



December - 31

NATIONAL

Standing Committee on Statistics

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has constituted a Standing Committee on Statistics (SCES).
- ❖ The objective of the committee is to improve data of the government.
- ❖ The MoSPI had then announced that the survey will be conducted in 2020-21 after incorporating data quality refinements.

About the committee

- ❖ It is headed by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen.
- ❖ The committee is set to meet on January 6, 2020.
- ❖ There are around 28 members forming the committee.
- ❖ Further, the committee will subsume in it the four standing committees on
 - Labour force statistics,
 - Industrial statistics,
 - Services sector,
 - Unincorporated sector enterprises.

Chief of Defence Staff

- ❖ On December 31, 2019, Indian Army General Bipin Rawat was appointed as the First Chief of Defence Staff.
- ❖ He will serve as the first CDS till March 2022
- ❖ He recently retired as Chief of Army Staff and was succeeded by General Manoj Mukund.
- ❖ Recently, the Union Cabinet approved the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four-star general with 3-year tenure.
- ❖ The salaries and perks of the CDS is equivalent to Service chief.
- ❖ The CDS will also head the Department of Military affairs which is to be created with in the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ He will act as the military advisor to the Defence minister.

About CDS

- ❖ The other countries that hold Chief of Defence Staff in the world includes Italy, France, China, Spain, UK, Canada and Japan.



- ❖ It was first officially suggested in 1999 following the Kargil War through the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee headed by Subramaniam.

Four Star Rank

- ❖ The four-star rank of an officer in India is given to 5 officers.
- ❖ It includes Admiral of Indian Navy, Air Chief Marshal of Indian Air Force, General of Indian Army and Director of Intelligence Bureau.
- ❖ <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/currentaffairs-detail/creation-of-a-chief-of-defence-staff/chief>

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Long March - 5

- ❖ China has successfully launched its largest carrier rocket, Long March-5, from Wenchang Space Launch Center (WSLC).
- ❖ China's most powerful rocket is a critical ingredient in nation's ambitious space programme.
- ❖ It carried the Shijian-20 satellite.

About Long March-5

- ❖ The rocket is China's heaviest and most advanced communications satellite.
- ❖ This rocket is also known as CZ-5.
- ❖ It can carry a maximum payload of 25 tonnes into low Earth orbit (LEO) and 14 tonnes into geosynchronous orbit.
- ❖ The successful launch is a major step forward for China's planned mission to Mars in 2020.

Annular Solar Eclipse


- ❖ On 26th December, the annular solar eclipse was visible in places such as India, Australia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore.
- ❖ Total Solar Eclipse - The entire central portion of the sun is blocked out by the moon.
- ❖ Partial Solar Eclipse - Only part of the sun's surface is blocked out.
- ❖ Solar eclipses happen once every 18 months and only last for a few minutes.

About annual Solar eclipse

- ❖ Annular solar eclipse happens when the moon is farthest from the Earth, which is why it seems smaller.

- ❖ In this type of an eclipse, the moon does not block the sun completely, but looks like a “dark disk on top of a larger sun-coloured disk” forming a “ring of fire”.

