

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS - JULY 2020

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh Government will launch 'Kill Corona' campaign to screen all the households in the state.
- ❖ The Minister of State of Defense Shripad Naik inaugurated the 'Defense Conclave 2020' in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Adarsh Police stations scheme will be launched in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Syed Ali Shah Geelani has quit Hurriyat Conference, the biggest separatist political front in Kashmir.
- ❖ The PM of India extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana till November 2020 to support migrants and poor labourers.
- ❖ The Government has added three more states Odisha, Mizoram, and Sikkim under the One nation, one ration card scheme.
- ❖ The World's first-ever Online B.Sc. Degree in Programming and Data Science is prepared and to be offered by the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras.
- ❖ The first edition of Fisheries and Aquaculture Newsletter was launched.
 - The name of the newsletter is 'Matsya Sampada'.
- ❖ Swiggy has launched its own digital wallet, 'Swiggy Money' in partnership with ICICI Bank.
 - It is an industry first instant digital wallet.
- ❖ Nitin Menon (36 years old) from India became the youngest member of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Elite Panel of Umpires.
 - He is third after former captain Srinivas Venkatraghavan and Sundaram Ravi.
- ❖ On July 1, National Postal Worker Day is marked in recognition of postal workers across the world.
- ❖ On July 1, the International Joke Day is celebrated worldwide.
- ❖ A USD 750 Million loan was approved for the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in India by the World Bank Group.
- ❖ The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has designated two Chinese companies - Huawei Technologies and ZTE Corporation as national security threats.
- ❖ HDFC Bank has launched 'e-Kisaan Dhan' App for Farmers in India.
- ❖ A mega tree plantation drive called Paudhe Lagao, Paryavaran Bachao (Plant Trees, Save Environment) has been announced by the Delhi Government.
- ❖ There is significant decline in Trade deficit with China, from 53.56 billion in 2018-19 to 48.66 billion in 2019-20.
- ❖ CogX is one of the world's largest events on Artificial Intelligence, held annually in London.

- India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled "MyGov Corona Helpdesk" won two awards under the categories "Best Innovation for Covid-19 – Society" and "People Choice Covid-19 Overall Winner" in 4th CogX.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has announced to provide Rs 3000 as monthly stipend to the lawyers in state for next two years.
- ❖ The Odisha state government has launched 'Balram' scheme to provide agricultural credit to landless farmers.
- ❖ Recently Prime Minister travelled to Nimu in Ladakh to interact with Indian troops
- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published the report "COVID-19 and Tourism: Assessing the Economic Consequences".
- ❖ The French President Emmanuel Macron appointed Jean Castex as the new Prime Minister of government, replacing Edouard Philippe.
- ❖ Delhi Government launched an e- portal, 'Learning through E-Resources Made Accessible for Delhi' (LEAD) for its students to strengthen the children's online education.
- ❖ In Uttar Pradesh, more than 25 crore saplings were planted in a single day on July 5 under the Mission Vriksharopan 2020.
- ❖ India has inked 5 Memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with Afghanistan under the High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) programme.
- ❖ Israel has successfully launched a new spy satellite "Ofek 16" into orbit by using a locally-developed Shavit rocket.
- ❖ RC Bhargava, the Chairman of Maruti Suzuki authored a book named "Getting Competitive: A Practitioner's Guide for India".
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh become the first state in the country to have LPG gas connections in every household.
- ❖ Five-time World Champion Lin Dan from China has announced his retirement from badminton.
- ❖ The World Chocolate Day is annually observed globally on July 7th.
- ❖ The Global Forgiveness Day is celebrated on July 7th.
- ❖ The Indian Government and the World Bank have signed an agreement for MSME Emergency Response Programme worth USD 750 million.
- ❖ The Karnataka Government has launched a scheme called Nekar Samman Yojane for its weaver's community.
- ❖ The National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO), headquartered in Kolkata, published the 4th updated version of its COVID-19 Dashboard.



- ❖ The World Bank and the Government of India have signed a loan agreement to enhance support for the Namami Gange programme that seeks to rejuvenate the Ganga river.
- ❖ International cricket resumed on July 8th after 116 days with England vs West Indies test series at England.
- ❖ The Syrian and Russian planes have carried out deadly aerial strikes on schools, hospitals and markets in Idlib province in Syria.
- ❖ The PM Narendra Modi addressed the audience worldwide to mark the start of India Global Week 2020.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh celebrated Rythu Dinotsavam (Farmer's Day) to mark the 71st birth anniversary of YS Rajasekhara Reddy, 14th Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Jayant Krishna is appointed as the First India Based Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of UK India Business Council (UKIBC).
- ❖ The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has joined hands with Microsoft India to enhance the digital skills of the country's youth.
- ❖ The duration of the Master of Computer Application (MCA) has been reduced to two years from three years by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- ❖ Mannar Mannan, a Tamil scholar and son of legendary poet Bharathidasan, recently passed away in Puducherry.
- ❖ Rajasthan launched "Pure for Sure" campaign to ensure purity of dairy products.
- ❖ Nepal issued a broadcasting ban on all Indian news channels in Nepal except for the Doordarshan's news channel (DD News).
- ❖ The Indian Battalion wins the Annual UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) Environment Award for 2020.
- ❖ The Manila based Asian Development Bank (ADB) has renewed its 3-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in 2017 with the Paris based International Energy Agency (IEA).
- ❖ China had successfully launched its communication satellite 'APSTAR-6D'.
- ❖ The second-largest source of FDI in the United Kingdom is now from India.
 - United States continues to be the number one source of FDI in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ Bon Bibi is a deity of the Sunder ban forest, West Bengal.
- ❖ Hockey India has appointed Manipur's Gyanendro Ningombam as its new president after Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad stepped down from his post.
- ❖ Giriraj Singh, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying announced that world's first Fish Cryobank will be established in India.

- ❖ The Indian Army has decided to place another order for 72,000 Sig 716 assault rifles under the fast-track procurement (FTP) programme from the United States.
- ❖ Andrez Sebastin Duda of the Law and Justice (PiS) party won the Presidential Election of Poland.
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the Ministry of Defence is likely to acquire the remotely controlled unmanned aerial vehicle - Raven from the United States and Israel's Spike Firefly.
- ❖ The Union Human Resource and Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' released PRAGYATA guidelines on digital education.
- ❖ The Election Commissioner Ashok Lavasa has been appointed as the Vice President of the Asian Development Bank.
- ❖ The United Kingdom has imposed a ban on its telecom companies from sourcing 5G equipment from Chinese telecom company Huawei.
- ❖ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has appointed Hemang Amin as the interim CEO of the board.
- ❖ The Assam Government has announced the upgradation of Poba Reserve Forest as a wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ Maharashtra government is constructing a national monument of the general Tatya Tope at Yeola in Nashik district.
- ❖ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has banned the use of Facebook for the personnel and ex-servicemen of paramilitary forces including BSF, CRPF, NSG, ITBP.
- ❖ Indian teenager Soham Mukherjee in UAE makes Guinness World Record title in the hopping.
- ❖ Vallarpadam Terminal of Cochin Port is envisaged as first trans-shipment port of India.
- ❖ The Indian Railways will become 100 percent electrified in next 3.5 years.
- ❖ After Delhi and Maharashtra, Odisha has become the third state to provide the facility of plasma bank.
- ❖ The Union Minister of State for Defence, Shripad Naik inaugurated the conference on Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Technologies in New Delhi under the theme of Atma nirbhar Bharat Mission.
- ❖ UNICEF India collaborates with YuWaah – UNICEF's Generation Unlimited initiative to provide digital education and skills required for employment.
- ❖ India's largest commercial shipbuilder Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) has signed a contract to build the world's first fully automatic electric vessel for ASKO Maritime, Norway.
- ❖ Shiv Nadar is stepping down as chairman of the company of the HCL Technologies.
 - His daughter Roshni Nadar Malhotra will succeed him.

- ❖ The United Nations has designated Chief of Tehrik-e Taliban, the Pakistan-based terror group, Mufti Noor Wali Mehsud as a global terrorist.
- ❖ Assam government has decided to give preference to plasma donors in government jobs.
- ❖ The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), a unit of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology signed an agreement with Israel to expand collaboration in dealing with cyber threats.
- ❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), announced integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the high school curriculum in collaboration with IBM (International Business Machines Corporation).
- ❖ The African country Gabon appointed its first woman prime minister Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda.
- ❖ Chandrika persad “Chan” Santokhi, an Indian-origin person, has been elected as the president of Suriname, a country in South America.
- ❖ Telangana state government has initiated the scheme of mid-day meals for students of Government junior and degree colleges from this academic session.
- ❖ Google has relaunched its social networking platform Google+ as Google Currents.
- ❖ Maharashtra becomes the 1st State to use drones to inspect power lines and transmission towers.
- ❖ Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) inaugurated the first mega food park of Mizoram - Zoram Mega Food Park.
- ❖ The Cricketer Dom Sibley of England has become the first person to violate the ‘saliva ban’ rule of International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir administration announced a life insurance cover of Rs 25 lakhs for all elected members of urban local bodies and Panchayati raj institutions.
- ❖ Ballon d'Or France Football award will not be awarded in 2020 for the first time in its history since 1956.
- ❖ India's first public EV (Electric Vehicle) charging plaza was inaugurated at New Delhi.
- ❖ A new Android malware “BlackRock” has been discovered that steals data such as password and credit card details from Mobile Apps.
- ❖ South Korea launched its first military communications satellite ANASIS-II.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh launched “Navin Rojgar Chhatri Yojana”, an all-round development scheme for the Scheduled Castes (SC).
- ❖ The Delhi Government has approved the Mukhya Mantri Ghar Ghar Ration Yojana with an aim to enable beneficiaries’ avail of the benefits of doorstep delivery of ration.

- ❖ Tata group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and president of Lockheed Martin Jim Taiclet are to receive the US-India Business Council (USIBC) Global Leadership Award 2020.
- ❖ The Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) announced that Kate Winslet will be receiving the 2020 TIFF Tribute Actor Award.
- ❖ Russia for the first time conducted a successful flight test of the MGTD-20 gas turbine engine made by 3D-printing.
- ❖ Gujarat's Kakrapar atomic power plant-3 achieved the criticality.
 - Criticality is reaching normal operating condition.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the construction of a heritage museum at Konthagai village near Keeladi in Sivaganga district was laid down by the State Government of Tamilnadu.
- ❖ The 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is being planned to be held in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ G20 Digital Minister's meeting was hosted by Saudi Arabia under the theme of Realizing Opportunities of the 21st century for all.
- ❖ The Kumbh Mela 2021 will be held in Haridwar of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ Amazon India announced that it will begin offering auto insurance, making India the e-commerce giant's first market for the service.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force has decided to procure HAMMER missiles from France.
- ❖ India and Maldives inked an agreement to set up Geydoshu Mas Plant (Neighbourhood Fish Processing Plants) at two islands in the Addu city of Maldives.
- ❖ The Indian-origin nurse in Singapore Kala narayanaswamy has been conferred with the Singapore President's Award for Nurses for serving on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ After Delhi, India's second national-level plasma bank was opened at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital in Chennai.
- ❖ National Thermal Engineer Day is celebrated on July 24 to appreciate the contribution of thermal engineers in everyday life.
- ❖ The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) administered the first dose of country's first indigenous vaccine candidate 'Covaxin'.
- ❖ Jharkhand government has announced heavy penalties of jail term and fine for violating the COVID-19 protocols.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) publicized the "Report of the Committee for Analysis of QR (Quick Response) Code" under the chairmanship of Deepak B. Phatak.
- ❖ The three new Indian Council of Medical Research labs have been constructed in Mumbai, Noida and Kolkata.



- ❖ The Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju informed that 2021 Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Panchkula in Haryana.
- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology (DST) under the Ministry of Science and Technology launched a joint India-Russia Joint Technology Assessment and Accelerated Commercialization Programme in partnership with Russia.
- ❖ The 21st issue of the Financial Stability Report (FSR) was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ India's Financial Action Task Force (FATF) review has been postponed to 2021.
 - The review was scheduled for this year as a part of the regular review cycle after 10 years.
- ❖ The United States Consulate in Chengdu city of China was closed in response to the closure of Chinese consulate in Houston.
- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs amended the Indian Accounting Standards (IND-AS).
- ❖ The 14th Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) 2020 was held virtually for the first time amid COVID-19 between India and United Kingdom (UK).
- ❖ A new book "The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World" was authored by External Affairs Minister Jaishankar.
- ❖ A new book titled "Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India" was authored by former RBI deputy governor Viral V.Acharya.
- ❖ India has extended medical assistance worth USD 1 million to Democratic People's Republic of North Korea (DPRK) by the request received from the WHO - World Health Organisation.
 - It will be provided in the form of anti-tuberculosis medicines.
- ❖ World Conservation Day is celebrated internationally on July 28th to increase awareness about the best practices to protect our natural resources.
- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme has accredited the Isha Foundation with Observer status to the United Nations Environment Assembly.
- ❖ Hurricane Hanna has made landfall recently near Texas in the USA.
- ❖ The GAIL (India) limited and Carbon Clean Solutions Limited (CCSL) of United Kingdom signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the project development opportunities in the Compressed Biogas (CBG) value chain in India.
- ❖ Indian Railways handed over the specifically modified 10 railway diesel broad gauge locomotives to Bangladesh.
- ❖ The Central Government in collaboration with the World Bank has decided to convert the area of ravines in the region of Gwalior-Chambal belt of Madhya Pradesh into cultivable land.

- ❖ The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres named Indian climate activist Archana Soreng among 7 members to his new Youth Advisory Group on Climate Change.
- ❖ Under the aegis of International Solar Alliance (ISA), the National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd plans to establish solar power plants in Sri Lanka.
- ❖ China sent a new high-resolution mapping satellite namely “Ziyuan III 03” from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Northern Province of Shanxi, China.
- ❖ Guwahati of Assam became the first city in the Northeast region to get a manhole cleaning robot named Bandicoot.
- ❖ The Bombay Flying Club has become the India’s first DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) approved drone training school.
- ❖ July 25 is celebrated as World In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) Day.
- ❖ July 31 of this year is the 21st annual System Administrator Appreciation Day.

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu Housing and Habitat Development Project

- ❖ An agreement was signed between the World Bank Group and the Government of India.
- ❖ It is for providing urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu access to affordable housing.

Police under Revenue Department

- ❖ Following a Madras High Court order, for the first time in the history of Tamilnadu, the Revenue department has taken charge of Sathankulam police station.
- ❖ Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar would man the station round the clock.

Apollo Proton Cancer Centre (APCC)

- ❖ It has been accredited by the Joint Commission International (JCI).
- ❖ It is the country’s first dedicated advanced cancer centre to receive the international accreditation.
- ❖ It is the first in India to introduce Proton Therapy.

Basalt Stone at Keeladi

- ❖ Four weighing stones made of basalt were unearthed during the sixth phase of excavation at the ancient archaeological site of Keezhadi
- ❖ It is on the banks of the Vaigai River in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district.
- ❖ The spherical objects are black in colour with a flat base and polished surface.
- ❖ Charcoal was commonly found in all.
- ❖ A furnace was noticed at a depth of 0.61 metres, which shows traces of fire activity.
- ❖ All these findings indicate the possibility of the existence of trading activity in the industrial site of Keezhadi.
- ❖ The discovery points to possible trading activity in this site, dating to between the sixth century BCE and first century CE.
- ❖ In June, skeletal remains of a child were excavated from Konthagai.
- ❖ The sixth phase of excavations are taking place at Keeladi, Konthagai, Manalur and Agaram villages in Sivaganga district.



Friends of Police

- ❖ It has been suspended in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ It is a Community Policing initiative that aims to bring police and public closer.
- ❖ It was started in 1993 in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Basic Principle Underlying Community Policing is that 'A Policeman is a Citizen with Uniform and a Citizen is a Policeman without Uniform'.

Thirukoil TV

- ❖ A government order has been issued for establishing Thirukoil television channel to telecast the temple events across the State.
- ❖ It will be under the control of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department (HR and CE).

Amma covid home care scheme

- ❖ It is a new scheme to pamper the home quarantined people with medical and psychological assistance.
- ❖ This scheme is provided under the free full check-up scheme of the Omandurar Multi-speciality hospital.
- ❖ As per this scheme, the home quarantined people will be given a casket that will contain corona treatment and supervision materials at a cost of 2,500.
- ❖ The medical casket consists of Pulse-oximeter that helps to find out the heartbeat and oxygen rate in the body, Digital thermometer, and tablets such as Vitamin C, Zinc, Vitamin D, Kabasura kudineer, athimathuram powder for immunity and Amukkara tablets for body wellness for a period of 14 days.

Medical Colleges in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami laid foundation for a new government medical college in at Ariyalur, Kallakuruchi and Nilgris.
- ❖ The State government has obtained permission from the Union Government for establishing 11 new medical colleges in various districts.
- ❖ It includes Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Tirupur, Namakkal, Nagappattinam, Krishnagiri and Tiruvallur.

Paul Harris Fellow award

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami was given Paul Harris Fellow recognition.
- ❖ It was given by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International headquartered at Chicago of USA.
- ❖ Paul Harris Fellow recognition is accorded to honour people who render efficient services in providing drinking water, sanitation, prevention of diseases, environment, world peace etc.



7.5% Reservation

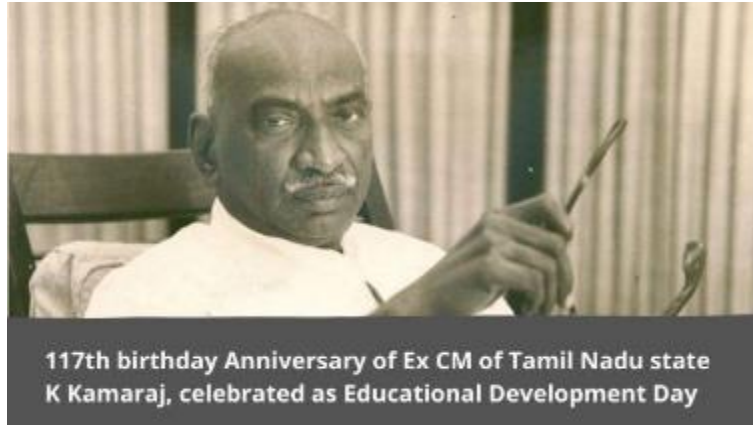
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Cabinet approved the provision of a 7.5 per cent quota within the existing reservation in medical UG courses for the students of state government higher secondary schools.
- ❖ It will be applicable for students clearing the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).
- ❖ The "quota within quota" covers government seats in private colleges too.

Non Brahmin Priest

- ❖ P Thiagarajan from Madurai became the state's second non-brahmin priest in Tamilnadu.
- ❖ He was appointed as a priest in Siddhi Vinayakar Temple in Nagamalai Pudukkottai.
- ❖ It comes under the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department.
- ❖ T Marichamy from Madurai was appointed as Tamil Nadu's first non-brahmin priest at the Ayyappan temple in Tallakulam in February 2018.
- ❖ The Madras Hindu Religious Endowment Act by the first Justice Party government in 1925 brought many Hindu temples under the direct control of the State government.
- ❖ Later, in 1982, the then Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran appointed Justice Maharajan commission to identify reform measures to be taken in temple practices.
- ❖ The Karunanidhi-led DMK government issued a landmark Government Order (GO) allowing non-brahmins to become archakars in temples managed by the Department of Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE), in the year 2006.

Educational Development Day

- ❖ The birthday of late Chief Minister K Kamaraj on July 15 is celebrated as 'Educational Development Day' since 2007.
- ❖ In 2006, the then Tamil Nadu Government passed an Act in this regard.
- ❖ A nutritious noon meal scheme was proposed to be introduced on that day.
- ❖ Under the scheme, eggs were to be provided to the students twice a week.



Gandhimathi

- ❖ Gandhimathi 'Boy' Ramasamy recently passed away in her village near Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ She was a child soldier in the Indian National Army.
- ❖ She was inducted into the Rani of Jhansi Regiment by Nethaji Subbash Chandra Bose.
- ❖ She had worked under Captain Dr Lakshmi Swaninathan.

Seshadri

- ❖ The Renowned Mathematician Conjeevaram Srirangachari (C.S.) Seshadri passed away in Chennai.
- ❖ He was the founder of the Chennai Mathematical Institute (CMI).
- ❖ He is known for his work in algebraic geometry.
- ❖ The Seshadri constant is named after him.

Banumathy Judge

- ❖ Banumathy was the sixth woman judge in the Supreme Court.
- ❖ She was the first Women Judge of the Supreme Court from Tamilnadu.
- ❖ She was also the second-ever woman to be part of the Collegium.
- ❖ Justice Ruma Pal was the first woman to achieve that feat
- ❖ With the retirement of Justice Banumathi, the apex court will be left with two women judges — Justices Indu Malhotra and Indira Banerjee.
- ❖ Never before in the history of the Supreme Court there had been three sitting lady judges.

Backward Classes Commission of Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government has reconstituted its Backward Classes Commission.
- ❖ Retired Justice R Thanikachalam will head the Commission now.
- ❖ It is for examining requests of inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion or non-inclusion in the list of Other Backward Classes (OBC).

