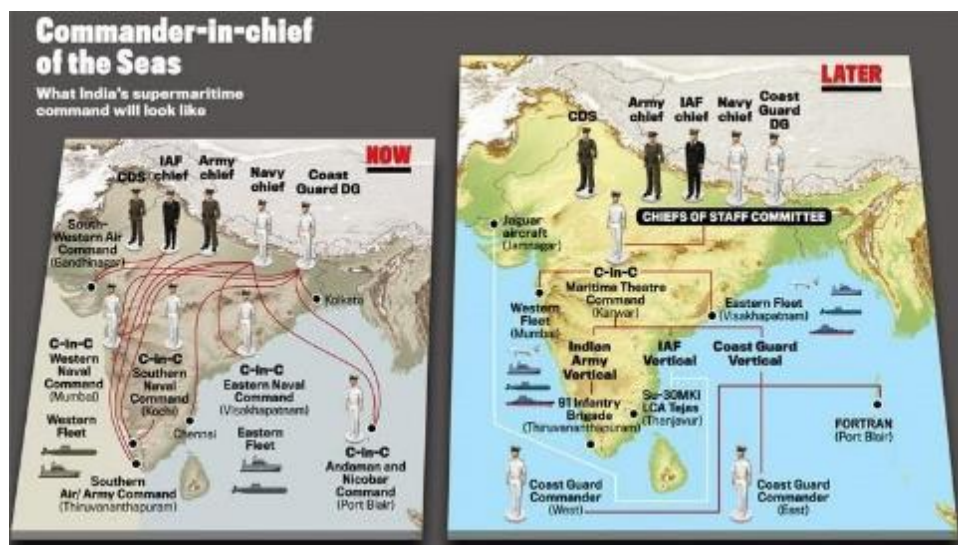
The poster features the Government of India emblem at the top, followed by the text 'Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India'. Below this is the 'eSanjeevani OPD' logo with the tagline 'STAY HOME OPD'. The central illustration shows a male doctor in a white coat and stethoscope, sitting at a desk with a computer monitor. To the left of the doctor are silhouettes of a family (two adults and two children). At the bottom, the text 'स्वस्थ भारत' (Healthy India) is written in Devanagari script. The right side of the poster has a blue background with white and yellow text. It reads: '“eSanjeevani” telemedicine service records 1 million tele-consultations'. Below this, two bullet points are listed: 'eSanjeevani used by patients in over 550 districts' and 'Volume of Consultations per day increases to around 14,000'.

Toll Booth Free India

- ❖ The Central Government has approved the GPS-based technology for toll collection with an aim to ensure seamless vehicle movement.
- ❖ The move is expected to enable India to be 'toll booth free'.
- ❖ Under the GPS-based toll collection system, the toll amount will be deducted directly from the bank account of the person based on the movement of vehicles.

Maritime Theatre Command

- ❖ The first Maritime Theatre Command (MTC) of India is to be launched in 2021.
- ❖ It is to integrate the assets of Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ It will subsume the Western Naval Command (Mumbai), tri-service Andaman and Nicobar Command (Port Blair), Eastern Naval Command (Vizag) and the southern Air Command (Thiruvananthapuram).
- ❖ It is the first geographical theatre command being created as a part of the biggest ever military restructuring plan.



DRIP 2

- ❖ The World Bank recently approved 250 million USD to improve the performance of existing dams in India and to improve their safety.
- ❖ DRIP is Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project.
- ❖ It is being implemented with the loan assistance from the World Bank.
- ❖ The project was initially launched in seven states namely Karnataka, Jharkhand, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Uttarakhand and Tamil Nadu.

Hypersonic wind tunnel facility

- ❖ The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated India's first hypersonic wind tunnel facility at Hyderabad.
- ❖ After Russia and US, India has become the third country to have such a large facility in terms of operating capability and size.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Telecom skill excellence awards

- ❖ The Union Minister of Communications and Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad presented Telecom Skill Excellence Awards.
- ❖ The first prize was won by Srinivas Karanam.
- ❖ He won the award for developing a cost-effective technical solution for deep sea communication.



E5 Series Shinkansen

- ❖ Japan recently released the first glimpse of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed bullet train project.
- ❖ The E5 Series Shinkansen trains are to be used to implement this project.
- ❖ The project is to be completed by 2023.
- ❖ E5 Series Shinkansen are high speed Japanese trains.



Hydrocarbon producing basin

- ❖ The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) opened India's 8th hydrocarbon producing basin.
- ❖ It has been opened at Ashok nagar in West Bengal.
- ❖ It is joining the ranks of Krishna-Godavari (KG), Mumbai Offshore, Assam Shelf, Rajasthan, Cauvery, Assam-Arakan Fold Belt and Cambay.
- ❖ There are 26 sedimentary basins in India.
- ❖ Of these, 16 are on land basins, 7 located both on land and offshore and 3 completely offshore.

The Himalayan trillium

- ❖ It is a common herb of the Himalayas.
- ❖ It was declared 'endangered' by the IUCN.
- ❖ In India, it is found in four states only - Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand.



India's 1st CoE for skill development

- ❖ Skill India recently established the Centre of Excellence (CoE) for skill development in power sector.
- ❖ The Centre has been established in the campus of National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram, Haryana.
- ❖ The centre is an outcome of collaboration between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of National Education and Youth (Government of France) and Schneider Electric.

5th Global Technology Summit

- ❖ It was organised virtually by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in collaboration with Carnegie India (CI).

- ❖ This year's theme was "The Geopolitics of Technology".
- ❖ It is one of the four flagship annual conferences organised by MEA.
- ❖ The other three conferences are the Raisina Dialogue, the Geo-economic dialogue, and the Indian Ocean Conference.

100th year of ASSOCHAM

- ❖ The Associated Chambers of Commerce of India represents the interests of trade and commerce in India.
- ❖ ASSOCHAM is authorised by the Government of India to issue Certificates of Origin, certify commercial invoices, and recommend business visa.
- ❖ It was established in 1920.
- ❖ The theme of this celebration is "India's resilience: Atma nirbhar roadmap towards a US\$5 Trillion economy".
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi bestowed the ASSOCHAM Enterprise of the Century Award to industrialist Ratan Tata.
- ❖ Ratan Tata received the prestigious award on behalf of the Tata Group.

New Routes for Inland waterway

- ❖ The Government of India recently identified new routes for ferry services through inland waterways.
- ❖ The new routes include Hazira, Somnath temple, Okha and Jamnagar.
- ❖ Also, destinations along the international routes have also been identified under the Sagarmala Project.
- ❖ The Sagarmala project aims to promote port led development in the country by using the 7,500 km long coastline.
- ❖ Around six international routes have been identified for this.
- ❖ These routes include four international destinations such as Seychelles, Chattogram of Bangladesh, Madagascar and Jaffna of Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India has planned to increase the cargo handling capacity of the country to 100 million tonnes by 2021-22.

India International Science Festival (IISF)

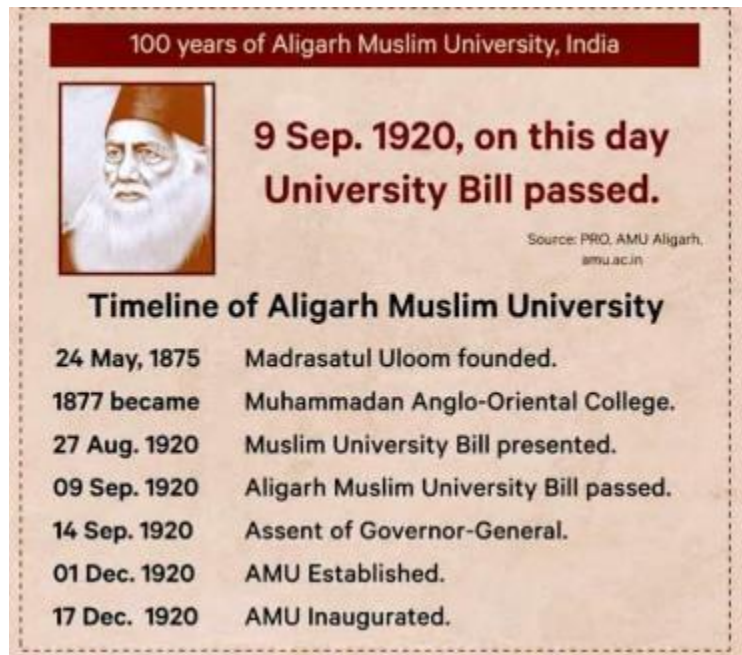
- ❖ On December 22, 2020, PM Modi inaugurated the 6th India International Science Festival.
- ❖ Theme of this festival is "Science for Self-Reliant India and Global Welfare".
- ❖ A Vigyan Yatra was flagged off on December 14 to increase scientific temperament ahead of IISF 2020.

- ❖ It was conceptualised in 2015 by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) along with a science organisation named Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
- ❖ Its aim is to promote the use of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in daily life.



100th Year of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)

- ❖ PM Modi released postal stamp to mark the centenary celebrations of Aligarh Muslim University.
- ❖ This is the first time PM Modi participated in a programme of the Aligarh Muslim University in the Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Also, it was the first time in the history of five decades when a prime minister was attending an event of this university as a chief guest.
- ❖ The last prime minister to attend any such event at AMU was Lal Bahadur Shastri in the year 1964.
- ❖ PM Modi lauds AMU as 'mini-India'.
- ❖ AMU became a University in 1920 through an Act of Indian Legislative Council.
- ❖ It elevated the status of the Mohammedan Anglo Oriental (MAO) College to the status of a Central University.
- ❖ MAO College was set up in 1877 by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.
- ❖ After that the college came to be known as the Aligarh Movement.
- ❖ It pushed the need for establishing a modern education system for the Indian Muslim populace.
- ❖ It has three off-campus centres in Malappuram (Kerala), AMU Murshidabad centre (West Bengal), and Kishanganj Centre (Bihar).



DigiBoxx

- ❖ It was announced by the NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant.
- ❖ It is India's First Digital asset management platform.
- ❖ It is a file sharing and cloud storage platform.
- ❖ It provides 20 GB of free cloud storage and 100 GB free space per month.
- ❖ It charges only 30 rupees per month for such large storages.
- ❖ It is first in its kind under "Make in India, Store in India" policy of India.
- ❖ It is a Software as a Service product that is in line with the National security and data localisation priorities.



FDI in Railways

- ❖ The largest foreign direct investment (FDI) project worth 25000 crores rupees in the Railways has been won by Alstom of France.
- ❖ It has won the contract to supply 800 fully electric locomotives of 12,000 HP for Indian Railways.
- ❖ These locos are capable of hauling approximately 6,000 tonnes at a top speed of 120 kmph.
- ❖ India becomes sixth nation to manufacture high-power electric locos locally.
- ❖ The other countries are Russia, China, Germany and Sweden.
- ❖ In 2018, the first-ever e-loco of 12,000 horsepower engines was flagged off from the Madhepura facility in Bihar.

100th year of Visva-Bharati university

- ❖ It is a public research central university and an Institution of National Importance located in Shant iniketan, West Bengal.
- ❖ It was founded by Rabindranath Tagore on December 23rd of 1921.
- ❖ Visva-Bharati was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951.

Lithium refinery

- ❖ The first Lithium refinery of India is to be set up in Gujarat.
- ❖ The lithium ore for the refinery is to be imported from Australia.
- ❖ Manikaran Power Limited is to invest Rs 1000 crores to set up the refinery.
- ❖ Manikaran is India's third largest power trading company.
- ❖ Lithium is a rare element and is not found in India.
- ❖ India gained access to the Bolivian Lithium reserves very recently.
- ❖ Bolivia has one-fourth of the world lithium reserves.
- ❖ China controls 51% of global lithium and 62% of cobalt.
- ❖ These two elements are the main components of lithium-ion batteries.
- ❖ The future demand of Lithium in India is driven by the electrification of transport and storage of renewable energy.

Primary Energy Mix

- ❖ The Government of India is to increase the share of Natural Gas in the primary energy mix of the country from 6.2% to 15% by 2030.
- ❖ In 2019, PM Modi announced "One Nation One Gas Grid".
- ❖ Under this, India is to expand its Natural Gas Grid by adding 17,000 kilo metres of gas pipeline.

Most Helpful MP during Covid

- ❖ It was a survey by the New Delhi-based citizen engagement platform GovernEye Systems.
- ❖ It has surveyed the top leaders who extended maximum assistance to their constituents during the lockdown this year.
- ❖ The top three are BJP's Ujjain MP Anil Firojiya, YSRCP's Nellore MP Adala Prabhakara Reddy, and former Congress chief and Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi.
- ❖ The top 10 MPs include:
 - 1) Anil Firojiya (BJP),
 - 2) Adala Prabhakara Reddy (YSRCP),
 - 3) Rahul Gandhi (INC),
 - 4) Mahua Moitra (TMC),
 - 5) L.S. Tejasvi Surya (BJP),
 - 6) Hemant Tukaram Godse (Shiv Sena),
 - 7) Sukhbir Singh Badal (SAD),
 - 8) Shankar Lalwani (BJP),
 - 9) Dr. T. Sumathy (a) Thamizhachi Thangapandian (DMK) and
 - 10) Nitin Jairam Gadkari (BJP).

Largest Painting

- ❖ A student of Banaras Hindu University Neha Singh has made the largest painting in the world using natural colours.
- ❖ Neha's name has been included in the Guinness World Records as she has painted a 'moksh ka vriksh' (tree of salvation).
- ❖ This painting size is 62.72 m² (675.12 ft²).
- ❖ The earlier record for the largest spice painting was registered in the name of Shreya Tatinini of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ She made the painting of 588.56 ft².



India's Youngest Mayor

- ❖ Arya Rajendran of Communist Party of India (Marxist) is likely to become the next Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- ❖ She is set to become India's youngest mayor at the 21-year-old.



100th Kisan Rail

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 100th Kisan Rail from Sangola in Maharashtra to Shalimar in West Bengal
- ❖ The first-ever Kisan Rail was flagged off on August 7, 2020.
- ❖ The service was launched between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar.
- ❖ It was then extended to Muzaffarpur of Bihar.



Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor

- ❖ The PM inaugurated the New Bhaupur - New Khurja section and the Operation Control Centre of Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor.
- ❖ The Operation Control Centre at Prayagraj of Uttar Pradesh is to act as the command centre for the entire route length of the corridor.
- ❖ The project was funded by World Bank.

- ❖ The Length of this corridor is 1856 km.
- ❖ It starts from Sahnewal near Ludhiana (Punjab) and will pass through the states of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand to terminate at Dankuni in West Bengal.



Monpa Handmade Paper Unit

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) recently established the Monpa handmade paper making unit.
- ❖ The unit will create local employment in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The art of Monpa handmade paper originated in China around thousand years ago.

CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020

- ❖ India's largest power producer NTPC Ltd has been conferred "Excellence" in the prestigious CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2020 in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Domain.
- ❖ Also, it has been honoured in the Corporate Excellence Category, Commendation for Significant Achievement.
- ❖ This is the highest award conferred by CII-ITC in CSR domain.
- ❖ NTPC is the only PSU to receive the award in the Corporate Excellence category.
- ❖ It has won this award for a second time in a row i.e in the year 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ The Ramco Cements Alathiyur unit of Tamilnadu gets 'Commendation for Significant Achievement in CSR' award.

Digital India Awards 2020

- ❖ The Chief Minister Secretariat of Bihar, National Informatics Centre and the Disaster Management Department have been jointly chosen as winners in “Pandemic Category” in Digital India Awards, 2020.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Food and Civil Supplies Department won the Digital India Award, 2020 under the “Excellence in Digital Governance” category.



INTERNATIONAL

Most Connected City

- ❖ The International Air Transport Association recently announced that Shanghai is the world's most connected city in the world.
- ❖ Heathrow Airport of London is the second busiest airport in the world.
- ❖ Along with Shanghai, three other cities of China such as Beijing, Chengdu and Guangzhou have emerged as the most connected cities in the world.

Ranking	Sep-19	Sep-20
1	London	Shanghai
2	Shanghai	Beijing
3	New York	Guangzhou
4	Beijing	Chengdu
5	Tokyo	Chicago
6	Los Angeles	Shenzhen
7	Bangkok	Los Angeles
8	Hong Kong	London
9	Seoul	Dallas
10	Chicago	Atlanta

ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

- ❖ Vietnam has invited India for ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus).
- ❖ It will be hosted by Vietnam in December 2020.
- ❖ The ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN and its eight Dialogue Partners.
- ❖ The 2nd ADMM in Singapore in 2007 adopted the Concept Paper to establish the ADMM-Plus.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- ❖ Eight Dialogue Partners are Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA.
- ❖ These are collectively referred to as the "Plus Countries".
- ❖ Maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine are the agreed five areas of practical cooperation under this mechanism.

Maritime Security Cooperation

- ❖ India, Sri Lanka and Maldives held the fourth national security advisor trilateral meeting.
- ❖ It was hosted by Sri Lanka.
- ❖ India was represented by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval

SCO Heads of Government summit 2020

- ❖ It is the 19th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government summit.
- ❖ The SCO Heads of Government Council consists of Prime Ministers of the member countries.
- ❖ The SCO Heads of Government summit witnessed the participation from 7 Prime Ministers.
- ❖ It includes six from SCO member states including Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and one from observer state Belarus.
- ❖ Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistan PM Imran Khan have not participated in the meeting.
- ❖ The virtual summit was chaired by Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu.
- ❖ India, under the purview of its hosting rights, has extended an invitation to Turkmenistan to be the Special Guest at the SCO summit.
- ❖ India is hosting the first SCO summit-level meeting after it became a full-time member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in 2017.

- ❖ As per rotation, India had assumed the chairmanship of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on November 2, 2019 succeeding Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India's year-long term will end on November 30.
- ❖ Mr. Modi had already attended the SCO “Heads of State” meeting, chaired by Russian President Vladimir Putin in November 2020.
- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization has 8 member states in total and 4 observer states.
- ❖ The observer states include Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.

Sudan Former PM

- ❖ Sadiq al-Mahdi was Sudan's last democratically elected leader.
- ❖ He recently passed away at the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Al-Mahdi was overthrown in a 1989 by the autocrat Omar al-Bashir to power.
- ❖ Sudan's pro-democracy uprising led the military to overthrow al-Bashir in April 2019.



Australia and ISRO

- ❖ Australia is to host ISRO satellite tracking facilities temporarily for Gaganyaan mission.
- ❖ This would support India's planned human space flight programme.
- ❖ This mission will see India become just the fourth nation to send a crew into space.
- ❖ Only three nations (Soviet Union/Russia, U.S., China) have launched their own crewed spacecraft.

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.

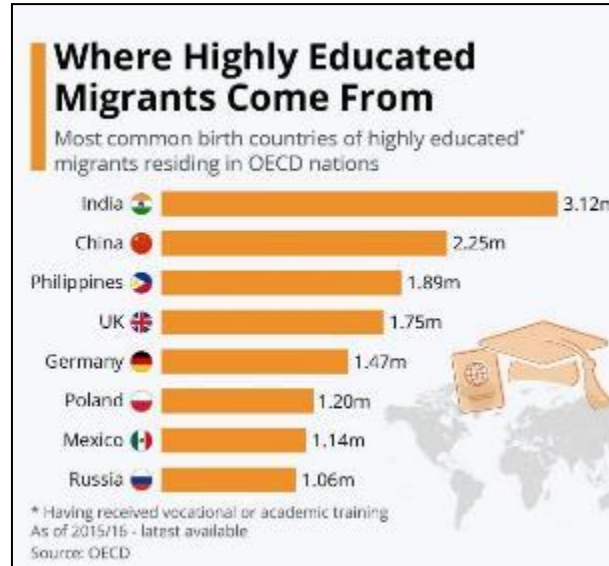
Five Eyes

- ❖ 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.

UN Sanitation and Hygiene Fund

- ❖ The United Nations launched the Sanitation and Hygiene Fund.
- ❖ It aims to provide accelerated funding to countries with the heaviest burden of diseases stemming from lack of sanitation services.
- ❖ The fund is hosted by the UN Office for Project Services.
- ❖ It provides technical advice and project implementation to the UN and its partners.

UNCTAD Report

- ❖ The report was titled 'Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Trade and Development: Transitioning to a New Normal'.
- ❖ It was a new report by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

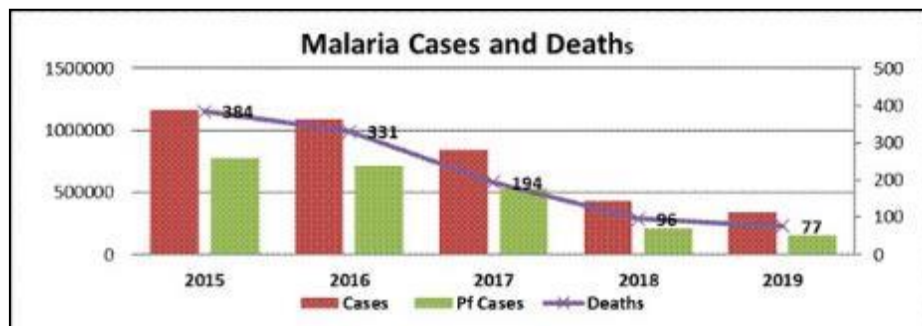
- ❖ It warned that a viable COVID-19 vaccine will not halt the spread of the economic damage stemming from the pandemic.
- ❖ According to the report, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 could be derailed unless immediate policy actions are taken.

