



January - 04

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has also given its approval for the opening of Indian Diplomatic Missions in three nations including Estonia, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic in 2021.
- ❖ The Ministry of Labor has notified 8.5% rate of interest on Employees Provident Fund for 2019/20.
- ❖ The US White House has recently issued a directive for the first ever nuclear reactor on the Moon by 2026.
- ❖ Argentina has legalized abortions up to the 14th week of pregnancy.
- ❖ The chairman of railway board V.K. Yadav was conferred with Eminent Engineer Award 2020.
 - It was given by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) for his outstanding contribution towards modernization and reforms over Indian Railways.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh's tableau has been chosen for the 2021 Republic Day parade for the second time in a row.
 - The tableau will display folk instruments used in tribal areas of Chhattisgarh with its cultural surroundings.
- ❖ The Chinese industrialist Zhong Shanshan has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become Asia's richest person.

NATIONAL

R P Tiwari Committee

- ❖ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has set up a seven-member committee headed by R P Tiwari.
- ❖ This committee will consider the issue of holding common entrance test at undergraduate (UG) level only from the next academic year in central universities to provide a single platform for admission.
- ❖ The new National Education Policy (NEP) advocates reducing the number of entrance tests to eliminate the need for taking coaching for these exams.

- ❖ If the NEP suggestion is implemented, the National Testing Agency will be established.



Ramgopal Rao Committee

- ❖ The Ministry of Education had appointed a committee, headed by IIT-Delhi V Ramgopal Rao.
- ❖ It was appointed to suggest measures for implementing reservation in student admissions and faculty recruitment in IITs.
- ❖ The committee has suggested that the 23 IITs should be exempted from reservations.
- ❖ It suggests that IITs should be added to the list of “Institutions of Excellence”.



Vistadome tourist coaches

- ❖ The Indian Railways has successfully completed the trial run of new Vistadome tourist coaches.
- ❖ These coaches were manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai.
- ❖ Vistadome coaches are made with see through glass roof tops and wide Windows to offer panoramic view.
- ❖ Currently there are 13 Vistadome coaches operated in India.
- ❖ They are operated at Araku Valley, Dadar and Madgaon, Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway, Kangra Valley Railway, Kalka-Shimla Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway, Matheran Hill Railway.



Global Pravasi Rishta Portal and Mobile app

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs launched this App.
- ❖ It will help to connect 3.12 crores Indian diaspora spread all over the world.
- ❖ The portal created will enable the registration of Indian diaspora members.
- ❖ This includes PIOs (Person of Indian Origin), NRIs (Non-Resident Indians) and OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India).



AIIMS at Rajkot in Gujarat

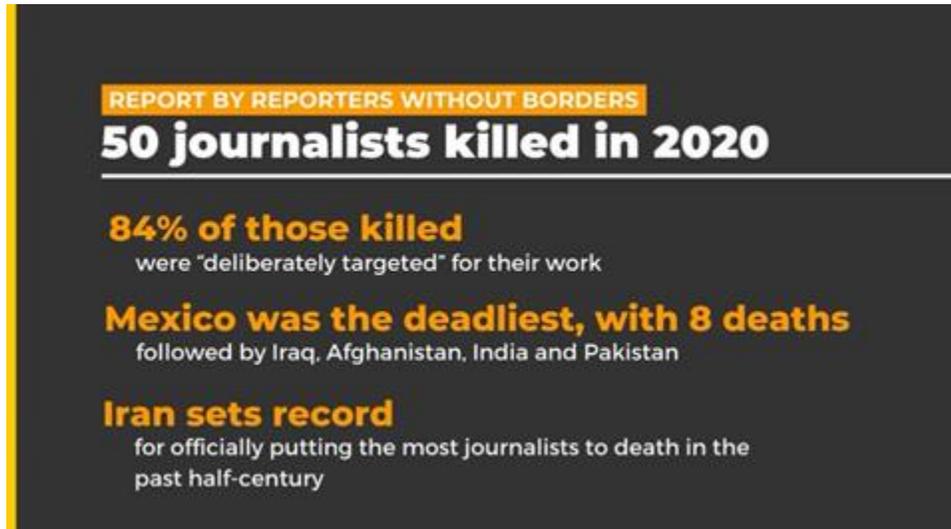
- ❖ PM laid the foundation stone of the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences at Rajkot in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is established by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna (PMSSY).
- ❖ It is expected to be completed by mid-2022.
- ❖ The AIIMS Rajkot will be the 16th institute in the country.
- ❖ The last AIIMS to be made operational was AIIMS Deoghar, Jharkhand in 2019.
- ❖ These institutes have been declared by an Act of Parliament as Institutes of National Importance.
- ❖ AIIMS New Delhi, the forerunner institute, was established in 1956.
- ❖ Since then, 22 more institutes were announced.