Background

- ❖ The first Backward Classes Commission in Tamil Nadu was formed on November 13, 1969 when the DMK was in power.
- ❖ It was known as Sattanathan Commission.
- ❖ Sattanathan Commission recommended the introduction of "Creamy Layer" among the OBC in the state.
- ❖ In pursuance of the direction of the Supreme Court in the Mandal Commission cases or Indira Sawhney cases in 1992, the State government had constituted a permanent Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Commission.
- ❖ It was formed under the Chairmanship of retired Justice K Shanmugam 1993.
- ❖ It is formed under Article 16(4) read with Article 340 of the Constitution of India.

Private Medical Colleges in Tamilnadu

- ❖ Two more private Medical colleges in Tamilnadu are give permission to start medical courses from this year.
- ❖ By thus Tamilnadu has 16 Private Medical colleges.
- ❖ Tamilnadu has also 24 operational Government Medical colleges in the state.
- ❖ 11 new Government medical colleges in the state are under construction.
- ❖ The policy of the state is to start new medical in every district and increase seats in all existing medical colleges to 250.
- ❖ In 2019 August, the cabinet committee on economic affairs had approved setting up of 75 government medical colleges by 2021-22 across the country.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) award 2019

- ❖ Dr. Vinod Kumar Selvaraj of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University of Coimbatore was conferred the ICAR - Jawaharlal Nehru award under the crop protection category.
- ❖ It is given for his research work on "Emergence of tobacco streak virus infecting cotton: Investigations on symptom expression, transmission, spread and management".

NATIONAL

e-Panchayat Puraskars 2020

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh wins 1st prize.
- ❖ The 2nd was given to Chhattisgarh while 3rd prize was given to Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The prize will be given by Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

STARS Program

- ❖ STARS stand for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States Program.
- ❖ Under this, the World Bank Group has announced a loan of USD 500 million.
- ❖ Under this, the 6 Indian States - Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra will get benefits.
- ❖ It will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students.

Udyam

- ❖ The Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Ministry has issued this.
- ❖ It is a consolidated notification for classification and registration of MSMEs to be affected from July 1.
- ❖ An MSME will be referred to as Udyam and the registration process as Udyam Registration.
- ❖ The basic criteria for MSME classification would be on investment in plant, machinery and equipment and turnover.



Attorney General of India

- ❖ The President of India has reappointed Senior Advocate K.K. Venugopal as the Attorney General for India.
- ❖ His tenure was extended for a period of one year effective from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021.

- ❖ He is the 15th Attorney General of India.
- ❖ The term of the Attorney General is decided by the President of India.
- ❖ The Attorney General is the Chief Legal Advisor for the Government of India.
- ❖ Tushar Mehta was appointed as Solicitor General for a period of three years.

NADA INDIA

- ❖ The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) has launched its mobile application 'NADA INDIA'.
- ❖ It aims for creating a bridge with the athletes under which information on prohibited substances would be provided easily.



Ban on Chinese Apps

- ❖ The Indian government has put a ban on 59 apps including TikTok and WeChat.
- ❖ For this, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has invoked its power under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2009.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. TikTok | 31. Mi Video Call – Xiaomi |
| 2. ShareIt | 32. WeSync |
| 3. Kwai | 33. ES File Explorer |
| 4. UC Browser | 34. Viva Video – QU Video Inc |
| 5. Baidu map | 35. Meitu |
| 6. Shein | 36. Vigo Video |
| 7. Clash of Kings | 37. New Video Status |
| 8. DU battery saver | 38. DU Recorder |
| 9. Hello | 39. Vault- Hide |
| 10. Likee | 40. Cache Cleaner DU App studio |
| 11. YouCam makeup | 41. DU Cleaner |
| 12. Mi Community | 42. DU Browser |
| 13. CM Browsers | 43. Hago Play With New Friends |
| 14. Virus Cleaner | 44. Cam Scanner |
| 15. APUS Browser | 45. Clean Master – Cheetah Mobile |
| 16. ROMWE | 46. Wonder Camera |
| 17. Club Factory | 47. Photo Wonder |
| 18. Newsdog | 48. QQ Player |
| 19. Beutry Plus | 49. We Meet |
| 20. WeChat | 50. Sweet Selfie |
| 21. UC News | 51. Baidu Translate |
| 22. QQ Mail | 52. Vmate |
| 23. Weibo | 53. QQ International |
| 24. Xender | 54. QQ Security Center |
| 25. QQ Music | 55. QQ Launcher |
| 26. QQ Newsfeed | 56. U Video |
| 27. Bigo Live | 57. V fly Status Video |
| 28. SelfieCity | 58. Mobile Legends |
| 29. Mail Master | 59. DU Privacy |
| 30. Parallel Space | |



India's first Marine Cluster

- ❖ The Government of Goa allotted land to a consortium of 49 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) units to set up this.
- ❖ The Project is aimed to create a world class facility for ship designing, ship building, ship repairers and marine equipment manufacturing.

Energy and Mobility Sectors report

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) have released Towards a Clean Energy Economy: Post-Covid-19 Opportunities for India's Energy and Mobility Sectors report.
- ❖ The report advocates for stimulus and recovery efforts that work towards building a clean, resilient, and least-cost energy future for India.

Finding on Fish landings

- ❖ It was released by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) of Kochi.
- ❖ India's marine fish production has registered a marginal increase of 2.1% in 2019 compared to the previous year.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu took the first position in catching of fishes with 7.75 lakh tones.
- ❖ It was followed by Gujarat (7.49 lakh tones) and Kerala (5.44 lakh tones).

Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production

- ❖ Asia's first Continuous Galvanized Rebar Production Facility near Gobindgarh, Punjab was launched.
- ❖ It was by Madhav KRD Group in association with International Zinc Association with the support of Hindustan Zinc Limited.

Indian Stamp Act, 1899

- ❖ Through Finance Act 2019, amendments were brought to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.
- ❖ For building a pan-India securities market, a centralized system of stamp duty with a unified rate has been brought under the amendments.
- ❖ A uniform stamp duty across all the states will be imposed for all financial securities transactions.
- ❖ As per the legal and institutional mechanism, the stamp duty is collected by the State Government.
- ❖ Under the uniformity, the Central Government will deposit it to the State Government based on the place from where the trade took place.

100th birth anniversary

- ❖ The Government will release commemorative stamp to honor former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao.
- ❖ PV Narasimha Rao served as 9th prime minister from 1991 to 1996.
- ❖ He is the only non-Gandhi who completed a full term as prime minister.
- ❖ He was also the 1st prime minister of the country to hail from South India.
- ❖ He is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms'.
- ❖ He was born on June 28, 1921 in Warangal.

6th Edition of Swachh Survekshan survey

- ❖ The 6th edition of Swachh Survekshan Survey 2021 will be conducted in January 2021.
- ❖ A new category of award Prerak Dauur Samman was added to the 2021 Swachh Survekshan survey.
- ❖ The award will have five subcategories: Platinum (Divya), Bronze (Udit), Silver (Ujjwal), Gold (Anupam), and Aspiring (Arohi).
- ❖ This survey was launched in 2016 to encourage cities across the country to improve urban sanitation.
- ❖ For 3 consecutive years - 2017, 2018 and 2019, Indore has been the Cleanest City of India.

Unemployment in June 2020

- ❖ As per the data for the month of June 2020 released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), the unemployment rate in June 2020 was 10.9 percent
- ❖ The unemployment rate reached an all-time high of 23.52 percent in the country in the month of April due to the nationwide lockdown.
- ❖ It remained similar in May 2020 with 23.48 percent.
- ❖ But with the significant fall of unemployment in June 2020 and the GST collection for June 2020 reaching 91 percent of the GST collection in June 2019, it can be suggested that the worst for the Indian economy has passed for now.
- ❖ Assam with 0.6 percent unemployment had the lowest unemployment rate in the country in the month of June 2020.
- ❖ Haryana with 33.6 percent had the highest unemployment rate in June 2020 among all the states in the country.

Fit Hai to Hit Hai India program

- ❖ As a part of the Fit India Campaign, the 'Fit Hai to Hit Hai India' program has been launched by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- ❖ The objective of the program is to inspire and motivate the school children about the importance and need to stay fit during this pandemic.

Elyments

- ❖ It is launched by M. Venkaiah Naidu, Vice President of India.
- ❖ It is the first Made in India social media super application.
- ❖ The application is developed by Sumeru Software Solutions Private Limited.

NPNT

- ❖ There is a successful completion of the first No-Permission No-Takeoff (NPNT) compliant drone flight of India.
- ❖ Mumbai based Quidich Innovation Labs Private Limited has announced this event.
- ❖ The green field near Karnataka's Tumkur is where this test flight was carried out.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat App

- ❖ For building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat using Digital Technologies, an App Innovation Challenge was launched.
- ❖ In partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission, it is an initiative by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ It is with an objective to support and build a strong ecosystem for Indian Apps.



Sanskrit Saptahiki

- ❖ All India Radio (AIR) FM news channel is broadcasting its first-ever news programme in Sanskrit language.
- ❖ The news programme is named as 'Sanskrit Saptahiki'.

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in India

- ❖ The infant mortality rate (IMR) in Madhya Pradesh records the country's worst rate for years now.
- ❖ IMR in MP has surged by a single point over the previous year to 48 in 2018.
- ❖ The country's average stands at 36 deaths for rural and 23 for urban areas.
- ❖ Infant mortality is the death of young children under the age of 1 per 1000 live births.

Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel COVID - 19 hospital

- ❖ It is the World's largest COVID-19 Treatment and Care facility.
- ❖ This 10,000 bed Sardar Patel COVID Care Centre and Hospital (SPCCCH) was inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is built on the campus of spiritual organization 'Radha Soami Satsang Beas'.
- ❖ Indo - Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is chosen as the nodal agency for operating the center.

1000 bed hospital

- ❖ It is a temporary structure with 1000 bed facility at Delhi by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ It has been built in a record time of 12 days by DRDO along with Health Ministry, Home Ministry, Tata Sons and Armed Forces.
- ❖ The facility is set up at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID -19 Hospital.
- ❖ The wards at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel COVID-19 Hospital are named after the Indian Army Soldiers who have lost their lives on 15th June 2020 during the violent clash at Galwan Valley with the Chinese.
- ❖ Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the ventilator ward is named after Indian Armed Forces Commissioned Officer Colonel Bikkumalla Santosh Babu.

Reddy Expert Committee

- ❖ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has set up an 11-member expert committee.
- ❖ It will be headed by Dr K S Reddy, president of Public Health Foundation of India.

- ❖ It is to study impact of coronavirus (Covid-19) on human rights of individuals.

Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry blocked websites of pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ).
- ❖ On Home Ministry's recommendation, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issued orders under the Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 to block the websites.
- ❖ The "Sikhs For Justice" is an unlawful organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.
- ❖ The group was registering supporters for 'Referendum 2020' to support its demand for Khalistan, a separate state for Sikhs.



CBSE and Facebook

- ❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has entered into a partnership with Facebook.
- ❖ It will be for the introduction of Augmented Reality in the CBSE curriculum in India.
- ❖ A new curriculum named as Facebook for Education has been introduced by CBSE.



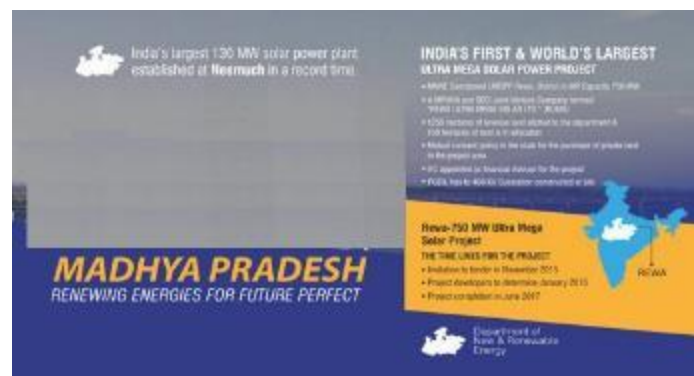
‘DRDO – IIT-H Research Cell’

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will establish a research cell at Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H).

- ❖ It is to meet the future defence technological requirements of the country.
- ❖ The research cell is established as an extension of the DRDO Research and Innovation Centre (RIC), Chennai.

Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant

- ❖ It is spread over 1,590 acres of land in the Rewa district of Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It is one of the largest single-site solar power plants in India and Asia.
- ❖ It has a total solar installed capacity of 750 MW.
- ❖ India has set the national goal to achieve 100 GW of solar power generation capacity by 2022.



Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the extension of this scheme for another five months, from July to November 2020.
- ❖ Under this, food grains and free cylinders will be given for the needy poor people.

Ranbir Singh committee

- ❖ A group of retired judges and former bureaucrats have written to the newly constituted Committee for Reforms in Criminal Laws.
- ❖ It is headed by Ranbir Singh (vice-chancellor, National Law University Delhi).
- ❖ They are questioning the lack of diversity in the committee and asking for more transparency in its functioning.

Operation 'Samudra Setu'

- ❖ It has been completed successfully by Indian Navy by bringing back of Indians stranded overseas amid the outbreak of novel Coronavirus.
- ❖ INS Shardul, INS Airavat, INS Magar and Jalashwa have participated in this operation.

Strategic Bridges

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated six strategic bridges in the border areas.
- ❖ These are close to the International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ❖ These were built in a record time by the Project Sampark of Border Road Organisation (BRO).
- ❖ These are
 - Tarnah-I Bridge
 - Tarnah-II Bridge
 - Palwan Bridge
 - Ghodawala Bridge
 - Pahadiwala Bridge
 - Panyali Bridge

ASEEM

- ❖ The Ministry of Skilled Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) on launched Aatma nirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping (ASEEM) digital portal.
- ❖ It will help skilled people find sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Annual Ranking of Police Stations for 2019

- ❖ Nadaun Police Station of Hamirpur District in Himachal Pradesh is ranked as one of the best Police Stations of India.
- ❖ The ranking system of Police Stations was introduced by the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2018.

SheshNaag Train

- ❖ The SheshNaag Train is 2.8 km long freight train.
- ❖ It is the longest train ever created and operated by the Indian Railways.
- ❖ It was achieved by the South East Central Railway Zone, Nagpur Division of the Indian Central Railways.
- ❖ It is currently running between Nagpur in the western state of Maharashtra to Korba in the North-Western State of Haryana.
- ❖ It is important to note that on June 30, 2020, the Indian Railway Ministry had operated a 177-coach freight train named 'Super Anaconda Train'.

IMD Data

- ❖ As per the data from the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), June 2020 was the wettest June in Indian in the last 12 years.
- ❖ This has resulted in 2.5 Times Increase in the Sowing Area of Kharif Crops across the country.
- ❖ Kharif Crops are grown in hot and humid rain fed areas.

SWADES Skill Card

- ❖ Union Government has launched a skill-mapping exercise of the citizens returning to the country under the Vande Bharat Mission.
- ❖ SWADES (Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support), is the joint initiative by
 - Ministries of skill development & entrepreneurship,
 - Ministry of civil aviation,
 - Ministry of external affairs.

E-Lok Adalat

- ❖ India's first State Level 'E-Lok Adalat' was recently conducted.
- ❖ It was conducted in 195 benches across the state of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ Lok Adalat is one of the alternative dispute grievance mechanisms or a forum.
- ❖ Here the pending cases or disputes in the court of law are settled or compromised.



Cycles4Change Challenge

- ❖ The Smart Cities Mission, under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs opened the registration for India Cycles4Change Challenge.
- ❖ The Challenge aims to help cities connect with their citizens as well as experts to develop a unified vision to promote cycling.

India Global Week 2020 Summit

- ❖ It is an annual flagship event organized by India Inc., a London based media house.
- ❖ Its flagship publication is known as India Global Business.
- ❖ The theme of this year is 'Be the Revival: India and a Better New World'.

ATL App Development Modules

- ❖ These are launched by NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) under its initiative Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL).
- ❖ It is launched for school children across the country.
- ❖ It has been launched in line with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- ❖ It is for transforming school students from users of the smartphone-based applications to innovative developers of the smartphone-based applications.

Special Parcel Train

- ❖ The Railways has operated its first-ever special parcel train to Bangladesh.
- ❖ It transported dry chillies from Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district to Bangladesh.
- ❖ Guntur and its surrounding areas in Andhra Pradesh are well known for the cultivation of chillies.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is the largest producer of Chilli in India and contributes about 26% to the total area under Chilli.
- ❖ The Guntur Sannam Chilli is a variety of Chilli which has the Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.



Reservations for Divyangjan

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld a 2012 judgment of the Delhi High Court in Anamol Bhandari vs. Delhi Technological University.

- ❖ The decision highlighted Divyangjan are entitled to the same benefits of relaxation as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in public employment and education.

Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple

- ❖ The Supreme Court has upheld the rights of Travancore royal family in running the administration of Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ It is regarded as one of the richest temples of the country.
- ❖ The temple has six vaults, also known as nilavaras.
- ❖ These have been labelled as A to F.
- ❖ In June 2011, the Supreme Court directed the authorities from the archaeology department and the fire services, to open five vaults in the temple except for vault B.
- ❖ The vault B is by far the largest vault of the reported six.
- ❖ It has not been opened due to the belief that opening it would result in misfortune.



Data on Family Planning

- ❖ Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare highlighted the following data.
- ❖ About 50 % of the country's population falls in the reproductive age group of 15-49 years.
- ❖ India's Crude Birth Rate (CBR) has reduced from 21.8 (2011) to 20 (2018).
- ❖ Total Fertility Rate (TFR) has declined from 2.4 (2011) to 2.2 (2018).
- ❖ The teenage fertility has halved from 16 to 7.9.
- ❖ The National Family Planning Program has introduced the Injectable Contraceptive in the public health system under the "Antara" program.

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

- ❖ The Union government has released draft rules framed under this Act.
- ❖ In the draft it has done away with the requirement of a medical examination for Trans persons applying for a certificate of identity.
- ❖ The Magistrate would issue a transgender identity certificate and card.
- ❖ It will be based on an affidavit by the applicant, “but without any medical examination”.
- ❖ States will be responsible for “timely prosecution of individuals” who committed crimes against transgender.
- ❖ State governments will have to set up a Transgender Protection Cell under the District Magistrate.

Anji Khad Bridge

- ❖ It will be India’s first cable-stayed Indian Railways bridge.
- ❖ It is being developed by Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL).
- ❖ It is set to connect Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).
- ❖ It is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.
- ❖ The above project also involves the Chenab river bridge.
- ❖ The Chenab Bridge once completed, will become the world’s highest rail bridge.

Demo Days

- ❖ “Demo Days” initiative was launched by Atal Innovative Mission of NITI Aayog in partnership with government bodies.
- ❖ It will identify promising start-ups that have the potential of COVID-19 innovations.

API report

- ❖ The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) has recently released a report on ‘Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients’ (API).
- ❖ Along with the report, a white paper titled ‘Focused Interventions for Make in India : Post COVID 19’ was also released
- ❖ The pharmaceutical industry in India is third largest in the world, in terms of volume, behind China and Italy, and fourteenth largest in terms of value.
- ❖ Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) is a substance or mixture of substances contained in a medicine that is intended to cause pharmacological activity.

- ❖ TIFAC is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology.

National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)

- ❖ NATGRID has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)
- ❖ It is to access the centralised online Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) database for getting details of First Information Reports (FIRs) and stolen vehicles.
- ❖ With the access to CCTNS database, NATGRID will act as a link between intelligence and investigation agencies.
- ❖ It will provide a link between the data of 14,000 police stations from across the country.
- ❖ But the State police will not be part of NATGRID.
- ❖ The initiative of NATGRID was proposed by after the 2008 Mumbai Attacks.

Vikrant

- ❖ Indian Navy expects to have the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-I) Vikrant operational by 2022.
- ❖ It currently operates Russian-origin carrier INS Vikramaditya.

Kris Gopalakrishnan Committee

- ❖ It is a government formed committee on Data Protection headed by Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan.
- ❖ It has suggested that non-personal data generated in the country be allowed to be harnessed by various domestic companies and entities.
- ❖ Non-personal data is any set of data which does not contain personally identifiable information.

NETC

- ❖ The GMR Hyderabad International Airport (GHIAL), introduced India's first ever fully contactless airport car parking with contact less toll transaction.
- ❖ The GMR airport introduced the first ever National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) FASTag Car Park in India in 2019.
- ❖ It is a part of the "One Nation One Tag" – NETC FASTag programme of Indian Government.

Maternal Mortality in India

- ❖ Special bulletin on Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in India 2016-18 is released by the Office of the Registrar General's Sample Registration System (SRS).
- ❖ According to recent report MMR in India has declined to 113 in 2016-18 from 122 in 2015-17 and 130 in 2014-2016.
- ❖ The southern states registered a lower MMR: Andhra Pradesh (65), Telangana (63), Karnataka (92), Kerala (43), and Tamil Nadu (60).
- ❖ The Northern states registered a higher MMR: Assam (215), Bihar (149), Madhya Pradesh (173), Chhattisgarh (159), Odisha (150), Rajasthan (164), Uttar Pradesh (197) and Uttarakhand (99).
- ❖ MMR is defined as the number of maternal deaths per 1,00,000 live births.