Wolf Brigade 44

- ❖ Germany bans far-right 'Wolf Brigade 44'.
- ❖ The Brigade 44 openly pledged allegiance to Nazi leader Adolf Hitler.
- ❖ It seeks to end the democratic form of governance in Germany.
- ❖ Number 44 here means Division Dirlewanger, named after Oskar Dirlewanger.
- ❖ He was accused of ordering massacres against civilians in Belarus in the 1940s.

World Malaria Report, 2020

- ❖ It was recently released by the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ As per the report, India recorded the largest reduction in malaria cases in South East Asia.
- ❖ Around 88% of Malaria cases in the region are from India.
- ❖ However, India has reduced the Malaria cases by 21% between 2018 and 2019.
- ❖ According to the report the highest Malaria burden countries were Cameron, Democratic Republic of Congo, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Mali, Ghana, India, Nigeria and United Republic of Tanzania.



Global Corruption Barometer – Asia

- ❖ It was a survey released by global civil society 'Transparency International'.
- ❖ India has highest corruption rate of 39% in Asia.
- ❖ India was followed by Cambodia and Indonesia for the highest rate of corruption in Asia.
- ❖ Whereas Maldives and Japan topped the charts with lowest corruption rate followed by South Korea.



QS Asia University Rankings 2021

- ❖ The global higher education think-tank Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) has released this.
- ❖ The National University of Singapore has come up as Asia's best university for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ A total of 107 Indian institutes have been selected among the total 650 universities ranked.
- ❖ The top three Indian universities to feature on the Asia Rankings are IIT Bombay (Rank 47), IIT Delhi (Rank 50), and IIT Madras (Rank 56).

Theremin – 100th year

- ❖ It is a musical instrument.
- ❖ It is considered as the world's first electronic instrument.
- ❖ It turned 100 years old in 2020.
- ❖ It was developed by Leon Theremin.
- ❖ Leon Theremin is credited to variety of discoveries from early drum machines to US airplanes.



Emergency use authorisation

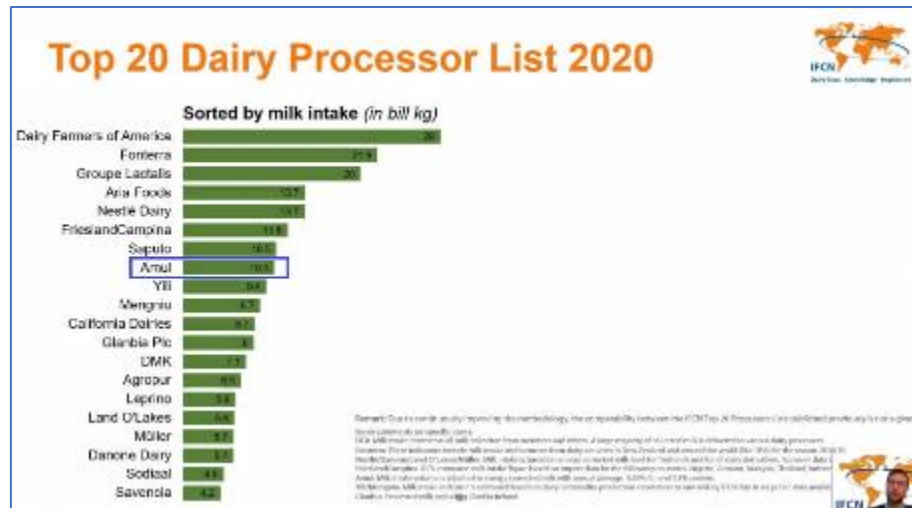
- ❖ The United Kingdom became the first country to approve the widespread use of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine against the pandemic.
- ❖ It is a new type which is called an mRNA vaccine.
- ❖ The US drug maker Moderna is applying for emergency use authorisation for its Covid-19 vaccine.
- ❖ In India, Serum Institute of India is trialling a version of the AstraZeneca-Oxford vaccine.
- ❖ In India, the regulatory authority is the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

World Trade Report, 2020

- ❖ The World Trade Organisation recently released this report.
- ❖ It has focused on technology and innovation policies in the current digitalizing world economy.
- ❖ It is published annually.
- ❖ The report says that Asian power houses which has India China and Japan have contributed to 40% of world research and development in 2017.
- ❖ According to the report, Brain gain effects exist in Russia and China but not in India.

IFCN's global dairy processors rankings

- ❖ The Dairy giant Amul has ranked 8th among the top 20 global dairy processors.
- ❖ It was sorted on the parameter of milk intake per annum.
- ❖ The Dairy Farmers of America topped the global list.
- ❖ It is followed by New Zealand's Fonterra, French firm Groupe Lactalis, Danish's Arla Foods and Swiss' Nestle.
- ❖ Amul is an Indian dairy cooperative society based at Anand in Gujarat.
- ❖ Amul was founded by Tribhuvandas Patel under the guidance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1946.
- ❖ Amul spurred India's White Revolution.
- ❖ The White Revolution or Operation Flood was launched in 1970.
- ❖ It made the country the world's largest producer of milk and milk products.



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.

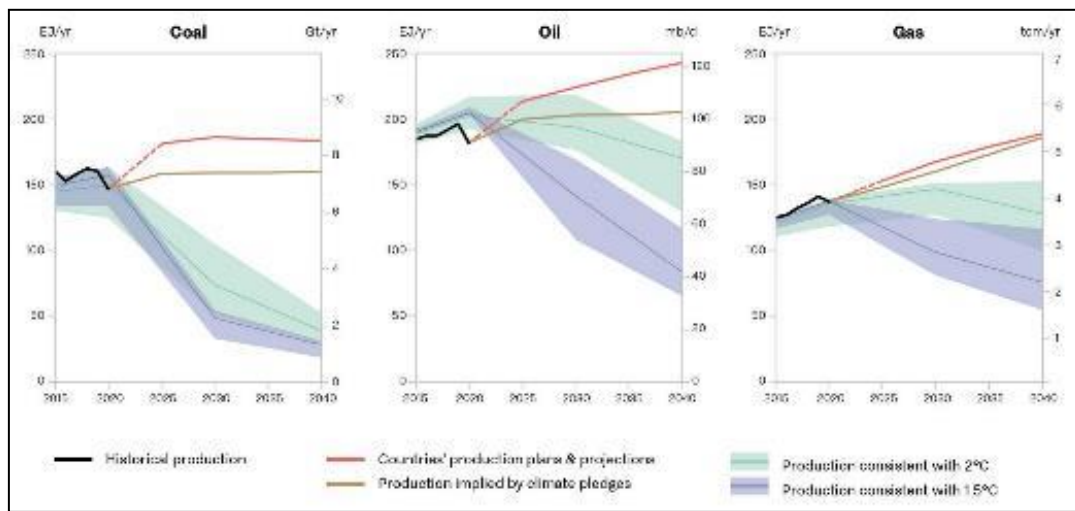
7th IEF-IGU Ministerial Gas Forum

- ❖ 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.



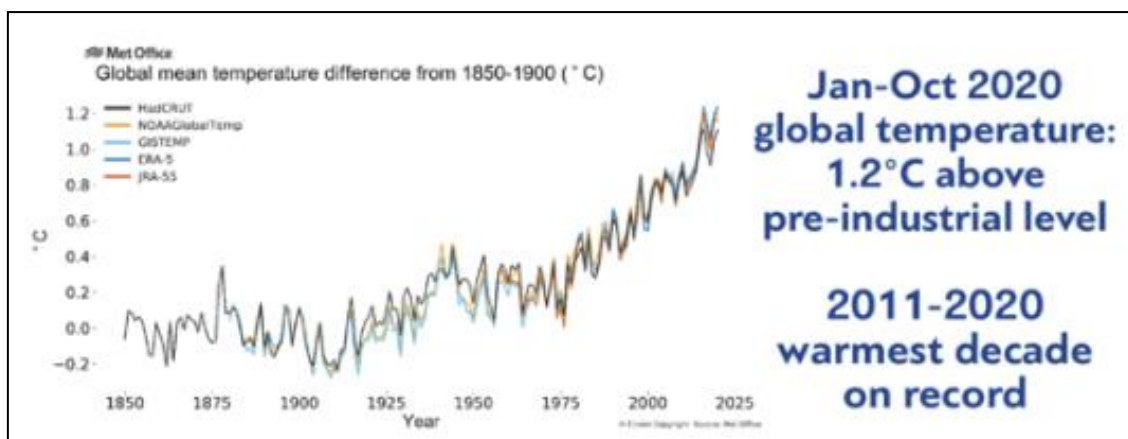
The Production Gap, 2020

- ❖ 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.

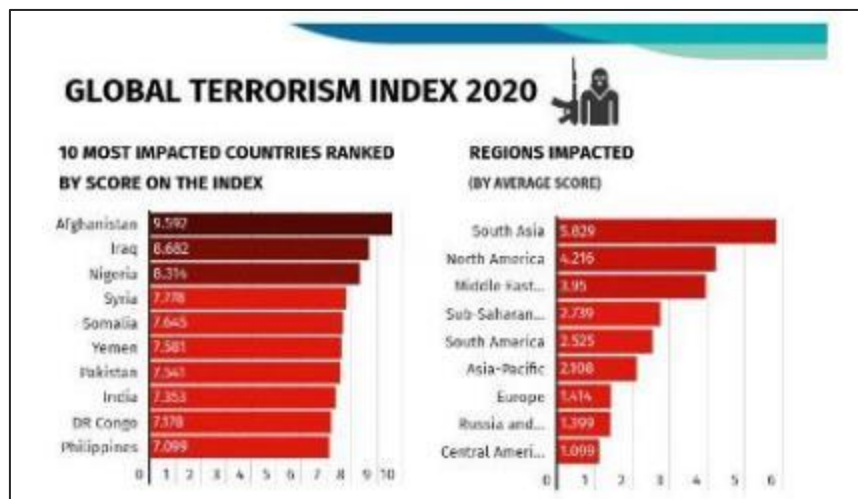


Culture of Peace session

- ❖ 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.



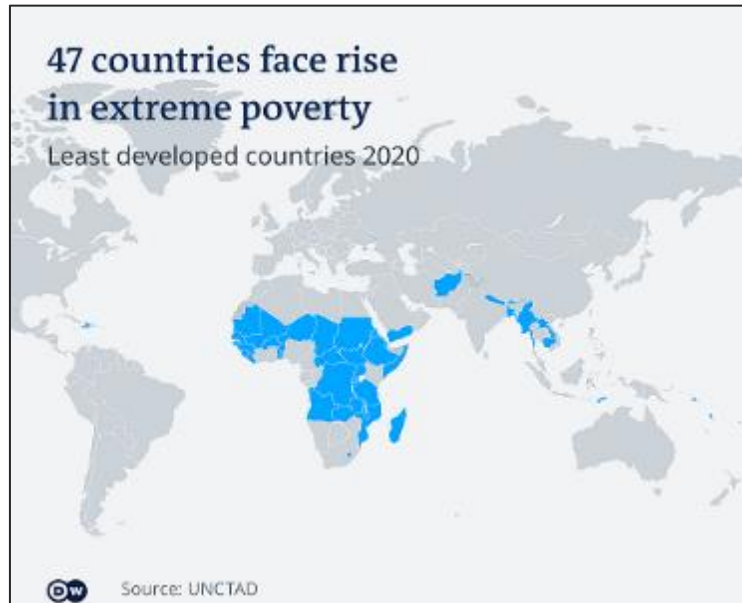
3RF Framework

- ❖ 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.



Azad Pattan project

- ❖ It is a hydropower project that is to be constructed in Pakistan occupied Kashmir.
- ❖ It is to be built on the Jhelum River.
- ❖ It is to be jointly undertaken by China and Pakistan as a part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).



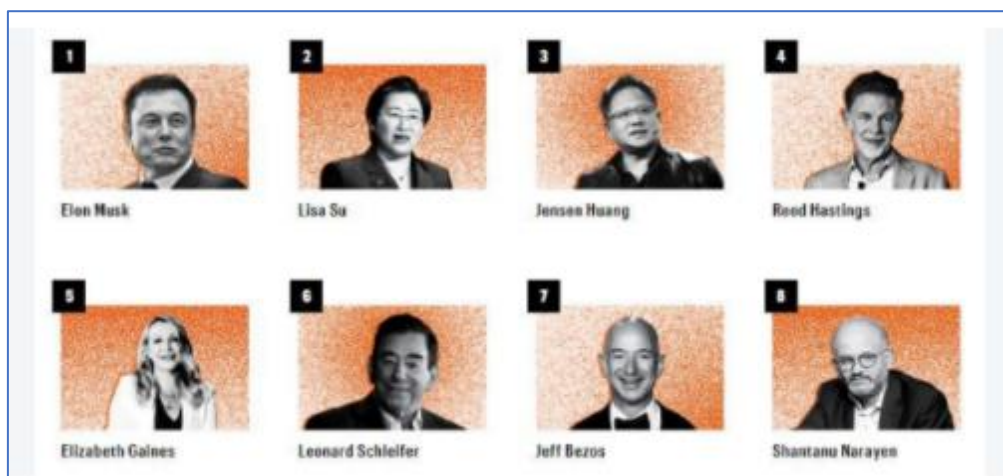
Bhashan Char Island

- ❖ It is a remote uninhabited island of Bangladesh, located in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It is also known as Char Piya.
- ❖ Around thousands of Rohingyas from Cox's Bazar refugee camp are being shifted to this new island.
- ❖ The island spans for an area of 40 square kilometers.
- ❖ It is believed to have formed only in 2006, by Himalayan silt.
- ❖ These are also called the Floating Islands.



Fortune 2020 Businessperson of the Year

- ❖ It was topped by Tesla CEO Elon Musk for the second time.
- ❖ Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen and Mastercard CEO Ajay Banga have been named at 8th and 9th place respectively.
- ❖ It was published annually by the Fortune magazine.



TRACE Bribery Risk Matrix

- ❖ It is an annual listing that measures the likelihood of bribe demands in 194 countries.
- ❖ It was first published in 2014.
- ❖ In the 2020 listing, India is ranked 77th position, a spot better than last year.
- ❖ Denmark topped the list.
- ❖ It was followed by Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand.
- ❖ It is released by TRACE International.
- ❖ It is an anti-bribery standard setting organization.



COVAX initiative

- ❖ It is a joint initiative of WHO, GAVI alliance and Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to ensure equitable distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ Till now, almost 189 countries have joined the COVAX facility.
- ❖ The United States is not a part of the COVAX initiative.
- ❖ The goal is to get at least 2 billion doses by the end of 2021.
- ❖ The World Health Organization is hoping to have at least half a billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccine in the first quarter of 2021 through the COVAX facility.

Global Wage Report 2020-21

- ❖ It was recently released report by the International Labour Organisation.
- ❖ The average wage in two-third countries fell or grew more slowly in the first 6 months of 2020 due to the pandemic.

- ❖ Low-paid workers, disproportionately women, were the most affected by loss of working hours.
- ❖ It found that the Bangladesh's workers were more productive in past decade.
- ❖ But Bangladesh witnessed the largest decrease among the Asia Pacific nations.
- ❖ It was followed by Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.



Source: ILO Global Wage Report 2020-21

The World Economic Forum 2021 (WEF 2021)

- ❖ It will be moved from Davos in Switzerland to Singapore due to COVID-19 concerns.
- ❖ It will be held in Asia for the first time.
- ❖ The WEF is an annual gathering of political and business leaders.
- ❖ Based in Geneva of Switzerland, it is an international NGO, founded in 1971.

UNESCO World Heritage cities list

- ❖ Orchha and Gwalior, the historic Fort cities located in Madhya Pradesh of India have been included in the list.
- ❖ Orchha was the capital of Bundela Kingdom in the 16th century.
- ❖ The city of Gwalior was established in the 9th century.
- ❖ It was ruled by Rajvansh, Baghel Kachvaho, Tomar and Scindias.
- ❖ The World Heritage site tags are provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO.

Arms Marketing Report

- ❖ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute has released a report on arms market across the world.
- ❖ The U.S. arms industry accounted for 61% of sales by the world's "Top 25" manufacturers last year, ahead of China's 15.7%.
- ❖ China and the United States are the two biggest states in terms of global arms spending.
- ❖ For the first time, a company from the West Asia made it into the "Top 25".
- ❖ It is 'EDGE' of the United Arab Emirates.

Bangladesh and Bhutan

- ❖ Bangladesh signed its first Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with Bhutan.
- ❖ This is the first PTA Bangladesh has signed with any country in the world.
- ❖ In 1971, Bhutan was the first country in the world, followed by India as the second, to recognise Bangladesh as an independent country.

Mount Everest's new height

- ❖ Nepal and China jointly announced the new height of Mt Everest
- ❖ It is 8848.86 metres, 0.86 cms more than the previous measurement.
- ❖ The old height was as per the measurement done by the Survey of India in 1954.



International Religious Freedom Act

- ❖ The US State Department has placed various countries in different lists pursuant to the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA).
- ❖ Pakistan and China among eight other countries that are of particular concern (CPC) for violation of religious freedom.

- ❖ Others include- Myanmar, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- ❖ Notably, the State Department did not accept the USCIRF recommendation that India, Russia, Syria and Vietnam be also designated as CPCs.
- ❖ Comoros, Cuba, Nicaragua and Russia on a Special Watch List (SWL) for governments that have engaged in or tolerated severe violations of religious freedom.
- ❖ Al-Shabaab, al-Qaida, Boko Haram, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Houthis, ISIS, ISIS-Greater Sahara, ISIS-West Africa, Jamaat Nasr al-Islam wal Muslimin and the Taliban are 'Entities of Particular Concern'.

Google Searches

- ❖ Indian Premier League has beaten Coronavirus to become India's most searched word on Google in 2020 according to Google India's 'Year in Search' results.
- ❖ The most searched personality in India in 2020 was US President-Elect Joe Biden, followed by Arnab Goswami, Kanika Kapoor, Kim Jong Un and Amitabh Bachchan.
- ❖ Internationally, "Coronavirus" topped Google searches, followed by "Election results", and "Kobe Bryant".

First country to launch COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ The United Kingdom has become the first country to roll out the covid-19 vaccine in the world.
- ❖ The British government recently rolled out the covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer and BioNTech.
- ❖ The vaccine is to be provided as two injections within a time gap of 21 days.
- ❖ The Pfizer vaccine uses mRNA technology.
- ❖ This vaccine must be transported at negative 20 to 80 degree Celsius unlike Oxford vaccine.
- ❖ The Oxford vaccines can be refrigerated at normal two to eight degrees Celsius.

Epidemic Preparedness Day

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly recently approved the resolution.
- ❖ It proclaimed to mark December 27 as the International Day of epidemic preparedness.
- ❖ It is to be marked to facilitate exchange of information, transmission of scientific knowledge and best practices locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

- ❖ An epidemic is a disease that spreads rapidly to a large number of people within a short period of time.

Israel-Morocco peace deal

- ❖ Morocco becomes 4th Arab state to normalise relations with Israel this year.
- ❖ It was done after the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Sudan.
- ❖ Overall, Morocco is the sixth nation to recognise Israel, the first were Egypt and Jordan.
- ❖ In return, the United States has agreed to recognise Morocco's claim over the disputed Western Sahara Region.
- ❖ It is a subject of dispute between Morocco and the Algeria-backed Polisario Front.

Indian Ocean Island Games

- ❖ Madagascar replaces Maldives as host of Indian Ocean Island Games 2023.
- ❖ It is held in every four years among the athletes from the Indian Ocean Island Nations.
- ❖ The games saw the participation of 5 countries: Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Reunion and Comoros.

Asian Development Outlook

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank recently released this.
- ❖ According to this report, the GDP of Indian economy is to contract by 8% in 2020-21.

Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank recently launched this to provide equitable support to the developing countries.
- ❖ It will support developing countries in Asia and will put in efforts to procure vaccines.

Time 2020 Person of the year

- ❖ Time magazine has named US President-Elect Joe Biden and Vice President-Elect Kamala Harris as 2020 "Person of the Year".
- ❖ The Time magazine had chosen 16-year-old climate activist Greta Thunberg as the person of the year 2019.

2020 Goldman Environmental Prize

- ❖ It is a prize awarded annually to grassroots environmental activists, one from each of the world's six geographic regions - Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South & Central America.
- ❖ It is also called the Green Nobel.
- ❖ The award is given by the Goldman Environmental Foundation headquartered in San Francisco, California.
- ❖ 2020 Award list
 - Chibeze Ezekiel, Ghana
 - Kristal Ambrose, The Bahamas
 - Leydy Pech, Mexico
 - Lucie Pinson, France
 - Nemonte Nenquimo, Ecuador
 - Paul Sein Twa, Myanmar

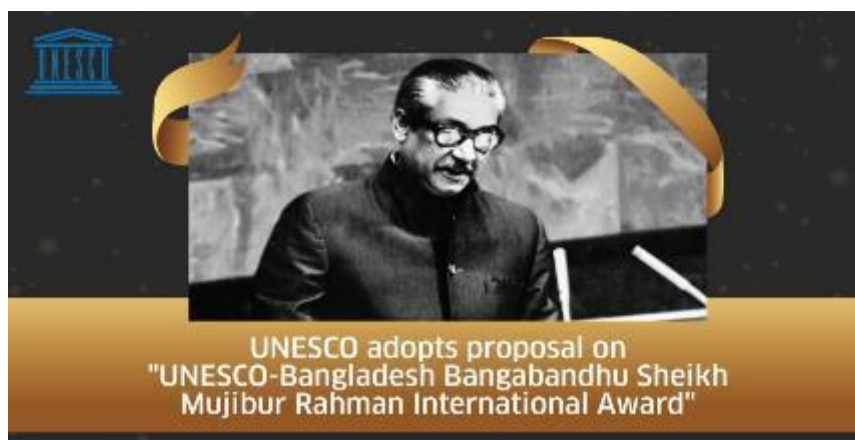


UNESCO Educational Report

- ❖ UNESCO launched '2020 State of the Education Report for India: Vocational Education First'.
- ❖ It is one of UNESCO New Delhi's flagship reports to be published annually.
- ❖ Its main objective will be to monitor progress towards the education targets in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The second edition of this Report focuses on technical and vocational education and training (TVET).
- ❖ The National Policy of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship claims to skill 150 Million Indian people by 2022.
- ❖ It was launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Prize

- ❖ The UNESCO has decided to launch a prize in the field of ‘creative economy’ in the name of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ Starting November 2021, the award will be given away once in two years for global economic initiatives of the youth.
- ❖ UNESCO has declared 2021 as ‘International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development’.
- ❖ Mujibur Rahman was the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh (1972-75).
- ❖ He is also called the “Father of Bangladesh”.
- ❖ Bangabandhu was a leading figure in the Awami League that was founded in 1949.



