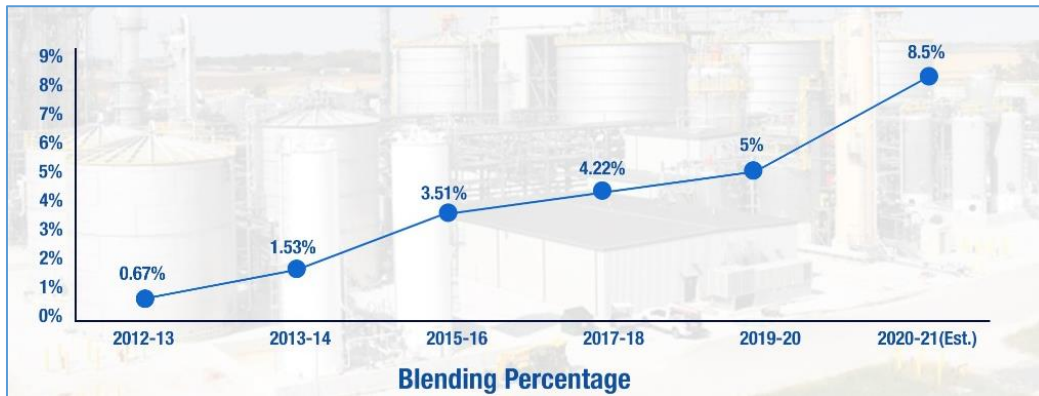


January - 20

## NATIONAL

### Ethanol blending in India

- ❖ India plans to achieve 20% ethanol-blending with gasoline by 2025.
- ❖ It will be five years ahead of its previous target.
- ❖ It is to help reduce its dependence on costly oil imports.
- ❖ In 2020, the government had set a target of reaching 10% ethanol-blending by 2022.
- ❖ It means 10% of ethanol mixed with 90% of gasoline – and 20% by 2030.
- ❖ India relies on foreign suppliers to meet more than 80% of its demand.



### India's first Fire Park

- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the 'Fire Park'.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind initiative in the country, to bring awareness on fire safety measures.
- ❖ It is located inside the premises of the Odisha Fire and Disaster Academy in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ He also launched a dynamic online portal, 'Agnishama Seva' of Odisha Fire Service on virtual platform.



### **India Meteorological Department**

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 146th Foundation day on 15th January 2021.
- ❖ It was established in 1875 at Calcutta.
- ❖ It is an agency of the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India.
- ❖ It is the principal agency responsible for meteorological observations, weather forecasting and seismology.
- ❖ It is also one of the six Regional Specialised Meteorological Centres of the World Meteorological Organisation.
- ❖ It has the responsibility for forecasting, naming and distribution of warnings for tropical cyclones in the Northern Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ It will include the Malacca Straits, the Bay of Bengal, the Arabian Sea and the Persian Gulf.

### **SAKSHAM Awareness Campaign**

- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently launched SAKSHAM awareness campaign.
- ❖ The campaign was launched to spread awareness about green energy.
- ❖ It is a one-month long people centric fuel conservation campaign.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

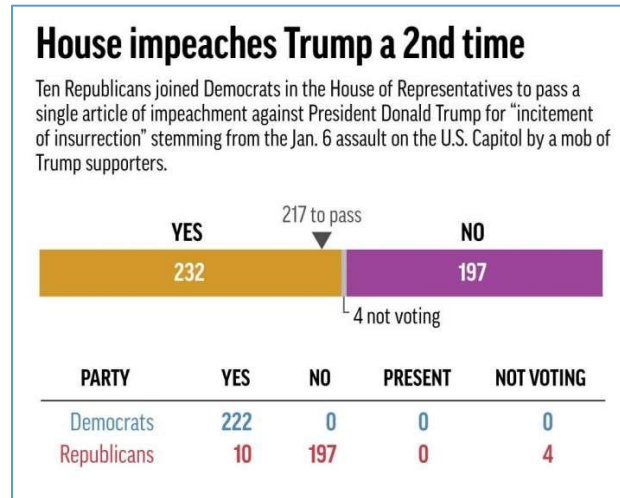
### **Trump Impeachment**

- ❖ Donald Trump becomes first US President to be impeached twice.
- ❖ He was impeached by the US House of Representatives with 232 - 197 vote.
- ❖ After securing enough votes to pass the US House of Representatives, the impeachment resolution will now go to the US Senate.
- ❖ The Upper House of the USA, the Senate will be required to set up a trial.
- ❖ However, it will not hold it before January 20th
- ❖ On 20th January, the President-elect Joe Biden will be inaugurated as the next President of the United States.
- ❖ This means that Donald Trump will escape the risk of being removed from office.
- ❖ Three US Presidents have been impeached by Congress- Donald Trump, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton.
- ❖ Among them, only Trump has been impeached twice in a single term.
- ❖ However, no US President has ever been removed from office through impeachment.