NISHTHA

- ❖ The Union HRD Minister launched the first on-line NISHTHA programme for 1,200 Key Resources Persons of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement is NISHTHA.
- ❖ It is the world's largest teachers' training programme of its kind.
- ❖ The initiative is an Integrated Teacher Training Programme of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD).
- ❖ It is organised at the elementary stage under Samagra Shiksha, a Centrally sponsored Scheme of the HRD.
- ❖ There is a National Mission to improve learning outcomes at the Elementary level under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Samagra Shiksha.



The First Trial Container Ship

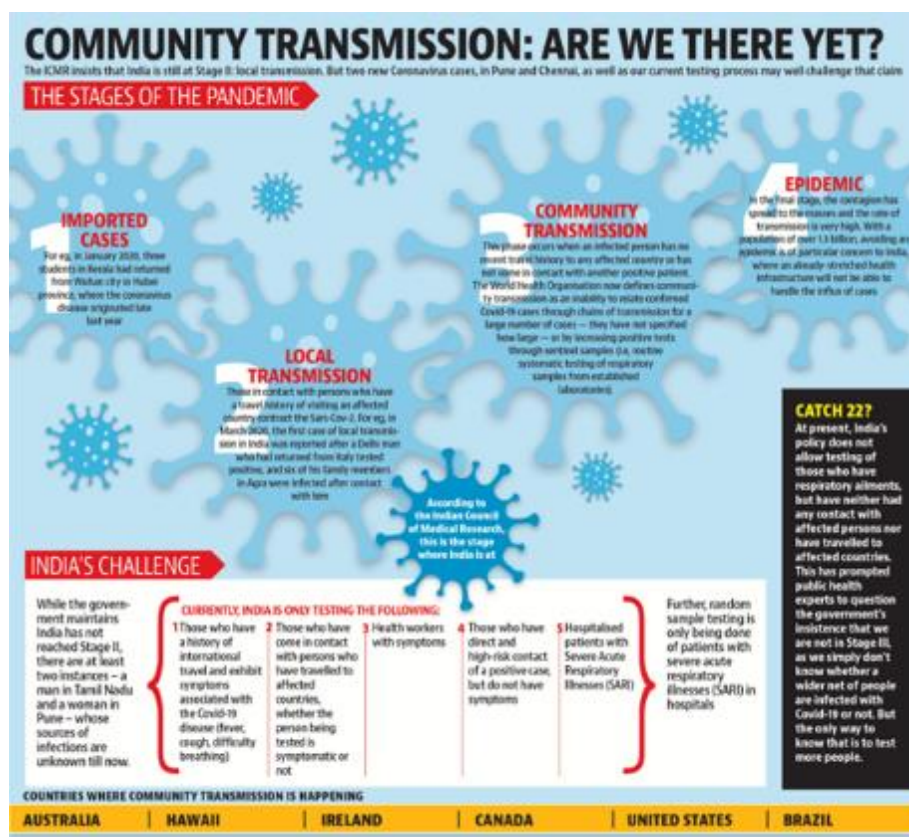
- ❖ It was flagged off from Kolkata to Agartala in Tripura through the Chattogram Port of Bangladesh.
- ❖ It will provide an alternative and shorter route for India to connect its North East Region (NER).
- ❖ This has been done under the Agreement on use of Chattogram and Mongla Ports for movement of India's transit cargo through Bangladesh.

- ❖ The landlocked states of India viz. Assam, Meghalaya, and Tripura got access to 8 open sea routes from Chattogram and Mongla ports via Indian routes.



Community Transmission

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan has confirmed community transmission of Corona in Kerala.
- ❖ It means that the disease is in its third stage.
- ❖ The Indian Medical Association has said that vaccination is the only solution to the current situation.



Railways in North East

- ❖ The Indian Railway Board has announced the connectivity of all capitals of North-Eastern states through rail network by 2023.
- ❖ As of today, the capitals of Assam, Tripura and Arunachal Pradesh are already connected.

The Consumer Protection Act, 2019

- ❖ It has come into force from July 20, 2020.
- ❖ This Act replaces Consumer Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ It includes the establishment of the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA).
- ❖ CCPA is to protect, promote, and enforce the rights of the consumers
- ❖ Under this Act the celebrities can be fined up to Rs 10 lakhs for promoting misleading products.
- ❖ Strict Actions shall be taken against advertisers for generating misleading content.
- ❖ The Act makes it mandatory for the E-Commerce entities to acknowledge the receipt of consumer complaints within 48 hours.

ICAR

- ❖ Recently Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) celebrated its 92nd foundation day on 16th July 2020.
- ❖ It was established in 1929.
- ❖ It was a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- ❖ It is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.

MANODARPAN

- ❖ The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched MANODARPAN initiative.
- ❖ It provides psycho-social support to students, teachers and parents and addresses their issues related to mental health and emotional wellbeing.
- ❖ It is a part of the 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.

NSO report

- ❖ National Statistical Office (NSO) has report on “Household Social Consumption: Education”.
- ❖ The report surveyed 1.13 lakh households spread across over 8,000 villages and 6,000 urban blocks between July 2017 and June 2018.

Highlights of the report

- ❖ The all India literacy rate among persons aged 7 years and above is 77.7% with rural literacy (73.5%) and urban literacy (87.7%).
- ❖ Digital divide - Only 4% of the rural households having access to computers as compared to 23% in urban areas.
- ❖ Gross attendance ratio is nearly 100% of boys and girls in rural as well as urban areas attending classes.

Renewable energy in India

- ❖ India will have around 60% of the installed capacity of the electricity generation from renewable resources by 2030.
- ❖ India will increase the renewable energy target to 450 GW by 2030 from 175 GW by 2022.

Project SPRING

- ❖ The IIT (Indian Institute of Technology) and Banaras Hindu University (BHU) is to develop a biotechnology-based water treatment system for the purification of the river Ganga and Godavari water.
- ❖ The project is funded by the Indian Ministry of science & technology, Department of biotechnology with the European Union.
- ❖ The Specific Goal is to develop a low cost advanced bio-oxidation system for polluted water.
- ❖ Project SPRING is called Strategic Planning for Water Resources and Implementation of Novel Biotechnical Treatment solutions and Good Practices.

SBTi

- ❖ Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) becomes the 1st Indian port and 7th Port globally to sign up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi).
- ❖ SBTi is a collaboration between CDP (Carbon Disclosure Project), the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



National Transit Pass System (NTPS)

- ❖ Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar virtually launched this scheme as pilot project.
- ❖ The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Telangana.
- ❖ NTPS will replace manual paper-based transit system by online transit system enabling ease of movement of timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce.

Permanent Commission for Women in Army

- ❖ The Ministry of Defence has issued a formal sanction letter to grant permanent commission to women officers in the Indian Army.
- ❖ It specifies grant of permanent commission to Short Service Commissioned (SSC) Women Officers in all ten streams of the Indian Army.
- ❖ Entry of women in the Army has only been through Short Service Commission (SSC).
- ❖ Till now they could not serve beyond 14 years.

Solar Power Plant of Navy

- ❖ Recently Indian Navy inaugurated 3 MW Solar Power Plant at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala in Kerala.
- ❖ The solar plant is the largest in the Indian Navy and has an estimated life of 25 years.
- ❖ This is in line with the 'National Solar Mission' to achieve 100GW of solar power by 2022.

INDSAT Exam

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Human Resource and Development conducted the first ever Indian Scholastic Assessment (Ind-SAT) Test 2020 under its 'Study in India' programme.
- ❖ Ind-SAT is an exam for grant of scholarships and admissions to foreign students for studying in select Indian universities.
- ❖ Under Study in India is a programme of MHRD, foreign students come to study in 116 select higher education institutions in India for under graduate and post graduate programmes.

Rapid Test Partnership

- ❖ Israel and India partners to develop rapid testing for COVID-19 in under 30 seconds.
- ❖ There are four test systems that are to be tried in India.
- ❖ They are Breathalyzer Test based on Terra-Hertz waves, voice test, isothermal test and poly amino acids test.
- ❖ All the above four tests can detect the presence of COVID-19 virus within minutes.
- ❖ The voice test analyses recording of a human voice to identify changes in the patient's voice and deterioration in the condition of his/her respiratory system.
- ❖ It is as part of system developed for detecting the virus using Terra-Hertz (THZ) waves.

DP Singh Committee

- ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resources and Development has set a committee under the chairmanship of UGC Chairman D P Singh.
- ❖ The committee is to frame guidelines to ensure that more students stay in India and continue their higher studies.

Kashmir saffron

- ❖ Kashmir Saffron has been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- ❖ It is the only saffron in the world grown at an altitude of 1,600 m to 1,800 m AMSL (above mean sea level).
- ❖ It is cultivated and harvested in the Karewa (highlands) of Jammu and Kashmir.



WUC

- ❖ The Ministry of Shipping recently waived off Waterways Usage Charges (WUC) for three years.

- ❖ It is to make inland waterways as a supplementary, cheaper, and eco-friendly mode of transport.
- ❖ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is the statutory authority that monitors and maintains waterways in India.
- ❖ It is operating under Ministry of Shipping.

Western Dedicated Freight Corridor

- ❖ India builds one kilometer (km) long World's first electrified rail tunnel that fits double stack containers.
- ❖ It cuts through Aravali mountain on the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) near Sohna, Haryana.

Honey testing lab in India

- ❖ Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the 'World Class State of Art Honey Testing Laboratory'.
- ❖ This is considered to be the first Government Honey Testing lab in India.
- ❖ The testing lab was established by National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) in Anand, Gujarat with support of NBB (National Bee Board).
- ❖ The MIDH (Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture) and National Mission for Beekeeping are implemented through the National Bee Board and the States.

Rajasthan Governor Crisis

- ❖ The governor's power to summon, prorogue and dissolve the House should be only on the advice of the council of ministers and not at his own.
- ❖ It was the 2016 Supreme Court judgment in the case of Nabam Rebia v Deputy Speaker.
- ❖ The judgment, however, also held that if the governor has reasons to believe the council of ministers has lost the confidence of the House, he/she can ask the chief minister to prove the majority.
- ❖ The Constitution's Articles 163 and 174 are relevant in the context of the governor's powers to convene the state assembly.

OBC Reservation in Medical Admissions

- ❖ The Madras High Court ruled that there was no constitutional or legal impediment to extending the benefit of reservation to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in college admissions.

- ❖ The ruling claims that reservation to OBCs can be extended in admissions to medical and dental seats contributed to the All India Quota (AIQ) by State government-run medical and dental colleges.
- ❖ The judges directed the Centre to constitute a committee to fix the percentage and other terms for OBC reservation from next year.
- ❖ AIQ was basically a creation of the Supreme Court judgment passed in September 1986.
- ❖ Accordingly, State governments began surrendering 15% of medical and dental seats in undergraduate studies and 50% of postgraduate seats to the AIQ.
- ❖ Till then, all seats in State government medical and dental colleges were filled up only with local residents of the respective States.

Dare to Dream 2.0 contest

- ❖ It is an open challenge to promote the innovators and start-ups of the country.
- ❖ It was launched by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on the 5th death anniversary of former President and noted scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ Dr Kalam died on July 27, 2015 due to cardiac arrest while delivering lecture at the Indian Institute of Management, Shillong.

Ranking of Aspirational districts

- ❖ Chhattisgarh's Bijapur tops Niti Ayog's delta ranking of Aspirational districts for Feb-June 2020 in the health sector.
- ❖ Bijapur has been followed by Ri-Bhoi (Meghalaya) and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh) at 2nd and 3rd positions respectively.
- ❖ The aspirational districts programme, launched in January 2018 by NITI Ayog, aims to transform districts.

INTERNATIONAL

Kholongchhu river project in Bhutan

- ❖ An Agreement has been signed between India and Bhutan for a joint venture hydroelectric project.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited.
- ❖ It is a joint venture company formed between Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited of India (SJVN) and Druk Green Power Corporation of Bhutan (DGPC).



Anthropause

- ❖ It is also called as the “Great Pause”.
- ❖ It is a term coined by the researchers in the UK.
- ❖ It refers to the coronavirus-induced lockdown period and its impact on other species.

2020 presidential elections in Malawai

- ❖ Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of Malawi.
- ❖ This is the second incidence of Annulment of Election in the African Continent in the last 4 years.
- ❖ In August 2017 the Presidential Election of Kenya was annulled.

Seabed 2030 Project

- ❖ This global initiative is a collaboration between Japan’s non-profit Nippon Foundation and the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans (GEBCO).
- ❖ The mandate of GEBCO Seabed 2030 Project is to map the entire ocean floor.
- ❖ It has announced that it had finished mapping nearly one-fifth of the world’s ocean floor.
- ❖ By this it had added 1.45 crore square kilometers of new bathymetric data to its latest grid.



Hong Kong National Security Law

- ❖ The National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) of China has unanimously passed this law.
- ❖ Back in 1997, on 1st July, the Hong Kong City was handed over to China as a Special Administrative Region from the British rule.
- ❖ Matters related to foreign affairs and defence of Hong Kong only are controlled by China.

UNFPA Report

- ❖ It is released by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- ❖ It is named as "State of World Population 2020: Against my will – Defying the practices that harm women and girls and undermine equality".
- ❖ It focuses on gender biased sex selection (GBSS) and female genital mutilation (FGM).
- ❖ India accounts for 45.8 million of the world's 142.6 million "missing females" over the past 50 years.
- ❖ India has the highest number of missing women after China (72.3 million).

UN's Alliance for Poverty eradication

- ❖ It was launched by Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the 74th United Nation's General Assembly (UNGA).
- ❖ India became a founding member of this Alliance.

Vladimir Putin

- ❖ The Russian people have approved the constitutional changes.
- ❖ These changes may allow President Putin to stay in power for another 16 years, till 2036.
- ❖ Vladimir Putin's current term as the President of Russia ends in 2024

Passing Exercise

- ❖ Indian Navy and Japanese Navy have conducted a day long Naval Exercise in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).



- ❖ This PASSEX (passing exercise) is for tactical and communications training, towards the Malacca Strait.

NAFTA 2.0

- ❖ A new free trade agreement between the United States, Mexico, and Canada comes into effect from 1st July 2020 onwards.
- ❖ It replaced the earlier 26 years old free trade agreement between the three countries - North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).



India's Representative at UN

- ❖ Indra Mani Pandey has been appointed as the Permanent Representative of India in the United Nations, Geneva.
- ❖ While at the headquarters of the United Nations in New York, India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative is T.S. Tirumurti.

World's first road-rail cable-stayed bridge

- ❖ It was opened to traffic in east China's Jiangsu Province.
- ❖ It is a 11,072-meter bridge over the Yangtze, China's longest river.



Global Food Summit 2021

- ❖ Rattan Lal and Uma Lele from India were appointed as members of International Scientific group.
- ❖ It is to offer foremost scientific evidence for sustainable food systems for global food summit 2021.

Italian Marines case

- ❖ India does not have jurisdiction to try the marines, who were held in Kerala fishermen shootout case
- ❖ The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at the Hague has ruled this.
- ❖ The PCA's award is final and has been accepted by India.
- ❖ The PCA organization is not a United Nations agency.
- ❖ In 2012, two Italian marines fired shots while on-board an Italian vessel, Enrica Lexie
- ❖ They killed two Indian fishermen aboard an Indian vessel, St. Anthony.
- ❖ But, the fishing vessel was within the country's Contiguous Zone.

Hagia Sophia Mosque

- ❖ Recently, the government of Turkey has decided to convert Istanbul's iconic Hagia Sophia Museum into a mosque.
- ❖ In 1934, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, converted the mosque into a museum in an attempt to make the country more secular.



World Bank's Country Classification

- ❖ Every year, the World Bank classifies countries into four income groups - (i) Low (ii) Lower-Middle (iii) Upper-Middle (iv) High Income.
- ❖ World Bank is using the Atlas Method since 1993 to estimate the size of an economy.

- ❖ Under the Atlas Method, Gross National Income (GNI) of a country is converted into the current U.S. Dollars.
- ❖ As per the 2020 Classification, India remains a Lower-Middle Income country.

Sanskrit vidhyalaya

- ❖ Shree Saptmai Gurukul Sanskrit Vidhyalaya at Nepal was inaugurated by India.
- ❖ It was constructed under the Nepal-Bharat Maitri: Development Partnership (a High Impact Community Development Project of Indian Government in Nepal).

SDG Index 2020

- ❖ It is prepared by teams of independent experts at the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).
- ❖ This edition has been named as “Sustainable Development Report 2020 - The Sustainable Development Goals and Covid-19”.
- ❖ The index has been topped by Sweden.
- ❖ India has been ranked at 117th position out of 166 countries.



INFORM Risk Index 2020 for Humanitarian crises & Disasters

- ❖ It was released by the research centre INFORM, operating under European Commission (EU).
- ❖ This report is produced by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA).
- ❖ It has been topped by Somalia.
- ❖ India has ranked at 31st place.

World Drug Report 2020

- ❖ It is released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- ❖ The main opiate trafficking flows originate from three key production areas: Afghanistan, Myanmar-Laos and Mexico-Colombia-Guatemala.
- ❖ The fourth highest seizure of opium in 2018 was reported from India, after Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ The maximum tonnes of opium were seized in Iran.
- ❖ According to recent report, in the last five years about 84% of the global opium production came from Afghanistan.

Global Real Estate Transparency Index (GRETl)

- ❖ India improved its ranking to 34th place in GRETl.
- ❖ Sustainability Initiatives and regulatory reforms have enhanced higher levels of transparency in the real estate industry of India.
- ❖ It is released biennially by the United States-based firm - Jones Lang LaSalle Incorporated (JLL).

SAGE

- ❖ A new Partnership announcement was made by the US Agency for Development (USAID)- supported South Asia Group for Energy (SAGE) and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)
- ❖ It is to increase US-India collaboration for clean energy development.
- ❖ SAGE will act as a powerhouse of science, engineering and technology for India and the entire South Asia region.

Measles and rubella

- ❖ Maldives & Sri Lanka are the 1st two countries in South-East Asia to eliminate Rubella and measles ahead of 2023 target.
- ❖ A country is considered to have eliminated measles and rubella when there is no evidence of endemic transmission of the viruses for more than three years.

US and WHO

- ❖ The United States of America (USA) has formally notified the United Nations (UN) of its decision of withdrawal from the World Health Organization.
- ❖ The US has been a party to the WHO since 1948 and it is the largest funder to the WHO.

Germany and Clean Energy

- ❖ The German parliament approved the bill for shutting down the coal fired power plant by 2038.
- ❖ Germany became the first industrialized country to phase out of both coal and nuclear energy.

AIIB Loan

- ❖ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has released USD 50 million to L&T Infrastructure Finance Ltd (LTIF).
- ❖ This is the 1st loan of AIIB to a non-banking financial company (NBFC) in India.

Education Above All

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Qatar-based Education Above All (EAA) have signed an agreement.
- ❖ It is to carry out 100 million dollars in joint projects to put at-risk and out of school children into quality primary education.
- ❖ India will be among the few countries that will benefit from the following agreement.

China's Nuclear energy plan

- ❖ China plans to build six to eight nuclear reactors per year between 2020 and 2025.
- ❖ It is to raise its total capacity to 70 gigawatts.
- ❖ It aims to bring total capacity around 200 GW by 2035.
- ❖ The total installed nuclear capacity will be 52 GW by the end of 2020.

Kanjur Manuscripts

- ❖ Under National Mission for Manuscripts, the Union Ministry of Culture will be reprinting all the 108 volumes of Mongolian Kanjur Manuscripts.



- ❖ Kanjur is a word by Lord Buddha that means 'Concise Orders' (in the Mongolian language).

Cancer preparedness in Asia-Pacific: Progress towards universal cancer control - report

- ❖ It was a report released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- ❖ India has been ranked eighth for cancer preparedness among 10 Asia-Pacific countries.

| Overall Score | 1 Policy & Planning | 1 Care Delivery | 3 Health System & Governance |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Australia 92.4 | 1 Australia 98.0 | 1 Australia 91.2 | 1 Australia 83.4 |
| 2 South Korea 83.4 | 2 Malaysia 92.3 | 2 Malaysia 84.2 | 2 South Korea 78.5 |
| 3 Malaysia 80.3 | 3 South Korea 88.7 | 3 South Korea 80.6 | 3 Japan 63.9 |
| 4 Japan 78.1 | 4 Thailand 86.4 | 4 Japan 78.0 | 4 China 58.2 |
| 5 China 69.7 | 5 Japan 85.3 | 5 China 65.3 | Average 51.5 |
| Average 65.5 | 6 China 79.8 | Average 62.0 | 5 Malaysia 48.6 |
| 6 Thailand 65.2 | Average 78.6 | 6 Thailand 54.5 | 6 Thailand 43.9 |
| 7 Indonesia 57.4 | 7 India 69.6 | 7 Indonesia 53.0 | 7 Indonesia 42.1 |
| 8 India 51.6 | 8 Indonesia 69.4 | 8 India 41.5 | 8 India 36.0 |
| 9 Vietnam 44.5 | 9 Vietnam 61.4 | 9 Vietnam 35.7 | 9 Philippines 32.4 |
| 10 Philippines 42.6 | 10 Philippines 54.9 | 10 Philippines 35.5 | 10 Vietnam 28.4 |

Normalised scores 0-100, where 100 = most prepared

High (85.1 - 100) Moderate (70.1 - 85) Low (50.1 - 70) Very low (0 - 50)

UAE and Mars

- ❖ United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced to send probe to Mars.
- ❖ It aims to capture comprehensive image of the weather in the atmosphere of Mars.
- ❖ With this, the UAE will be the first Arab nation to achieve the milestone.