Red Channel Agreement

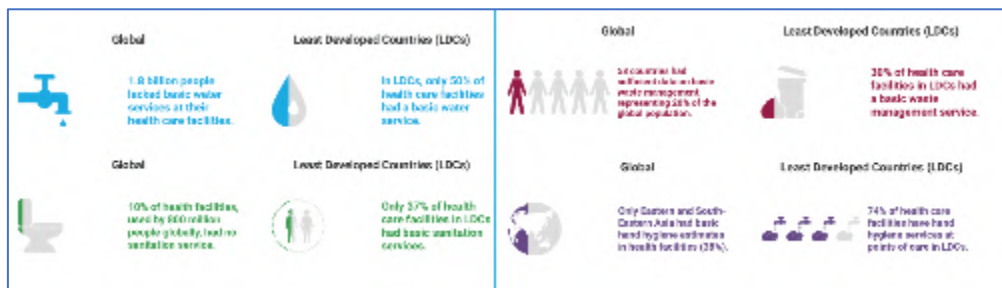
- ❖ It was signed between the World Health Organization and IFRC (International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)
- ❖ It is to implement the Emergency Medical Team Initiative.
- ❖ It will strengthen the delivery of health and emergency medical services during humanitarian crisis.
- ❖ IFRC is a humanitarian aid organization that carries out relief operations assisting victims of disasters.
- ❖ The headquarters of IFRC is located in Geneva, Switzerland.

India Workplace Equality Index

- ❖ It has been launched in India by Keshav Suri Foundation in association with Pride Circle, Stonewall UK and FICCI.
- ❖ This is the 1st benchmarking tool for employers to measure their progress on LGBT and their inclusiveness in work place.
- ❖ It was introduced in the United Kingdom in the year 2005.

WHO's 2019 Global Health Estimates

- ❖ The new data cover the period from 2000 to 2019.
- ❖ The non-communicable diseases now make up 7 of the world's top 10 causes of death.
- ❖ The diabetes and dementia are also among the world's top 10 causes of death.
- ❖ Heart disease has remained the leading cause of death at the global level for the last 20 years.
- ❖ There has been a global decline in deaths from communicable diseases.
- ❖ It also found that life-spans have increased over the years, with a global average of more than 73 years (in 2019) compared to nearly 67 (in 2000).
- ❖ In the Americas, drug use emerged as a major factor in both disability and death.



Global progress report on WASH

- ❖ The report is named as 'Fundamentals first: Universal water, sanitation, and hygiene services in health care facilities for safe, quality care'.
- ❖ It was a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN Children's Fund.
- ❖ Lack of basic water and sanitation services at health facilities has put around 1.8 billion health workers and patients at higher risk of COVID-19 infection and other diseases.

Lives in the Balance summit

- ❖ It was organised by WHO's the Partnership for Maternal, New born & Child Health (PMNCH).
- ❖ India pledged a commitment of USD 2 billion to provide essential services to women, new born, young children and adolescents across the world.

Human Development Report 2020

- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme recently released this report.
- ❖ In 2020, the theme is Human Development and Anthropocene.
- ❖ It provides HDI ranks for 2019.

- ❖ This year report presents an adjustment to the index for "planetary pressures".
- ❖ It means adjusting the standard HDI by a country's level of carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint, each on a per capita basis.
- ❖ India slipped to 131st rank among 189 countries.
- ❖ Norway, Ireland and Switzerland occupied the top 3 ranks in the report.
- ❖ Hong Kong is placed fourth while Iceland and Germany secured the fifth and the sixth rank on the global ranking.
- ❖ The report ranks China at the 85 position and Pakistan at 154.

India's performance

- ❖ Human development index of India was 0.640.
- ❖ Life expectancy of Indians at birth in 2019 was 69.7 years.
- ❖ India's gross national income per capita fell to USD 6,681 in 2019 from USD 6,829 in 2018 on purchasing power parity (PPP) basis.
- ❖ In 2019, India ranked fifth for installed solar capacity.
- ❖ India's HDI value for 2019 is 0.645.
- ❖ In 2018 India ranked at 130.
- ❖ It is in the medium human development category.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2019, India's HDI value increased from 0.429 to 0.645, an increase of 50.3 percent.
- ❖ Between 1990 and 2019, India's life expectancy at birth increased by 11.8 years, mean years of schooling increased by 3.5 years, and expected years of schooling increased by 4.5 years.
- ❖ India's GNI per capita increased by about 273.9 percent between 1990 and 2019.
- ❖ Solar capacity in India increased from 2.6 gigawatts in March 2014 to 30 gigawatts in July 2019.

About HDI

Miles to go		
Though India improved its absolute value of the Human Development Index (0.645 in 2019 from 0.642 the previous year), it dropped a place in the overall ranking		
Country	HDI rank (2019)	Change from 2018
Russia	52	-3
Sri Lanka	72	1
Brazil	84	0
China	85	2
South Africa	114	1
India	131	-2
Bangladesh	133	1
Nepal	142	1
Pakistan	154	0

- ❖ It was first launched in 1990 by the Indian Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen and Pakistani economist Mahboob Ul Haq.
- ❖ It is measured average achievement across three dimensions of human Development.
- ❖ It is including life expectancy, education and per capita income.

TWG Meeting on Chabahar Port

- ❖ The first Trilateral Working Group Meeting between India, Iran and Uzbekistan on the joint use of Chabahar Port was held.
- ❖ India has proposed to observe "Chabahar Day" on the side lines of the International Maritime Summit to be hosted by India in January 2021.



‘Currency manipulators’ monitoring list

- ❖ The U.S. Treasury has labelled Switzerland and Vietnam as currency manipulators.
- ❖ It has also added three new names - Taiwan, Thailand and India - to a watch list of countries.
- ❖ It suspects of taking measures to devalue their currencies against the dollar.

WHAT IT MEANS...	
For India There will be pressure on RBI to cut down intervention, allow the rupee to appreciate In terms of restrictions The tag does not involve any kind of trade restrictions	For economy A stronger rupee would partially offset the impact of rising oil prices on imports For RBI The central bank can increase diversification of its reserves to include non-dollar assets

NETRA Control Centre

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation has set up a dedicated control Centre for space situational awareness activities.
- ❖ The centre has been named “NETRA”.
- ❖ It has been located within the ISTRAC campus off Bengaluru.

Network of Central banks and supervisors

- ❖ The united states federal reserve joined the International Group of Central banks focusing on climate change risk.
- ❖ So far it was the only major Global Central Bank beside the Reserve Bank of India that was not a member of the network of Central banks and supervisors.

Human Freedom Index 2020

- ❖ It was published by American think tank Cato Institute and Fraser Institute in Canada.
- ❖ It is a worldwide ranking of civil, economic and personal freedom.
- ❖ It takes into account 76 indicators of personal, civil, and economic freedoms to rank 162 countries from 2008 to 2018.
- ❖ It placed India at the 111th spot out of 162 countries.
- ❖ India ranked 94 on the index in 2019.
- ❖ New Zealand, Switzerland and Hong Kong bagged the first three spots.
- ❖ Syria ranked the last on the list.

top & bottom countries			
1. New Zealand	8.87	158. Iran	4.54
2. Switzerland	8.82	159. Yemen, Rep.	4.17
3. Hong Kong	8.74	160. Venezuela	4.08
4. Denmark	8.73	161. Sudan	4.01
5. Australia	8.68	162. Syria	3.97

Russia in International Sport

- ❖ The Geneva based Court of Arbitration for Sport banned Russia from using its name, flag and anthem at the Olympics or any other international championship for next two years.
- ❖ Russia has also been banned from bidding to host any sporting event for next two years.
- ❖ However, Russian players and teams will be permitted to play all International events.

- ❖ It will include the upcoming 2022 Tokyo Olympics, the 2022 Winter Olympics Games in Beijing, the world championships and the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.
- ❖ The name Russia can be retained on uniforms if the words "Neutral Athlete" or "Neutral Team" have equal prominence.

Gateway Treaty

- ❖ NASA and the Canadian Space Agency recently signed a historic agreement.
- ❖ Canada is to be a part of the Lunar Gateway Space Station.
- ❖ Also, a Canadian is to be a part of the Artemis II mission.
- ❖ Artemis II is the first crewed mission to the moon by NASA since 1972.
- ❖ The Lunar Gateway Space Station is about one-sixth of the size of the International Space Station.
- ❖ It is to be built in the lunar orbit.

Network for Greening the Financial System

- ❖ The US Federal Bank recently joined the Network for Greening the Financial System.
- ❖ It is a network of seventy-five central banks and financial supervisors.
- ❖ It was created in 2017.
- ❖ It was established by eight Central Banks to strengthen the Global Response required to meet the goals of Paris Agreement.

6th India-Japan Samvad conference

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed this through video conferencing.
- ❖ He proposed the creation of a library of all Buddhist literature and scriptures.
- ❖ The first India-Japan Samwad Conference was held in 2015 at Bodh Gaya, India.

Key Highlights	
<p>This is the 1st SAMVAD of a new decade. It is happening at a critical moment in human history. Our actions today will shape the discourse in the coming years</p>	<p>In the past, humanity took the path of confrontation instead of collaboration. Now, let us rise together; Let SAMVAD bring out the best in us</p>
<p>This decade & beyond will belong to societies that are innovative, open-minded, democratic & transparent</p>	<p>We must keep humanism at the core of our policies; We must make harmonious co-existence with nature as the central pillar of our existence</p>

Responding to the pandemic presence and overcrowding

- ❖ It was a report released by the Commonwealth Human Rights initiative.
- ❖ According to the report, the population in Indian prisons has reduced by 10.42% between April 2020 and June 2020 due to covid-19.

20th IORA Council of Ministers

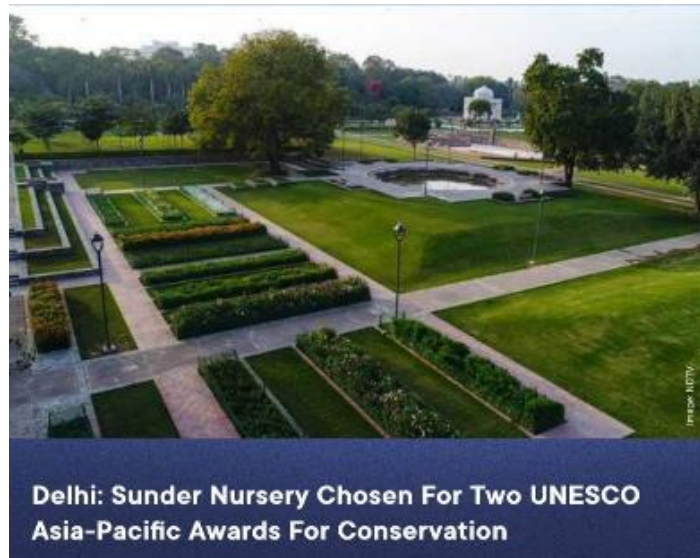
- ❖ The 20th edition of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Council of Ministers (COM) Meeting held under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- ❖ All 22 Member States and 10 Dialogue Partners participated in the virtual meeting
- ❖ The theme of the meeting was “Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean”.
- ❖ Sri Lanka has assumed the charge of Vice-Chair of IORA for the period 2021-23.
- ❖ During this meeting, France was inducted as the 23rd member state of IORA.
- ❖ IORA was founded in 1997 with Headquarters at Ebene, Mauritius.



2020 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation

- ❖ Amar Singh College of Srinagar has been awarded the prestigious Award of Merit in under the UNESCO.
- ❖ This is the first international award given to cultural heritage in Kashmir.
- ❖ The Malabari Hall Building, Seva Sadan Society of Mumbai also received the Award of Merit.
- ❖ Delhi's Heritage Park received the Award of Excellence.

- ❖ UNESCO introduced Special Recognition for Sustainable Development in 2020 awards.
- ❖ Sunder Nursery of New Delhi have received this newly introduced award.
- ❖ Also, Koothambalam at Guruvayoor Temple in Kerala's Thrissur has been chosen in the Award of Distinction category.



4th Asian Water Development Outlook 2020

- ❖ It was released by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- ❖ It has been jointly prepared by the ADB Asia-Pacific Water Forum and Australia.
- ❖ It assesses national water security across the Asia and the Pacific.
- ❖ According to this, 1.5 billion people in rural areas and 0.6 billion in urban areas still lack adequate water supply and sanitation.
- ❖ The top 3 performers in the Asia Pacific are China, Kyrgyzstan and Maldives.

UK-India Bilateral Investment Treaty

- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague of the Netherlands unanimously ruled in favour of Cairn Energy of the UK against India in a tax dispute.
- ❖ In 2011, Cairn Energy sold its majority stake in Cairn India to Vedanta Ltd
- ❖ In 2014, the Indian tax department had demanded Rs 10,247 crore as taxes.
- ❖ The Indian government was seeking taxes over an internal business reorganisation using the 2012 retrospective tax law.
- ❖ Earlier the Vodafone had won an international arbitration case against the Indian government in September this year.

A taxing journey

A timeline of the conflict

January 2014: Income Tax Department seeks information from Cairn Energy about group reorganisation done in 2006

March 2015: Cairn Energy receives draft assessment order from I-T Department, citing **retrospective legislation to seek ₹10,247 crore** in taxes. Cairn reacts by filing a notice of dispute

May 2018: Pending arbitration proceedings, I-T Department begins selling Cairn shares to recover tax dues

2018: Three-member international arbitration tribunal concludes hearings in tax dispute

December 23, 2020: Cairn Energy wins arbitration

Israel elections

- ❖ The national legislature of Israel Knesset failed to pass a budget.
- ❖ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his coalition partner and leader of Blue and White party Benny Gantz blamed each other for the collapse of their seven-month-old government.
- ❖ Israel is now headed towards its fourth elections in two years.
- ❖ Israel will have elections probably in March 2021.
- ❖ After three inconclusive elections, Benny Gantz had agreed to join Benjamin Netanyahu to form an 'emergency coalition government' in April 2020.

Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE)

- ❖ The USA Congress passes Tibetan Policy and Support Act.
- ❖ It reaffirms the rights of the Tibetan Buddhists to choose the next incarnation of the Dalai Lama without any interference of China.
- ❖ The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) has its headquarters in Dharamsala, in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh
- ❖ The incumbent and the 14th Dalai Lama has been living in exile in India ever since his 1959 escape from Tibet.

Coastal Radar Network

- ❖ India plans to set up coastal radar stations in the Maldives, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
- ❖ Mauritius, Seychelles and Sri Lanka have already been integrated into the country's coastal radar chain network.
- ❖ Indian Navy's Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) is the nodal agency for maritime data fusion.
- ❖ Located in Gurugram of Haryana, it was set up after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

UN and Israel

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) condemned Israel the most during 2020.
- ❖ It was a report by the UN Watch, a Geneva-based non-governmental organisation.
- ❖ The UNGA adopted 17 resolutions against Israel this year compared with six for the rest of the world.
- ❖ There was one resolution each adopted for North Korea, Iran, Syria, Myanmar and two on Crimea.
- ❖ The UNGA resolutions are non-binding, but they carry symbolic importance in world affairs.
- ❖ Earlier this year, Israel suspended its ties with the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Vodafone Case

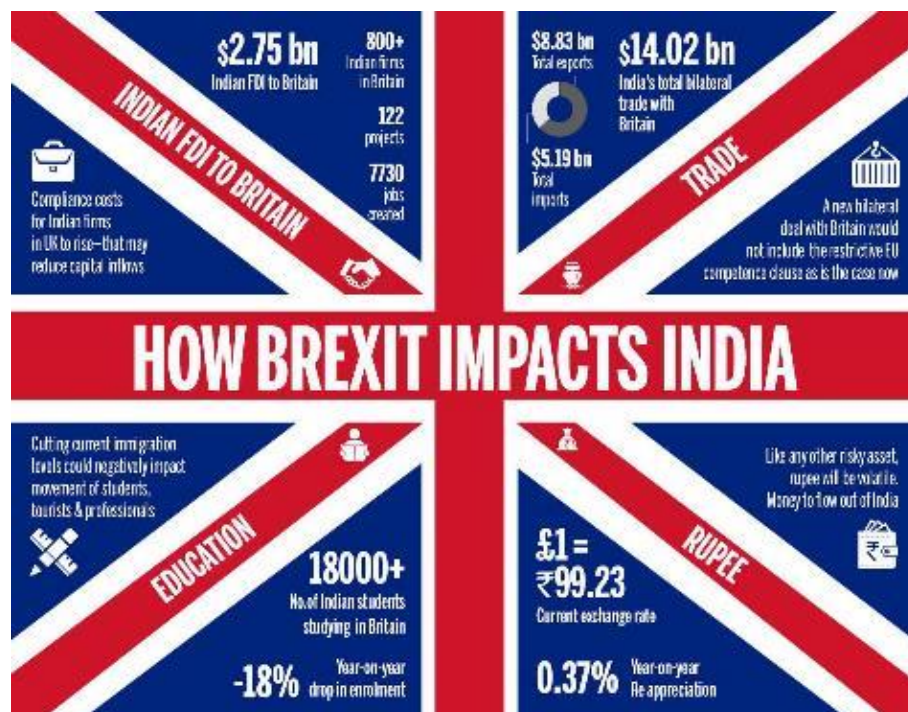
- ❖ India challenged the Vodafone arbitration ruling in Singapore International Arbitration Centre.
- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration located at the Netherlands gave verdict in favour of British telecom Vodafone Group.
- ❖ The Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) was signed between India and the Netherlands in 1995.



- ❖ It was signed for promotion and protection of investment by companies of each country in the other's jurisdiction.
- ❖ Under this treaty, the companies present in each other's jurisdictions would be "at all times be accorded fair and equitable treatment."

Impact of EU-UK Brexit Deal in India

- ❖ India is to emerge as the net-gainer from the Brexit deal recently signed between the European Union and United Kingdom.
- ❖ The gains for India will be mainly in the service sector.
- ❖ This is because the UK currencies are becoming cheaper.
- ❖ UK is India's 14th largest trade partner.
- ❖ India currently enjoys a trade surplus of 2 billion USD with the UK.



International Years of 2020 and 2021

- ❖ These are the international years currently observed by the United Nations.
- ❖ Usually, it is one or more Member States that propose these observances.
- ❖ After that, the General Assembly establishes them with a resolution.

2021

- ❖ International Year of Peace and Trust
- ❖ International Year of Creative Economy for Sustainable Development
- ❖ International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
- ❖ International Year for the Elimination of Child Labour

2020

- ❖ International Year of Plant Health
- ❖ International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

International Decades 2011–2020

- ❖ Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism
- ❖ United Nations Decade on Biodiversity
- ❖ Decade of Action for Road Safety
- ❖ United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification

2021–2030

- ❖ United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing
- ❖ United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- ❖ United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Global Health Issues

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently released a list of Global Health Issues.
- ❖ The WHO suggests ten ways to strengthen the preparedness for emergencies in 2021.

WHO list of 10 global health issues in 2021

- Build global solidarity for worldwide health security
- Speed up access to Covid-19 tests, medicines and vaccines
- Advance health for all
- Tackling health inequities
- Provide global leadership on science and data
- Revitalize efforts to tackle communicable diseases
- Combat drug resistance
- Prevent and treat NCDs and mental health conditions
- Build back better
- Act in solidarity

India-Japan steel dialogue

- ❖ India and Japan signed an agreement to enhance cooperation between their steel industries.
- ❖ India and Japan were the second and third largest steel producing countries in 2019.

- ❖ They produced 111.2 million tons and 99.3 million tons respectively.
- ❖ But China's output was 996.3 million tons in 2019.



Nature Index 2020 Artificial Intelligence

- ❖ It was released by Nature Research, an International Scientific Publishing Company.
- ❖ As per this report, India stood at rank 3rd among 25 countries with most publications on AI technology from 2015-2019.
- ❖ The list is topped by China followed by the USA at 2nd position.
- ❖ India's Anna University is ranked at 32nd position in research organisation based on a total number of publications in AI.

