



February - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi International Airport Limited has become the first airport in India to become free of single-use plastics.
- ❖ Foundation stone for a 50-metre high modern lighthouse at Dhanushkodi in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.
 - This is the 5th lighthouse in the region.

NATIONAL

Swachh Iconic Places

- ❖ The 3rd Annual Review meeting on Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) was held recently at Jharkhand.
- ❖ SIP is an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- ❖ It aims to take iconic places and their surroundings to higher standards of Swachhata, so that all visitors benefit and also take away home the message of cleanliness.
- ❖ It is a collaborative project with three other central Ministries: Urban Development, Culture, Tourism.

Kangaroo Mother Care

- ❖ Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is the intervention where babies are placed in skin-to-skin contact with their mothers and exclusively breast fed.
- ❖ It has been recommended worldwide for stable low-birthweight new-borns.
- ❖ WHO recommends that it be continued till baby attains a weight of 2.5 kg or till babies wriggle out.
- ❖ KMC has 3 parts:
 - Skin-to-skin contact
 - Exclusive breastfeeding
 - Support to the dyad.



22nd Law Commission

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the 22nd Law Commission of India.
- ❖ This commission has been approved for a period of three years.
- ❖ The 22nd Law Commission will consist of a full time Chairperson.
- ❖ It has four full time members. Also, secretaries from Department of Legal Affairs and Legislative department.

Law Commissions

- ❖ It is a non-statutory body that is constituted by the Government of India from time to time.
- ❖ It was constituted in 1955 for the first time.
- ❖ Since then it has been reconstituted for every 3 years.
- ❖ So far, the Law Commission of India has submitted 277 reports.

India shifts to cleanest fuel

- ❖ From April 1, 2020, India will shift to BS VI emission compliant from Euro-IV grades.
- ❖ As India shifts to BS VI grades, it will join select league of nations using pure and clean fuel.
- ❖ These fuels contain just 10 parts per million of Sulphur.
- ❖ Delhi and adjoining cities have already adopted BS VI in April 2019.

Conference of Central Administrative Tribunal 2020

- ❖ The annual All India Conference of the Central Administrative Tribunal was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- ❖ The Central Administrative Tribunal has been established by Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 under Article 323-A of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Tribunal is headed by the Chairman and 65 Members. They are,
 - 33 from Judicial (including Chairman) and 33 from the Administrative stream.
- ❖ The Chairman is normally a sitting or retired Judge of a High Court.
- ❖ Tribunal has been conferred with the power to exercise the same jurisdiction and authority in respect of itself as a High Court.



E-MASIHA App

- ❖ Recently, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has informed that India has become the first country in the world which has made the entire Haj 2020 process 100% digital.
- ❖ E-Masiha stands for E-Medical Assistance System for Indian Pilgrims Abroad.
- ❖ It is an online system to create and maintain the complete health database of pilgrims to deal with any emergency in Makkah-Madinah.

INTERNATIONAL

China stands on Pakistan in FATF

- ❖ China has joined India and United States in putting Pakistan on Grey list of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force).
- ❖ Both China and Saudi Arabia have joined US, India and other European countries side to sending stern messages to Pakistan against its actions of terror funding money laundering.
- ❖ Till now China, Saudi Arabia and Turkey were the three countries that supported Pakistan against FATF move in putting Pakistan under Grey List.
- ❖ But now Turkey and Malaysia are the only supporters.
- ❖ Pakistan was put on the grey list in June 2018.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Ra'ad-II missile

- ❖ Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the air launched nuclear-capable cruise missile Ra'ad-II.
- ❖ It has a range of 600 km.