Kuaizhou - 11

- ❖ The Solid-Fuelled Carrier Rocket of China Kuaizhou-11 suffered a failure during its maiden flight.
- ❖ The rocket was launched from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre.



Rohingyas at Bhashan Char

- ❖ The Rohingya refugees will remain at Bhashan char island.
- ❖ Bhashan Char is an uninhabited island located in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The island was formed with Himalayan silt in 2006.
- ❖ Rohingyas Muslims fled Myanmar's Rakhine state in 2017 after a military crackdown.

Malabar Exercise

- ❖ India plans to call Australia to participate in Malabar exercise.
- ❖ Australia's inclusion would be seen as a possible first step towards the militarisation of the Quad coalition.
- ❖ China has opposed this in the past.
- ❖ The quadrilateral formation includes Japan, India, United States and Australia.
- ❖ All four nations find a common ground of being the democratic nations and common interests of unhindered maritime trade and security.
- ❖ The idea was first mooted by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in 2007.



Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response (IPPR)

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has formulated this to evaluate the world's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The Panel will be co-chaired by former Prime Minister of New Zealand Helen Elizabeth Clark and former President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Development Marketplace Award

- ❖ It is organized and funded jointly by the World Bank Group and SVRI (Sexual Violence Research Initiative).
- ❖ A WhatsApp chatline named 'SMARTgirl Chatline' was given this award.
- ❖ It was implemented by a Research Team from Cambodian NGO- KHANA Centre for Population Health Research.

Elections of Singapore

- ❖ Singapore became the 2nd Country in Asia to conduct National Polls in the times of the COVID-19 global pandemic.
- ❖ The People's Action Party (PAP) under the leadership of incumbent Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong have won in the Elections.
- ❖ The People's Action Party (PAP) has held the power, winning all the elections since independence in 1965.
- ❖ Earlier, South Korea became the first Asian Country to conduct the elections during Covid crisis.

7th Richest Person

- ❖ Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has become the world's 7th richest person.
- ❖ He overtakes investor tycoon Warren Buffett.
- ❖ Warren Edward Buffett, an American investor and business tycoon, is the chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway.
- ❖ Amazon founder Jeff Bezos is ranked at the top of the world's richest individuals list.

United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

- ❖ It is an international platform for follow-up and review of progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❖ The HLPF meets in July every year under the support of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN.

- ❖ NITI Aayog presented India's second Voluntary National Review (VNR) to this forum.
- ❖ It provides a detailed account of the initiatives taken by India for the successful implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda of the United Nations.
- ❖ The monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in India is overseen by the NITI Aayog.

APTTA

- ❖ Pakistan will allow Afghanistan to send goods to India using the Wagah border.
- ❖ The decision is part of Islamabad's commitment under Afghanistan- Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA).

Chabahar rail project

- ❖ Iran has decided to move ahead with the construction of a railway line from Chabahar port to Zahedan without any assistance from India.
- ❖ The railway line project was part of India's commitment to the trilateral agreement with Afghanistan and Iran to build an alternate trade route to Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- ❖ By using Chabahar port, India can bypass Pakistan in transporting goods to Afghanistan.
- ❖ It is located on the Gulf of Oman and is the only oceanic port of the country.
- ❖ China is trying to ensure by helping Pakistan develop the Gwadar port.
- ❖ Gwadar port is less than 400 km from Chabahar by road and 100 km by sea.

Reimagine Campaign

- ❖ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) India joined hands with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) to initiate UNICEF's "#Reimagine Campaign"
- ❖ It is for the support of most vulnerable populations and children during the ongoing COVID-19 response and its aftermath in India.

India-EU Summit - 15th Edition

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the India-European Union virtual summit.
- ❖ The fourteenth India-European Union Summit was held in New Delhi in 2017.
- ❖ In June 2007, India and the EU began negotiations on a broad-based Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) in Brussels, Belgium.

2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

- ❖ India co-hosted the official launch of 2021 International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
- ❖ India and Chile joined the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).
- ❖ India is the 2nd largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the World.

Srebrenica Massacre - 25th anniversary

- ❖ In July 1995, approximately 8,000 Muslims were killed in Srebrenica by the Bosnian Serb forces.
- ❖ The disintegration of Yugoslavia in 1991 led to violent inter-ethnic wars in the region
- ❖ Srebrenica is a town in Bosnia and Herzegovina in south-eastern Europe.



Azad Pattan hydel power project

- ❖ Pakistan and China have signed an agreement on this under the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- ❖ It is on the Jhelum river in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).



Trade Route between India and Bhutan

- ❖ India and Bhutan have unanimously opened a new trade route to ease connectivity between both the countries.
- ❖ The route stretches from Pasakha in Bhutan to West Bengal's Jaigaon.

UN's State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2020

- ❖ Nearly 690 million people, or 8.9% of the world's population, went hungry in 2019.
- ❖ It is an increase of 10 million since 2018 and of nearly 60 million since 2014.
- ❖ It was in accordance with the United Nations' (UN) annual report "The state of food security and nutrition in the world - Transforming food systems for affordable healthy diets".
- ❖ The report has been prepared by the following 5 UN agencies
 - Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO),
 - In this report China ranked at 2nd place. Japan ranked at the 3rd place.
 - International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD),
 - United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
 - World Food Programme (WFP)
 - World Health Organization (WHO).

World's longest subsea power cable

- ❖ The Construction work has begun in Lincolnshire of Britain on the world's longest subsea power cable (767km).
- ❖ It will run between Britain and Denmark to share renewable energy between the two countries.



ECOSOC annual meet

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually gave a keynote address at the valedictory session High-level Segment of the United Nations' Economic and Social Council (UN ECOSOC).
- ❖ The session will be on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is "Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary".
- ❖ The first meeting of UN ECOSOC was held on 1946, in London.
- ❖ India was the first President of ECOSOC in 1946.

Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI)

- ❖ India ranks third in terms of cost competitiveness and operating conditions among 48 countries.
- ❖ The index has been topped by China and followed by the United States (US) at 2nd rank.
- ❖ It is the list of most-suitable locations for global manufacturing.
- ❖ It was the report of “Cushman & Wakefield’s 2020 Global Manufacturing Risk Index (MRI)”.

Global Skills Index 2020

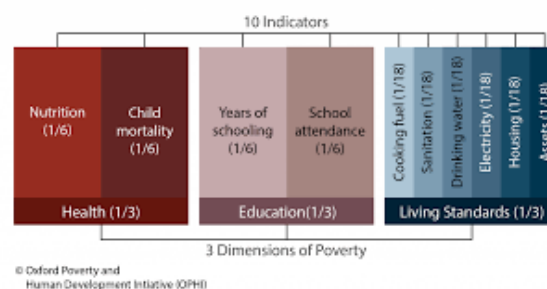
- ❖ It was prepared by “Coursera”, World’s largest online learning platform.
- ❖ It benchmarks the skill proficiency for 60 countries.
- ❖ India surges ahead of the peers in the business and technology skill sets because of the growing young population.

India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF)

- ❖ It was established by the joint working group meeting of the Sustainable Growth Pillar.
- ❖ Sustainable Growth Pillar is an important pillar of India–US Strategic Energy Partnership co-chaired by NITI Aayog and USAID.

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

- ❖ India witnessed almost 273 million people move out of multidimensional poverty between 2005-2006 and 2015-2016, as per this UN report.
- ❖ The data was released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- ❖ The data were obtained from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).
- ❖ Multidimensional poverty means different deprivations faced by the poor such as inadequate living standards, poor health, lack of education, poor quality of work, the threat of violence and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous.



State of food security and nutrition in the world (SOFI)

- ❖ Its first edition was brought out in 2017.
- ❖ The world is not on track to meet the goal of zero hunger by 2030 i.e. SDG2.
- ❖ Asia remains home to the greatest number of undernourished (38 crore).
- ❖ Africa is second (25 crore), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (4.8 crore).



US' Trinity Test

- ❖ On 16th July, exactly 75 years ago, the USA scientists tested Gadget.
- ❖ It was the world's first atomic bomb.
- ❖ Trinity was the code name of this first detonation of a nuclear device.
- ❖ The test was conducted in the Jornada del Muerto desert near the New Mexico.
- ❖ The super bomb, nicknamed 'Gadget', was developed as part of the US-led Manhattan Project.
- ❖ The Manhattan Project was a research and development undertaking during World War II that produced the first nuclear weapons.
- ❖ It was led by the United States with the support of the United Kingdom and Canada.

Retail sales in the World

- ❖ "The Global Direct Selling – 2019 Retail Sales" was released by the World Federation of Direct Selling Associations (WFDSA).
- ❖ India was ranked 15th in global direct selling industry.
- ❖ It has been topped by the United States (US) and followed by China.

Global Rights Index

- ❖ International Trade Union Confederation released its ranking of 144 countries on degree of respect for workers' rights.
- ❖ The ranking of the countries has been made based on the value of Global Rights Index.
- ❖ India was among the least performing 10 countries in the list.

Indo-US PASSEX

- ❖ Indian navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the U.S. Navy.
- ❖ It was conducted near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ Indian Navy had conducted similar PASSEXs with the Japanese Navy and the French Navy in the recent past.



Global Real Estate Transparency Index

- ❖ It is released by Jones Lang LaSalle's (JLL), a global real-estate firm in the USA.
- ❖ It has been tracking real estate transparency since 1999.
- ❖ In this Index, India has been placed at 34th rank.



India Ideas Summit

- ❖ The US-India Business Council (USIBC) hosted India Ideas Summit 2020 under the Focus of "Building a Better Future".
- ❖ The Summit will convene government leaders and business men for discussion about US-India partnership.

International Union of Railways (UIC)

- ❖ Recently Arun Kumar of 1985 IPS officer was nominated as the Vice-Chairman of the International Union of Railways.
- ❖ It is the largest mover of passengers and freight after China.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Paris with 194 members.

World Trade Organization – Turkmenistan

- ❖ Turkmenistan became the 25th country who was granted observer status in the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- ❖ Turkmenistan also became the last former Soviet republic to establish formal ties with the trade body.
- ❖ WTO is headquartered at Geneva in Austria.

Turkmenistan gets "observer" status in World Trade Organization



International Solar Alliance (ISA) - Nicaragua

- ❖ The Republic of Nicaragua became the 87th country to sign the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Framework Agreement.
- ❖ It is an initiative to promote sustainable energy led by India.
- ❖ In 2015, the initiative was jointly launched by Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and Francois Hollande, former French President at the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron hosted the founding Conference of ISA in 2018 at New Delhi.

75th United Nations General Assembly meet

- ❖ The annual gathering of the UNGA summit will be held in a virtual mode in September 2020.
- ❖ The heads of the governments & States will not be physically attending the annual gathering due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This will be the first time in UN's 75 years history to take this method.

COVID-19 Law Lab

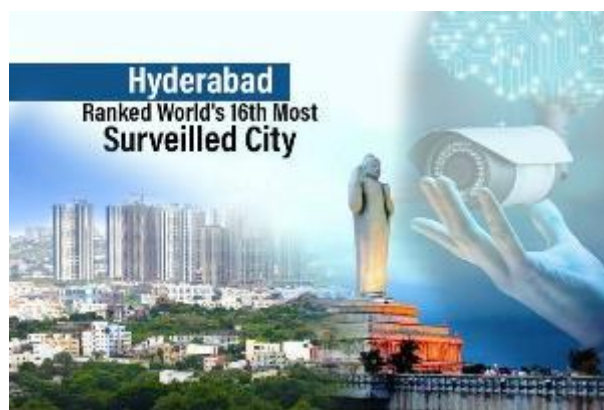
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) along with other key bodies had launched COVID-19 Law Lab.
- ❖ It is a database of laws that countries had implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ This is the 1st initiative to start studying governance response to a pandemic and to measure what works and what not.
- ❖ It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), WHO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the O'Neill Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University.

15th India EU Summit

- ❖ India and European Union renewed their agreement on scientific and technological cooperation for the next five years.
- ❖ The agreement was renewed at the 15th India-EU summit that was held virtually.
- ❖ The agreement was signed in 2001 and was renewed in the past twice in 2007 and 2015.

World's Most Surveilled Cities

- ❖ Hyderabad has been positioned in 16th rank among the list of top 20 cities with the maximum number of Closed-circuit television (CCTV) surveillance cameras.
- ❖ It has most CCTV surveillance in India.
- ❖ The List was topped by Taiyuan, China.
- ❖ It was the analytical report by Comparitech.



Childcare in a global crisis: The impact of COVID-19 on work and family life

- ❖ This report was produced by UNICEF's Office of Research – Innocenti.
- ❖ 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their pre-school year due to the ongoing Covid-19.
- ❖ In the South Asia region, UNICEF covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the research.

Sree Sree Joykali Matar temple

- ❖ The Sree Sree Joykali Matar temple is among the oldest temples in Bangladesh.
- ❖ This 300-year-old Kali temple was jointly inaugurated by India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ It has been reconstructed at Natore in Bangladesh with the support of India.



Rafale

- ❖ Five Rafale Fighter jets took off from France to join the Indian Air Force fleet in Ambala, Haryana.
- ❖ It was produced by the French company Dassault Aviation.
- ❖ The Indian government had signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with France in September 2016 to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets in fly-away condition for €7.8 billion.
- ❖ The deal is termed as the biggest-ever in monetary terms in India.



Istanbul Convention

- ❖ Poland is to withdraw from Istanbul Convention.
- ❖ It is a treaty aimed at preventing violence against women.
- ❖ It is also called as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.
- ❖ The treaty is the world's first binding instrument to prevent and tackle violence against women.

UN Report on ISIS in India

- ❖ The United Nations report recently warned that there is significant increase in ISIS terrorists in Kerala and Karnataka.
- ❖ The report was titled "Report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIS".
- ❖ The Al-Qaida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) operates under Taliban.
- ❖ Operation Pigeon was launched in Kerala to counter this.

New Security Law

- ❖ China announced the suspension of extradition treaties of Hong Kong with Canada, Britain and Australia.
- ❖ China has brought the suspension under its New Security Law in Hong Kong.
- ❖ According to the law, China gained control over external affairs and defence of Hong Kong.

ECONOMY

Banking Regulation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

- ❖ It will amend the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as applicable to Cooperative Banks.
- ❖ The amendments will not apply to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development.
- ❖ It is also applicable for those who do not use the word "bank" or "banker" or "banking" and do not act as drawees of cheques.

FME scheme

- ❖ The PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) has been launched under 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'.
- ❖ The scheme was launched by Union Minister of Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

Startup Genome report

- ❖ It was named 'Global Startup Ecosystem Report (GSER) 2020; the New Normal for the Global Startup Economy and the Impact of COVID-19'
- ❖ It was released by Startup Genome.
- ❖ Bangalore has become the only city in the country to be included in the world's top-30 startup ecosystem ranking & placed 26th position.

THE Young University Ranking 2020

- ❖ The Times Higher Education (THE) released THE Young University Rankings 2020.
- ❖ It is for the universities which are 50 years old or younger.
- ❖ Two Indian Institutes secured their ranks in the top 100 with IIT Ropar at 62nd rank and IIT Indore at 64th rank.

| Rank | Name | Country |
|------|--|-------------|
| 1 | The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) | Hong Kong |
| 2 | Nanyang Technological University | Singapore |
| 3 | Paris Sciences et Lettres – PSL Research University | France |
| 4 | Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies | Italy |
| 5 | Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) | South Korea |

Global Forum on transparency and exchange of information for tax purposes

- ❖ It is the latest study by OECD's (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) referring to the period from July 2015 to June 2018.
- ❖ India was named among the top-three countries as EOI (Exchange of Information) partners along with France and Germany.
- ❖ India is also rated as 'largely compliant' by this review.

ASEAN summit

- ❖ The 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held via video conference on the theme “Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN”.
- ❖ It was chaired by Vietnam as it is ASEAN’s chair in 2020.

PM (FME) scheme

- ❖ The Minister for Food Processing Industries (FPI) Harsimrat Kaur Badal launched Centrally Sponsored Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises.
- ❖ The scheme will be implemented for five years until 2024-25.
- ❖ It is for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis.
- ❖ The Expenditure is to be shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.
- ❖ One District One Product (ODOP) approach will be adopted for this scheme.
- ❖ Under that approach, the states will identify food product (specialized or perishable or cereal) for a district on the basis of availability of raw material.
- ❖ Operation Greens scheme has been extended to additional 10 fruits (Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Citrus, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit) and 8 vegetables (French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green) and Okra).

Accelerate Vigyan Scheme

- ❖ It was launched by Scientific and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
- ❖ It has started to call applications for the process under ABHYAAS scheme.
- ❖ It begins with Mission SAMOOHAN (Bring Together).
- ❖ Another mission under this Scheme is Mission ABHYAAS (Skill Development).
- ❖ It is for students looking for career development in the field of research.

Open Market Operations

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced fresh Open Market Operations (OMO) for the sale and purchase of Government Securities (G-Secs) worth 10000 crores.
- ❖ The RBI took the decision after considering the current liquidity and market situation.
- ❖ The RBI issues securities through auctions on the Core Banking Solution (CBS) platform named E-Kuber.

India's Forex Reserves

- ❖ The foreign exchange reserves of India are the fifth largest in the world at more than USD 500 billion.
- ❖ The first four Forex Reserves on the list are China, Japan, Switzerland and Russia.
- ❖ The foreign exchange reserves of India are almost equal to one fifth of India's GDP.
- ❖ It was as per the report released by IMF - International Monetary Fund.

Bharat Bond ETF

- ❖ The Second Tranche of India's first Corporate Bond Exchange-Traded Fund (ETF) - Bharat Bond ETF will be open for subscription.
- ❖ The initiative of Bharat Bond ETF was from the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management.

Surety Bonds

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a working Group (WG) under G. Srinivasan.
- ❖ It will look at the possibility of the Indian insurance industry or any other sector to offer Surety Bonds in India.

PM SVANidhi Portal

- ❖ Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has launched.
- ❖ It is being developed by SIDBI bank
- ❖ It is the scheme implementation partner for PM SVANidhi.
- ❖ It will accept loan applications from Street Vendors.

External Debt of India

- ❖ According to the RBI, India's external debt stood at \$558.5 billion in March 2020.
- ❖ It is an increase of \$15.4 billion or 2.8% as compared to the March 2019.
- ❖ The largest component of the external debt is Commercial borrowings with a share of 39.4%.
- ❖ It is followed by non-resident deposits at 23.4% and short-term trade credit at 18.2%.
- ❖ In terms of currency, United States (US) dollar-denominated debt continued to be the largest component with a share of 53.7%.
- ❖ It is followed by the Indian rupee (31.9%), yen (5.6%), SDR (4.5%) and the euro (3.5%).

Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)

- ❖ The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) is to setup India's first government promoted Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT).
- ❖ It will be under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 and Securities and Exchange Board of India Regulations.
- ❖ It is to facilitate investment in the highway sector.

Purchasing Managers' Index

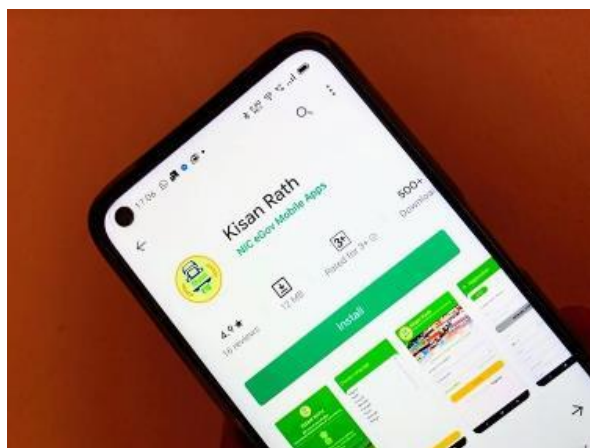
- ❖ It is an index of the prevailing direction of economic trends in the manufacturing and service sectors.
- ❖ The IHS Markit India Services Business Activity Index has released recently this.

Greenmode of transportation

- ❖ Indian Railways sets up Solar Plant in Bina in Madhya Pradesh to Supply Power Directly on the Railway Line.
- ❖ The Ministry of Railways has decided to install solar power plants on its vacant unused lands.
- ❖ The use of Solar Power will accelerate the mission of the Railways to achieve 'Net Zero' Carbon Emission Railway.
- ❖ The Indian Railways will become the first transport organisation to be energy self-sufficient.
- ❖ The Indian Railways and the Bharat heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has commissioned the first of its kind project in the world.