ECONOMY

Honey FPO Programme

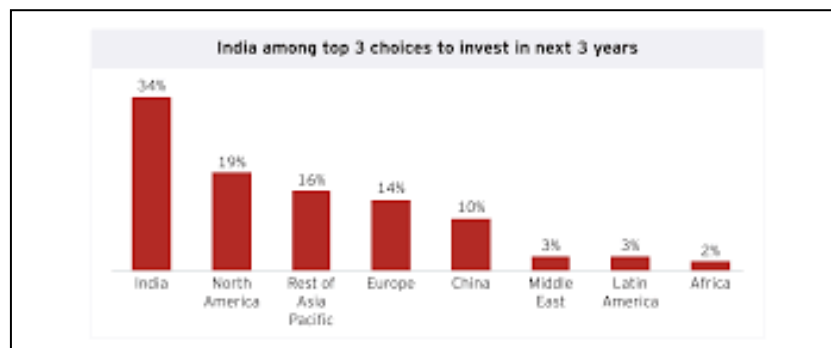
- ❖ The Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar recently inaugurated this cooperative programme.
- ❖ Under the programme, five farmer producer organisations are to be set up in five states.
- ❖ They are to be established in East Champaran, Bihar; Bharatpur, Rajasthan; Morena, Madhya Pradesh; Mathura, Uttar Pradesh; and Sundarbans, West Bengal.
- ❖ The organisations are to be set up by NAFED, National agricultural Cooperative marketing federation of India.
- ❖ According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, India ranks 8th in the world in terms of honey production.
- ❖ On other hand, China stands first in Honey production.

Indian Economy in recession

- ❖ The Indian economy contracted by 7.5 percent in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2020-21 (July to September).
- ❖ With this contraction, India officially entered a technical recession for the first time.
- ❖ The contraction is a rebound from the earlier quarter of the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ❖ India's economy had contracted by 23.9 percent in the April to June quarter (Q1 FY21).
- ❖ It marked the first contraction in more than 40 years.
- ❖ The GDP at Constant (2011-12) Prices in Q2 of FY 2020-21 was estimated at Rs 33.14 lakh crore, as against Rs 35.84 lakh crore in Q2 of FY 2019-20.
- ❖ This shows a contraction of 7.5 percent as compared to 4.4 percent growth in the second quarter of the Fiscal Year 2019-20.

FDI in India: Now, Next and Beyond

- ❖ It was a report released by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Ernst & Young firm (EY).
- ❖ As per this report, India may attract foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$120-160 billion per year by 2025.
- ❖ The country saw GDP grow 6.8 percent over the past 10 years with FDI to GDP at 1.8 percent.
- ❖ The automobiles, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals have attracted a majority 89 percent of FDI.
- ❖ As per States-wise, Maharashtra remains the most attractive destination (28 percent)
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka (19 percent), Delhi (16 percent) and Gujarat (10 percent).



World Investor Week (WIW)



- ❖ It is a week-long global campaign promoted by the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about the importance of investor education and protection.
- ❖ In India, SEBI has chosen the week of November 23 – 29, 2020 to celebrate this week.
- ❖ The National Stock Exchange of India has been participating and celebrating World Investor Week (WIW) since its inception in 2017.

Market Capitalisation

- ❖ HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs.8 trillion in market capitalisation for the first time.
- ❖ It is India's third firm and first lender to achieve this milestone.
- ❖ Currently, Reliance Industries leads with Rs 13.34 trillion, followed by Tata Consultancy Services with Rs 10.19 trillion.

Sources of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

- ❖ This data was shown by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of the commerce and industry.
- ❖ Singapore retains its position on top in April-September 2020.

- ❖ United States is the second biggest FDI source for India during first half of 2020-2021.
- ❖ USA replaced Mauritius to 3rd Place.
- ❖ The United States was also the top trading partner of India in Financial Year 2019-20.

RTGS Timing

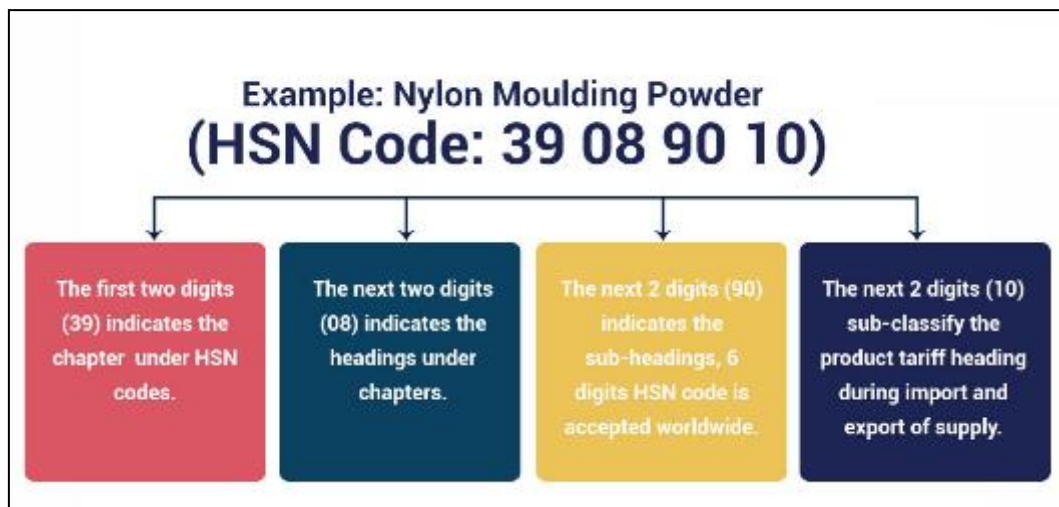
- ❖ RBI has made the transfer of funds through Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system available to the customers 24x7 on all days of the week.
- ❖ It is a fund transfer system that is generally used for large-value transactions.
- ❖ It happens in real-time.
- ❖ The minimum amount to be transferred through RTGS is Rs 2 lakh and there is no maximum limit.
- ❖ In the case of RTGS, every transaction is settled individually.

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.



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.

India's sugar Production

- ❖ Indian sugar production doubled to 42.90 lac tons in 2020.
- ❖ The last season's production was 20.72 lac tons.
- ❖ There were 408 sugar mills in operation in the country as on November 30 compared to 309 sugar mills as on November 30, 2019.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the leading sugarcane and sugar producing State in the country.
- ❖ Maharashtra is the second largest producer of Sugar in India.
- ❖ India is the world's second-largest producer of Sugar.
- ❖ India is the world's largest consumer of sugar.
- ❖ Brazil is the World's largest producer of sugar.

LAF to RRB

- ❖ Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to extend liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) to Regional Rural Banks (RRB) to make liquidity management more efficient.
- ❖ At present, RRBs are not permitted to access the liquidity windows of the RBI
- ❖ The LAF was introduced in RBI in 1998 based on the recommendations of Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms.
- ❖ It is a monetary policy tool that enables banks to resolve temporary cash shortages through repurchase agreements or repos.
- ❖ RBI uses four tools to control the flow of liquidity in the country. They are
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR),
 - Liquidity Adjustment Facilities (includes repo rate and reverse repo rate),
 - Statutory Liquidity Ratio and
 - Open Market Operations.
- ❖ The two main components of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility are Repo rate and Reverse Repo Rate.

The State of Tax Justice 2020

- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind annual report by the Tax Justice Network.
- ❖ It reveals for how much tax each country in the world loses to international corporate tax abuse and private tax evasion.
- ❖ It was prepared under the base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) project led by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
- ❖ It found countries are losing over \$427bn in tax each year.
- ❖ USA is topped this list

- ❖ It is followed by UK, Germany, France and Brazil
- ❖ India is losing 70000 crores in taxes to other countries.

PM-WANI

- ❖ The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved the setting up of public Wi-Fi networks all over the country for strengthening the Wi-Fi services for the public.
- ❖ This Public Wi-Fi Access Network Interface set up by the government will be known as PM-WANI.
- ❖ The PM-WANI will promote the growth of Wi-Fi networks in the country.
- ❖ This is very much similar to that of the PCO model (PCO is Public Call Office).
- ❖ The public Wi-Fi services are to be provided through Public Data Offices.
- ❖ The National Digital Communication Policy, 2018 has set the target of reaching internet to 5 million people by 2020 and 10 million by 2022.

Atma nirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Atma nirbhar Bharat Rojgar Yojana (ABRY) to boost employment in formal sector and incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during the Covid recovery phase under Atma nirbhar Bharat Package 3.0.
- ❖ Under this, Government of India will provide subsidy on Employee Provident Fund (12%) for two years in respect of new employees engaged on or after 1st October, 2020 and up to 30th June, 2021.

Positive Pay

- ❖ The new Cheque Payment System 'Positive Pay' will be implemented from January 1, 2021 for payment of over Rs 50000.
- ❖ The Positive Pay System for the Cheque Truncation System was announced by the Reserve Bank of India to ensure customer safety against any fraudulent activity.



- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been entrusted to develop this system.
- ❖ Positive Pay is a tool under the Cheque Truncation System (CTS) that detects any fraudulent activity involved in cheque payments.

Automated Banknote Processing Centre

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India will be setting up its first Automated Banknote Processing Centre (ABPC) in Jaipur for storage, receipt and dispatch of currency notes.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is the sole issuer of bank notes in the country.

BEAM Platform

- ❖ The Bombay Stock Exchange launched an electronic spot platform, 'BSE E-Agricultural Markets Limited' or BEAM.
- ❖ It will function as a national level, electronic, institutionalized, transparent commodity spot trading platform.
- ❖ BEAM will be the only company in India to fulfil this requirement.

Spectrum auction

- ❖ The Union cabinet approved the next round auction of spectrum.
- ❖ It is in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2300 MHz & 2500 MHz frequency bands, for the validity period of 20 years.
- ❖ A total of 2251.25 MHz is being offered with a total valuation of Rs 3,92,332.70 crore at the reserve price.

23rd meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently chaired this.
- ❖ It was set up in 2010.
- ❖ It is a non-statutory apex body that consists of financial regulators of the country.
- ❖ The members of the council are Governor of RBI, secretary of Department of Economic Affairs, chief Economic Advisor of Ministry of Finance, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority.
- ❖ It also includes the Chairman of IBBI (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board).

Regulatory Sandbox

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently announced the second cohort under Regulatory Sandbox.
- ❖ It was announced under the theme of “Cross Border Payments”.
- ❖ The Regulatory Sandbox refers to live testing of new products and services in a controlled environment.
- ❖ The first cohort under Regulatory Sandbox included companies in the retail payment space.
- ❖ It included feature phones, contactless payments and offline payments.
- ❖ This was released in 2019.

17th Ease of Doing Business

- ❖ The report is released by the World Bank.
- ❖ In August 2020, the World Bank had decided to pause the publication of the report due to irregularities in the data.
- ❖ 4 countries such as China, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan have submitted the data irregularities.
- ❖ As per new report, China’s rank slipped from 78th rank to 85th rank.
- ❖ The rankings of three other countries - Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and Azerbaijan have also changed.
- ❖ As per 2020 report, India is placed at 63rd position among 190 countries.
- ❖ India improved its positions by 14 places from the previous year.

World 6th Largest Economy

- ❖ It was an annual report published by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR).
- ❖ India is expected to become the world’s 5th largest economy by 2025.
- ❖ India is to again overtake the United Kingdom.
- ❖ India had overtaken the United Kingdom in 2019 to become the 5th largest economy.
- ❖ But India was pushed back to sixth place in 2020.
- ❖ The rate of India’s GDP growth fell to a more than the ten-year low of 4.2 per cent in 2019, down from 6.1 per cent in 2018.
- ❖ India is predicted to become the third-largest economy by 2030.
- ❖ China will overtake the US by 2028 to become the world's biggest economy.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

GMRT

- ❖ The Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) has been selected as a 'Milestone' facility by the U.S. based Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).
- ❖ GMRT is an array of thirty parabolic radio telescopes.
- ❖ It is operated by National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, Pune.
- ❖ It is a part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research located in Mumbai.
- ❖ This is the third IEEE milestone recognition being offered to India according to the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics.
- ❖ The previous two IEEE milestone recognition were awarded to JC Bose in 1895 and CV Raman in 1928.
- ❖ JC Bose is regarded as the Father of Wireless Communication.

Hualong One

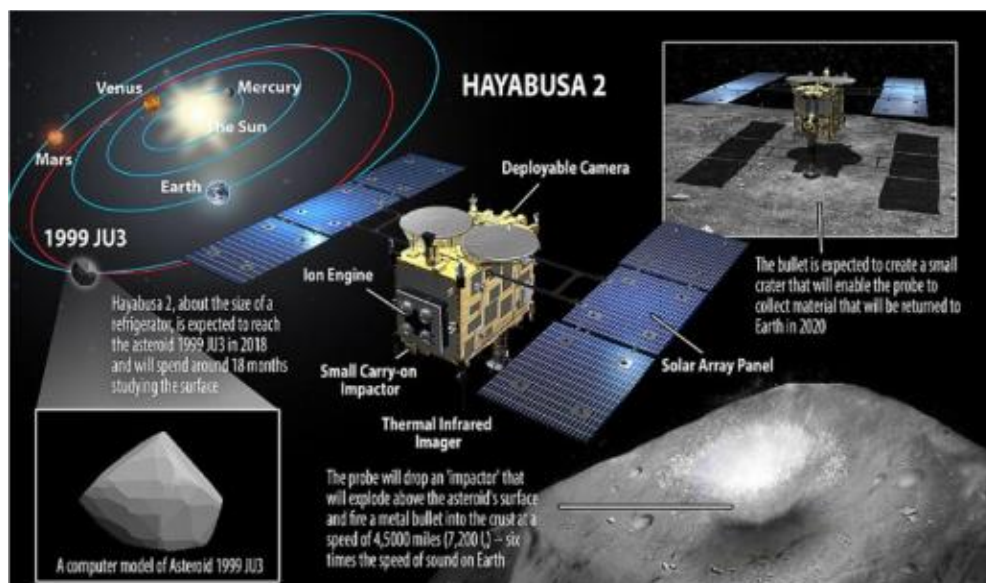
- ❖ It is China's first domestically developed nuclear reactor.
- ❖ It is installed at the Unit 5 of Fuqing Nuclear Power Plant located in Fujian province.
- ❖ It can generate 10 billion kilo watt hour electricity ever year.
- ❖ The lifespan of the Hualong one nuclear reactor is 60 years.
- ❖ China has 47 nuclear power plants.
- ❖ They together generate 48.75 million kilo watts of power.
- ❖ With this, China has the third highest nuclear power in the world after United States and France.
- ❖ China has planned five Hualong One Nuclear reactors for Pakistan.
- ❖ Four are planned at Karachi Nuclear Power plant and one at Chashma Nuclear Power plant.

MQ-9B drones

- ❖ The Indian Navy has leased two unarmed drones MQ-9B from the US for one year.
- ❖ It is the first leasing by the Indian Navy.
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 introduced an option for leasing military platforms.

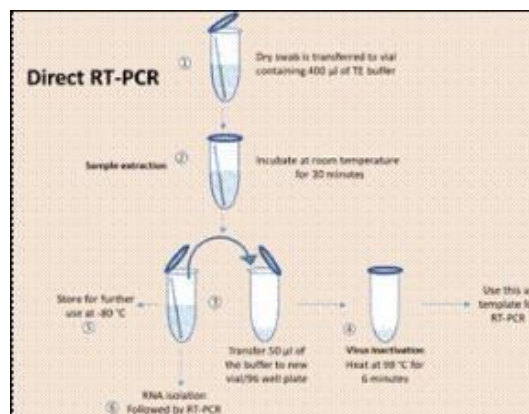
Hayabusa2 Spacecraft

- ❖ 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.

Sea Sparkle Bloom in Karnataka

- ❖ The bloom of Noctiluca Scintillans, known as “sea sparkle” has been witnessed in the Karnataka coast for about a month.
- ❖ The bioluminescent green dinoflagellate N. Scintillans also brightened the sea water during night.
- ❖ N. Scintillans acts as both a plant and an animal.

The blue tide phenomenon

- ❖ It was observed in several stretches of Maharashtra coast.
- ❖ The phenomenon is due to bioluminescence.
- ❖ The sparkling light appearing in the sea from the microorganisms is called bio-luminescence.
- ❖ It is the emission of light by microscopic marine plants called phytoplanktons.
- ❖ The blue light stems from chemical reactions of proteins inside the organism.

Zebrafish Gene

- ❖ Scientists at Pune-based Agharkar Research Institute have identified Zebrafish's genes that can promote heart regeneration.
- ❖ It can regenerate almost all its organs, including the brain, heart, eye, spinal cord within a short time period.
- ❖ This is why the zebrafish is used as a model organism.
- ❖ Zebrafish is a tiny freshwater fish found in the tropical and subtropical regions.

World's smallest memory device

- ❖ The scientists have reduced the size of the thinnest memory storage device.
- ❖ It was done by shrinking the cross-section area down to just one single square nanometre.
- ❖ This development may lead to the creation of faster, smaller and more energy-efficient electronic chips for consumer electronics.
- ❖ The researchers used the compound molybdenum di sulfide, also known as MoS₂, as the primary nanomaterial in their study.
- ❖ The research was published recently in a journal called 'Nature Nanotechnology'.

- ❖ The researchers belong to the University of Texas at Austin in the USA.

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

- ❖ The Indian Navy test-fired the anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory.
- ❖ A land-attack version of this missile was also successfully test-fired from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory earlier.
- ❖ It is the world's fastest operational system in its class.
- ❖ It can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft and land.
- ❖ The strike range of BrahMos missile has now been enhanced to over 400 km.

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.



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'.

Quantum Supremacy

- ❖ China claims that its quantum supremacy is 10 billion times faster than google's prototype.
- ❖ Google said last year it has built a computer that could perform a computation in 200 seconds that would take the fastest supercomputers 10,000 years.
- ❖ A quantum computer uses qubits.
- ❖ It is described as a 0 and 1 at the same time giving us more processing power.
- ❖ It is a term proposed in 2012 by John Preskill of the USA.

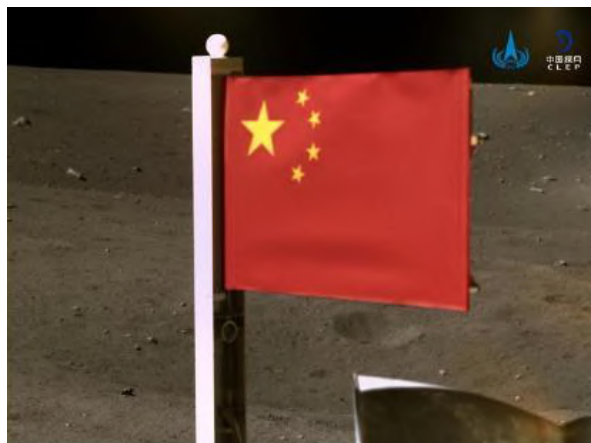
HL-2M Tokamak reactor



- ❖ It is China's largest and most advanced nuclear fusion experimental device.
- ❖ China has successfully powered up this reactor for the first time.
- ❖ This nuclear fusion reactor is called as its "artificial sun".

Chang'e Mission

- ❖ China unfurls its flag on Moon during Chang'e-5 mission.
- ❖ China becomes 2nd nation to do so after the USA.
- ❖ The US had planted the first flag on the Moon during the Apollo mission in 1969.
- ❖ China's Chang'e-5 lunar vehicle finished collecting samples of lunar rocks and soil.
- ❖ It was the first lunar sample retrieval mission since the 1970s.
- ❖ It became the third spacecraft to successfully land on the Moon in the 21st century.
- ❖ The first human-made object to touch the Moon was the Soviet Union's Luna 2, on 1959.
- ❖ China is now the third nation in the world, after the United States and the Soviet Union, to collect lunar samples.



5G NR-New Radio

- ❖ Nokia has begun its production of next generation of 5G Equipment in India.
- ❖ It is the first in India to manufacture 5G NR in India.
- ❖ 5G NR is 5G New Radio.
- ❖ It is a new radio access technology developed for the fifth-generation mobile network.
- ❖ In 2019, South Korea became the first country to roll out 5G network.

Water from Air

- ❖ A team of researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati (IIT-G) have developed a method for harvesting water from humid air.
- ❖ This method involves spraying a sponge-like porous polymeric material on a normal printer paper.
- ❖ The method mainly uses the principle of hydrophobicity.
- ❖ The lotus leaves exhibit the property of hydrophobicity.

Narrow Band IoT Network

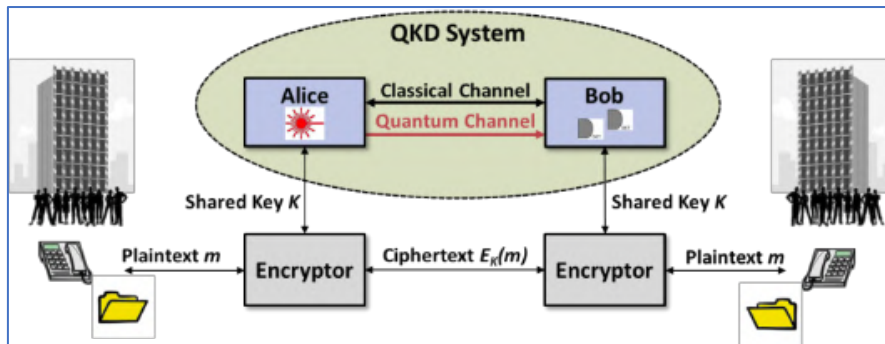
- ❖ The BSNL along with the Skylo has launched the world first satellite based narrow band internet of things network in India.
- ❖ This is to bring a breakthrough in satellite based narrowband internet of things technology.
- ❖ It is a Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) technology that was developed to enable wide range of new internet of things devices.
- ❖ It mainly improves the power consumption of the devices, spectrum efficiency and system capacity.
- ❖ The technology is highly affordable to connect two vehicles and other IoT devices.

Data Sonification

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) recently shared a sonification video of crab Nebula.
- ❖ The video shows Nebula being transformed into music based on its different colors.
- ❖ The blue shades were translated into bass and white shades into to wood winds.
- ❖ Nebula is an interstellar cloud of hydrogen, dust, Helium and ionized gases.
- ❖ Data sonification is the use of sound to represent data.

