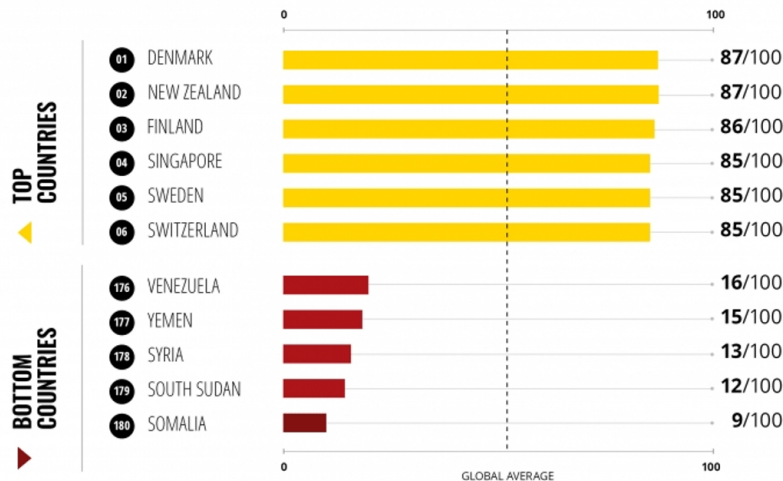


January - 27

NATIONAL

Corruption Perception Index 2019

- ❖ It has been prepared and released by Transparency International since 1995.
- ❖ It is a composite index that draws from 12 surveys to rank nations around the globe.
- ❖ It ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption.
- ❖ It uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- ❖ With a score of 41, India is at the 80th spot from 78th in 2018.
- ❖ The rank is also shared by China, Benin, Ghana and Morocco.
- ❖ Denmark and New Zealand have cornered the top spot, followed by Finland, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland in the top ten.



INTERNATIONAL

Rohingya Crisis

- ❖ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has given its verdict on the Rohingya crisis.
- ❖ The ruling of the court is binding on Myanmar, and cannot be appealed.



- ❖ However, no means are available to the court to enforce it.
- ❖ It was the Republic of the Gambia who filed a case in the ICJ in November 2019, accusing Myanmar of genocide.
- ❖ The Gambia was backed by the 57-member Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- ❖ Myanmar was represented by Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.
- ❖ So far, only three cases of genocide worldwide have been recognized since World War II: Cambodia (the late 1970s), Rwanda (1994), and Srebrenica & Bosnia (1995).
- ❖ An estimated 7.3 lakh Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since 2017 when the Myanmar military launched a brutal crackdown on Rohingya villages in the country's coastal Rakhine state.

About ICJ

- ❖ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) sometimes called the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ The ICJ settles disputes between states and gives advisory opinions on international legal issues referred to it by the UN.
- ❖ All members of the UN are party to the ICJ Statute.
- ❖ The court is seated in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands, making it the only principal U.N. organ not located in New York City.
- ❖ Its official working languages are English and French.
- ❖ The ICJ comprises a panel of 15 judges
- ❖ Out of 15, Dalveer Bhandari is an Indian member of the International Court of Justice since 2012 and was a judge of the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ His term ends on 2027.

Sagarmatha Sambaad – April 2020

- ❖ It is the first ever multi-stakeholder diplomatic initiative of Nepal.
- ❖ The event will be focusing on the threat of climate change to the modern world.

Measles vaccine

- ❖ India has stepped in to help the Maldives tackle a recent outbreak of measles.
- ❖ The Indian Embassy in Male recently handed over 30,000 doses of measles and rubella (MR) vaccine to the Maldivian Health Ministry.



- ❖ The outbreak comes less than three years after the World Health Organization declared the Maldives measles-free.
- ❖ Under the Global Vaccine Action Plan, measles and rubella are targeted for elimination in five WHO Regions by 2020.
- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious viral disease.
- ❖ Measles is transmitted via droplets from the nose, mouth or throat of infected persons.
- ❖ Also called German Measles, Rubella is a contagious, generally mild viral infection.

ECONOMY

GATI

- ❖ The web portal 'GATI' was launched by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- ❖ It was created by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❖ The portal 'GATI' can be accessed from NHAI's website, and contractors and concessionaires can raise any project-related issues on the platform.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NavIC

- ❖ Qualcomm Technologies has unveiled mobile chipsets supporting the Indian regional satellite navigation system – NavIC (Navigation in Indian Constellation).