Kisanrath

- ❖ It is an app launched by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.



- ❖ It will facilitate farmers and traders to identify suitable transport facilities for the movement of farm produce during coronavirus lock down.
- ❖ It was developed by the National Informatics Centre.

International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA)

- ❖ Injeti Srinivas has been appointed as the 1st Chairman of the IFSCA for a period of three years.
- ❖ The headquarters of the IFSCA will be in Gujarat's capital city Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Gujarat International Finance Tec-City is the first IFSC of India which is also located at Gandhinagar.
- ❖ One member will be nominated by each of the regulators under the IFSCA Act 2019 (SEBI, RBI, IRDAI etc are the regulators).

Hand sanitizers and face masks

- ❖ These are no longer essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act 1955, as their supply is sufficient in the country.
- ❖ The Union Consumer Affairs Ministry had declared face masks and hand sanitizers as essential commodities for 100 days on March 13, 2020.
- ❖ It was to boost supply and prevent hoarding of these items in its battle to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (AHRCs)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (AHRCs) for urban migrants and poor.
- ❖ It will be as a sub-scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U).

Agriculture Infrastructure Fund

- ❖ It is a new pan India Central Sector Scheme.
- ❖ The scheme shall provide a medium – long term debt financing facility to farm and farm-processing based activities.
- ❖ The duration of the Scheme shall be from FY2020 to FY2029 (10 years).
- ❖ Under the scheme, Rs. One Lakh Crore will be provided by banks and financial institutions as loans.
- ❖ It will be given to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and Marketing Cooperative Societies etc.

Suresh Mathur

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a 9-member working group.
- ❖ It is under the chairmanship of Suresh Mathur, Executive Director of IRDAI.
- ❖ It will look into the possibility of setting up 'Pandemic Risk Pool'.

Market Borrowings among States

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has topped market borrowings among States in India.
- ❖ It has a collection of Rs.30,500 crore in the fiscal 2020-21.
- ❖ It accounted for 17% of the borrowings through the issue of bonds (known as state development loans).
- ❖ It has been followed by Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- ❖ It was according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Capital infusion

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the capital infusion of Rs.12,450 crore in the three Public Sector General Insurance Companies.
- ❖ These are Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), National Insurance Company Limited (NICL) and United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL).
- ❖ The Central Government has also decided to cease the process of merger to make these companies more stable.

Usha Thorat committee

- ❖ The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reconstituted this committee.
- ❖ It is formed on matters related to regulation and development of the mutual fund industry.
- ❖ Usha Thorat was the former deputy governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

250 basis points cut

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cut the repo rate by 135 basis points since February 2019 till the onset of COVID-19.
- ❖ After the onset of Covid 19, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to cut the policy repo rate by 115 basis points.

Google for India Digitization Fund

- ❖ Google CEO Sundar Pichai has announced the launch of this fund.
- ❖ Through this fund, Google will be investing USD 10 billion or Rs. 75,000 crore in India over next 5-7 years.

Top trading partner of India

- ❖ The United States remains as the top trading partner of India during the Financial Year 2019-20.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive Financial Year that the United States has become the top trading partner of India.
- ❖ In the Financial Year 2018-19, United States surpassed the People's Republic of China to become the top trading partner of India.
- ❖ India continues to maintain a trade surplus over the United States as the trade deficit of the United States in Financial Year 2019-20 was USD 17.42 billion.
- ❖ It was as per the data from the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Corona Kavach and Corona Rakshak

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has made it mandatory for 30 general and health insurers.
- ❖ It is to launch short-term standard health policies for coronavirus disease.
- ❖ Notably, the premium under both the products shall be the pan-India basis and no geographic location or zone-based pricing will be allowed.

43rd Annual General Meeting of Reliance

- ❖ The Reliance confirmed that Google will be its new strategic partner.
- ❖ Reliance Industries will use its digital infrastructure and supply chain to ensure that the covid vaccine reaches every corner of the country.
- ❖ The following services are also to be launched by the Reliance
 - Jio 5G
 - Jio TV Plus
 - Jio Glass - holographic video calling

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as a Strategic Partner and as a Strategic Investor

Public Health Expenditure

- ❖ The Union government aims to gradually increase the public health expenditure to 2.5% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025.
- ❖ The National Health policy 2017 recommends that the state government must spend nearly 8% of their total budget on the health sector by 2020.
- ❖ The Union Government has announced 4% health and education cess on personal income tax and corporation tax.

PM SVANidhi

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Street Vendors Atma Nirbhar Nidhi is PM SVANidhi
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh so far has topped in implementation of this scheme.
- ❖ It is a central sector scheme to help and formalize the street vendors involved in small businesses across the country.
- ❖ The scheme is funded by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

PARIVESH

- ❖ The ministry of coal is planning to link the mining plan portal with PARIVESH website.
- ❖ It is a single-window hub for online submission, monitoring, and management of proposals submitted to the Environment Ministry.
- ❖ In June 2020, the government launched the auction process for 41 coal blocks for commercial mining.
- ❖ It was a big move that opens India's coal sector for private players.

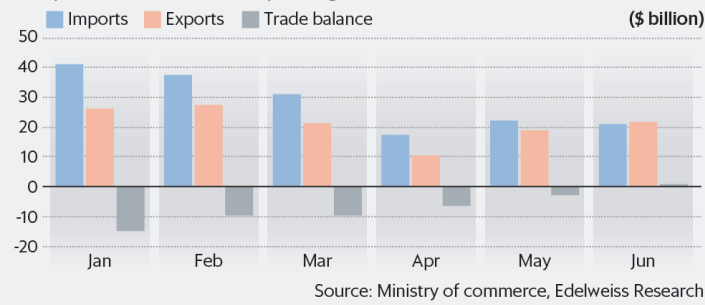


Trade Surplus

- ❖ India makes its first trade surplus in 18 years.
- ❖ India gained a surplus of \$0.8 billion in June 2020.
- ❖ This has been achieved by a sharper decline in imports.
- ❖ The last time this happened was in January 2002.

A temporary surplus?

India's trade balance turned surplus in June, as imports remained in deep contraction and exports gathered steam.



- ❖ A trade surplus is an economic measure of a positive balance of trade, where a country's exports exceed its imports.

Arun Jaitley Scheme

- ❖ The Rajya Sabha Secretariat launched the scheme called “Arun Jaitley Financial Assistance for Group C Employees”.
- ❖ It is an Employees Welfare Scheme in the name of former Union Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley.

FamCard

- ❖ FamPay, in partnership with IDFC First Bank, launched India's 1st numberless card, FamCard.
- ❖ FamPay with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) developed this card.
- ❖ This card is accepted across the RuPay payment network of merchants.
- ❖ FamPay is India's first Neobank for teenagers.



Reliance market value

- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) becomes the 1st Indian company to reach the Market Capitalisation of Rs 13 lakh crore.
- ❖ It becomes the world's 48th largest company by the Market Capitalisation.

- ❖ Reliance is the 10th highest company in Asia.
- ❖ The United States listed Reliance Jio among the companies that are becoming “Clean Telcos”.
- ❖ Globally, Saudi Aramco is the company with the highest market Capitalisation of \$1.7 trillion.

Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List

- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mukesh Ambani became the world’s fifth-richest man in the world.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani is just behind Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook.

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)

- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of Krishnapatnam Port Company Limited at Andhra Pradesh by APSEZ.
- ❖ APSEZ is a customer-facing integrated port infrastructure services provider.
- ❖ Currently it is present across 10 domestic ports in six maritime states of Gujarat, Goa, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Odisha.

1st Global Fintech Fest

- ❖ The 1st edition of the world’s largest Global Fintech Fest (GFF) was held virtually.
- ❖ It was organized by Payments Council of India (PCI) and Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) at National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- ❖ It was under the theme “Fintech: With and Beyond COVID”.
- ❖ The aim of the fest was to bring together the global FinTech and Banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.



General Financial Rules 2017

- ❖ The Union Government amended the General Financial Rules 2017.
- ❖ It is to impose restrictions on public procurement from countries that share a land border with India on national security grounds.

- ❖ The order will apply to all forms of public procurement but not to procurement by the private sector.

Currency Swap Agreement

- ❖ RBI has recently agreed to a \$400 million currency swap facility for Sri Lanka till November 2022.
- ❖ It was extended under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework.
- ❖ The current SAARC currency swap agreement was signed in December 2019.
- ❖ The agreement is to run till 2022.
- ❖ A currency swap between the two countries is an agreement or contract to exchange currencies with predetermined terms and conditions.

Most valuable energy company

- ❖ Reliance Industries Limited became the world's second most valuable energy company, overtaking American oil giant ExxonMobil.
- ❖ It was after its market capitalisation (m-cap) reached over Rs 14 lakh crore.
- ❖ No Indian company has ever crossed the m-cap of Rs 14 trillion.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

- ❖ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) – Delhi and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA), a Swadeshi Science Movement.
- ❖ The partnership aims to increase the opportunities for better livelihood and income generation for the tribal communities.
- ❖ It was signed under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA).
- ❖ It is a flagship programme under the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).
- ❖ IIT Delhi is the National Coordinating Institute on behalf of the UBA.

Bulk Drug Parks

- ❖ It was launched by the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- ❖ The scheme is expected to reduce manufacturing cost of bulk drugs in the country and dependency on other countries for bulk drugs.
- ❖ The Indian pharmaceutical industry is the 3rd largest in the world by volume.
- ❖ But India is significantly dependent on import of basic raw materials.

Implications of AI on the Indian Economy

- ❖ It was a report by National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) along with the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Google.
- ❖ A unit increase (measured as the ratio of AI to total sales) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) intensity can result in a 2.5% increase in India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the immediate term.

Bitumen agreement

- ❖ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has formed an equal (50:50) Joint Venture (JV) with France's Total S.A.
- ❖ It is to manufacture and market high-quality innovative bitumen derivatives and superior quality products like polymer-modified bitumen, crumb rubber modified bitumen for the growing road-building industry in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Lightning strikes in 2019

- ❖ Brazil has the highest incidence of lightning in the world.
- ❖ Argentina recorded a strike that lasted for 16.73 seconds in 2019.
- ❖ Brazil recorded a lightning strike that travelled a distance of 709 kilometers in 2018.
- ❖ It was released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ The lightning flashes that have now entered the record books are known as 'Megaflashes' in scientific parlance.
- ❖ In India, Bihar is second after Uttar Pradesh with the maximum number of deaths due to lightning.



Dhruva Chip

- ❖ It is a home-grown receiver chip developed by IIT-Bombay.
- ❖ It can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country.
- ❖ This Project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- ❖ SAMEER (Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research) is the nodal agency.



Gliese 887b and Gliese 887c

- ❖ In the research of The Red Dots team of Astronomers led by the University of Göttingen, Germany detected these two super Earths.
- ❖ These are orbiting around the Gliese 887, the brightest red dwarf star in the sky.
- ❖ The Red Dots team monitored the red dwarf at the European Southern Observatory, Chile using the HARPS Spectrograph.



COVAXIN

- ❖ It is the first indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine to be approved for Human Clinical Trials in India.
- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) has given approval for this vaccine.
- ❖ It is developed by Hyderabad based Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ It was developed in association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV).
- ❖ The SARS-CoV-2 strain was isolated in the National Institute of Virology and was transferred to Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ The DGCI comes under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.



G4 virus

- ❖ A new Chinese study has warned of a possible new 'pandemic virus' from pigs.
- ❖ The new flu virus, a “G4” strain of H1N1, was detected in Chinese pigs recently.

Gold Nanoparticles

- ❖ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) and Goa University (GU) has successfully synthesized gold nanoparticles.
- ❖ They used psychro tolerant Antarctic bacteria for the synthesis.

Zydus Cadila

- ❖ The Drugs Controller General of India (DGCI) has given its approval for the human clinical trials to the second indigenously developed COVID-19 vaccine by Zydus Cadila Healthcare Ltd.
- ❖ Headquartered in Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Zydus Healthcare is one of the leading manufacturers of generic drugs in India.



Spice bomb

- ❖ The Government of India is planning to procure more SPICE-2000 bombs from Israel.
- ❖ SPICE stands for Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective.

COPAL 19

- ❖ AIIMS (All India Institute of Medical Science) doctor along with a team of IIT-Delhi students have developed an app “COPAL-19”.
- ❖ It enables users to track willing plasma donors who have recovered from Covid -19.

Mission Shukrayaan - 1

- ❖ The Indian Venus Mission Shukrayaan-1 and the Swedish Institute of Space Physics will explore Venus for the second time.
- ❖ The Shukrayaan-1 is scheduled for launch at the end of 2023 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.



Airborne Locust Control System (ALCS)

- ❖ Chandigarh based 3 Base Repair Depot (BRD) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) have indigenously developed this system.

- ❖ It will be used for two Mi-17 helicopters for spraying atomised pesticide malathion to arrest locust breeding.
- ❖ The Government has flagged off a Bell 206-B3 helicopter for effective control of locusts in Rajasthan.

Phobos

- ❖ ISRO's Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) has captured the image of 'Phobos', the largest and closest moon of Mars.
- ❖ Phobos, the mysterious moon of Mars is believed to be made up of carbonaceous chondrites.



Moon's subsurface

- ❖ The Moon's subsurface might have greater quantities of metals such as iron and titanium than thought before.
- ❖ NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) spacecraft has found this evidence.

'DESREM'

- ❖ It is the generic version of Gilead Sciences Remdesivir drug.
- ❖ It is for the treatment of COVID - 19 positive patients in India.
- ❖ The Global pharmaceutical company Mylan N.V was given approval by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI).
- ❖ Mylan N.V is currently the second-largest company in the World for the manufacturing of generic drugs.
- ❖ DESREM is the third generic version of Remdesivir to get DCGI approval for sale in India.
- ❖ Earlier, the generic versions of Indian pharmaceutical companies – Cipla's CIPREMI and Hetero's COVIFOR' has got DCGI approval.

- ❖ Japan was the first country to approve Remdesivir drug as a treatment for COVID-19.

Unisaviour box

- ❖ The IIT-R (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee) researchers' team have developed this disinfection box.
- ❖ It was led by Prof. Soumitra Satapathi, Laboratory of Integrated Nano photonics and Biomaterials.
- ❖ It can be used to sterilise various personal belongings to minimise the COVID-19 transmission.

Silverline Apheritis lilacinus

- ❖ A recent study using X-ray Micro CT technology describes the association between caterpillars of the Lilac Silverline Apheritis lilacinus butterfly and cocktail ants.
- ❖ This butterfly was rediscovered in India a few years ago after a gap of almost 100 years.



Kawasaki Disease

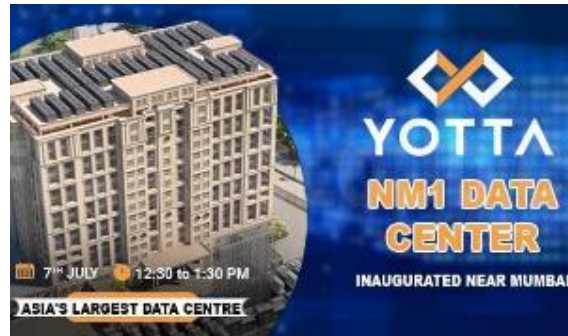
- ❖ Around the world, children with Covid-19 infection have often shown some symptoms similar to those associated with a rare illness called Kawasaki disease.
- ❖ It typically affects children aged under five.
- ❖ The causes of the Kawasaki Disease are not yet Known.

Bubonic Plague

- ❖ A suspected case of Bubonic Plague has been found at Bayannur of China.
- ❖ The Bubonic plague or Black death had caused one of the worst pandemics in Asia, Africa and Europe, killing at least half population of Europe in 14th century.

- ❖ It is a rare but serious bacterial infection that is transmitted by bacteria called *Yersinia pestis*.
- ❖ It generally spreads through contact with infected fleas.

Yotta NM1 or NM1



- ❖ India's as well as Asia's Largest and World's Second Largest Uptime Tier IV Designed Data Centre was inaugurated at Navi Mumbai.
- ❖ The Data Centre is named 'Yotta NM1 or NM1'.

Airborne spread

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) acknowledged the "evidence" of the airborne spread of the novel coronavirus.
- ❖ WHO had previously stated that the coronavirus infection mainly spreads through small droplets.
- ❖ The Droplets come out of the nose and mouth of an infected person.

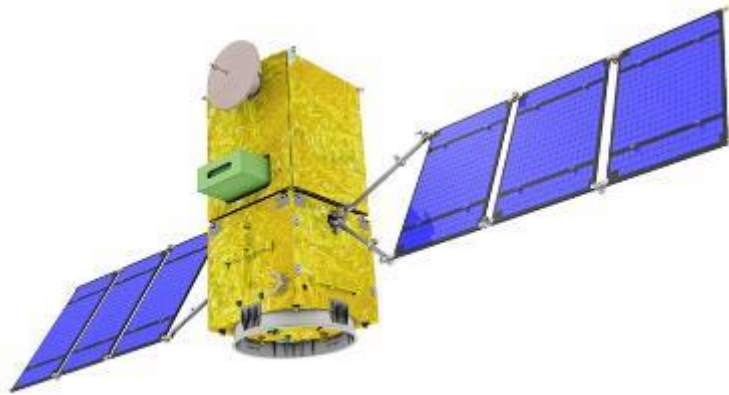
Compact XL

- ❖ The Pune based molecular diagnostics company Mylab Discovery Solutions has launched 'Compact XL' machine.
- ❖ It is India's first machine to automate the manual processes of molecular diagnostic tests.



‘Amazonia-1’

- ❖ It is the first earth observation satellite to be entirely developed by Brazil.
- ❖ It will be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).



AI Technology Centre

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology – Hyderabad (IIT-H) collaborates with NVIDIA.
- ❖ It is to establish India’s first ‘NVIDIA Artificial Intelligence (AI) Technology Centre’ (NVAITC)
- ❖ It works to speed up the research work on AI and its commercial purpose.

World’s First Reusable PPE Kits

- ❖ The Indian Manufacturing Company - Loyal Textile Mills launched this Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- ❖ It is the first of its kind in the world - reusable PPE.
- ❖ It was launched by Loyal Textile Mills with collaborating with Reliance Industries Limited and Switzerland based textile innovation company - HeiQ Materials.



BACE2 gene

- ❖ A protective gene has been discovered by scientists of the Queen Mary University of London.
- ❖ It can naturally suppress the signs of Alzheimer's disease in human body cells.
- ❖ It was acting in a similar way to tumour suppressor genes in cancer.

Production of lithium in stars

- ❖ The question regarding the production of lithium in stars has been solved by Indian researchers.
- ❖ Stars actually destroy lithium as they evolve into red giants.
- ❖ Planets were known to have more lithium than their stars.
- ❖ However, some stars were found that were lithium-rich.
- ❖ When stars grow beyond their Red Giant stage it is known as the Red Clump stage.
- ❖ Here they produce lithium.
- ❖ It is known as a Helium Flash.
- ❖ The study also challenges the present understanding of nucleosynthesis in stars.
- ❖ The Big Bang Nucleosynthesis theory predicts that roughly 25% the mass of the Universe consists of Helium.
- ❖ The present abundance of lithium in the universe is only four times the original (Big Bang) value.
- ❖ Lithium is commonly used today in communication device technology.
- ❖ It was first produced in the Big Bang, around 13.7 billion years ago when the universe came into being, along with other elements.



Vaccine Trails

- ❖ Indian institutions have started the registrations to conduct the human trials of Coronavirus vaccines in India namely, COVAXIN and ZyCov-D.
- ❖ The COVAXIN is developed jointly by ICMR & Bharat Biotech and the other vaccine, ZyCov-D Vaccine has been developed by Zydus Cadila.

Itolizumab

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has given its approval to 'Itolizumab' injection.
- ❖ It is for the treatment of COVID-19 patients with restricted emergency use only in case of moderate to severe Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS) patients.
- ❖ Bengaluru based biopharmaceutical company - Biocon Limited is the developer and the manufactures of the Itolizumab injection.

Russia's vaccine on Covid

- ❖ Russia has become the first nation to complete clinical trials of Covid-19 vaccine on humans.
- ❖ It has successfully completed the clinical trials on volunteers at Sechenov State Medical University in Russia.
- ❖ The first vaccine, in the form of a solution for intramuscular administration, was carried out at the Burdenko Military Hospital.
- ❖ The second vaccine is in the form of a powder for the preparation of a solution for intramuscular administration.
- ❖ USA's Gilead Sciences, UK's Oxford University's researchers and American biotech company Moderna are at the forefront of developing a Covid-19 vaccine.