Quantum key distribution (QKD)

- ❖ The Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully demonstrated communication between its two labs using Quantum Key Distribution technology.
- ❖ The Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and The Research Centre Imarat (RCI) were the two labs that participated in this demonstration.



Angara A5

- ❖ It is Russia's Heavy lift space rocket.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying payloads bigger than 20 tonnes into orbit.
- ❖ It is being developed to replace Proton M, as Russia's heavy-lift rocket.
- ❖ Russia's heavy-lift rocket was first test-launched in 2014.

Himgiri of Project 17A

- ❖ The Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) recently launched a new Project 17A ship called Himgiri for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is the first of the three ships built by GRSE.
- ❖ The ship was launched into the waters of Hooghly river.
- ❖ It is a Nilgiri-class Stealth Frigate.
- ❖ The Nilgiri class Frigates of Indian Navy are Himgiri, Dunagiri, Udaygiri, Vindhyagiri and Taragiri.
- ❖ This project was approved by the Government of India in 2015.
- ❖ Under the project, a total of seven advanced frigates are to be delivered to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Four of these are to be constructed by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited and three are to be launched by GRSE.
- ❖ The Project 17A ships are guided missile frigates.
- ❖ Frigate is a type of warship that has different roles over time.



HGC019 Vaccine

- ❖ It was developed by the Pune based Gennova Biopharmaceuticals.
- ❖ It is the first indigenously produced mRNA vaccine of the country.
- ❖ It was developed in collaboration with HDT Biotech Corporation of the US.
- ❖ The clinical trials of this vaccine were recently approved by Drug Controller General of India.
- ❖ This vaccine uses the same platform as that used by COVID-19 vaccines developed by Pfizer and Moderna.
- ❖ This vaccine is stable at 2-8 degrees Celsius.

GECAM mission

- ❖ The Chinese Space Agency has launched two satellites for detecting gravitational waves.
- ❖ The two satellites form a part of Gravitational Wave High-energy Electromagnetic Counterpart All-sky Monitor (GECAM) mission.

S-400 Triumf

- ❖ The United States has imposed sanctions on Turkey over its acquisition of Russian S-400 air defence systems.
- ❖ The S-400 Triumf is a mobile, surface-to-air missile system (SAM) designed by Russia.
- ❖ It is the most dangerous operationally deployed and modern long-range in the world.
- ❖ It is considered much ahead of the US-developed Terminal High Altitude Area Défense system (THAAD).

S-400 Triumf air defense missile system

Alphanumeric code	Designation	Specifications
Russian Army: S-400 NATO reporting name SA-21 Growler	A surface-to-air missile system designed to engage with all types of aerial targets (aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles, etc.) with a range of 400 km (250 miles) and an altitude of 30 km (10,000 feet)	Operational range: – for aerodynamic targets: 3 km to 240 km – for ballistic targets: 5 km to 60 km Altitude: of up to 30 km (10,000 feet) Maximum target speed: of up to 4,800 m/s Deployment time: of 5-10 min. Missiles per system: up to 48 (384 in all)



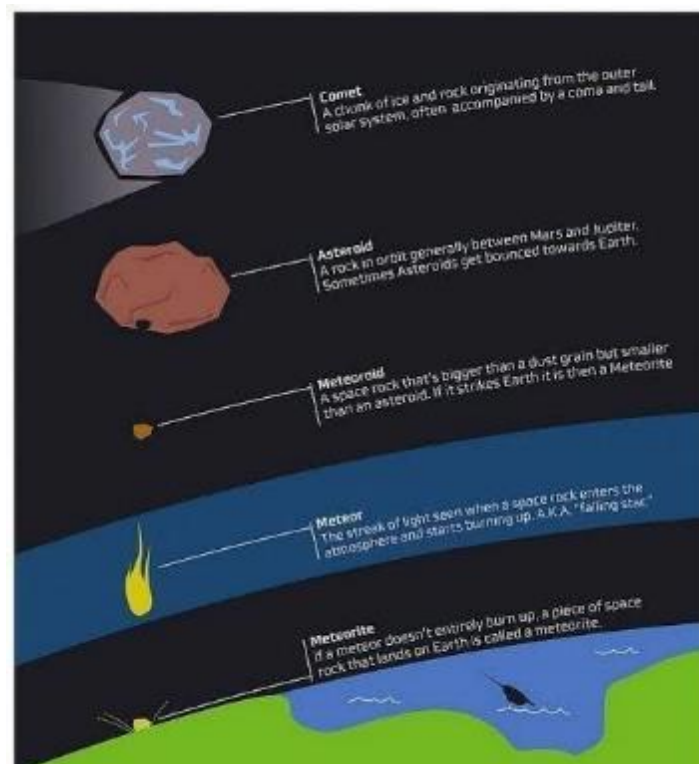
Composition

- Command & Control System
- Several different radar units
- Up to 8 medium- and long-range surface-to-air missile systems (up to 12 missiles per system)
- 48N6E, 48N6E2, 9M96E, 9M96E2 midrange guided missiles and a 40N6E long-range missile

- ❖ Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act's (CAATSA) core objective is to counter Iran, Russia and North Korea through punitive measures.

Geminids Meteor Shower

- ❖ It is believed to be the strongest of the year.
- ❖ They are unique because their origin does not lie at a comet.
- ❖ Its origin is believed to be an asteroid or an extinct comet named as 3200 Phaethon.

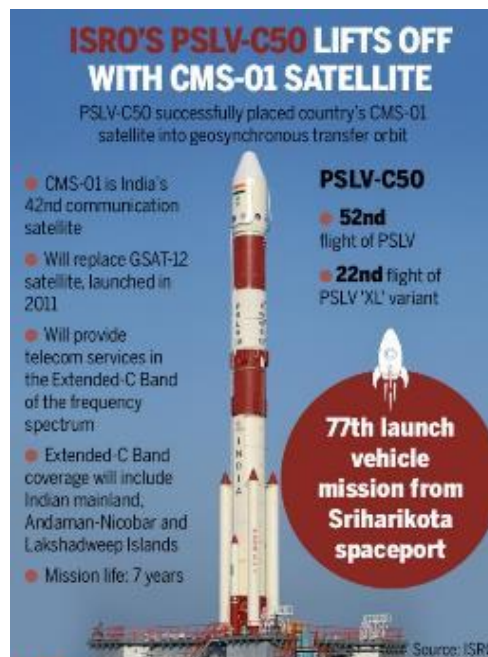


- ❖ Soon after the Geminids, viewers in the northern hemisphere can expect to see the Ursids meteor shower.
- ❖ However, the rate of Ursids is much less than Geminids.
- ❖ Meteors are bits of rock and ice that are ejected from comets as they manoeuvre around their orbits around the sun.
- ❖ Meteor showers are witnessed when Earth passes through the trail of debris left behind by a comet or an asteroid.

CMS-01 satellite

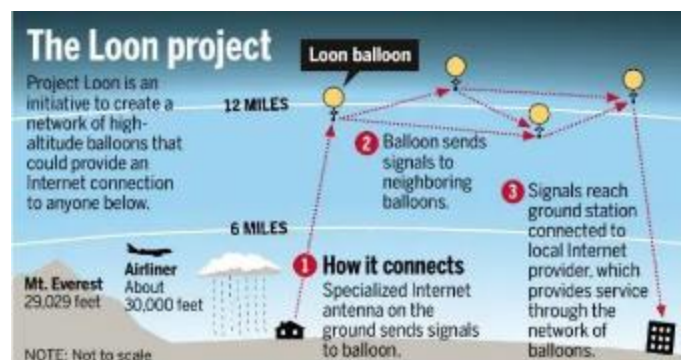
- ❖ It is a communication satellite launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on board the PSLV-C50.
- ❖ It is the 42nd communications satellite envisaged for providing services in extended C Band of the frequency spectrum.

- ❖ Its coverage will include the Indian mainland, and the Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep islands.
- ❖ It is to inject the CMS-01 in the geo-synchronous transfer orbit.
- ❖ This satellite's mission life will be of 7 years.
- ❖ This was the 52nd flight for the PSLV rocket and for the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- ❖ The launch of Communication Satellite CMS-01 was the 77th launch mission from home.
- ❖ It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



Project Loon

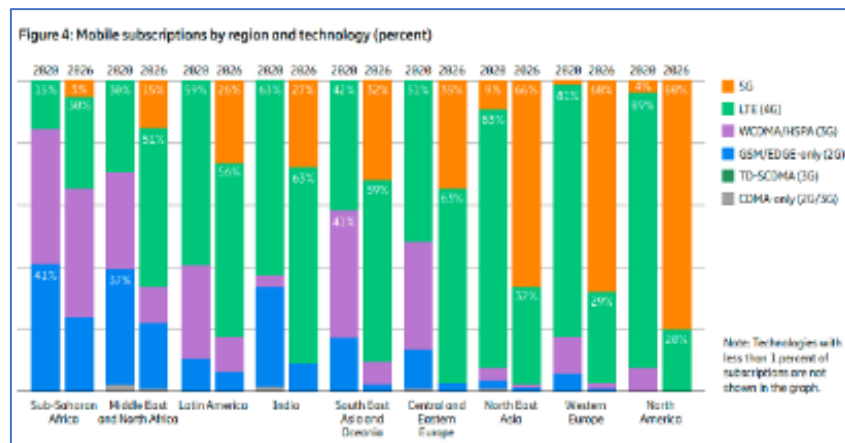
- ❖ Project Loon aims to tap the Earth's stratosphere to provide internet connectivity to the remote parts of the world.
- ❖ It is implemented by Google.
- ❖ Google recently announced that its balloons have successfully stayed in the stratosphere for almost a year.



- ❖ The balloons are helium filled and cover a distance of 2.1 lakh kilo metres.
- ❖ Recently, Loon has created a new record for the longest stratospheric flight by staying in air for 312 days.

Ericsson Mobility Report

- ❖ The report estimates that by the end of 2020, over one billion people all over the world will have access to 5G coverage.
- ❖ While 2026 will see 60 per cent of the world's population having access to 5G coverage.
- ❖ It projects that four out of every ten mobile subscriptions in 2026 will be 5G.
- ❖ 5G will represent around 27 per cent of mobile subscriptions in India at the end of 2026.
- ❖ It is estimated at 350 million subscriptions at India.

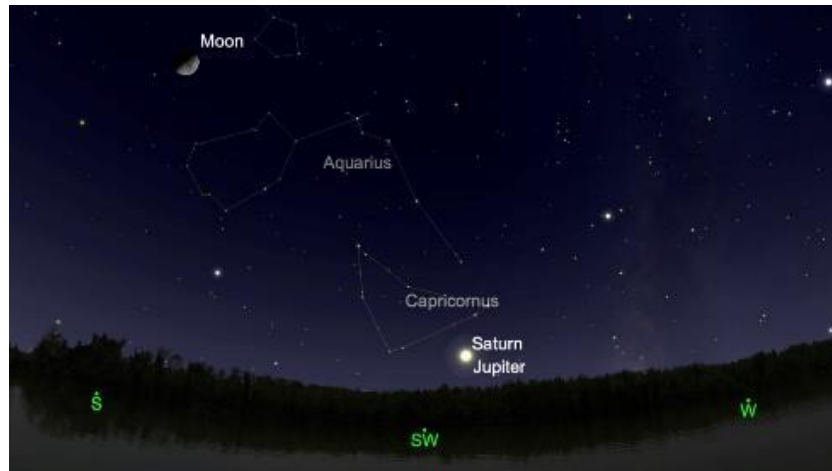


Chang'e 5

- ❖ Chinese lunar capsule Chang'e 5 has landed to the earth in the inner Mongolia with 2 kgs fresh samples of Rock and Debris from moon.
- ❖ Chang'e 5 blasted off from a launch base in China's province of Hainan on November 23.
- ❖ It marked China's third successful lunar landing but the only one to lift off again from the moon.
- ❖ It is the first sample collection of the moon by any country since the Soviet Union's Luna 24 mission in 1976.
- ❖ In 2003, China became the third country to send an astronaut into orbit on its own after the Soviet Union and the United States.
- ❖ In 2019, the Chang'e 4 became the first man-made probe to land on the far side of the moon.

Great Conjunction

- ❖ On December 21, 2020 the world witnessed the conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter.
- ❖ This conjunction occurs after 400 years.
- ❖ The next time, the two giants will come this close only on March 15, 2080.
- ❖ The last time these planets came this close was on July 16, 1623.
- ❖ Jupiter takes twelve years to revolve around the sun and Saturn takes 29 years.



Winter Solstice

- ❖ December 21 is the winter Solstice Day in the northern Hemisphere.
- ❖ It will be the longest night of the year.
- ❖ During Winter Solstice, the sun reaches its most southerly declination of - 23.5 degrees.
- ❖ During this period, sun is directly overhead of the Tropic of Capricorn in the Southern Hemisphere.

First Potential Radio signal from Exo planet

- ❖ An international team of scientists at a Low Frequency Array radio telescope located in Netherlands have collected the first possible radio signal from an exoplanet.
- ❖ This is possibly the first radio signal received from a planet beyond solar system.
- ❖ The exoplanet is 51 light years away from the earth located in the Tau Bootes star-system.

Five Hundred Meter Aperture Spherical Telescope

- ❖ China is opening its world largest Radio Telescope for international scientists.
- ❖ It is the largest filled-aperture Radio Telescope.
- ❖ It is the second largest single dish aperture Radio Telescope.
- ❖ The RATA-600 in Russia is the world largest Single-dish aperture telescope.
- ❖ The World's second largest Arecibo Observatory collapsed in Puerto Rico recently.



IIT-Delhi's 'mock eggs'

- ❖ IIT Delhi has secured first prize at Innovate4SDG contest.
- ❖ It was organized by 'UNDP (United Nation Development Program) Accelerator Lab India'.
- ❖ It was a plant-based mock egg developed by Prof Kavya Dashora of IIT Delhi.
- ❖ The development of the mock egg meets the protein needs of the diet-specific
- ❖ This innovation addresses SDG 2 and 3 (zero hunger and good health and well-being).

JUST LIKE THE REAL THING		
<p>MOCK MEAT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mung beans omelette, developed by an IIT team, wins UNDP Accelerator Lab India's Innovate4SDG contest ➤ The team has also developed mock chicken patties and fish ➤ Mutton, turkey, pork and beef being developed 	 	<p>PROCESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Identify plants with high-protein content ➤ These include mung beans and Indian fruits and vegetables ➤ Extraction of proteins from these plants in the laboratory ➤ Testing of the extracted protein for toxicity and bio-absorbability ➤ Checking the alternative for texture, bite-size, nutrition, aroma and taste

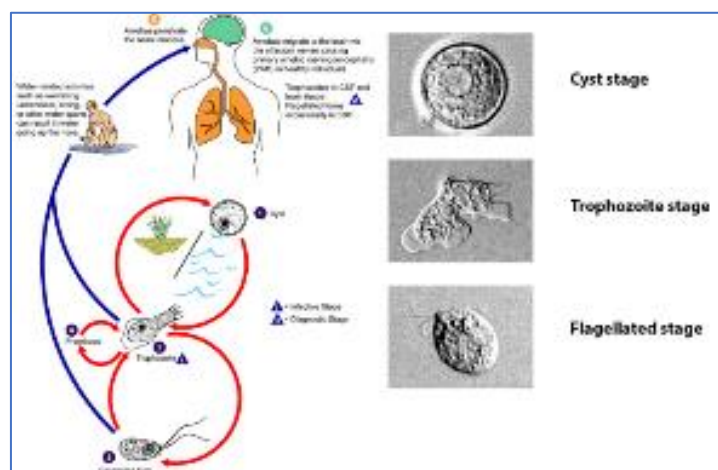
Medium Range Surface-To-Air Missile

- ❖ It was recently tested from a defence facility in Odisha.
- ❖ It is a one command control system that tracks missiles, radar and mobile launcher systems.
- ❖ It was manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- ❖ The DRDO has jointly developed this missile in collaboration with Israel.



Naegleria fowleri

- ❖ It is a single celled amoeba.
- ❖ It is also called the brain-eating Amoeba.
- ❖ This amoeba is now rapidly spreading in the US.



Portulaca laljii

- ❖ It is a new species of the wild sun rose discovered recently from the Eastern Ghats in India.
- ❖ It was discovered from Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh.



Green Propulsion Technology

- ❖ ISRO is developing “Green Propulsion Technology”.
- ❖ It is being developed for the Human Space Flight Mission of India, Gaganyaan.
- ❖ Gaganyaan is to be launched in December 2021.
- ❖ In rockets and airplanes, the propulsion is generated through the application of Newton’s third law.
- ❖ It means “for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction”.

Pneumonia Vaccine

- ❖ The first Indian vaccine against Pneumonia has been developed by Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ It is currently under Universal Immunization Programme of India.
- ❖ According to the Lancet study, India accounts to 20% of Pneumonia deaths in children.
- ❖ The top five contributors of Pneumonia in India are Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.



ENVIRONMENT

Song dam drinking water project in Uttarakhand

- ❖ The Forest Advisory Committee under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has approved the construction of the Song Dam Drinking Water Project in Dehradun.
- ❖ It will give a rebirth to River Rispana.

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.

Banned Cat fish of India

- ❖ Thai Mangur is a catfish that was banned by the National Green Tribunal.
- ❖ It was harming the local ecosystem and the consumers' health.
- ❖ Recently it was found to be illegally breed in Thane, Maharashtra.

Private Conservation of Leopards in Gujarat

- ❖ The Gujarat forest department has transferred 12 leopards to a private rescue and Rehabilitation centre in Jamnagar.
- ❖ The project is first of its kind in the state.
- ❖ The Leopards have been transferred from the Sakkar Baug Zoological Park in Junagadh.

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.

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.

Malayan Giant Squirrel

- ❖ As per a recent study conducted by Zoological Survey of India, this species of squirrel may become extinct.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind study conducted by the Zoological Survey of India.
- ❖ In India, this species is spotted at higher numbers at the Kaziranga National Park in the state of Assam and parts of North-East India.
- ❖ They are diurnal, herbivorous and arboreal.
- ❖ Malayan giant squirrel or the black giant squirrel is one of the largest tree squirrels in the world.
- ❖ India is home to three giant squirrel species namely Grizzled Giant Squirrel, Indian Giant Squirrel and the Malayan Giant Squirrel.



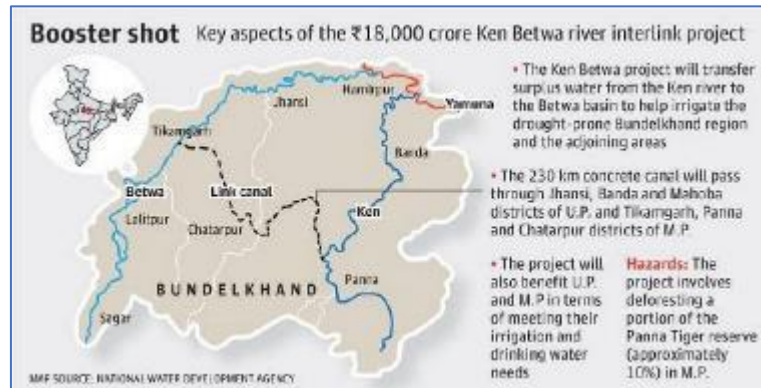
IGP as Ammonia Hotspot

- ❖ A study by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur found that Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) is a global hot-spot of atmospheric ammonia.
- ❖ Atmospheric ammonia is typically generated due to agricultural activities including the use of nitrogenous fertilizers, manure management, soil and water management practices and animal husbandry.

Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project

- ❖ An expert panel of India's environment ministry has deferred environment clearance for the Lower Orr Dam.
- ❖ It is part of the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project.

- ❖ This is the country's first river interlinking project.
- ❖ The project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken river in MP to Betwa in UP to irrigate the drought-prone Bundelkhand region.
- ❖ Ken and Betwa rivers originate in MP.
- ❖ They are the tributaries of Yamuna.
- ❖ Ken River passes through Panna tiger reserve.



Raimona National Park

- ❖ It will be Assam 6th national park.
- ❖ Raimona National Park lies within the Ripu Reserve Forest.
- ❖ Raimona National Park lies within the Ripu Reserve Forest
- ❖ They are contiguous with Bhutan's Phipsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Jigme Singye Wangchuk National Park.
- ❖ It is home to Assam's largest endangered golden langur population.
- ❖ The existing national parks in Assam are Kaziranga, Manas, Dibru-Saikhowa, Manas and Orang.

Giant African Snail Invasion

- ❖ It is one of the worst invasive species declared by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



- ❖ India has higher genetic variety of the snail than those in native African continent.
- ❖ Its population is mainly found in Kerala of India.

IUCN World Heritage Outlook 3

- ❖ It was published recently by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- ❖ According to the report the Indian Western Ghats, a natural World Heritage, is facing conservation issues due to climate change, population pressure.
- ❖ Western Ghats is one of the world's eight hottest hot spots of biological diversity.

New Zoos

- ❖ The Union Minister of environment, forest and climate change Prakash javadekar chaired the 37 the General Body Meeting of Central zoo authority.
- ❖ During the meeting two new zoos were granted recognition.
- ❖ They were the Rajgir Zoo Safari in Nalanda, Bihar and the Ashfaque Ullah Khan Prani Udyaan of Gorakpur, Uttar Pradesh.