CELESTIAL SHOW

<p>➤ Solar eclipse When the moon passes between the earth and the sun, it either totally or partially obstructs the sun, causing an eclipse</p> <p>➤ Annular solar eclipse Moon's apparent diameter is smaller than the</p>	<p>sun's, blocking most of its light and causing the sun to look like a ring or annulus</p> <p>➤ Timings The eclipse will begin at 8.26am and end at 11.32am with the maximum eclipse visible at 9.52am</p>	 <p>A representative photograph of an annular solar eclipse</p>		
<p>MAXIMUM OBSTRUCTION OF SUN</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>89.4% in Bengaluru</td> <td>84.6% in Chennai 78.8% in Mumbai 74.3% in Hyderabad</td> <td>66% in Ahmedabad 45.1% in Kolkata 44.7% in Delhi</td> </tr> </table>			89.4% in Bengaluru	84.6% in Chennai 78.8% in Mumbai 74.3% in Hyderabad
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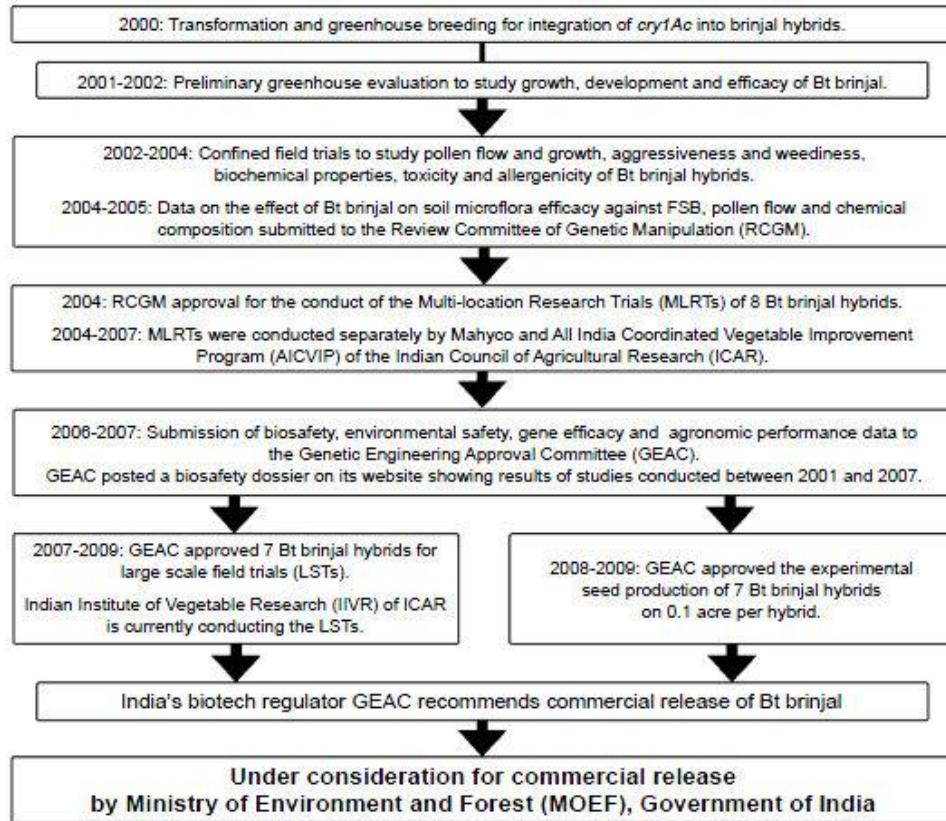


ENVIRONMENT

Illegal Cultivation of Bt Brinjal

- ❖ Illegal Bt brinjal cultivation in Haryana have been confirmed recently.
- ❖ The samples have also been sent by the Haryana Government to National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of Brinjal after China.
- ❖ These genetically modified brinjals Bt Brinjals were approved by Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) in 2009.
- ❖ But it was turned down by the Environment Ministry in 2010.
- ❖ The GEAC functions as a statutory body under the Environment Protection Act 1986 of the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF).
- ❖ Bt. cotton is the only Genetically Modified (GM) crop in India approved in 2002.
- ❖ Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 or DMH-11 is a genetically modified variety of mustard developed by the Delhi University's Centre for Genetic Manipulation of Crop Plants.

- ❖ If approved by the Centre, this will be the second GM crop, after Bt Cotton, and the first transgenic food crop to be allowed for cultivation in the country.



(In million hectares)

	2010	2011	2012	Crops
US	66.8	69	69.5	Maize, Soyabean, Cotton, Sugarbeet, Papaya, Squash
Brazil	25.4	30.3	36.6	Soyabean, Maize, Cotton
Argentina	22.9	23.7	23.9	Soyabean, Maize, Cotton
Canada	8.8	10.4	11.6	Canola, Maize, Soyabean, Sugarbeet
India	9.4	10.6	10.8	Cotton
China	3.5	3.9	4	Cotton, Papaya, Poplar, Tomato, Sweet pepper
Total*	148	160	170.3	

*Includes 22 other countries such as Paraguay, South Africa, Pakistan and Uruguay.
Source: Clive James

Fausta - World oldest rhino died

- ❖ Fausta, a female black rhino, who was believed to be the World's oldest rhino has died at the age of 57 in a Tanzanian conservation area.
- ❖ Fausta passed away from natural causes in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority.

- ❖ Rhinos' life expectancy is around 40 years in wild but they can live an extra decade in captivity.