Snakebite Mortality

- ❖ India has recorded 1.2 million snakebite deaths in the 20-year period from 2000 to 2019.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) recognizes snakebite as a top-priority neglected tropical disease.
- ❖ Around 70% of these deaths occurred in low altitude, rural areas of eight States namely Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

- ❖ The numbers for annual snakebite deaths were highest in the States of Uttar Pradesh (8,700), Andhra Pradesh (5,200) and Bihar (4,500).
- ❖ Most of the envenomation was by Russell's vipers followed by kraits and cobras.
- ❖ Snakebite deaths occurred mostly in rural areas (97%), were more common in males (59%) than females (41%), and peaked at ages 15-29 years (25%).
- ❖ It was highlighted in the report 'Snakebite Mortality in India: A Nationally Representative Mortality Survey'.
- ❖ It was released by the Centre for Global Health Research (CGHR), Canada.

Vitro cultures

- ❖ The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS) in Odisha has successfully established vitro cultures of coronavirus from the patient samples using Vero cells.
- ❖ The Vero cell culture technology is used worldwide to develop inactivated whole cell-based vaccines.
- ❖ The Cultured SARS-CoV-2 can also be used to develop antibodies or antidotes.

Israeli assault rifles

- ❖ Arad and Carmel are the two new Israeli assault rifles now set to be manufactured in India.
- ❖ The assault rifles will be manufactured under Make in India initiative in Madhya Pradesh.



Shudh

- ❖ The IIT Kanpur has developed an Ultra Violet Sanitizing product called "Shudh".
- ❖ It is smartphone operated and is handy.
- ❖ UVC (Ultra Violet-C) is used to kill microorganisms.

Corosure

- ❖ The Union Minister of Human Resource and Development Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishnak launched world's most affordable COVID-19 kit Corosure.
- ❖ The kit was developed by IIT Delhi.
- ❖ It is RT-PCR based COVID-19 diagnostic kit.
- ❖ The base price of the kit is Rs 399.

Super Capacitor

- ❖ Recently International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) has developed a low-cost, environmentally friendly, super capacitor electrode.
- ❖ It can be used as an energy harvester storage device.
- ❖ It is derived from industrial waste cotton.
- ❖ The scientists have converted the industrial cotton waste into porous carbon fibres.
- ❖ These fibres were used as electrodes.
- ❖ The Natural seawater is explored as an alternative aqueous electrolyte.
- ❖ Supercapacitors are next generation energy storage devices.
- ❖ They have high power density, ultra-charging and long durability as compared to other conventional capacitors and lithium-ion batteries.
- ❖ The four main components of super capacitors are electrolyte, electrode, separator and current collector.

Heron UAV

- ❖ The Heron is a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by Israel.
- ❖ Indian forces are working towards inducting an armed version of the UAV.
- ❖ It is under the ambitious 'Project Cheetah' spearheaded by the Indian Air Force.

P7 Heavy Drop System

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed P7 Heavy Drop System
- ❖ It is capable of para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft.
- ❖ The system is fully indigenous and is being manufactured by L&T.



Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Conjugate Vaccine

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) approved this vaccine.
- ❖ It is the first indigenously developed vaccine of this kind.
- ❖ It was developed by Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ It helps to prevent invasive infections such as bacteremia and meningitis.
- ❖ The Indian states with highest number of pneumococcal deaths are Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ But the World Health Organization does not recommend the use of the vaccine in routine childhood immunization programmes

Neowise Comet

- ❖ The comet will be closest to Earth on July 22 at a distance of about 103 million kilometres when it will be crossing the planet's orbit.
- ❖ It will be most clearly visible across the Northern Hemisphere including India
- ❖ It is a rare one as the NEOWISE Comet will be visible from the Earth next time in the year 8,786, almost 6000 years later.
- ❖ It was discovered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).



Mars 2020 mission

- ❖ Ingenuity is a robotic helicopter that is to be deployed in Mars 2020 mission of NASA
- ❖ It will check how the conditions on Mars affect aviation.

- ❖ It is the first aircraft to perform controlled flight on another planet.
- ❖ The Mars mission will seek signs of habitable conditions on Mars.
- ❖ The mission will also carry Perseverance Rover.



ZyCov-D

- ❖ ZyCoV-D is the plasmid DNA vaccine designed and developed by Zydus.
- ❖ It is the first indigenously developed vaccine for COVID-19 to be administered in humans in India.
- ❖ It is partially funded by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) under the National Biopharma Mission (NBM).
- ❖ NBM was launched in 2017 and is implemented by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

Curcumin

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) researchers have shown that curcumin may enhance the death of cancer cells.
- ❖ The curcumin is the active principle from turmeric.
- ❖ Curcumin significantly increases the sensitivity of leukemia cells to a protein that causes death of cancer cells.

Human Growth Hormone

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind case, a 2018 Commonwealth Games silver medallist and reigning national champion weightlifter Pradeep Singh has tested positive for Human Growth Hormone (HGH).
- ❖ It is known to increase muscle mass, strength as well as tissue - repairing effects.
- ❖ It is produced in the body and secreted by the pituitary gland near the base of the brain.

Asteroid 2020ND

- ❖ It is a 'gigantic asteroid'
- ❖ It is bigger than London Eye, the famous UK landmark.
- ❖ The Asteroid was named Asteroid 2020ND by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).



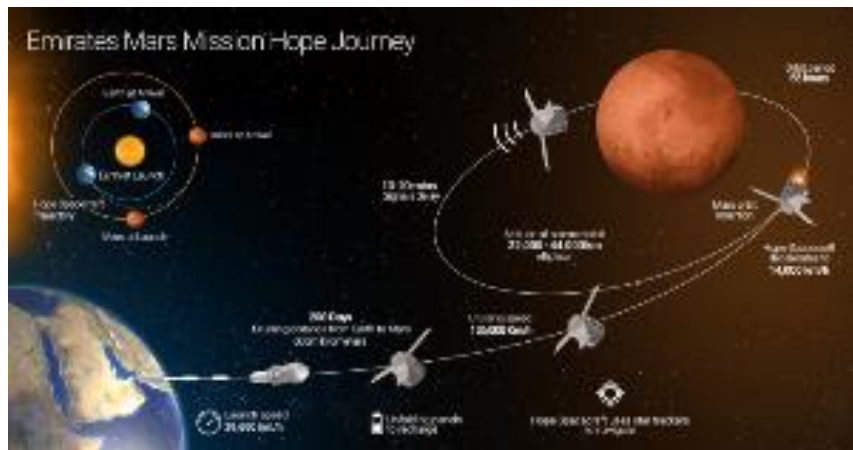
MediCAB

- ❖ IIT-Madras supported start-up Modulus Housing has developed portable hospital unit.
- ❖ The Medicab is foldable and is composed of four zones such as a medical room, isolation room, a doctors's room and a twin bed ICU.
- ❖ India has 0.7 beds per 1000 persons.



Hope Probe mission

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) became the first West Asian and Arab nation to launch the first-ever Mars mission.
- ❖ Hope Probe mission was launched from Japan.
- ❖ It is expected to reach Mars's orbit by February 2021.
- ❖ It is designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the unification of the UAE, an alliance of seven emirates.



ChAdOx1 COVID-19 vaccine

- ❖ It was jointly developed by British-Swedish company AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford.
- ❖ It has been found to be safe and induced an immune response in early-stage clinical trial.
- ❖ Serum institute of India, the partner in the development of Oxford Vaccine, is planning to start the clinical trials in India.
- ❖ The company is the world's largest vaccine producer by number of doses produced.



Sero-surveillance study

- ❖ The National Centre for Disease control operating under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has commissioned sero-surveillance study in New Delhi.
- ❖ It generates important evidence to assess the spread of the disease.
- ❖ It also helps to know how many persons remain asymptomatic.
- ❖ The sera of selected individual were tested for IgG antibodies.
- ❖ The antibodies were identified using COVID KAVACH ELISA test.

Solar Orbiter

- ❖ The European Space Agency has released the closest pictures ever taken of the Sun captured by the Solar Orbiter.
- ❖ Solar Orbiter is a space mission between ESA (European Space Agency) and NASA.



Series of faults

- ❖ An oil and gas exploration company has helped geologists discover a series of faults at the foot of the Himalaya.
- ❖ This fault system lies in the south eastern region of Nepal.
- ❖ The newly discovered system doesn't appear to extend into India.
- ❖ A fault is a fracture or zone of fractures between two blocks of rock.
- ❖ Faults are related to the movement of Earth's tectonic plates.

Dhruvastra

- ❖ The trials of India's Helicopter - launched Nag Missile anti-tank guided missile (HELINA) were successfully conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha.
- ❖ It is now known as Dhruvastra
- ❖ It is a third-generation fire and forget class anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system.



- ❖ It has been mounted on the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- ❖ Nag was also one of the first five strategic missiles that were planned to develop under the Integrated Missile Development Programme in the 1980s.

SACU

- ❖ India and the South African Customs Union (SACU) revived initiative for Preferential Trade Agreement.
- ❖ It is a customs union among five countries of Southern Africa and is Headquartered at Windhoek, Namibia.
- ❖ Southern African Customs Union (SACU) is consisting of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Lesotho, Eswatini.

DDT supply

- ❖ The HIL has supplied DDT (dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane) to South Africa for their Malaria control program.
- ❖ The Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) is a Public Sector Unit under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- ❖ HIL is the sole manufacturer of DDT globally.
- ❖ It has recently exported Malathion to Iran for the Locust Control Programme.

Bharat Drone

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) provided the indigenously developed drone named “Bharat”.
- ❖ It is to monitor the high-altitude areas and mountain terrains along the line of actual control in the Eastern Ladakh (China Border).
- ❖ The Bharat series drones are listed among World’s most agile and lightest surveillance drones.



Tianwen-1

- ❖ Tianwen-1 was launched in a Long March 5 Rocket from the Hainan Island at China.
- ❖ It is China's first fully homegrown Mars Mission.
- ❖ It is carrying the trio of an orbiter, a lander and a rover.
- ❖ This combination of craft was never launched towards mars.



Kakrapar Atomic Power Project 3

- ❖ It is India's First 700 MWe (megawatt electric) and indigenously developed Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor (PHWR).
- ❖ The first two units of Kakrapar power plant were based on Canadian technology.
- ❖ It is located at Tapi district in Gujarat.
- ❖ Till now, the biggest indigenously developed reactor was of 540 MWe PHWR in Tarapur, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It is India's 23rd nuclear power reactor that is completely designed and built by India.
- ❖ The reactor uses natural Uranium as the fuel and Heavy water as moderator.
- ❖ India's nuclear reactors are majorly PHWR.

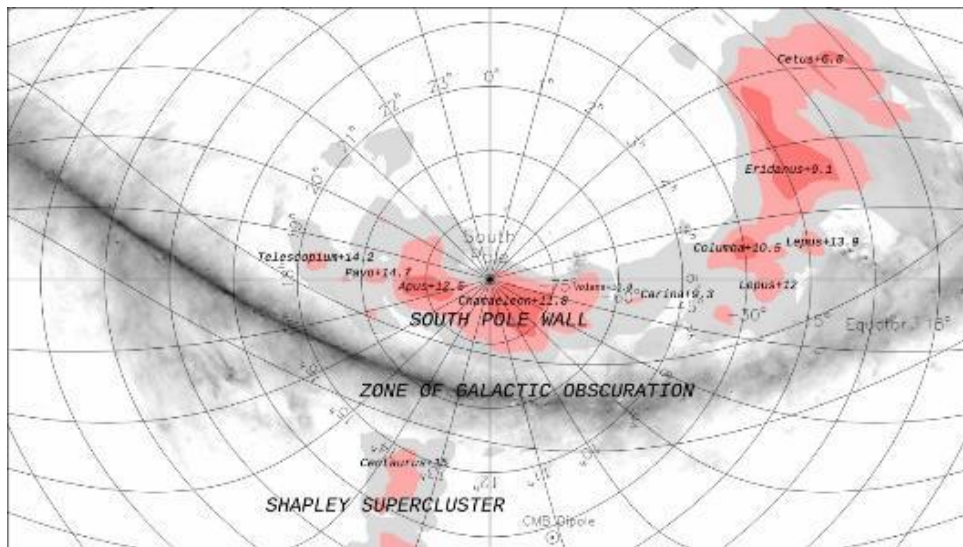


Digantara

- ❖ A Space start up called the Digantara has developed India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring and tracking system.
- ❖ The system works on LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology.
- ❖ It will provide global real-time earth surveillance.
- ❖ Digantara is India's first air and space surveillance company.

South Pole Wall

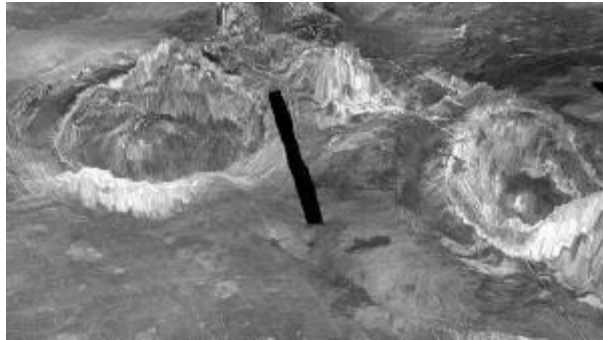
- ❖ The Spectacular 3D maps of the universe have revealed inconceivable wall known as South Pole Wall.
- ❖ The South Pole Wall rivals in size the Sloan Great Wall, the sixth largest cosmic structure discovered.
- ❖ It stretches 1.4 billion light-years across that contains hundreds of thousands of galaxies.
- ❖ It was remaining undetected until now because large parts of it sit half a billion light-years away behind the bright Milky Way galaxy and Zone of Avoidance.
- ❖ Zone of Avoidance is the disc of our home galaxy, a region thick and bright with dust and gas and stars.



Venus Coronae

- ❖ Researchers have recently studied the formation of Venus' ring-shaped volcanic structures called "Coronae".
- ❖ They are formed by plumes of molten rock rising from the mantle up through the crust.
- ❖ Venus was earlier determined to be an inactive planet.

- ❖ However, now it is being said that the interior is still churning and can feed many active volcanoes.



ASTHROS Mission

- ❖ NASA is to launch ASTHROS Mission from Antarctica in December 2023.
- ❖ The mission is to spend three weeks observing air currents above the continent.
- ❖ ASTHROS is Astrophysics Stratospheric Telescope for High Spectral Resolution Observation as Sub millimetre wavelengths.
- ❖ It will send a football stadium sized balloons into the stratosphere.
- ❖ The balloon will observe wavelengths of invisible light from the earth.
- ❖ The Balloon is to be inflated with Helium.



Mausam App

- ❖ The Union Minister of Earth Sciences Harsh Vardhan launched the mobile app.
- ❖ It promises accurate weather forecasts and other warnings for nearly 450 cities in the country.
- ❖ It was designed and developed by the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- ❖ It was released on 27th July 2020, in the event of celebration of 14th Foundation day of the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).



ENVIRONMENT

Fishing cats

- ❖ The Odisha Government has started a conservation project for Fishing Cats in Bhitarkanika National Park.
- ❖ The fishing cat is nocturnal (active at night).
- ❖ It is State animal of West Bengal.
- ❖ In India, fishing cats are mainly found in the mangrove forests of the Sundarbans, on the foothills of the Himalayas along the Ganga and Brahmaputra river valleys and in the Western Ghats.



CaCO₃

- ❖ There is a decrease in the concentration of oceanic calcium carbonate (CaCO₃) in the southern Indian ocean.
- ❖ This decrease in CaCO₃ is attributed to the increase in the concentration of another single-celled algae known as diatoms.

- ❖ It was a study led by the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR).

Lichen Park

- ❖ Uttarakhand has developed India's First Lichen Park in Munsiyari, Pithoragarh district.
- ❖ It aims to conserve over 150 Lichen species of Jurassic Era plants.



Zealandia

- ❖ Researchers from GNS Science in New Zealand have announced that they mapped the shape and size of the Zealandia continent.
- ❖ Scientists confirmed the existence of an eighth continent, called Zealandia, under New Zealand and the surrounding ocean in 2017.
- ❖ The map is part of a global initiative to map the planet's entire ocean floor by 2030.



Globba andersonii

- ❖ Researchers have “rediscovered” this plant species from the Sikkim Himalayas near the Teesta river valley region after a gap of nearly 136 years.

- ❖ It is a rare and critically endangered plant species.
- ❖ It is commonly as ‘dancing ladies’ or ‘swan flowers’.



REDD+ to UNFCCC

- ❖ Uganda became the first African country to submit the results for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- ❖ The submitted documents will help Uganda to claim the funds through the Green Climate Fund’s forest conservation scheme.

New butterfly species

- ❖ Lepidopterists have discovered two species of butterflies in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They are Striped Hairstreak and Elusive Prince (at Namdhapa National Park).



Botswana elephant death

- ❖ Hundreds of elephants have died mysteriously in Botswana’s Okavango Delta.
- ❖ Botswana is a landlocked country in Africa.
- ❖ 70 percent of its territory is being the Kalahari Desert.



Time Stamped Card System

- ❖ Recently, the Karnataka Forest Department has decided to put in place a traffic monitoring mechanism along the roads adjacent to Nagarahole National Park.
- ❖ It will also ensure better compliance of forest laws by motorists and will also minimize road kills.
- ❖ The Park lies in the Western Ghats and is a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Global e-waste report

- ❖ The global e-waste will increase by 38% in the decade between 2020 and 2030.
- ❖ It was revealed according to a recent United Nations University (UNU) report.
- ❖ The name of the report is “The Global E-waste Monitor 2020 report-Quantities, flows, and the circular economy potential”.
- ❖ China is the biggest contributor to e-waste with 10.1 million tonnes.
- ❖ It is followed by the United States (US) with 6.9 mt and India with 3.2 mt at 2nd and 3rd rank respectively.
- ❖ This report is jointly prepared by the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership (GESp), formed by UN University (UNU), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), in close collaboration with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ❖ UNU is a global think tank and postgraduate teaching organization headquartered in Japan.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change notified the E-Waste Management Rules, 2016.
- ❖ For the first time, these rules brought the producers under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), along with targets.

Climate Assessment Report

- ❖ Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region Report has been released by the Ministry of Earth Sciences for the first time.
- ❖ According to the report, West Bengal is one of the most climatically vulnerable states of India.
- ❖ It has a history of high number of severe cyclones in the Bay of Bengal coast.

Ophicordyceps nutans Fungus

- ❖ Researchers have found a fungi Ophicordyceps nutans for the first time in central India.
- ❖ The fungus was found on its specific host insect Halyomorpha halys.
- ❖ Morphological studies showed that it was Ophicordyceps nutans which has been reported in India only from the Western Ghats.



Dehing Patkai

- ❖ The Assam State Government has decided for the up-gradation of the status of the Dehing Patkai Wildlife Sanctuary to National Park.
- ❖ In 1992, Dehing Patkai was declared as an Elephant Reserve under the Project Elephant.
- ❖ Within the 'Eco-Sensitive Zone' of the Dehing Patkai, the proposed Saleki Reserved Forest comes.

Sakteng Wildlife sanctuary

- ❖ Bhutan's foreign ministry has issued a demarche to the Chinese embassy in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is issued against the claims made by China over Sakteng Wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ Sakteng is based in Eastern Bhutan that borders Arunachal Pradesh.



Ministerial on Climate Action (MoCA)

- ❖ The 4th edition of this international meeting was held recently.
- ❖ It was co-chaired by European Union (EU), China and Canada.
- ❖ India participated this through virtual mode.

Golden Birdwing

- ❖ Golden Birdwing is the largest butterfly in India based on the length of wingspan.
- ❖ The female Golden Birdwing with 194 mm wingspan was recorded at Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.
- ❖ 'Golden Birdwing' dethrones 'Southern Birdwing' to become the largest Butterfly in India.
- ❖ The study results were published in the BIONOTES.



Eulophia obtusa

- ❖ After 100 years a rare orchid species Eulophia obtusa has been rediscovered from Dudhwa Tiger Reserve in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ It is also known as ground orchid.

- ❖ In India, the species is listed as “critically endangered” in the IUCN Red List of endangered species.



Clean Air Counter

- ❖ It is an online tool developed by the global environmental organization - Greenpeace, Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air and IQAir AirVisual.
- ❖ New Delhi has the most Economic Impact (based on Per Capita) in the World from Air Pollution during the first half of the year 2020.
- ❖ China’s Shanghai registered the estimated 27,000 deaths due to Air Pollution.
- ❖ It is followed by New Delhi with an estimated 25,000 and China’s capital Beijing with estimated 22,000 deaths.

Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update for 2020-2024

- ❖ It was released by the United Nations weather Agency - World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ It has forecasted that the annual mean global temperature is likely to be at least 1° Celsius above pre-industrial levels (1850-1900) in each of the coming five years (2020-2024).
- ❖ The 1.5 C mark is the level to which countries have agreed to try to limit global warming as per 2015 Paris accord.

Fourth Cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018

- ❖ It has set a new record by entering the Guinness World Record for being the world’s largest camera trap wildlife survey.
- ❖ The All India Tiger Estimation done every four years is directed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority with technical support from the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ India had an estimated 2,967 tigers out of which 2461 individuals were photo captured.

- ❖ India has nearly 75% of the global tiger population.
- ❖ India has already fulfilled its resolution of doubling the tiger numbers much before its target year 2022.
- ❖ The resolution was made at St. Petersburg in 2010.