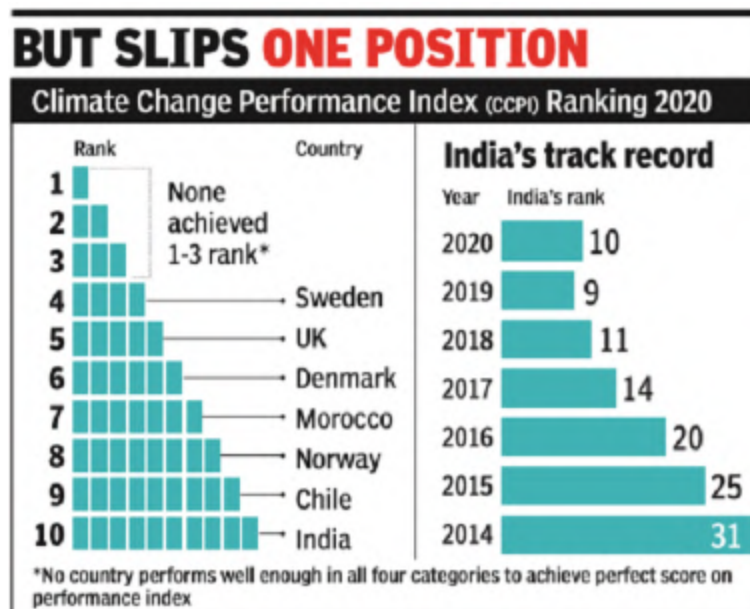
New Wildlife Sanctuary of Maharashtra

- ❖ The Maharashtra state government approved the area at Kanhargaon in Gondpipri tehsil, Chandrapur as a wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ It will be the 50th wildlife sanctuary in the state.
- ❖ Kanhalgaon is a corridor for tigers moving to Kawal tiger reserve in Telangana and Indravati reserve in Chattisgarh.
- ❖ It also decided to declare 11 areas in Kolhapur, Nagpur, Amravati, Satara and Sindhudurg districts as conservation reserves.
- ❖ Maharashtra will have 19 conservation reserves.
- ❖ Currently, there are 92 conservation reserves across the country.
- ❖ According to the Union environment ministry, conservation reserves are protected areas that act as buffer zones or connectors and migration corridors between established national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and reserved and protected forests.

Climate Change Performance Index

- ❖ It was recently released by the New Climate Institute, Germanwatch and CAN (Climate Action Network).

- ❖ The index has been rating the fifty-seven greenhouse emitters in the world since 2005.
- ❖ India, for the second time in a row, is ranked among the top 10, along with the EU and the UK.
- ❖ India slid one position down from ninth in 2019 to 10th this year.
- ❖ Only two G20 countries India and UK were among the high rankers.
- ❖ None of the countries were in top three ranks.
- ❖ It was because no country was doing enough to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- ❖ Sweden was at fourth place followed by UK, Denmark, Morocco, Norway, Chile.
- ❖ The United States, with a rank of 61, was the worst performer.



Micro-climatic Zone Shifting

- ❖ The study on “Preparing India for climate events” was recently published by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water.
- ❖ This is the first time the extreme weather event hotspots in India have been mapped.
- ❖ The study has found that frequency of flood events has increased by eight times in the last 50 years in the country.
- ❖ Maharashtra is the most affected state of the micro climatic zone shifting.
- ❖ The extreme climate events include floods, cyclones, heat and cold waves.
- ❖ This change in climatic patterns within a small area or a district is called micro climatic zone shifting.

Emissions Gap Report 2020

- ❖ This annual report is released by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ It measures the gap between anticipated emissions and levels consistent with the Paris Agreement goals of limiting global warming this century to well below 2°C and pursuing 1.5°C.
- ❖ G20 countries account for the bulk of emissions.

CO2 emissions drop

- ❖ The global carbon dioxide emissions reportedly dropped by 7 percent in the year 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Ground transportation reportedly makes up about one-fifth of emissions of carbon dioxide.
- ❖ It was as per a study published in the journal Earth System Science Data.
- ❖ The Global Carbon Project had calculated that the world will have put 37 billion US tons of carbon dioxide in the air in 2020.
- ❖ It is down from 40.1 billion US tons of CO2 emitted in 2019.
- ❖ This project is a group of international scientists who track emissions.

Climate Ambition Summit 2020

- ❖ The summit was co-hosted by United Nations, France, and the United Kingdom to mark the 5th anniversary of the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The UN Chief has urged the leaders of the nations to declare a 'state of climate emergency' until they are able to achieve carbon neutrality.
- ❖ Prime Minister of India highlighted that India's renewable energy capacity is the 4th largest in the world and it will reach 175 GigaWatts in 2022.
- ❖ He also informed that the country has an even more ambitious target of achieving 450 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.
- ❖ India is on track to achieve its Paris Agreement targets.
- ❖ India has reduced its carbon emission intensity by 21% over 2005 levels.

Myristica Swamp Tree Frog

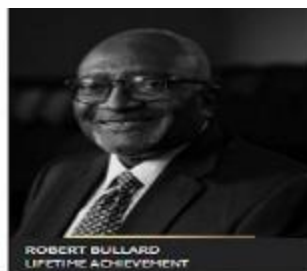
- ❖ This rare arboreal species is endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It was first spotted in Myristica swamps of Arippa, near the Kulathupuzha Reserve Forest, in the western foothills of Agasthyamalai.
- ❖ It is now spotted north of the Shencottah gap in the Vazhachal Reserve Forest in Kerala's Thrissur district.

2020 Champions of the Earth award

- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced six laureates for this award.
- ❖ It is the UN's highest environmental honour since 2005.
- ❖ The six awardees are
 - Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama of Fiji
 - Dr. Fabian Leendertz (Germany)
 - Mindy Lubber (USA)
 - Nemonte Nenquimo (Ecuador)
 - Yacouba Sawadogo (Burkina Faso)
 - Robert D. Bullard (USA).
- ❖ Robert was also awarded the Champion of the Earth Lifetime Achievement award for his commitment and service to environmental justice.
- ❖ The awards are part of UNEP's #ForNature campaign to rally momentum for the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP 15) in Kunming of China in May 2021, and catalyse climate action all the way to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow of Scotland in November 2021.



MINDY LUBBER
ENTREPRENEURIAL VISION
CEO of Oceans working with hundreds of companies to develop and implement corporate action for environmental sustainability.



ROBERT BULLARD
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
The "Father of Environmental Justice" with over four decades of action advocating for racial equality and fair environmental and urban planning.



NEMONTE NENQUIMO
INSPIRATION AND ACTION
Indigenous rights activist and environmental activist, leads the Kichwa people of Pastaza in Ecuador.



FRANK BAINIMARAMA



YACOUBA SAWADOGO



DR. FABIAN LEENDERTZ

Young Champions of the Earth prize 2020

- ❖ The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) named seven young scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs and activists from across the globe.
- ❖ It is awarded every year to seven entrepreneurs under the age of 30 with bold ideas for sustainable environmental change.
- ❖ From India, Vidyut Mohan (Co-founder of Takachar) has been recognised in this prize.

- ❖ He has pioneered a portable machine which burns agricultural waste without releasing harmful greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere turning it into charcoal and fertilizer.

Winners	Region
Nzambi Matee (Kenya, 29)	Africa
Xiaoyuan Ren (China, 29)	Asia and the Pacific
Vidyut Mohan (India, 29)	Asia and the Pacific
Lefteris Arapakis from Greece, 26 years old	Europe
Max Hidalgo Quinto (Peru, 30)	Latin America and the Caribbean
Niria Alicia Garcia (USA, 28)	North America
Fatemah Alzelzela from Kuwait, 24 years old	West Asia

Muraina grass

- ❖ Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, has recently spotted a new species of Muraina grass.
- ❖ A new and tolerant species has been spotted in Goa in the Western Ghats.
- ❖ It is a genus of grass, widespread in tropical and semitropical regions.

Kutch renewable energy generation park

- ❖ This park near Vighakot village in Kutch in Gujarat will be India's largest renewable energy generation park.
- ❖ It will lead to the generation of renewable energy to the tune of 30 Gigawatt.
- ❖ It has dedicated zones for wind and solar energy storage.

Himalayan serow

- ❖ It was sighted for the first time in the Himalayan cold desert region (Himachal Pradesh).
- ❖ Himalayan serow resembles a cross between a goat, a donkey, a cow, and a pig.
- ❖ It is categorised as 'vulnerable' in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ It is listed under Schedule I of The Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.



Red List of Indian Grasshoppers

- ❖ The Grasshopper Specialist Group of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is initiating the Red List Assessment of grasshoppers in India for the first time.
- ❖ So far, none of the Indian grasshopper species has been listed in the Red Data Book.
- ❖ The assessment would be initiated in the Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve (NBR) on the border between Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka.
- ❖ This assessment will include 30 endemic species of the NBR along with the new species of grasshopper 'Tettilobus trishula' or 'Shiva's pygmy trishula'
- ❖ Shiva's pygmy trishula was discovered in the Eravikulam National Park, Kerala in 2018.
- ❖ Red List of Threatened Species, founded in 1964, is the world's most comprehensive inventory of the global conservation status of biological species.

R Cluster

- ❖ Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) and BP (British Petroleum) have begun production of gas from R Cluster.
- ❖ R Cluster is the deepest offshore gas field in Asia.
- ❖ It is an ultra-deep-water gas field in block KG basin (Krishna Godavari) D6 off the east coast of India.
- ❖ It is located at a water depth of greater than 2000 meters.

First Zoo to get ISO 9001:2015

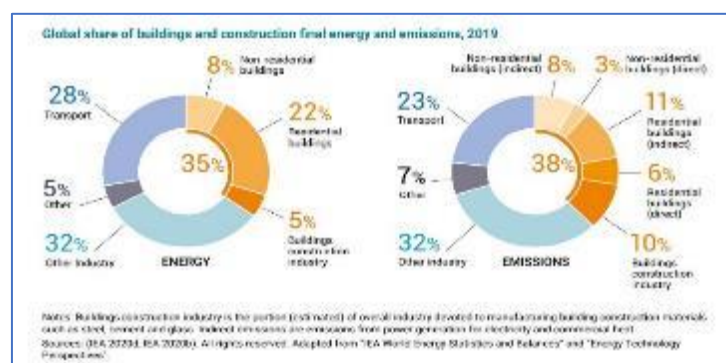
- ❖ The Nehru Zoological Park of Hyderabad has become the first in India to acquire ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management Standards Certification.

- ❖ It is to receive the certification from the ASCB (Accreditation Service for Certifying Bodies), United Kingdom (UK).



2020 Global status report for buildings and construction

- ❖ It was released by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ The CO2 emissions from building sector is the highest in 2019.
- ❖ The building sector emitted more than a third of carbon dioxide emissions (CO2) in 2019.
- ❖ It was increased to 9.95 Giga tonnes CO2 in 2019.
- ❖ Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction is a global platform for governments, private sector, civil society and intergovernmental and international organizations.
- ❖ It works to increase action towards a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector.



12th GRIHA Summit – New Delhi

- ❖ Theme of this summit is Rejuvenating Resilient Habitats.
- ❖ It means Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment Summit.
- ❖ It is the national rating system of India for any completed building construction.

- ❖ It was conceived by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and was developed jointly with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

Updated IUCN Red List

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) has updated its Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ Now, Ganga, Amazon, Indus, Irrawaddy species of freshwater dolphins are “threatened with extinction” on the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ The freshwater dolphins are moving from ‘data deficient to ‘endangered’.

Great Indian Bustard (GIB)

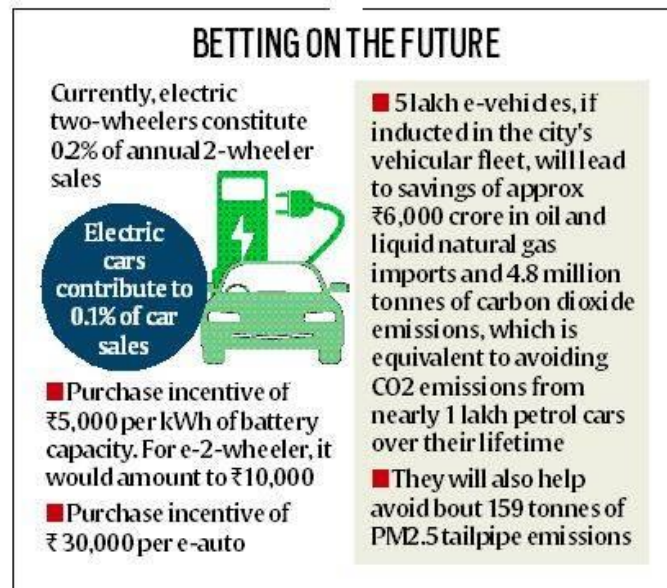
- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India proposed to put all power transmission lines passing through Great Indian Bustard (GIB) habitat underground.
- ❖ GIB is a bird native to India and Pakistan.
- ❖ GIB is the State Bird of Rajasthan.
- ❖ The largest population is found in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The sanctuaries that conserve GIB are
 - Desert National Park, Rajasthan
 - Kutch Bustard Sanctuary, Gujarat
 - Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary or Jawaharlal Nehru Bustard Sanctuary, Maharashtra.



E20 Fuel

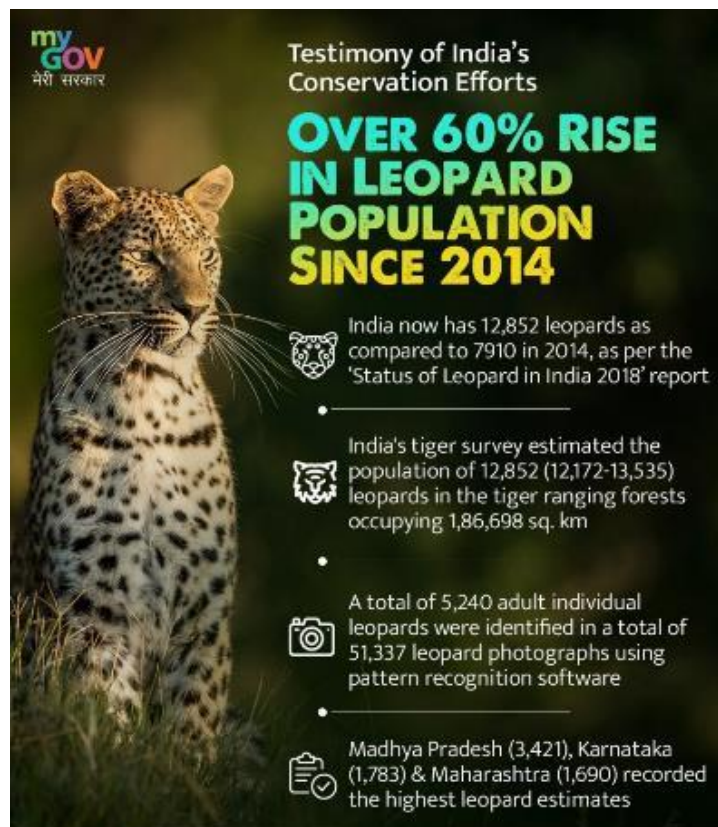
- ❖ The Government of India has recently introduced the E20 fuel to promote green fuel such as ethanol.
- ❖ India is aspiring to take the ethanol economy to 2 lakh crores of rupees in next 5 years.
- ❖ At present the ethanol economy of India is at 22000 crores rupees.

- ❖ E20 means blending of 20% of Ethanol with gasoline.
- ❖ Currently the permissible level of blending is 10% of Ethanol in India.



Status of Leopards report 2018

- ❖ It was released recently by the Environment Ministry of India.
- ❖ India now has 12,852 leopards.
- ❖ 60 percent rise was witnessed in Leopard population across the Country.



- ❖ India has 7910 leopards in 2014.
- ❖ The States of Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra recorded the highest leopard estimates at 3,421, 1,783 and 1,690 respectively.
- ❖ Leopards are listed as “Vulnerable” in IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

Assessment of Indian Sharks

- ❖ The International Union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN’s) Shark Specialist Group has assessed the sharks, rays and chimaeras in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- ❖ This assessment has classified 19 species (11%) of the 170 species of sharks, rays and chimaeras from Indian EEZ as Critically Endangered (CE).
- ❖ It marks for the first time Indian swellshark *Cephaloscyllium silasi* as ‘CE’ due to very limited geographic range, and population decline.
- ❖ Indian swellshark is a deep-water catshark known from the coast of Kerala and Sri Lanka, and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The Oceanic White tip shark that was classified as endangered has now been listed critically endangered.

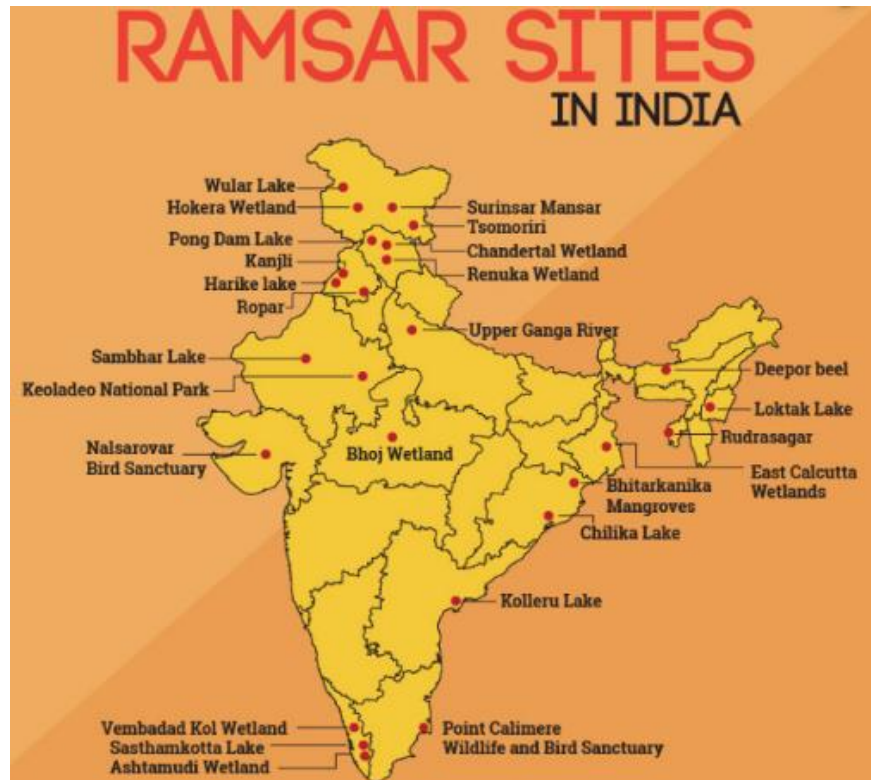
Population of Blue Whales

- ❖ The scientists have recently found evidence that there exists a new population of Blue Whale in the Western Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The Whales emit sounds and based on the echo received they track their prey in water.
- ❖ They analysed the recordings from the Arabian Sea coast of Oman till Madagascar.
- ❖ This population is being discovered for the first time in this area.
- ❖ The Blue Whale was once abundant in all the oceans of the earth.
- ❖ The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species lists Blue Whale as “Endangered species”.

Tso Kar Wetland Complex of Ladakh

- ❖ It was recognised as the wetland of international importance.
- ❖ With this, the Tso Kar Wetland became 42nd Ramsar site of India and 2nd Ramsar site of Ladakh.
- ❖ It is a fluctuating Salt Lake located in Rupushu plateau.
- ❖ This high-altitude wetland complex is located at the Changthang region of Ladakh.
- ❖ The TSO Kar basin is categorised as A1 Category Important Bird Area (IBA) as per the Bird Life International.

- ❖ It is also a key staging site in the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ This basin is one of the most important breeding areas of the Black-necked Crane in India.
- ❖ The Ramsar Convention was established on February 2, 1971 at a city of Iran called Ramsar.



Rehabilitation centre for monkeys

- ❖ The first rescue and rehabilitation centre for monkeys in the Telangana State was inaugurated at Gandhi Ramanna Haritavanam recently.
- ❖ It is the second such facility for the primates in the country after the first one is in Himachal Pradesh.



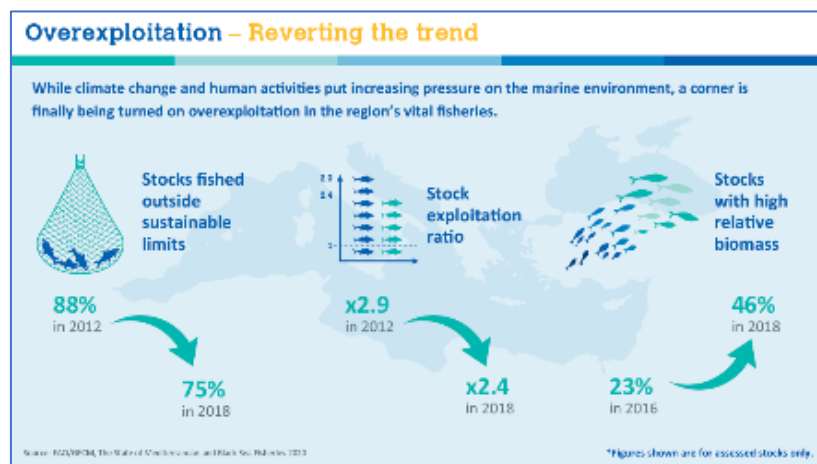
Basel Convention

- ❖ The European Union is to completely ban the exports of unsorted plastic to poor countries.
- ❖ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal was signed in 1989.
- ❖ The convention was signed to reduce the movement of hazardous waste between the nations.
- ❖ India is a party of Basel Convention, but is yet to ratify it.