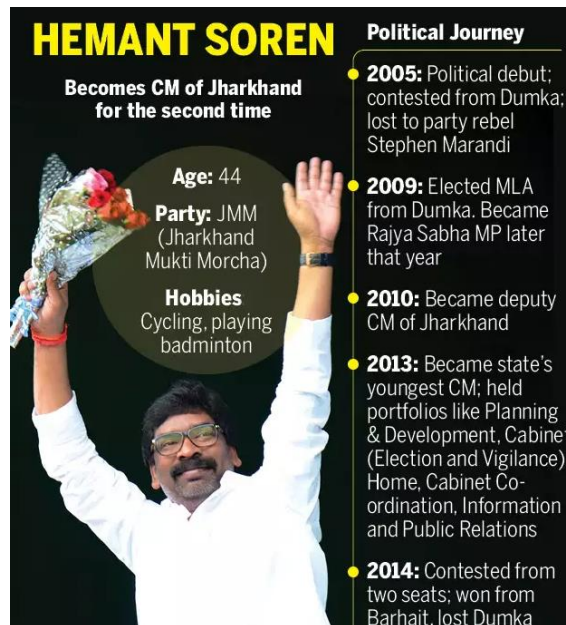
About Black rhinoceros

- ❖ They are also called as 'hook-lipped rhinoceros'.
- ❖ They are found around south and east Africa, including Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.
- ❖ IUCN Status: Critically endangered; (although South-western black rhinoceros is classified as vulnerable).

STATES

Jharkhand CM

- ❖ Jharkhand Mukti Morcha party leader Hemant Soren was sworn in as the 11th Chief Minister of Jharkhand.
- ❖ Governor of Jharkhand Droupadi Murmu has administered the oath of office and secrecy to Soren.



HEMANT SOREN

Becomes CM of Jharkhand for the second time

Age: 44

Party: JMM (Jharkhand Mukti Morcha)

Hobbies: Cycling, playing badminton

Political Journey

- **2005:** Political debut; contested from Dumka; lost to party rebel Stephen Marandi
- **2009:** Elected MLA from Dumka. Became Rajya Sabha MP later that year
- **2010:** Became deputy CM of Jharkhand
- **2013:** Became state's youngest CM; held portfolios like Planning & Development, Cabinet (Election and Vigilance), Home, Cabinet Co-ordination, Information and Public Relations
- **2014:** Contested from two seats; won from Barhait, lost Dumka

Accession Day at J & K – Public holiday

- ❖ The government of UT of Jammu Kashmir has declared October 26, the day J-K acceded to the Union of India in 1947, as a public holiday in the calendar year for 2020.



- ❖ The list of holidays for the calendar year 2020 was issued by the General Administration Department of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ According to that order, there will be no holiday in Martyrs' day on July 13 and Sheikh Abdullah's birthday on December 5.
- ❖ 26 October 1947, when Maharaja Hari Singh signed off the Instrument of Accession with the then Governor-General of India, Lord Mountbatten, in which Jammu and Kashmir joined the Dominion of India.
- ❖ It gave India's Parliament the power to legislate in respect of J&K only on the matters of defence, external affairs and communications.
- ❖ Using it, Article 370 was incorporated in the Constitution of India.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

National Symposium of Poets 2020

- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) organized the National Symposium of Poets 2020.
- ❖ Such National symposium is organised continuously every year since 1956.
- ❖ The poets of all 22 languages recognized in eighth schedule of constitution participate in symposium.

About All India Radio

- ❖ It was founded in 1936.
- ❖ It is a division of Prasar Bharati (India's largest public broadcasting agency).
- ❖ AIR is National Radio Broadcaster of India.
- ❖ Since 1956 is officially known as Akashvani.
- ❖ It broadcasts programmes in 23 languages and 179 dialects.

SPORTS

Koneru Humpy- World Rapid Chess title

- ❖ Indian Grandmaster Koneru Humpy wins the World Women's Rapid Chess Championship held in Moscow, Russia.
- ❖ She won the title after drawing the Armageddon game against Lei Tingjie of China.
- ❖ Humpy is only the second Indian to win the rapid gold in the current format after Vishwanathan Anand who won it in 2017.
- ❖ World Rapid Chess Championship is a chess tournament held since 1987.



Humpy Koneru