Ypthima watsoni

- ❖ Recently, a team of wildlife researchers has rediscovered 'Ypthima watsoni' butterfly at Jampui hills in Tripura.
- ❖ The species was last seen in the year 1958 in Manipur.



Tetrastemma Freyae

- ❖ Recently, researchers have identified a new species of marine invertebrate i.e. 'Tetrastemma Freyae', along the coast of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It feeds on dead and decaying material and helps to recycle nutrients in coastal and deep-water sediments.

Karimpuzha Wildlife Sanctuary

- ❖ It is 18th wildlife sanctuary in the State of Kerala.
- ❖ It is located at Malapuram District.
- ❖ It extends till Silent Valley National Park of the Palakkad District to the south and to Nadugani in the Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu to the North.

Forest Fires in India

- ❖ It was the report of the Forest Survey of India for the period of 2003–2017.
- ❖ About 54% of the forest cover in India is exposed to occasional fire.
- ❖ Most fire prone regions - Northeast India, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

Himalayan Viagra

- ❖ *Ophiocordyceps sinensis*, also known as Himalayan Viagra, is a kind of fungus.
- ❖ It is the world's costliest fungus.
- ❖ It is endemic to the Himalayan and Tibetan plateau and is found in China, Bhutan, Nepal and India.
- ❖ In India, it is primarily found in Uttarakhand in the districts like Pithoragarh and Chamoli.
- ❖ Recently it has entered into the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ IUCN has placed this fungus, in the 'vulnerable' category.

Tiger Orchids

- ❖ These are called so for their large and resplendent flowers which resemble the tiger skin.
- ❖ They flower in alternate years.
- ❖ These epiphytic plants are not native to India.
- ❖ They are endemic to southeast Asia.
- ❖ The tiger orchid has an entry in the Guinness Book of World Records due to its massive size.



World Wildlife Crime Report

- ❖ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its World Wildlife Crime Report.
- ❖ The Pangolins are the most trafficked wild animal in the world.
- ❖ Nigeria was the primary point of export of pangolins in 2019.
- ❖ Countries like Congo, Nigeria and Uganda act as transit points for the trafficking of pangolin.



Gangetic Dolphin Census

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh forest department has released the latest report.
- ❖ There are just 68 dolphins left in the Chambal river sanctuary.
- ❖ It passes through three states (Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan).
- ❖ It is India's national aquatic animal and is popularly known as 'Susu'
- ❖ They are distributed across seven states in India: Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- ❖ It has been declared endangered by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

National Award of Excellence for Outstanding Research in Forestry for 2019

- ❖ The scientist Kannan C S Warriar from Institute of Forest Genetics and Tree Breeding (IFGTB) of Coimbatore has received this award.
- ❖ The award was conferred on him by the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE).
- ❖ It was for releasing the three productive clones of casuarina, known as kattadi and savukku for the first time in the country.
- ❖ These are suitable for salt affected soils.

Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone

- ❖ The union environment ministry has approved the zonal master plan for the Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone notification
- ❖ This zone stretches from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi in the Uttarakhand state.
- ❖ Bhagirathi is the source Stream of Ganga River.
- ❖ It emanates from Gangotri glacier at Gaumukh.

Study on Regional Climatic Features

- ❖ Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) has tracked climate change by following the Paleomonsoonal pattern of the subcontinent by harnessing magnetic mineralogy.
- ❖ The magnetic minerals are sensitive to the physical and chemical environment that they are embedded in.

KURMA

- ❖ A mobile-based application called KURMA was launched on 23rd May 2020, the World Turtles Day.
- ❖ It is aimed at turtle conservation.
- ❖ It is developed by the Indian Turtle Conservation Action Network (ITCAN) in collaboration with the Turtle Survival Alliance of India and Wildlife Conservation Society of India.
- ❖ It will help in observing 2020 as the Year of the Turtle.



Giant Sea Cockroaches

- ❖ The Group of scientists from Singapore reported the discovery of “Super Giant Isopod” species.
- ❖ It is called ‘Bathynomus raksasa’ (Described as “cockroach of the sea”).
- ❖ It is the second-largest isopod species known to researchers till now.
- ❖ It was found at Banta in the eastern Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Banta is in the southern coast of West Java in Indonesia.



RAISE initiative

- ❖ Retrofit of Air-conditioning to improve Indoor Air Quality for Safety and Efficiency is RAISE initiative.
- ❖ It can potentially alleviate the issue of bad air quality in workspaces across the nation.
- ❖ It is a joint initiative of Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) and the US Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE Program.
- ❖ MAITREE is Market Integration and Transformation Programme for Energy Efficiency.

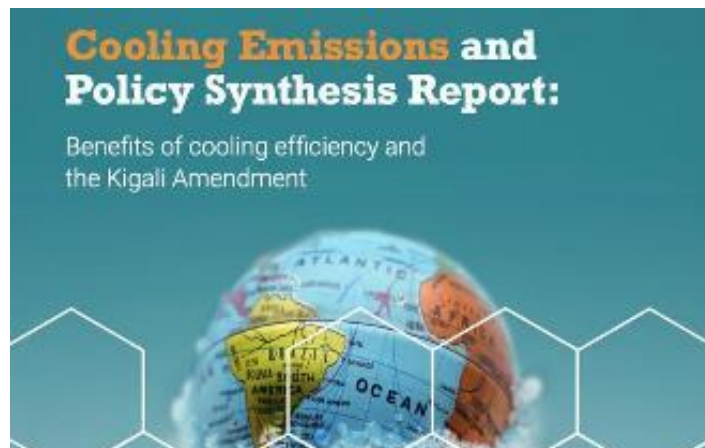


Vriksharopan Abhiyan

- ❖ The scheme will focus on creating green spaces by planting tree saplings in mined out areas.
- ❖ It will be implemented by Ministry of Coal.

Cooling Emissions and Policy Synthesis

- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme and the International Energy Agency released this report.
- ❖ The report cited benefits of cooling efficiency and Kigali Amendment report.
- ❖ The report says that the Air Conditioners use Hydrofluorocarbons that emit greenhouse gases.



- ❖ The Government of India has mandated 24°C as default temperature for Air Conditioners.
- ❖ Kigali Agreement is the amendment to the Montreal Protocol signed in 2016.
- ❖ The Montreal Protocol was signed in 1985 to phase out hydrofluorocarbons.

Green Recovery

- ❖ The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) agreed to partner toward the “Green Recovery”.
- ❖ This is to help hands for the people who are facing the harsh economic impact due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ The GCF is the world’s largest dedicated fund helping developing countries to reduce their greenhouse emission that affects the climatic change.



Oil Spill at Mediterranean Sea

- ❖ An orange brown chemical spread at marine life area in the French Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ The leak at the American-owned chemical company Kem-One spilled 200 gallons of iron chloride into the sea.
- ❖ The Sea is connected to Atlantic Ocean and is completely enclosed by land.
- ❖ The Suez Canal connects the red sea and the Mediterranean Sea.



Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations recently released this report.
- ❖ The FAO brings out the report once in every five years.
- ❖ According to the report, India is ranked third among top 10 countries where forest cover has increased in the last decade.
- ❖ China is ranked at the top.
- ❖ The forest area managed by local, indigenous communities and tribal in India increased from zero in 1990 to about 25 million hectares in 2015.
- ❖ As per the report, the world has a 31% forest area of the total land area.
- ❖ Russia has a maximum forest area accounting 20% of global forest area followed by Brazil & Canada.

World Wildlife Crime Report 2020

- ❖ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime recently released this report.
- ❖ According to the report Thailand and India are the main source countries for shipments seized in international trade of tiger parts.
- ❖ The report says that India and Thailand accounts 82% of illegal shipment of tiger body parts.
- ❖ The highest number of traffickers were from China.
- ❖ The United Nations World Wildlife Crime Report was earlier published in 2016.

Pied Cuckoo

- ❖ Recently, Wildlife Institute of India (WII), has decided to study the migration of the Pied Cuckoo Bird.
- ❖ This is the first study in the country that seeks to trace and observe the migratory routes of the pied cuckoo.
- ❖ It will give information on the monsoon, changes in the monsoon and monsoon winds.
- ❖ It is the of IBIN project.
- ❖ Indian Bio resource Information Network (IBIN) is a larger project of Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ It is proposed to be uniquely placed as a single portal data provider on India's bio resource - plant, animal, marine, spatial distribution and microbial resources.



Tuting-Tidding Suture Zone (TTSZ)

- ❖ TTSZ is a major part of the Eastern Himalaya, where the Himalaya takes a sharp southward bend and connects with the Indo-Burma Range.
- ❖ According to a recent study, TTSZ is generating moderate earthquakes at two different depths in Arunachal Pradesh.

BIS-Care

- ❖ Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Ram Vilas Paswan launched the Bureau of Indian Standard's Mobile App, 'BIS-Care'.
- ❖ The consumers can check the authenticity of the ISI and hallmarked products and also lodge complaints using this app.

Blue poppy

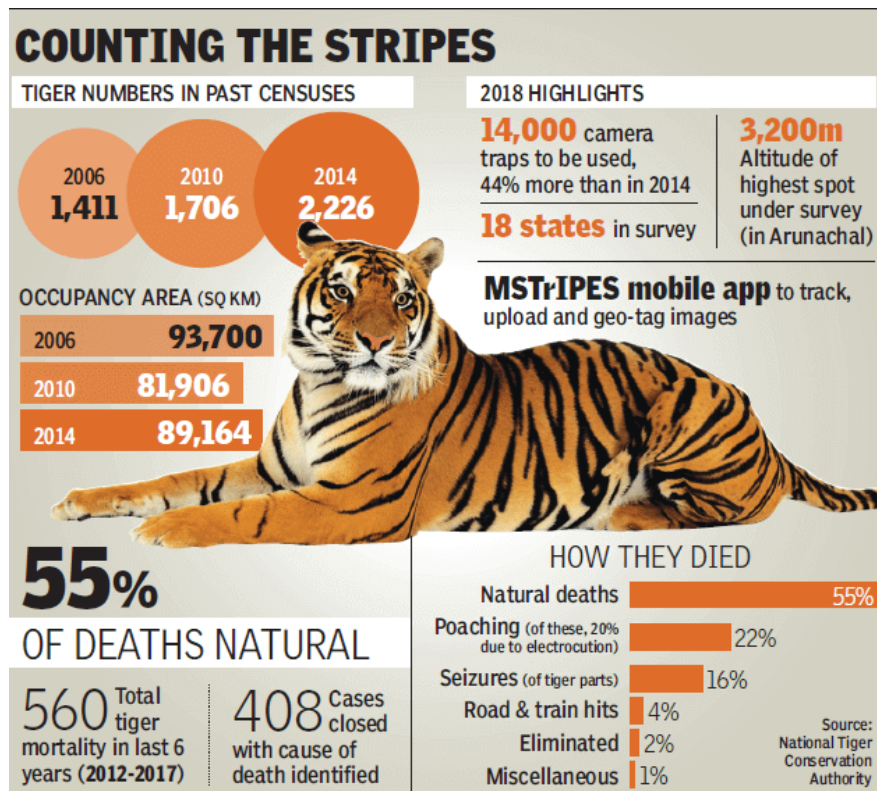
- ❖ Blue poppy is considered the Queen of Himalayan Flowers.
- ❖ It is found from Kumaon to Kashmir at elevations of 3,000 to 5,000 meters.



Status of Tigers in India Report - 2018

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released a detailed 'Status of Tigers, Co-predators and Prey in India Report' on the eve of the Global Tiger Day (29th July).

- ❖ India's Project Tiger was launched in 1973 with 9 tiger reserves.
- ❖ India has 70% of the world's tiger population.
- ❖ The national tiger status assessment of 2018-19 estimated the overall tiger population in India at 2,967 - 33% increase from 2014 (2,226).
- ❖ With 2,967 tigers, India is four years in advance, that has achieved the target set in the 2010 St Petersburg Declaration of doubling tiger population by 2022.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka (524) and Uttarakhand (442).
- ❖ Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in tiger population.
- ❖ The Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttarakhand has the highest number of tigers inside the reserve (231).
- ❖ While Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the "maximum improvement" since 2014.
- ❖ The Dampa reserve (Mizoram), Buxa reserve (West Bengal) and Palamau reserve (Jharkhand) do not have any tigers.
- ❖ Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve is the largest Tiger Reserve in India.
- ❖ The reserve spreads over five districts in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
- ❖ The area consists mostly of the Nallamala Hills.



Green Ag Project

- ❖ The Union government launched the Green-Ag Project in Mizoram.
- ❖ It aims to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
- ❖ The project seeks to integrate biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture.
- ❖ The project covers the area of Mizoram including Dampa Tiger Reserve and Thorangtlang Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ It is funded by the Global Environment Facility.
- ❖ The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare is the national executing agency.
- ❖ Other key players involved in its implementation are Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ Mizoram is one of the five states where the project will be implemented.
- ❖ Other states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.

STATES

Plasma Bank

- ❖ Delhi government will start its own 'Plasma Bank' for treatment of Coronavirus positive patients.
- ❖ It will be the first kind in India.
- ❖ Plasma Bank will begin its operations at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, Delhi.

Project Platina

- ❖ Maharashtra Government launched 'Project Platina'.
- ❖ It is the world's largest convalescent plasma therapy trial to treat severe COVID-19 patients.

Disturbed Area - Nagaland

- ❖ The Union Home Ministry declared the entire Nagaland as a "disturbed area" for six more months till December-end.
- ❖ Nagaland has been under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 for almost six decades.



‘Dream Kerala’ Project

- ❖ It is a project for the rehabilitation of Non-Resident Indian’s (NRI’s) returning to the state following the loss of employment due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
- ❖ A target for the successful implementation of the project will be within 100 days from 1st July 2020.
- ❖ For Kerala, the importance of NRI remittances is much more than any other state in the country
- ❖ In 2018, NRI remittances were Rs 85,000 crore in the state.

APCOS

- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has formally launched the activities of state-owned placement agency - Andhra Pradesh Corporation for Outsourced Services (APCOS).
- ❖ APCOS was incorporated as a Not-For-Profit Company under the Companies Act 2013.
- ❖ It is for ensuring corruption-free job placements.
- ❖ With the launch of APCOS, recruitment of outsourcing employees will now be made online in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ With the establishment of APCOS, for hiring outsourcing employees the corrupt practices will be eliminated.

Skoch award

- ❖ The District Administration of Mon at Nagaland received 2020 SKOCH awards in the 65th SKOCH summit.
- ❖ This award is the highest civilian award of the country for public service by a non-governmental organisation SKOCH Group.



Sabuja Odisha

- ❖ Odisha government decided to implement a new initiative 'Sabuja Odisha'.
- ❖ The initiative will increase green cover through extensive plantations.

Jobs for Local people

- ❖ Under this plan, 75 percent of the jobs with a salary of less than Rs 50,000 per month in private sector will be reserved for the locals of Haryana in the state.
- ❖ In the month of June 2020, Haryana had the highest unemployment rate among all states in the country.

Plasma Bank in West Bengal

- ❖ Plasma Bank for the treatment of COVID-19 positive patients has been established at the oldest medical college of India - Kolkata Medical College.
- ❖ It is the first Plasma Bank in the State of West Bengal.

BLUIS

- ❖ Odisha becomes first state in India to use space technology & artificial intelligence for safeguarding government lands.
- ❖ It is named 'BLUIS'- Bhubaneswar Land Use Intelligence System
- ❖ It is to monitor all Government lands in the state capital Bhubaneswar.



Gurupriya Bridge

- ❖ The first-ever Bus Service in history was started for the people of Swabhiman Anchal.
- ❖ It is located in Malkangiri district of Odisha.
- ❖ It was achieved only after the completion of the Gurupriya bridge.
- ❖ Surrounded by water on three sides, Swabhiman Anchal was generally known as a Maoist hub for decades.



Roko - Toko campaign

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to run this for those who do not wear masks.
- ❖ Under the campaign, the district collector will select voluntary organizations.
- ❖ They will provide masks to those who don't wear masks in public places and charge them Rs 20 per mask.

Tangams

- ❖ Recently, the Arunachal Pradesh chief Minister released a book titled "Tangams: an Ethnolinguistic study of the critically endangered group of Arunachal Pradesh".
- ❖ Tangams are a little-known community within the larger Adi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.

- ❖ As per the UNESCO World Atlas of Endangered Languages (2009), Tangam is marked 'critically endangered'.
- ❖ It is an oral language that belongs to the Tani group, under the greater Tibeto-Burman language family.

Kalaigiar Breakfast scheme

- ❖ Puducherry Chief Minister V. Narayanasamy presented the 2020-21 Budget for the Union Territory without the approval of Lt Governor Kiran Bedi and her customary address to the House.
- ❖ He announced a free breakfast scheme for poor students in government schools of Puducherry in the name of late Chief Minister and DMK President M. Karunanidhi.

Mission COPE (Covid Plasma Endeavour)

- ❖ Karnataka inaugurated its maiden plasma bank at Bengaluru as a part of Mission COPE.
- ❖ The state government in association with HCG Hospital and COVID India Campaign has launched Mission COPE.
- ❖ It is to control the spread of COVID-19 and to promote plasma donation among the recovered patients.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

P. C. Mahalanobis Award

- ❖ The first Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis National Award in Official Statistics' 2020 was given to Dr. Chakravarthi Rangarajan, Former Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) presented this.
- ❖ It was given on 29th June 2020, on account of National Statistics Day.

Wisden Player

- ❖ The Spin Bowler Ravinder Jadeja, was named India's Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 21st century by Wisden.
- ❖ He is second only to Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka.

2020 Great Immigrants

- ❖ The Carnegie Corporation of New York recognizes an eminent group of immigrants who have been making notable contributions to the progress of American Society.
- ❖ Siddhartha Mukherjee and Prof. Raj Shetty have been named among the '2020 Great Immigrants'.
- ❖ Siddhartha Mukherjee is a Pulitzer winning author.

Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020

- ❖ A national initiative called Drug Discovery Hackathon 2020 was launched.
- ❖ The initiative was launched by Ramesh Pokhriyal (Union Human Resource Development Minister) and Dr. Harsh Vardhan (Union Minister for Health & Family
- ❖ The objective of the hackathon is to identify drug candidates for the COVID-19 virus through computational methods.

Shashank Manohar

- ❖ Recently he stepped down as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman after his two 2-year tenure (4 years).
- ❖ He is the first independent chairman.

2020 Diana Award

- ❖ Freya Thakral, a 13-year-old student of the British School at New Delhi received this.
- ❖ It is for her humanitarian work towards the ragpickers of Delhi.
- ❖ It was announced on 1st July 2020, the birth anniversary of Princess Diana.

66th Grandmaster

- ❖ G. Akash from Chennai of Tamil Nadu becomes the country's 66th Grandmaster in the Chess.
- ❖ The title was confirmed at the recent meeting of International Chess Federation (FIDE) Council.

Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver

- ❖ The Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel has authored this book.
- ❖ It focuses on the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) that has affected Indian banking in recent years.

Ennio Morricone

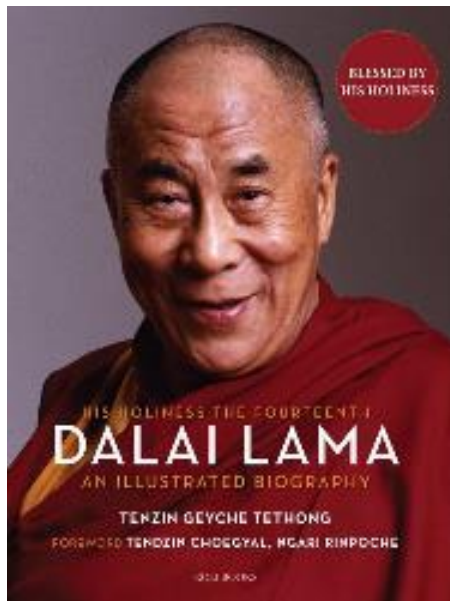
- ❖ Ennio Morricone, an Oscar-winning Italian film composer, recently passed away.
- ❖ He had composed the music for 'The Good, the Bad and the Ugly'.
- ❖ He was the only second composer to receive an honorary award at the Oscars.

2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award

- ❖ An independent filmmaker, Kezang D Thongdok from Arunachal Pradesh won the 2020 Dada Saheb Phalke Award.
- ❖ It was given for his documentary “Chi Lupo” – showcasing the practice of collection of honey from the rocky hilltops.

14th Dalai Lama

- ❖ A book titled 'His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama: An Illustrated Biography' will be released in 2020.



- ❖ The book is authored by one of the Dalai Lama's closest aide Tenzin Geyche Tethong.
- ❖ The 14th Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso.
- ❖ He now lives in Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ He fled from Tibet and came to India at the age of 23.
- ❖ His teachings of peace and non-violence have won him the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

CII-ITC Sustainability Award 2019

- ❖ The NTPC Limited (National Thermal Power Corporation Limited) won this award.
- ❖ It is under the category of Corporate Excellence for Outstanding Accomplishment.