State of Mediterranean and Black Sea Fisheries 2020

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization recently released this report
- ❖ According to the report, the number of stocks has decreased for the first time in decades in Mediterranean and Black sea marine Eco systems.
- ❖ 75% of fish stocks in the region are subjected to overfishing.
- ❖ The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 aims to conserve and sustainably use oceans, marine resources and seas for sustainable development.



Green National Highway Corridors

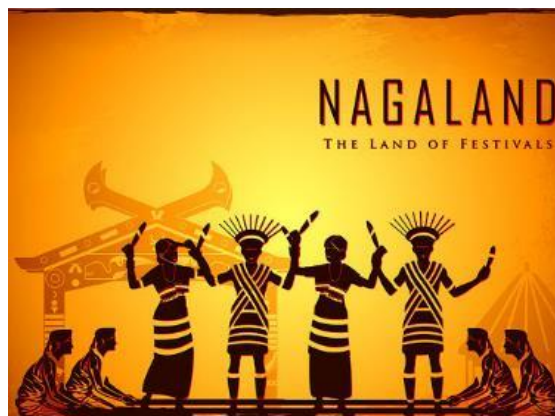
- ❖ The Government of India recently inked 500 million USD loan pact with the World Bank to develop these corridors in the country.
- ❖ These corridors are to be developed in Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The main objective of Green Highways is to promote greening of highway corridors.
- ❖ These measures are being done under the Green Highway Policy.
- ❖ The plantations will be monitored by BHUVAN and GAGAN satellite systems of ISRO.



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.



Duare Sarkar

- ❖ It is an outreach programme was launched by the Bengal Government.
- ❖ Under the programme, camps are to be organised at local body levels.
- ❖ Through these camps the State Government will take the Government Services to the doorstep of the West Bengal people.

Arunachal Kiwi

- ❖ Arunachal Kiwi got organic certification for Kiwi under Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD-NER).
- ❖ It is a scheme for the north-eastern states by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare under the Central government.
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh is first in the country to get this certification for kiwi.
- ❖ These kiwis are grown Ziro Valley in the state.



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.

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.

Eluru mystery disease

- ❖ At least 550 people fell sick in Eluru town in Andhra Pradesh since the outbreak due to an undiagnosed illness.
- ❖ The AIIMS results indicate lead and nickel content in drinking water or/and milk as the possible reason.

MahaSharad

- ❖ Maharashtra is set to launch an ambitious scheme for distribution of assistive devices to persons with disabilities.
- ❖ The Digital Platform is named after the NCP chief Sharad Pawar.
- ❖ It is named as Maharashtra System for Health and Rehabilitation Assistance or 'MahaSharad'.

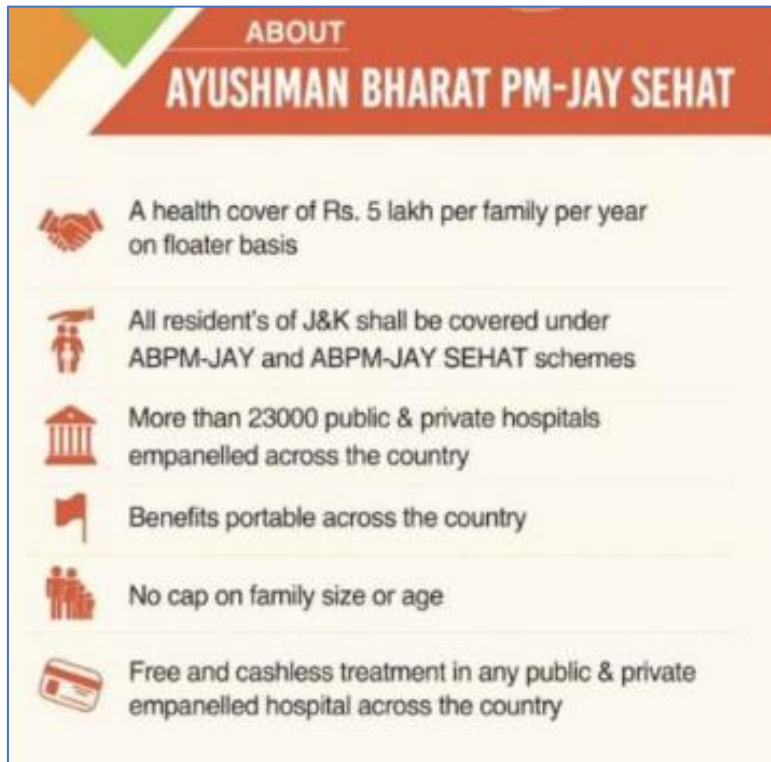
Bodo Language

- ❖ The Assam Cabinet recently approved the bill to make Bodo an official language of the state.
- ❖ The official language of Assam is Assamese.
- ❖ The additional official languages are Bengali and Bodo.

Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT

- ❖ PM Modi is to launch the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT scheme for the residents of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ❖ SEHAT scheme stands for Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine.
- ❖ The scheme will cover the remaining one crore population which has not been covered under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme.
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir is the first Union Territory in India to achieve Universal Health Coverage.

- ❖ The Scheme provides free of cost insurance cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family to all the residents of the UT of J&K.
- ❖ The PM-JAY is the world's largest health insurance/assurance scheme fully financed by the government.
- ❖ The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis.
- ❖ It means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.
- ❖ West Bengal, Odisha and Telangana are the states that did not implement this Ayushman Bharat.



First hot air balloon safari

- ❖ The Forest Minister of Madhya Pradesh Vijay Shah recently launched the first hot air balloon safari of India in the Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve of India in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ This is the first hot air balloon safari in India.

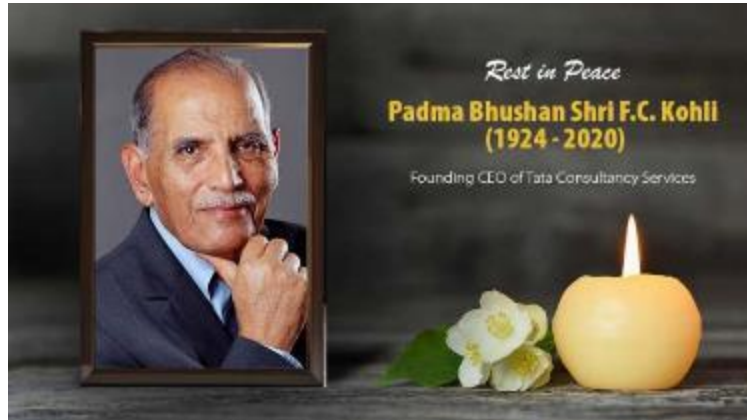
The 8th North East Festival

- ❖ It was held recently at Guwahati in Assam.
- ❖ For the first time it was held in Assam.
- ❖ The focus of this year is "Growth Agenda for North East Post Covid-19".

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Faqir Chand Kohli – passed away

- ❖ He is considered as the Father of Indian Information Technology Industry.
- ❖ He is known for the founding of the Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).
- ❖ TCS is currently the world's third-largest IT services company.



Global teacher prize, 2020.

- ❖ Ranjitsinh Disale, a primary school teacher from Solapur of Maharashtra, has won this prize.
- ❖ It is awarded by the Varkey Foundation from the UK.
- ❖ It has been referred by journalists as the Nobel Prize for teaching.

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020

- ❖ It was founded in 2018 by a US-based publisher Bundalo.
- ❖ Indian journalist-author Raj Kamal Jha has been honoured with the Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize 2020 for his novel, The City and The Sea.
- ❖ Jha's book 'The City and The Sea' is based on the December 2012 Nirbhaya rape and murder case.
- ❖ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize for Social Achievement 2020 was conferred to the late Sultan of Oman, His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said and The People of Oman.
- ❖ The social achievement prize had two winners this year.
- ❖ The other winner was renowned Indian choreographer Sandip Soparrkar.

2020 Ramanujan Prize for Young Mathematicians

- ❖ It was awarded to Dr Carolina Araujo, Mathematician from the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

- ❖ The prize is awarded annually to a researcher from a developing country funded by the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in association with ICTP (International Centre for Theoretical Physics), and the International Mathematical Union (IMU).
- ❖ It was given for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry.
- ❖ She is the first non-Indian women mathematician to receive this prize.
- ❖ Dr. Araujo is Vice President of the Committee for Women in Mathematics at the International Mathematical Union.

Colonel Prithipal Singh Gill

- ❖ He has turned 100.
- ❖ He is a World War 2 veteran.
- ❖ He holds a unique distinction of having served in all three defence services.
- ❖ Gill has the distinction of serving in the Royal Indian Air Force, Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army.



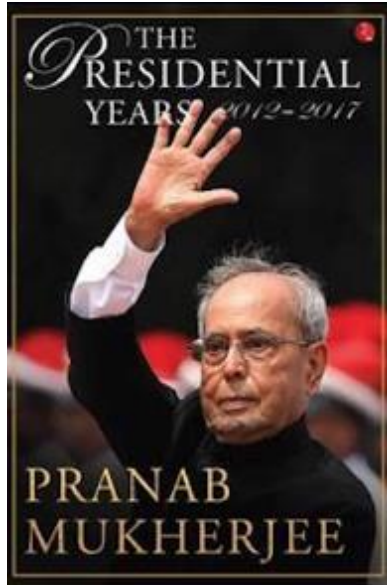
Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2020

- ❖ Ashraf Patel was conferred this award.
- ❖ He is the co-founder of two organizations - Pravah and ComMutiny Youth Collective.
- ❖ The award has been instituted by the Schwab Foundation and Jubilant Bhartia Foundation.



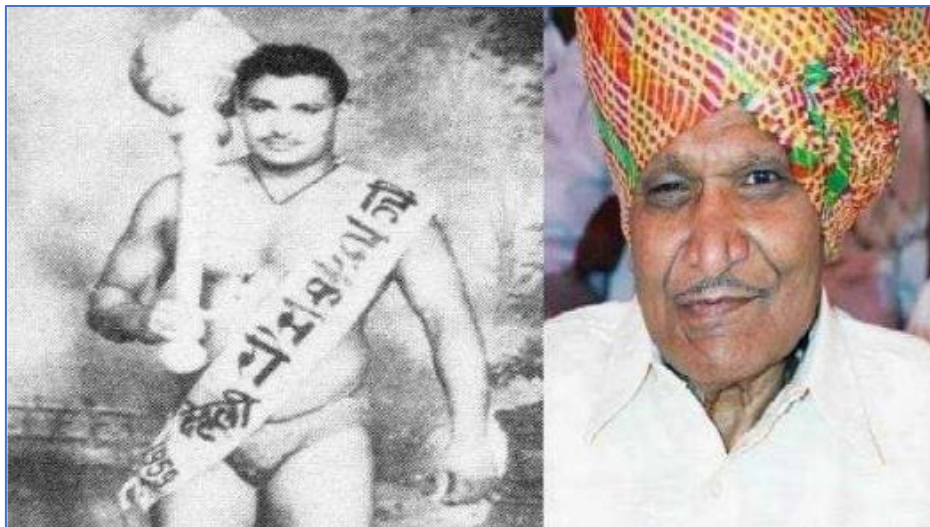
The Presidential Years

- ❖ It is an upcoming book authored by the late former President of India Pranab Mukherjee.
- ❖ This memoir is the fourth volume of the memoirs.
- ❖ The third volume of former President's autobiography titled "The Coalition Years — 1996-2012" was published in the year 2017.



Hind Kesari

- ❖ Shripati Khanchanale was a renowned wrestler.
- ❖ He recently passed away (86) in Kolhapur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ He won the prestigious title 'Hind Kesari' in 1959 by defeating the wrestler Rustam-e-Punjab Battasingh.



Forbes 2020 list of 100 most powerful women

- ❖ It is topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel for the 10th year in a row.
- ❖ New Zealand's Prime Minister (PM) Jacinda Ardern and United States (US)'s Vice President (VP)-elect Kamala Harris have also been featured in the list.
- ❖ Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, HCL Enterprise CEO Roshni Nadar Malhotra, and the chairwoman of Landmark Group Renuka Jagtiani have been named among the world's 100 most powerful women by the Forbes Magazine.
- ❖ Sitharaman is ranked 41st on the list, Nadar Malhotra comes in at the 55th spot, Mazumdar-Shaw is ranked 68th and Renuka Jagtiani is ranked 98th.
- ❖ Nirmala Sitharaman is India's first full-time female finance minister.



Golden Peacock Environment Management Award

- ❖ Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) received this award for 2020.
- ❖ This award was instituted in 1998 by World Environment Foundation (WEF).



Sugathakumari passed away

- ❖ She began her literary life in Malayalam literature under the pen name Sreekumar.
- ❖ She was one of the most active campaigners of the Save Silent Valley Movement in Kerala.
- ❖ She won the first Indira Priyadarshini Vriksha Mitra Award from the Government of India for her efforts in environmental conservation and afforestation.
- ❖ In 1996, she became the first chairperson of the Kerala State Women's Commission.
- ❖ Her tenure was marked by the launch of Kudumbashree Mission.
- ❖ Silent Valley is an evergreen tropical forest in the Palakkad district of Kerala, India.

Kailash Satyarthi new Book

- ❖ The book titled 'Covid-19: Sabhyata ka Sankat aur Samadhan' (Covid-19: Crisis of Civilisation and Solutions) was launched online by former Chief Justice of India Dipak Misra and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh.
- ❖ It is written by the Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi.
- ❖ In 2014, he was the co-recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, along with Malala Yousafzai of Pakistan.
- ❖ He is the founder of including Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Global March Against Child Labour, Global Campaign for Education and Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.

Jairam Ramesh Book

- ❖ The book titled "The Light of Asia: The Poem that Defined the Buddha" was written by the former union minister Jairam Ramesh.
- ❖ Ramesh was recently declared winner of the 2020 Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay NIF Book Prize for "A Chequered Brilliance: The Many Lives of VK Krishna Menon".

SPORTS

FIFA's final rankings for 2020

- ❖ Belgium has been ranked at the top.
- ❖ France is placed second, while Brazil is on third place, England on fourth place and Portugal in fifth place.



RANK	TEAM	POINTS	+/- POSITION
1	BELGIUM	1765	0 ↑
2	FRANCE	1733	0 ↑
3	BRAZIL	1712	0 ↑
4	ENGLAND	1661	0 ↑
5	URUGUAY	1645	0 ↑
6	CROATIA	1642	0 ↑
7	PORTUGAL	1633	0 ↑
8	SPAIN	1636	0 ↑
9	ARGENTINA	1623	0 ↑
10	COLOMBIA	1622	0 ↑

India Sports Awards 2020

- ❖ The India Sports Awards - 2020 were presented by the Federation of Indian Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has been awarded the "Best State Promoting Sports Award".
- ❖ The wrestler Bajrang Punia and shooter Elavenil Valarivan won the Sportsperson of the Year awards.
- ❖ Cricket legend Anil Kumble received the 'Best Company Promoting Sports (Private Sector)' award on behalf of his enterprise – Tenvic Sports.

15th Men's Hockey World Cup

- ❖ The 2023 Hockey World Cup will have Rourkela city in Odisha as a second venue along with Odisha's capital Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ Rourkela is known as the cradle of hockey as it has produced many international hockey stars.
- ❖ The 2018 Hockey World Cup was also held at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.

FIFA Football Awards 2020

- ❖ Robert Lewandowski of Poland becomes the best FIFA men's player.
- ❖ Lewandowski becomes the first player since Luka Modric in 2018 to beat Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo to win the Best FIFA Men's Player.

- ❖ England and Manchester City player Lucy Bronze wins The Best FIFA Women's Player
- ❖ Jurgen Klopp of Liverpool won his second consecutive Best Men's coach of the Year award.
- ❖ Netherlands women's team coach Sarina Wiegman was named The Best FIFA Women's Coach for the second time.

Awards in Tennis 2020

- ❖ Novak Djokovic (Serbia), Rafael Nadal (Spain) and Roger Federer (Switzerland) won the top awards of ATP for the year 2020.
- ❖ Djokovic won the "Year-end No. 1" award.
- ❖ Nadal received the "Stefan Edberg sportsmanship" award.
- ❖ Tiafoe (USA) won the Arthur Ashe Humanitarian Award.

FIH Rankings 2020

- ❖ The International Hockey Federation (FIH) confirmed that the Indian men's hockey team will end 2020 at the fourth spot while the Indian women's side will finish at the ninth spot.
- ❖ The Belgium men's team and the Netherlands' women will finish the year at the top of the world rankings.



Cologne Boxing World Cup

- ❖ India finished with second spot in the Cologne World Cup held at Germany.
- ❖ It won 3 gold medals, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals.
- ❖ These gold medals were won by Simranjit Kaur, Manisha and Amit Panghal.
- ❖ Silver were won by Amit Panghal and Satish Kumar.
- ❖ The event featured boxers from the host country Germany, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, France, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine.



Khelo India Youth Games 2021

- ❖ The Sports Ministry recently approved the inclusion of four indigenous sports to the Khelo India Youth Games 2021.
- ❖ They are Gatka of Punjab, Thang-Ta of Manipur, Kalaripayattu of Kerala and Mallakhamba of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Khelo India Youth Games 2021 is scheduled to take place in Haryana.



ICC Teams of the decade

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced ICC Men's and Women's T20I, ODI and Test teams of the decade.
- ❖ The Former Indian captain MS Dhoni was named the captain of the ICC Men's T20I and ODI teams of the decade.
- ❖ While Virat Kohli was named captain of the ICC Men's Test team of the decade.
- ❖ In Women team, T20I Australia Meg Lanning was announced the Captain of the decade.
- ❖ India captain Virat Kohli won Sir Garfield Sobers Award for ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade.

- ❖ Australia's Ellyse Perry won the Rachael Heyhoe-Flint Award for ICC Female Cricketer of the Decade.



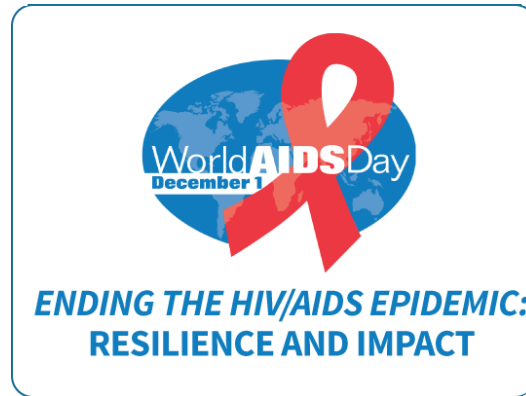
2021 Football World Cup

- ❖ The FIFA has decided to cancel the 2021 editions of the men's U-20 World Cup and U-17 World Cup.
- ❖ It gave the hosting rights to Indonesia and Peru respectively for the 2023 editions.
- ❖ In 2021 also, it was to be hosted by Indonesia and Peru.
- ❖ The FIFA Women's Football World Cup 2023 will be hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World AIDS Day - December 01

- ❖ It aims to raise public awareness about Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- ❖ It is a pandemic disease caused due to infection of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which affects the human immune system.
- ❖ The day also provides an opportunity for people to unite in fight against HIV and to show support for those living with HIV.
- ❖ World AIDS Day was first observed in 1988.
- ❖ The theme for the 2020 observance is "Ending the HIV/AIDS Epidemic: Resilience and Impact".



Program for AIDS

- ❖ The government is implementing National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) as a 100% Central Sector Scheme for prevention and control of AIDS.
- ❖ NACP responses to HIV epidemic comprise a comprehensive 3-pronged strategy of prevention, testing and treatment.
- ❖ The Government has also developed a 7-year National Strategic Plan from 2017 to 2024.

World Computer Literacy Day – December 02

- ❖ World Computer Literacy Day was first observed and held in the year 2001.
- ❖ World Computer Literacy Day denotes the twentieth commemoration of NIIT.
- ❖ This day is observed to make people aware of computers and technology that has not yet reached enough people.

National Pollution Control Day – December 02

- ❖ It is observed on December 2 to create awareness about the increasing pollution levels and its hazardous effect on human beings and our ecosystem.
- ❖ This was started after the disastrous incident of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.
- ❖ It took place on the night of December 2 in 1984.
- ❖ December 2nd 2020 would mark the 36th anniversary of the Bhopal Gas Tragedy.



International Day for the Abolition of Slavery – December 02

- ❖ This day focuses on eliminating present-day forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, child labour, forced marriage, and the pressurized recruitment of children for use in armed rivalry.
- ❖ According to the UN, an estimated 40.3 million people are in modern slavery, including 24.9 in forced labour and 15.4 million in forced marriage.
- ❖ The Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others was passed by the Assembly on 2nd December, 1949.

International Day of Persons with Disabilities - December 03

- ❖ It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development.
- ❖ The theme of this year is “Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World”.

56th BSF raising day – December 01

- ❖ The Border Security Force (BSF) is India's Primary border guarding organisation on its border with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It has been termed as the First Line of Defence of Indian Territories.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ BSF was formed on December 1, 1965 after the Indo-Pak and India-China wars.



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.