INTERNATIONAL

Reporters Without Borders

- ❖ At least 50 journalists and media workers have been killed worldwide last year alone.
- ❖ The overall number of killings has down from 53 in 2019.
- ❖ Mexico was the deadliest nation for journalists in 2020.
- ❖ Iraq was the second-deadliest country followed by Afghanistan.
- ❖ It was a data according to the Reporters Without Borders.

- ❖ It is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization headquarters at Paris, France.



INS Sindhuvir

- ❖ It is officially inducted into Myanmar Navy.
- ❖ It is the first and only submarine of the Myanmar Navy.
- ❖ It is given the name of UMS Minye Theinkhathu in Myanmar language.
- ❖ It is the first submarine to be given by India to another country.



Covid Vaccine emergency supply

- ❖ The UK Government has approved the emergency supply of Astra Zeneca and Oxford University vaccines.
- ❖ The Serum Institute of India has tied up with AstraZeneca to supply the vaccines in UK.
- ❖ This new vaccine is a viral vector vaccine.
- ❖ It works in a different way than the mRNA vaccines that have already been approved.
- ❖ A viral vector vaccine uses another non-replicating virus to deliver SARS-CoV-2 genes, in the form of DNA.

UK New Year honors list

- ❖ Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton was awarded knighthood in the United Kingdom New Year Honors list.
- ❖ Hamilton won his seventh world title at the Turkish Grand Prix in November 2020.
- ❖ By this win, he equaled the Michael Schumacher's World record.
- ❖ Hamilton also surpassed Michael Schumacher's all-time record of 91 wins in October 2020.
- ❖ By this win, his total win tally has gone to 95.
- ❖ The UK knighthood and Damehood honor dates back to medieval times.
- ❖ It carries the title 'Sir' for men and 'Dame' for women.
- ❖ Dr Raghu Ram Pillarisetti has been named in this list.

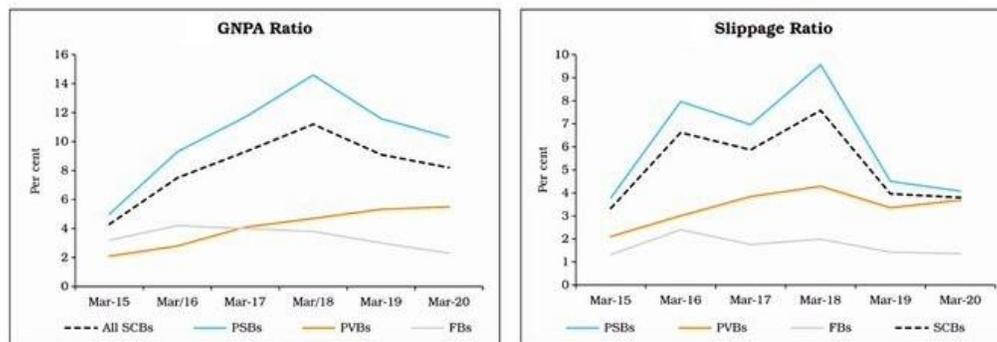


ECONOMY

RBI Trend and Progress Report, 2020

- ❖ It provides information about performance of the banking sector.
- ❖ This includes non-banking Financial Institutions and cooperative banks.
- ❖ The report is a statutory compliance of Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- ❖ The commercial bank's gross non-performing assets ratio has declined from 9.1% in March 2019 to 7.5% in September 2020.
- ❖ The capital to risk weighted assets ratio of the scheduled commercial banks strengthened from 14.3% in March 2019 to 15.8% in September 2020.
- ❖ This helped in recapitalization of public sector banks.

Asset Quality of Banks



Note: GNPA ratio is calculated using annual accounts of banks and off-site returns (global operations)