### **Process of impeachment**

- ❖ Firstly, the House of representatives of the United States has to vote for the charges framed against the president.

- ❖ After the passage of votes with simple majority, the president will be impeached.
- ❖ However, the President is not removed from the office.
- ❖ In the next phase, the upper house, that is US Senate, is convened like a court.
- ❖ The President shall be removed from office only if two thirds of the Senate vote for it.

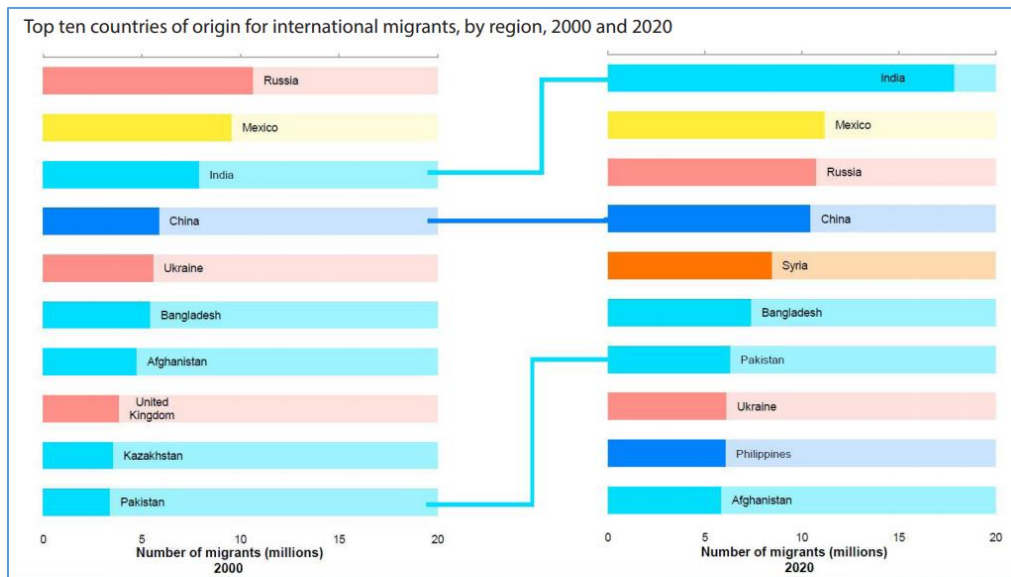


## Palestine Elections

- ❖ Palestine is to hold first national elections after 14 years in 2021.
- ❖ The three elections, parliamentary, presidential and National Council polls, will be conducted in the Palestine in 2021.
- ❖ Two Palestinian groups - Hamas and Fatah - have been against each other ever since Hamas seized the Gaza Strip from its rival in 2007.
- ❖ However, in September 2020, the two groups met in Turkey and agreed to hold parliamentary and presidential elections.
- ❖ President Mahmoud Abbas agreed to stay on as President of Palestine until the next election.
- ❖ But he is recognized as president only in the West Bank and not by Hamas controlled Gaza strip.
- ❖ The first-ever legislative and presidential elections of Palestine were held in 1996.
- ❖ The Palestinian National Authority has a multi-party system with Fatah being the dominant party.

## International Migration 2020 Highlights

- ❖ The United Nations recently released the report “International Migration 2020 Highlights”.
- ❖ According to the report, the Indian diaspora is the largest in the world.
- ❖ More than 18 million people from India were living outside India as of 2020.
- ❖ It is distributed across a number of major countries such as UAE (3.5 million), Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) and US (2.7 million).
- ❖ The other countries hosting large number of migrants from India are Oman, Australia, Kuwait, Canada, Qatar, Pakistan and UK.
- ❖ The other countries with large diaspora are Mexico, China, Russia and Syria.
- ❖ The United States was the largest country of destination of international migrants.
- ❖ It was followed by Germany, Saudi Arabia, Russia and the UK.



## ECONOMY

### Corporate Social Responsibility

- ❖ The ministry of corporate affairs (MCA) has permitted the funds spent on awareness programmes and public outreach campaigns regarding the Covid -19

vaccination drive, to be classified as corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity.

- ❖ These would fall under the permitted CSR activities as per the seventh schedule of the Companies Act, 2013.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### H3 rocket

- ❖ The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) is to launch H3 rocket in 2021.
- ❖ It is to pave the way for the next generation of transportation technologies.

### Asmi Pistol



- ❖ India's first indigenous 9mm Machine Pistol has been jointly developed by the Indian Army and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ The machine pistol has been named 'Asmi'.
- ❖ It means self-respect, hard work and pride.



- ❖ DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune and Army's infantry school in Mhow jointly developed and designed this pistol.