About

- ❖ It is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- ❖ Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) would provide two types of services, namely Standard Positioning Services available to all users and Restricted Services provided to authorized users.
- ❖ It is a regional system and so its constellation will consist of seven satellites.
- ❖ Three of these will be geostationary over the Indian Ocean, i.e., they will appear to be stationary in the sky over the region, and four will be geosynchronous – appearing at the same point in the sky at the same time every day.



ENVIRONMENT

Ophichthus kailashchandrai

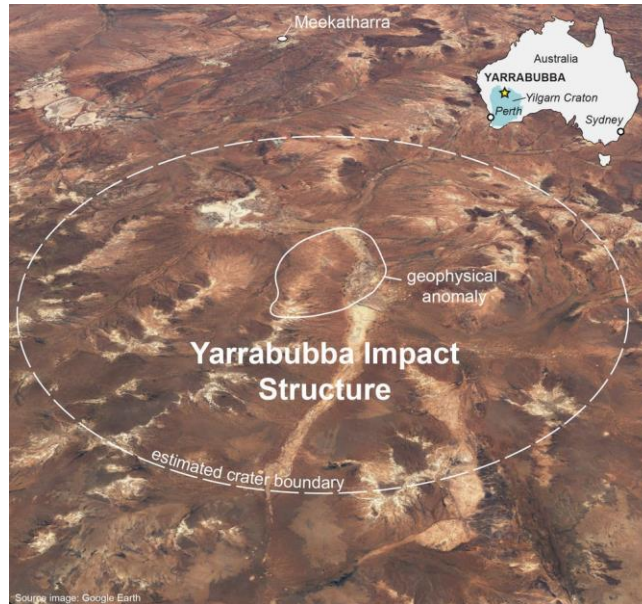
- ❖ This is a new snake eel species residing in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ It has been named Ophichthus kailashchandrai to honour the vast contributions of Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director of Zoological Survey of India, to Indian animal taxonomy.
- ❖ It is the eighth species of the Ophichthus genus found on the Indian coast.



Yarrabubba crater

- ❖ The Yarrabubba crater is an asteroid impact structure situated in the Mid-West Western Australia.
- ❖ It was the eroded remnant of a former impact crater.
- ❖ According to recent study, Australia's Yarrabubba asteroid impact crater is oldest on earth (age of 2.229 billion years) and it may have been responsible for ending an ice age.
- ❖ The Yarrabubba resisted reliable estimates of its age because of erosion and plate tectonics.
- ❖ Other older asteroid crater is the Vredefort Dome in South Africa (2.023 billion years old) and Canada's Sudbury Basin (1.850 billion years old).

- ❖ These are the only other precisely dated Precambrian impact structures that are currently known.
- ❖ The geological record shows the Earth had glacial ice before the time of the impact – but afterwards, ice disappeared for hundreds of millions of years.
- ❖ Geologists date events using “isotopic clocks” in minerals like zircon and monazite.
- ❖ These minerals contain small amounts of uranium, which gradually decays into lead at a known rate.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Customs Day – January 26

- ❖ It will be dedicated to the contribution of Customs towards a sustainable future where social, economic, health and environmental needs are at the heart of our actions.
- ❖ Theme is “Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet”.
- ❖ It commemorates the day in 1953 when the inaugural session of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC) was held in Brussels, Belgium.
- ❖ In 1994 the CCC was renamed World Customs Organization (WCO) and today custom organizations from 179 countries are WCO members.
- ❖ World Customs Organization is called as the only intergovernmental organization which solely highlights the customs matters.

- ❖ The WCO maintains the international Harmonized System (HS) goods nomenclature, and administers the technical aspects of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Customs Valuation and Rules of Origin.

MISCELLANEOUS

New Words in Oxford dictionary

- ❖ Aadhaar, hartal, dabba and shaadi are among the 26 new Indian-English words that have been made into the latest edition of the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (OALD).
- ❖ These new inclusions take the number of Indian-English words to 384 in the 10th edition of the dictionary which features a staggering 86,000 words.
- ❖ The dictionary chose 'climate emergency' as the Word of the Year 2019.
- ❖ The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) is the principal historical dictionary of the English language, published by Oxford University Press (OUP) of the United Kingdom.