Global Humanitarian Awards 2020

- ❖ It is instituted as a part of the “Honouring the Honourable” initiative of the World Humanitarian Drive (WHD).
- ❖ Sachin Awasthi is the president of National Media Club and Founder of Shri Ram Seva Mission.
- ❖ He was honoured with the “Top Publicist” award.
- ❖ He inaugurated the Swachh Bharat – Sundar Bharat Mission in 2014 and released a first toll free number for cleanliness in India.

2020 Von Karman Award

- ❖ The International Academy of Astronautics (IAA) has announced the ISRO chief K Sivan as the recipient of the 2020 Von Karman Award.
- ❖ The award will be presented to Dr.K.Sivan in March 2021 at Paris.



2020 Mohun Bagan Ratna

- ❖ The 2020 Mohun Bagan Ratna will be presented to Gurbux Singh former Indian Hockey player and Palash Nandi former West Bengal cricketer and coach.
- ❖ This is the first time that Mohun Bagan Ranta is not awarded to anyone from football discipline
- ❖ The Legendary Hockey Player Ashok Kumar was honoured with the Lifetime achievement award by the Kolkata city football club – Mohun Bagan Athletic Club.

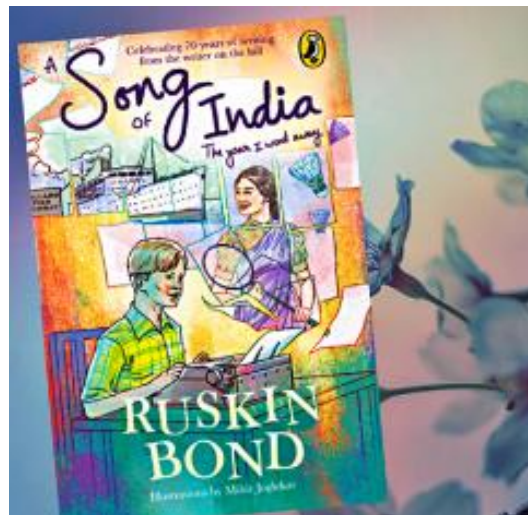
- ❖ He was the key player of the 1975 World Cup winning Indian Hockey team.
- ❖ Ashok Kumar is the son of Hockey wizard Dhyan Chand.

2020 International Press Freedom Awards

- ❖ Shahidul Alam from Bangladesh, Mohammad Mosaed from Iran, Dapo Olorunyomi from Nigeria and Svetlana Prokopyeva from Russia will be honoured.
- ❖ The lawyer Amal Clooney will be honoured with the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award 2020.
- ❖ These awards are administered by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent, non-governmental organization based in New York City of USA.

‘A Song of India’ - Book

- ❖ It is authored by Ruskin Bond.
- ❖ This book will mark the 70th year of the author’s literary career.



2020 Nelson Mandela Prize

- ❖ The President of United Nations General Assembly Tijjani Muhammad-Bande announced that Marianna Vardinoyannis, of Greece, and Doctor Morissana Kouyaté, of Guinea will receive the 2020 Nelson Mandela Prize.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) established the award in June 2014.
- ❖ It will be awarded every 5 years, to honour Nelson Mandela’s life and legacy of political and social transformation.

Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity

- ❖ The climate activist from Sweden Greta Thunberg became the first recipient of the inaugural award.
- ❖ It was awarded by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.



Roshni Nadar Malhotra

- ❖ She is India's richest woman now.
- ❖ She becomes the 1st woman to head a listed Indian IT company HCL.

Legend of Animation award

- ❖ Arnab Chaudhuri was posthumously awarded with The 'Legend of Animation' award, 2020.
- ❖ This award is instituted by the Toonz Media Group (TMG).

SPORTS

Target Opium Podium Scheme

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will launch Target Opium Podium Scheme (TOPS) for the junior athletes.
- ❖ The scheme will groom the junior athletes for 2024 and 2028 Olympics.

New Branding for Indian Athletes

- ❖ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has adopted a new branding and visual identity.
- ❖ It is on the occasion of completion of 100 years of participation of Indian athletes at the Olympic Games.
- ❖ In the 1920 Summer Olympics at Belgium's Antwerp, India sent its first Olympic team.

World rankings 2020 - Boxing

- ❖ The International Boxing Association (AIBA) has released this.
- ❖ Amit Panghal from India has been ranked first in the world ranking of 52 kg weight category.
- ❖ Manju Rani from India has got the second place in women's rankings in 48 kg weight category.

2022 FIFA Cup

- ❖ The International Federation of Association Football announced that the 2022 World Cup is to be held in Qatar.
- ❖ It will be the first world cup to be held in Arab World and also the first in a muslim-majority country.
- ❖ India has never participated at the FIFA World Cup.



2022 Youth Summer Olympics

- ❖ The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has postponed the 2022 Dakar Youth Summer Olympics by four years to 2026.
- ❖ It would be the first Youth Summer Olympic Games organized in Africa.



Lewis Hamilton

- ❖ Formula One Champion Mercedes Lewis Hamilton (British) won the Hungarian Grand Prix 2020.
- ❖ With this victory he equalled Michael Schumacher's single-venue record, i.e., winning a grand prix eight times.

Hero Indian Super League (ISL)

- ❖ It joins the World Leagues Forum (WLF).
- ❖ WLF is the association of Professional football leagues.
- ❖ It is the first league from South Asia and seventh in Asia to join the WLF.

2018 Asian Games

- ❖ Indian 4x400m mixed relay team's silver medal in the 2018 Asian Games has been upgraded to gold.
- ❖ This decision has been taken after the disqualification of original winners Bahrain due to doping ban.

ICC Super League 2020

- ❖ The ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League 2020 was inaugurated by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- ❖ The Super League will begin at England.
- ❖ The series will be played among the world champions and will decide the qualification of teams for World Cup 2023.
- ❖ The top 7 teams of the tournament will get selected for the 2023 World Cup.
- ❖ The next World Cup is scheduled to be held in India in October-November 2023.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Doctors' Day - July 1

- ❖ It is celebrated all across India to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy since 1991.
- ❖ He is often considered the Maker of Modern West Bengal.
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Lessen the mortality of COVID 19".

Chartered Accountants Day - July 1

- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the founding of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) by the parliament of India in 1949.
- ❖ ICAI is India's national professional accounting body and also the second biggest accounting organization in the world.

GST day - July 1

- ❖ The GST (Goods and Services Tax) was launched at midnight on 1 July 2017 by the President of India, and the Government of India.
- ❖ The launch was marked by a historic midnight (30 June – 1 July) session of both the houses of parliament convened at the Central Hall of the Parliament.

Van Mahotsav - July 1

- ❖ It is an annual one-week tree planting festival in India.
- ❖ It was started in 1950 by Kanaiyalal Maneklal Munshi

World Sports Journalists Day – July 2

- ❖ The day aims to acknowledge the work of sports journalists.
- ❖ It was established in 1994 to mark the 70th anniversary of the International Sports Press Association (AIPS).

World Allergy Week – June 28 to July 4

- ❖ It is an annual event initiated by the World Allergy Organisation.
- ❖ The theme of World Allergy Week 2020 is “Allergy care does not stop with COVID-19”.

World UFO Day - July 2

- ❖ The first World UFO Day (Unidentified Flying Objects) was celebrated in 2001 by UFO researcher Haktan Akdogan.
- ❖ According to UFO watchers, in 1947 a flying saucer with aliens on board landed outside the New Mexico town of Roswell.
- ❖ On 29 April of 2020, the Pentagon released three short videos showing "unidentified aerial phenomena".
- ❖ The department of Défense in USA said that the videos were taken by US Navy pilots in 2004 and 2005.
- ❖ However, according to NASA "no astronaut has seen a UFO in space."

Dharma Chakra Day - July 4

- ❖ The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in partnership with Ministry of Culture, celebrated the Asadha Poornima on July 4, 2020 as Dharma Chakra Day.
- ❖ The day marks Buddha's first teaching after attaining Enlightenment to the first five ascetic disciples (pañcavargika).
- ❖ The teaching of Dhamma Cakka – Pavattana Sutta (Pali) is also known as the First Turning of Wheels of Dharma.



USA's Independence Day – July 4

- ❖ It is commemorating the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776.
- ❖ On this day, delegates from the 13 colonies adopted the Declaration of Independence.
- ❖ It is a historic document drafted by Thomas Jefferson.



International Day of Cooperatives – July 4

- ❖ It has been observed by the International Cooperative Alliance since 1923.
- ❖ But The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this day only in 1992.
- ❖ This year the theme is Cooperatives for Climate Action.



World Zoonoses Day – July 6

- ❖ It is observed to commemorate the scientific achievement of administering first vaccination against a zoonotic disease.
- ❖ It was on July 6, 1885, when Louis Pasteur successfully administered the first vaccine against Rabies virus, a zoonotic disease.
- ❖ He reduced mortality from puerperal fever, and created the first vaccines for rabies and anthrax.
- ❖ He is best known to the general public for his invention of the technique of treating milk and wine to stop bacterial contamination, a process now called pasteurization.
- ❖ Zoonoses are infectious diseases caused by bacteria, viruses and parasites that spread between animals and humans.
- ❖ Zoonoses can spread from direct contact with animals or indirectly, vector-borne or food-borne.



National Fish Farmers Day - July 10

- ❖ The initiative of celebrating the Day was first taken by Mumbai's Central Institute of Fisheries Education.
- ❖ In Odisha's Angul district, the first success in induced breeding of fish (by Hypophysation method) was achieved by the two scientists Prof (Dr.) Hiralal Chaudhuri and Dr. K.H. Alikunhi.
- ❖ They further demonstrated the process in the three Indian major carps (Catla, Rohu and Mrigal species of fish) on 10th July 1957.
- ❖ In remembrance of the contribution of Dr. H.L Chaudhury and Dr. K.H Alikunhi, 10th July is marked as National Fish Farmers Day in India.
- ❖ India is the 2nd Largest Aquaculture Producer in the world.
- ❖ Also, India is the third-largest fish producing country in the world.
- ❖ It was the data by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization's GLOBEFISH.

World Population Day - July 11

- ❖ It was established in 1989 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ It was inspired by the 'The Day of Five Billion'.
- ❖ It was observed on 11th July 1987 as an approximate day when the world population crossed 5 billion.
- ❖ The 2020 Focus will be on 'Peace in the Home: Safeguarding the Health and Rights of Women and Girls - Even During COVID-19'.
- ❖ As estimated in March 2020, the global population is estimated to have crossed 7.8 billion.
- ❖ As per projects, the human population in the world will reach about 10 billion in the next 3 decades.

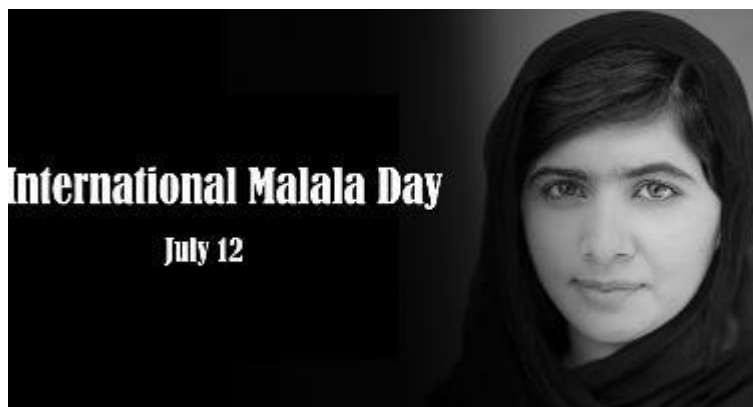
Counter-Terrorism Week



- ❖ The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) observed 2nd Counter-Terrorism Week from July 6 - 10, 2020.
- ❖ The theme of the week of this year is “Strategic and Practical Challenges of Countering Terrorism in a Global Pandemic Environment”.

Malala Day – July 12

- ❖ It is commemorated on the birthday of Malala Yousafzai to honor women and children’s rights around the world.
- ❖ She was born in 1997 at Pakistan
- ❖ In October 2012, Malala was attacked by Taliban gunmen and was in a critical condition.
- ❖ In 2012, she was awarded the first-ever National Youth Peace Prize by the Pakistan government.
- ❖ In 2014, at age 17, Malala became the youngest-ever recipient of the Nobel Peace prize in recognition of her efforts for children’s rights.
- ❖ The UN has declared her as “the most famous teenager in the world” in its Decade in Review report in 2019.



NABARD Foundation - July 13

- ❖ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has celebrated its 39th Foundation Day



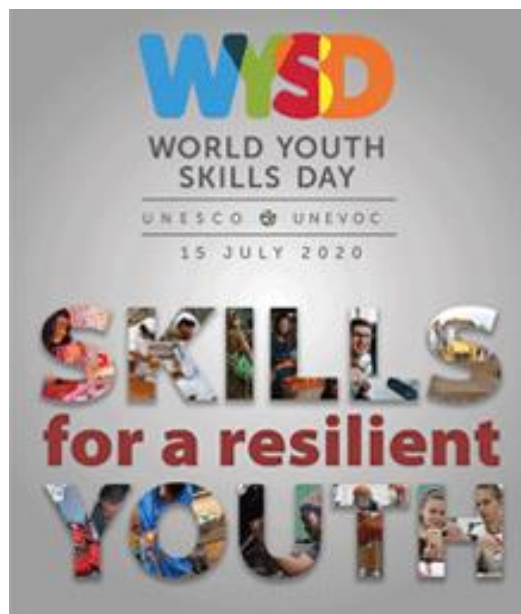
- ❖ It organized its first “digital choupal” event.
- ❖ The NABARD has launched a refinance scheme for financial institutions and banks.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies are to be turned into multi-service centres.
- ❖ The fund allocated is to be made available to financial institutions and banks to lend to the watershed development projects.

Bastille Day - July 14

- ❖ It is also known as the French National Day.
- ❖ In 1789, a violent uprising helped usher in the French Revolution.
- ❖ Citizens stormed of the Bastille fortress, which was used to lodge the state prisoners.
- ❖ Bastille had become the symbol of the harsh rule and tyranny of the French monarchy, especially King Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette.
- ❖ French poet and philosopher, Voltaire was imprisoned in Bastille.
- ❖ Liberty, Equality and Fraternity" became the war cry of the common people and it remained the country's official motto even to this day.

World Youth Skills Day - July 15

- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2014.
- ❖ Theme for 2020: “Skills for a Resilient Youth”.
- ❖ The day also marks the 5th anniversary of the launch of Skill India Mission.



World Seabird Day- July 3

- ❖ Seabirds are just like regular birds; except they are very much adapted to marine life.
- ❖ It was the last day the Great Auk was sighted before it went extinct.
- ❖ Guano, a fertilizer from excreta of seabird, cave bats and seals are highly rich in nitrogen, phosphate and potassium.
- ❖ It is mainly used by organic farmers.

Day of International Criminal Justice - July 17

- ❖ It is also called as international criminal justice day and World Day for International Justice.
- ❖ The 17th of July was chosen to commemorate the adoption of Rome Statute in 1998.
- ❖ It is the founding treaty of International Criminal Court (ICC).

Mandela Day - July 18

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly officially declared this day in November 2009.
- ❖ Nelson Mandela was born on July 18, 1918 at Union of South Africa.
- ❖ He served as the First Black President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999.
- ❖ He also was the first one elected in a fully representative democratic election at South Africa
- ❖ He was also known as Madiba and the "Father of the Nation" of South Africa as well as the Gandhi of South Africa.
- ❖ He got the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.
- ❖ He got Bharat Ratna in 1990.
- ❖ The theme of this year for the day is "Take action, inspire change".



World Chess Day - July 20

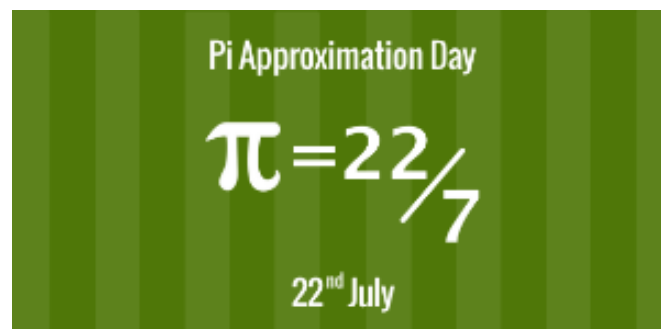
- ❖ United Nations' (UN) First World Chess Day is celebrated all over the World.
- ❖ This day also marks the 95th Anniversary of the International Chess Federation called FIDE.
- ❖ The FIDE's motto of 2020 is "Teach someone how to play chess."
- ❖ The modern chess is believed to be derived from the ancient board game "Chaturanga" originated in North India during the Gupta Period.

Space Exploration Day - July 20

- ❖ It is celebrated to mark the anniversary of man's first historic landing on the moon.
- ❖ On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Edwin Buzz of the USA became the first humans to land on moon's surface.

Pi Approximation Day - July 22

- ❖ The fraction $22/7$ is an approximate value of Pi.
- ❖ Pi was presented by William Jones in 1706, and the use of the symbol of Pi was popularized by Leonhard Euler.
- ❖ An 18th-century French mathematician, Georges Buffon, invented a way to calculate π based on probability.



National Broadcasting Day - July 23

- ❖ It is to commemorate the first ever radio broadcast aired in India on 23rd July 1927.
- ❖ It was made from Bombay Station.
- ❖ It was then owned by a private company called the Indian Broadcasting Company.
- ❖ The Government took over the broadcasting on April 1, 1930 and renamed it as Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS).
- ❖ The Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) became the All India Radio (AIR) in June 1936.

Kargil Vijay Diwas - July 26

- ❖ On July 26, 1999, Indian Government culminated “Operation Vijay” and declared victory after three-month long battle in Kargil.
- ❖ The Kargil War is an armed conflict between India and Pakistan that took place along Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The operation Vijay was launched by the Indian Army twice in Indian history.
- ❖ The first Operation Vijay was launched in 1961 that led to the capture of Goa.
- ❖ The second operation of Vijay was launched in 1999.
- ❖ The operation White Sea was also launched during Kargil war, 1999.

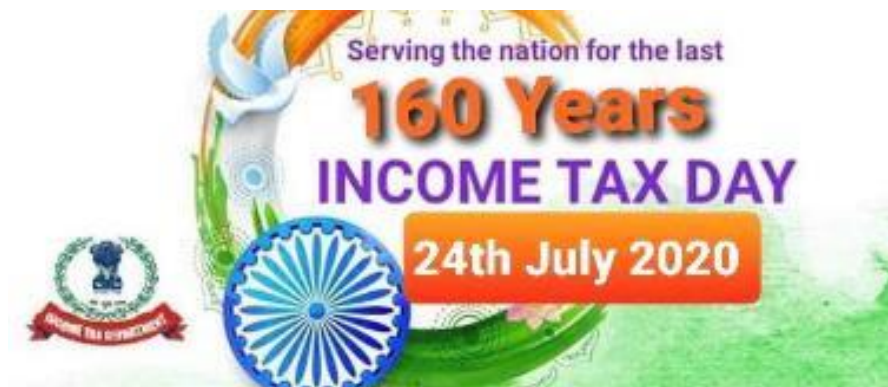


International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem - July 26

- ❖ It was adopted by the General Conference of the UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems.

Income Tax Day – July 24

- ❖ The Income Tax Day has been celebrated in India on 24th July since 2010.
- ❖ Income tax was introduced in India by Sir James Wilson on 24th July 1860, to compensate for the losses of the British government due to the First war of Independence in 1857.
- ❖ This year is marked as the 160th Income Tax Day.



CRPF Raising Day - July 27

- ❖ The Central Reserve Police Forces (CRPF) came into existence as Crown Representative's Police on 27th July 1939.
- ❖ It was renamed as CRPF by India's 1st home minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ It is India's largest Central Armed Police Force and considered as India's largest paramilitary force.
- ❖ It functions under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).



World Hepatitis Day - July 28

- ❖ It is marked by the World Health Organization and various other organizations all over the world.
- ❖ It was chosen as it is the birthday of Nobel Prize winner Dr Baruch Blumberg.



- ❖ The scientist discovered Hepatitis B virus.
- ❖ There are five main strains of Hepatitis Virus namely A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Hepatitis-Free Future.

Global Tiger Day - July 29

- ❖ The decision to celebrate the day was taken at the Saint Petersburg Declaration on Tiger conservation signed in 2010.

- ❖ The leaders attended this summit pledged to make efforts to double the tiger population by 2022.
- ❖ India has 70% of total tiger population in the world.
- ❖ This year it is celebrated with the slogan, “Their Survival is in our hands”.



The International Day of Friendship – July 30

- ❖ It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UN) on July 30 since 2011.
- ❖ In India, however, it is usually celebrated on the first Sunday of the month of August (August 2 on this year).

World Day against Trafficking in Persons – July 30

- ❖ It is held on July 30th since 2013 by the United Nations General Assembly.
- ❖ The UN has initiated 'The Blue Heart Campaign' to raise global awareness to fight human trafficking and its impact on society.

World Ranger Day – July 31

- ❖ It is annually celebrated on July 31 as a celebration of the founding of the International Ranger Federation.
- ❖ It is to commemorate Rangers killed or injured in the line of duty and to celebrate the work Rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage.