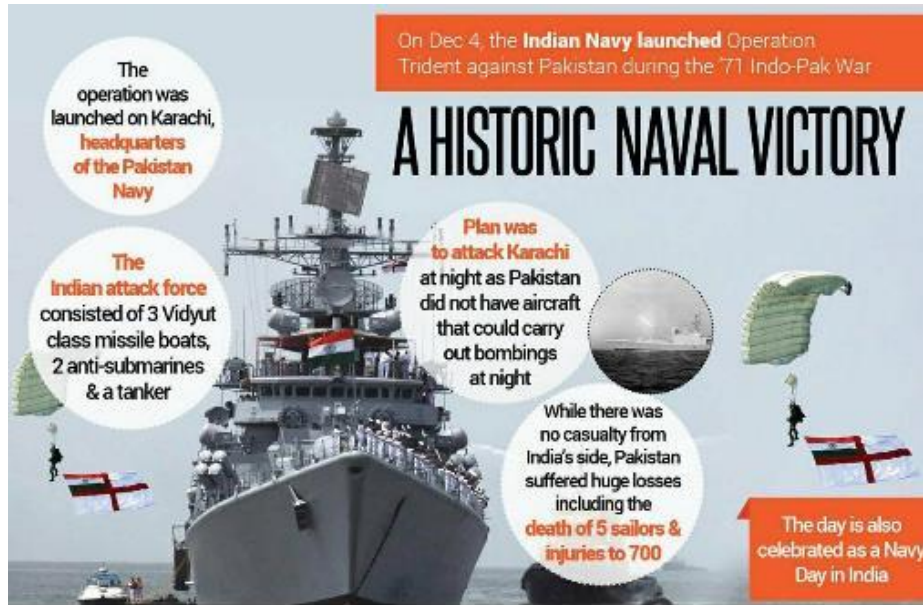
International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development – December 05

- ❖ 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".



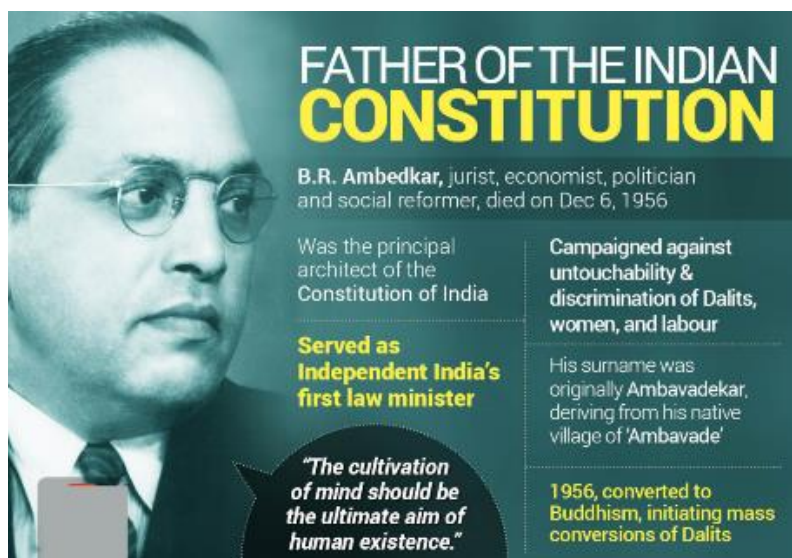
Indian Navy Day – December 04

- ❖ Every year the Indian Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate Operation Trident.
- ❖ The operation was launched by the Indian Navy during the India-Pakistan war of 1971 to attack Karachi Harbour.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Indian Navy Combat Ready, Credible and Cohesive.



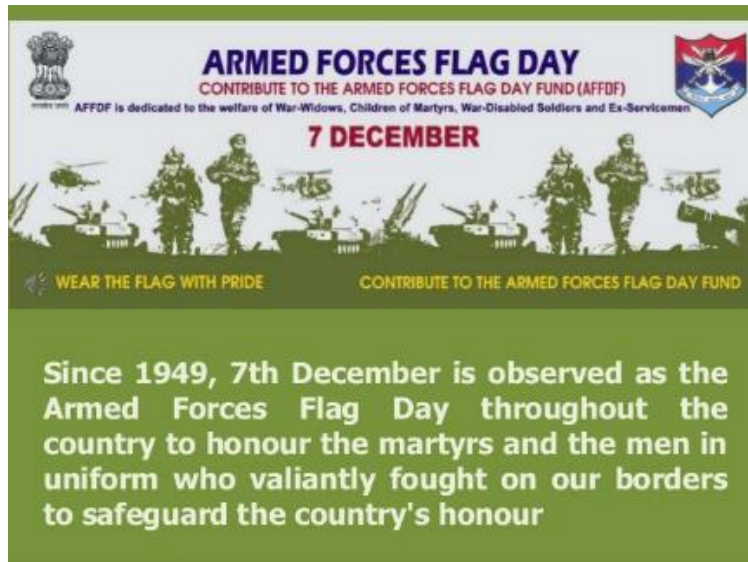
Mahaparinirvan Diwas – December 06

- ❖ On December 6, India observed Mahaparinirvan Diwas.
- ❖ It marks the death anniversary of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar.
- ❖ Parinirvan is one of the major principles and goals of Buddhism.
- ❖ Ambedkar passed away just a few days after completing his last work, The Buddha and His Dhamma.



Armed Forces Flag Day – December 07

- ❖ It has been observed in India since 7th December 1949.
- ❖ The day is dedicated towards collection of funds from the people.
- ❖ The month of the December is to be celebrated as “Gaurav Maah”.
- ❖ In 1949, the Baldev Singh Committee established the Flag Day Fund.



International Civil Aviation Day – December 07

- ❖ In 1996, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day as part of ICAO's 50th-anniversary activities.
- ❖ The day has been celebrated by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ From now until 2023, the theme will be: “Advancing Innovation for Global Aviation Development”.

International Anti-Corruption Day – December 09

- ❖ The 2020 theme is 'Recover with Integrity/United Against Corruption.'
- ❖ The theme focuses on corruption as one of the biggest obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 2003.

Human Rights Day – December 10

- ❖ On this day the United Nations (UN) adopted Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.
- ❖ This was the first-ever global document on human rights.

- ❖ That outlines the fundamental rights of all human beings that need to be protected universally.



- ❖ The Human Rights Day was formally adopted at the 317th Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on 4th December 1950.
- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission is established in October, 1993 for the protection and promotion of human rights.
- ❖ 2020 Theme is 'Recover Better - Stand Up for Human Rights'.

International Animal Rights Day – December 10

- ❖ It aims to remember animal victims of human tyranny and call for the recognition of the Universal Declaration of Animal Rights.
- ❖ It is observed every year since 1998.
- ❖ The goal of this historic campaign is to build on the recognition of human rights, and persuade humanity that kindness and respect is due to all sentient creatures.

International UNICEF Day - December 11

- ❖ UNICEF is the organization guarding children's right.
- ❖ It was founded on December 11 in the year 1946.
- ❖ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children around the world.
- ❖ UNICEF's main goal is to give 'every child the chance to grow up healthy, happy and safe'.
- ❖ The organization was originally named United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.
- ❖ In 1953, two words 'International and 'Emergency' were dropped but the acronym continued.

36th SAARC Charter Day – December 08

- ❖ The SAARC was founded at the First SAARC Summit held in Dhaka of Bangladesh on 8 December 1985
- ❖ The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is the regional intergovernmental organization and geopolitical union of states in South Asia.
- ❖ Its member states are Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- ❖ Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Nepal is the current chairman of the SAARC.
- ❖ It is a position moves by rotation through the eight countries of South Asia.

International Mountain Day - December 11

- ❖ It aims to bring focus to the sustainable development and conservation of mountains.
- ❖ 2002 is declared as the UN International Year of Mountains.
- ❖ The first international day was celebrated for the first time the following year, 2003.
- ❖ Mountain biodiversity is the theme of this year.



International Day of Neutrality - December 12

- ❖ United Nations General Assembly resolution adopted on 2nd February 2017.
- ❖ It was first observed on 12th December 2017.
- ❖ A neutral country is a sovereign state that abstains itself from participation in war as per international law.
- ❖ The rights and duties of a neutral country are defined in the 1907 Hague Convention.
- ❖ In 1815, Switzerland was the first country to declare itself as a permanent neutral.
- ❖ But Turkmenistan was the first state whose neutrality was recognized by the United Nations in 1995.

International Universal Health Coverage Day – December 12

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage (UHC) with multi-stakeholder partners.
- ❖ In 2017 the United Nations proclaimed 12 December as International Universal Health Coverage Day.
- ❖ The theme for the 2019 UHC Day is: Protect Everyone.



National Energy Conservation Day – December 14

- ❖ The day focuses on making people aware of global warming and climate change and promotes efforts towards saving energy resources.
- ❖ In India, Energy Conservation Act was implemented by the Energy Efficiency Bureau (BEE) in 2001.
- ❖ The BEE is a body that works under the jurisdiction of the Government of India and formulates policies regarding the use of energy.



Swarnim Vijay Mashaal – December 16

- ❖ Prime Minister lights up 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at the National War Memorial in Delhi.
- ❖ It is to start the 50th anniversary celebration of India's victory in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

- ❖ It led to creation of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The 1971 war also resulted in the largest military surrender after the Second World War.
- ❖ On December 16, India celebrated the 50 years of Indo-Pak war which is also called 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh'.

International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers - December 17

- ❖ This day was created to call attention to hate crimes committed against sex workers all over the world.
- ❖ The first annual day was held in 2003.
- ❖ It was held as a memorial and vigil for the victims of the Green River Killer in Seattle, Washington.
- ❖ It empowered workers from cities around the world to come together and organise against discrimination and remember victims of violence.

International Migrants Day - December 18

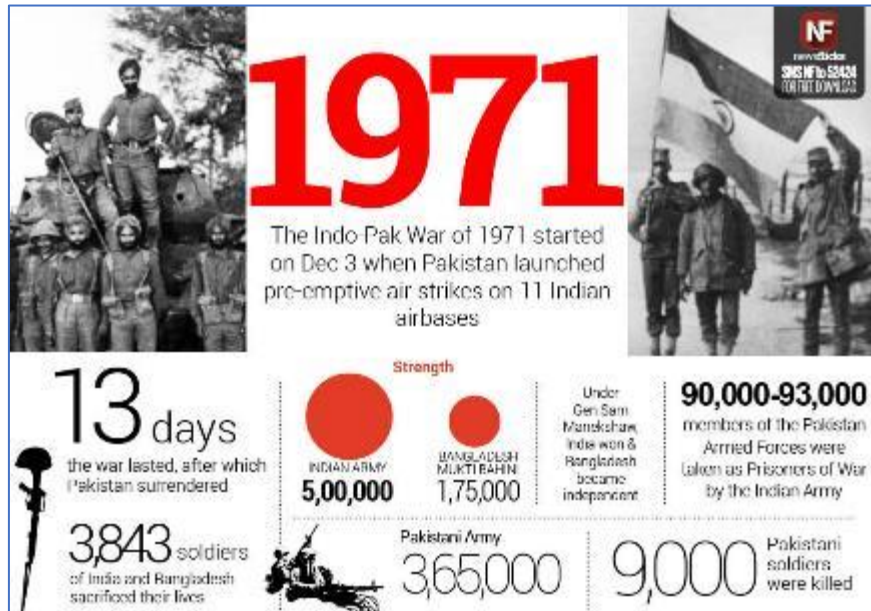
- ❖ The day recognises the importance of protecting the rights and dignity of migrants around the world.
- ❖ On 1990, December 18th, that the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution for the protection of the rights of migrant workers and their families.
- ❖ 2020 Theme is 'Reimagining Human Mobility'.



49th Vijay Diwas – December 16

- ❖ It is celebrated in India every year on December 16.
- ❖ It is to commemorate the victory of the Indian armed forces over Pakistan in the 1971 Indo-Pak War.
- ❖ It is also known as the Bangladesh Liberation War.
- ❖ The India-Pakistan war began on December 16, 1971.

- ❖ It was one of the shortest wars (13 days) and saw one of the biggest surrenders.
- ❖ On December 16, 1971, the Chief of Pakistani forces Abdullah Khan Niazi surrendered along with 93,000 troops to the allied forces of Mukti Bahini and the Indian Army.
- ❖ Vijay Diwas is observed in Bangladesh as Bijoy Dibos.



International Tea Day (ITD) – December 15

- ❖ The first ITD was held at New Delhi in India in 2005.
- ❖ It is observed on December 15 in many countries including Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Kenya, Malawi, Malaysia, Uganda, India and Tanzania, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, France and Germany as well.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the motto “Harnessing Benefits for all From Field to Cup”.



- ❖ In 2019, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) decided to observe this day on May 21.
- ❖ The season of tea production begins in May in most of the tea producing countries.
- ❖ China is currently the largest exporter of tea.

World Arabic Language Day – December 18

- ❖ The theme of this year is “Arabic Language Academics: Necessity or Luxury”.
- ❖ It was established by the UNESCO in 2010.
- ❖ In 1973 the United Nations General Assembly approved Arabic as an official UN language.
- ❖ There are six official languages of the UN.
- ❖ These are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

Arabic (18 December)

Chinese (20 April)

English (23 April)

Spanish (23 April))

French (20 March)

Russian (6 June)

Minorities Rights Day – December 18

- ❖ In India it was first observed on December 18, 2013.
- ❖ On December 18, 1992, the United Nations had declared the Statement on the Individual's Rights belonging to Religious or Linguistic National or Ethnic Minorities.
- ❖ It is observed to safeguard the Constitutionally-guaranteed rights of religious minorities in the country.
- ❖ In India, six religious communities have been notified as minorities.
- ❖ These include Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists and Zoroastrians or Parsis and Jains (2014).
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Lakshadweep are the only states where any notified minority is in majority.
- ❖ The National Commission for Minorities (NCM) was established under the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992.

Goa Liberation Day – December 19

- ❖ Goa was liberated in a military operation by the Indian armed forces in 1961.
- ❖ It was done by the Operation Vijay to liberate Goa from the Portuguese rule.
- ❖ This year marks the 60th anniversary of this operation.
- ❖ Also, India was completely free from European rule on this day.
- ❖ The Portuguese governor Afonso de Albuquerque captured in 1510.
- ❖ By the end of 19th century their colonies were limited to Goa, Diu, Daman, Dadra and Nagar Haveli.

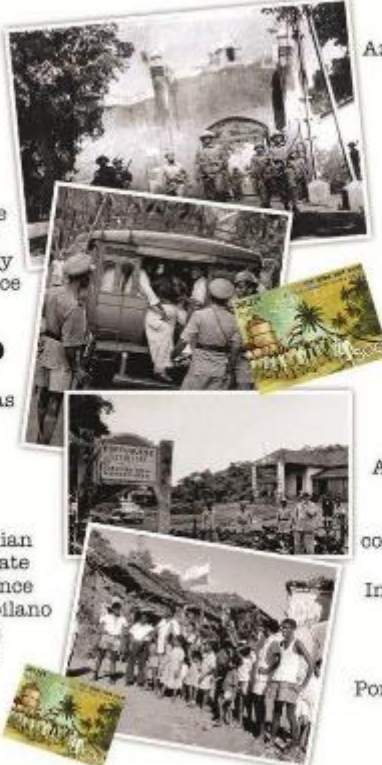
GOA LIBERATION DAY

1510
The Portuguese colonised India, conquering many parts of the western coast.

BY THE 1940S
the Goan independence movement had gained momentum, inspired by the Indian independence movement.

FROM OCTOBER TO NOVEMBER 1946
a series of satyagrahas (non-violent civil-disobedience actions) were held in Goa.

Following national Indian independence, a separate demand for independence was raised by Dr. Froilano de Mello, a prominent Goan microbiologist in the Portuguese National Assembly.



1950S
Azad Gomantak Dal, a revolutionary group, vowed to fight the Portuguese using direct action strategies. The Goa Liberation Army, founded by Shivajirao Desai, an Indian army officer.

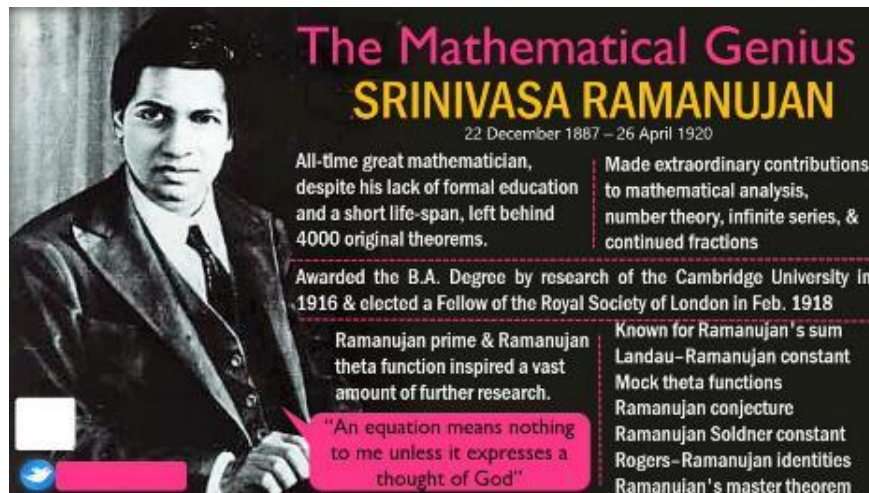
18 AND 19 DECEMBER 1961
After failure of diplomacy with the Portuguese, Nehru ordered the Indian Armed Forces to take Goa by force. In a military operation conducted on 18 & 19 December 1961, Indian troops captured Goa with little resistance. The governor-general of Portuguese India signed an instrument of surrender.

International Human Solidarity Day – December 20

- ❖ It is an international annual Unity Day of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ It was established in 2005 by the UN General Assembly.
- ❖ "HeForShe" is the UN slogan for worldwide solidarity movement for gender equality.

National Mathematics Day – December 22

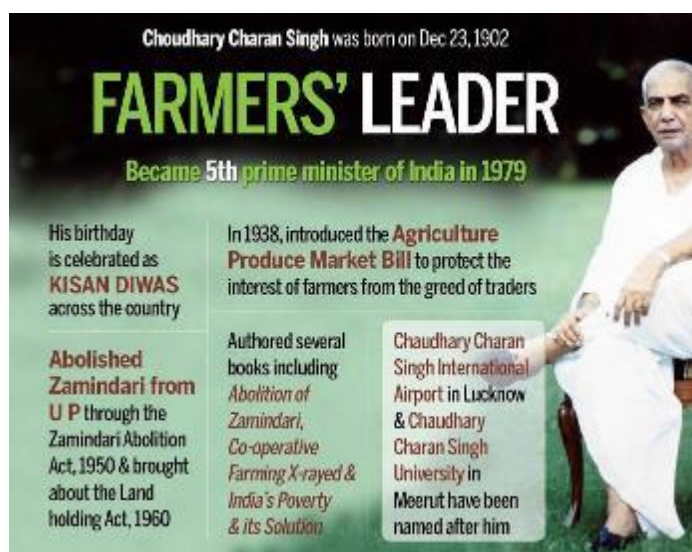
- ❖ It was announced by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on 26 February 2012 at Madras University
- ❖ It was to mark the 125th anniversary of the birth of Srinivasa Ramanujan's birthday.
- ❖ 2012 was also celebrated as the National Mathematics Year.
- ❖ On this day in 1887, Ramanujan was born at Erode, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ 'The man who knew infinity' is his autobiography film released in 2015.
- ❖ In 1918 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for his research on Elliptic Functions and theory of numbers.
- ❖ In 1918 he also became the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge
- ❖ Ramanujan found theorems to solve tricky trigonometric problems.
- ❖ The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize is awarded every year to a young mathematician (below the age of 32) judged to have done outstanding work in Ramanujan's fields of interest.
- ❖ The 2020 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Shai Evra of Princeton University, U.S., and Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel.



National Farmer's Day (Kisan Diwas) – December 23

- ❖ The day is observed to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- ❖ He was born in 1902 at Meerut.
- ❖ He was the fifth Prime Minister of India from 28 July 1979 to 14 January 1980.
- ❖ He once said, "The true India resides in its villages."
- ❖ In 1952, as an Agricultural Minister of India Charan Singh worked hard to abolish the Zamindari System in India.

- ❖ In 1953, Charan Singh got the Consolidation of Holdings Act passed.
- ❖ In 2001, the Indian Government decided to mark Charan Singh's birth anniversary as Kisan Diwas.



National Consumer Day – December 24

- ❖ On this day in 1986, the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 had received the assent of the president.
- ❖ The Consumer Protection Act 2019 is in to force from 20th July 2020.
- ❖ The Act includes establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to promote, protect and enforce the rights of consumers.
- ❖ Theme of this year is “The Sustainable Consumer”.
- ❖ World Consumer Rights Day is celebrated on March 15.

Provision	Consumer Protection Act, 1986	Consumer Protection Bill, 2019
Regulator	No Central Regulator	Central Consumer Protection Authority to be set up.
Filing of Complaint	A complaint needs to be filed in the consumer court under whom jurisdiction of the seller falls under	A complaint can be filed from anywhere or from where the consumer resides.
Mediation	No Provision	Courts can work towards settlement through mediation cells.
Jurisdiction	The jurisdiction at District level was complaints worth of Rs. 20 Lakh	District level authorities can take-up complaints with goods and services worth up to Rs. 1 crore.
Product Liability	No Provision	Consumers have the right to seek compensation for any harm caused.
E-Commerce	No Provision	E-Commerce transactions will come under the provisions involving direct sales.
Video Conferencing	No Provision	Consumers can seek hearing through Video Conference.

Good Governance Day – December 25

- ❖ It was established in 2014 to honour Former Prime Minister Vajpayee.
- ❖ It is the birth anniversary of former-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- ❖ He served three terms as the Prime Minister of India, first for a term of 13 days in 1996, then for a period of 13 months from 1998 to 1999, followed by a full term from 1999 to 2004.
- ❖ A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), he was the first Indian prime minister not of the Indian National Congress to serve a full term in office.
- ❖ On December 23, 2014, Mr Vajpayee, and Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya (posthumously) were announced as recipients of the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award.
- ❖ The book, titled “Vajpayee: The Years that Changed India”, was released on the occasion of Vajpayee's 96th birth anniversary.
- ❖ It is written by author Shakti Sinha.