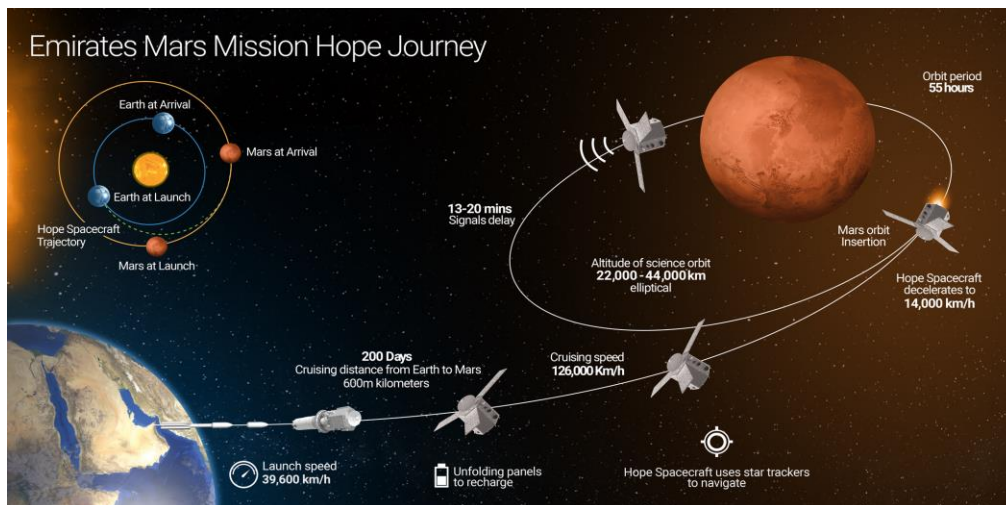


**PAKISTAN CONDUCTS
SUCCESSFUL FLIGHT TEST
OF RA'AD-II CRUISE MISSILE**

- ❖ The system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision.

Hope spacecraft

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates has used a novel approach to build the Hope spacecraft which will be launched in July, 2020.
- ❖ HOPE Spacecraft is also known as the Emirates Mars Mission (EMM).
- ❖ It will be Arab world's first spacecraft to Mars.
- ❖ The mission will become the first space exploration programme to take a picture of the Mars atmosphere.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Kambala race runner

- ❖ Srinivas Gowda created a storm by covering 100 metres in 9.55 seconds recently.
- ❖ Another Kambala runner Nishant Shetty has now overtaken Srinivas Gowda by completing the same distance in 9.51 seconds.
- ❖ Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt's world record is 9.58 seconds.
- ❖ Kambala is an annual race held in Karnataka where people sprint 142m through paddy fields with the buffaloes.



Sammakka Saralamma Jatara festival

- ❖ Sammakka Saralamma Jatara is being celebrated in the State of Telangana.
- ❖ This is also known as Medaram Jatara.
- ❖ It is a tribal festival held biennially in the state of Telangana.
- ❖ It is a State Festival of Telangana.
- ❖ The festival commemorates the fight of a mother and daughter, Sammakka and Saralamma, with the reigning rulers against an unjust law.
- ❖ It is believed that after Kumbh Mela, the Medaram jatara attracts the largest number of devotees in the country.

Dara Shikoh grave

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture recently set up a seven-member panel of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), to locate the grave of the Mughal prince Dara Shikoh.
- ❖ Dara Shikoh (1615-59) was the eldest son and heir-apparent of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan.
- ❖ He was defeated by his younger brother Prince Muhiuddin (later, Emperor Aurangzeb).
- ❖ Dara Shikoh is described as a “liberal Muslim” who tried to find commonalities between Hindu and Islamic traditions.
- ❖ He translated the Bhagavad Gita as well as 52 Upanishads into Persian.

MISCELLANEOUS

Times Higher Education Ranking 2020

- ❖ Times Higher Education Ranking was released in London.
- ❖ The ranking was titled “The Emerging Economies University Ranking 2020”.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Science was ranked 16th among the top 100 Universities of emerging Economies.
- ❖ Around 11 Indian Universities were included in the top 100.
- ❖ However, China had more Universities than India in the ranking.
- ❖ Around 30 Universities of China were in the top 100.

PERFORMANCE OVER YEARS



While IISc retained its top position among Indian varsities, it fell two places to 16

No. of Indian univs in top 100

2014	10
2015	11
2016	9
2017	8
2018	8
2019	10
2020	11

INDIAN UNIVERSITIES IN TOP 100 IN 2020

University	2019	2020	Movement
IISc Bengaluru	14	16	-2 ▼
IITKharagpur	55	32	23 ▲
IITBombay	27	34	-7 ▼
IITDelhi	66	38	28 ▲
IITRoorkee	35	58	-23 ▼
IITIndore	61	61	+/-0 ↔
IITMadras	75	63	12 ▲
IITRopar	NR	63	N/A ↔
Institute of Chemical Technology	NR	73	N/A ↔
IITKanpur	46	77	-31 ▼
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham	141	90	51 ▲

Source: Times Higher Education

Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019

- ❖ The Economist Intelligence Unit has released the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019.
- ❖ The index assesses countries based on their abilities to equip students with skill-based education.
- ❖ The theme of the index is “From Policy to Practice”.

Key takeaways from the index:

- ❖ Finland has been ranked at the top of the index.
- ❖ It was followed by Sweden at second position and New Zealand at third position.

- ❖ India has been ranked 35th on the overall index in 2019 with a total score of 53. In 2018, it was ranked at 40th position.
- ❖ The bottom three nations in the index were Kenya (48th), Nigeria (49th) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (50th).

