

June - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched Shahakar Mitra: Scheme on Internship Programme, an initiative by National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC).
 - The scheme has been launched to assist the cooperative institutions to access innovative ideas of young professionals.
- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given its approval to cover Telemedicine under the medical insurance policies.
- ❖ India's 800 m runner Gomathi Marimuthu handed four-year ban for doping.
 - She will be stripped off the gold medal she won at the Asian Athletics Championships last year.
- ❖ The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become of the first construction sector organization to go fully digital.
 - It has been transformed into online portal completely through the Data Lake and Project Management Software.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur recently launched the Panchvati Yojana for senior citizens in the rural areas of the state.
 - The scheme aims to help the senior citizens spend their leisure time in these gardens and parks.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched "Jagananna Chedodu" scheme.
 - The scheme is to provide financial assistance of 1000 rupees to barbers, tailors and washer men.
- ❖ The E-Commerce giant Amazon banned the use of its software "Rekognition" by the police.
 - The software used to quickly compare a picture with the police data bases that holds hundreds of 1000s of photos.
- ❖ The first population estimation exercise of Indian gaur (Indian Bison) was carried out in the Nilgiris forest division in February.
 - It has revealed that more than an estimated 2,000 Indian gaurs inhabit the 300 sq. km range.

NATIONAL

Nature Index 2020

- ❖ The Nature Index is a database of author affiliations and institutional relationships.
- ❖ The database is compiled by Nature Research, a division of the international scientific publishing company Springer Nature which is an American German academic publishing company based in Germany.
- ❖ The top five positions have gone to the United States of America, China, Germany, United Kingdom and Japan.
- ❖ The overall ranking of India is 12th in the index and top 3 Ranking of Institutions from India are
 - Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 - Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc)
 - Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
- ❖ Three of the autonomous institutions of the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India have also found their place among top 30 Indian Institutions.
- ❖ These are
 - The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata - at 7th position
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore - at 14th position
 - S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata - at 30th position.

Institution	Count	Share
1. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)	158	95.95
2. Indian Institute of Science (IISc)	209	81.28
3. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)	214	63.38
4. Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)	196	57.17
5. Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay)	113	50.37
6. Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS)	78	45.01
7. Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER Kolkata)	66	43.35
8. Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IIT Guwahati)	68	37.45
9. Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)	145	34.31
10. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur)	57	29.95



HeiQ Viroblock

- ❖ Textile major Arvind Limited has announced the launch of an anti-viral textile technology for its fabric and garment products.
- ❖ Arvind claims that garments treated with HeiQ Viroblock actively inhibit viruses and kill them upon contact, helping to minimize the potential for re-transmission of pathogens through clothing.
- ❖ HeiQ Viroblock NPJ03 is an intelligent Swiss textile technology that is added to the fabric during the final stage of the textile manufacturing process.
- ❖ It is a special combination of advanced silver and vesicle technology.



INTERNATIONAL

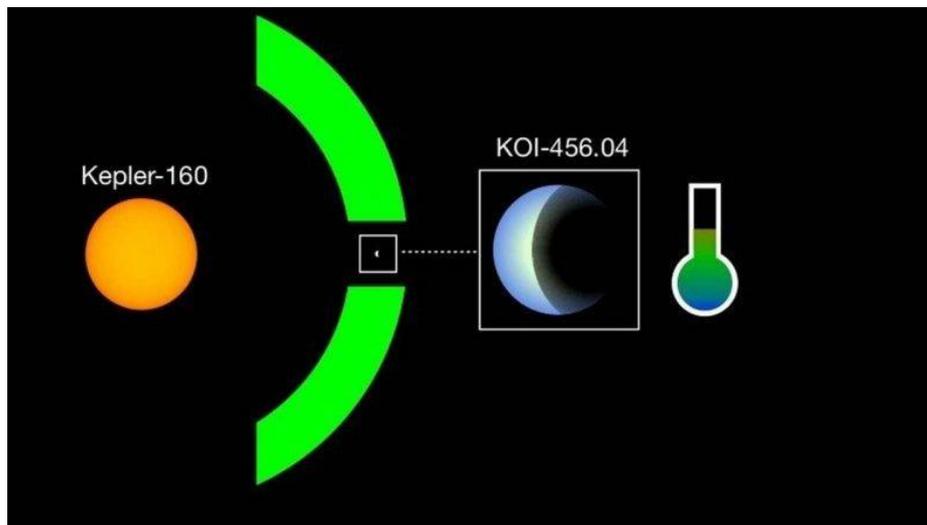
USA and ICC

- ❖ U.S. President Donald Trump has issued an executive order.
- ❖ It is authorising sanctions against individuals involved in an International Criminal Court (ICC) investigation into whether U.S. forces committed war crimes in Afghanistan.
- ❖ But, the U.S. government has never been a member of the court.
- ❖ The International Criminal Court (ICC), located in The Hague, is the court of last resort for prosecution of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- ❖ It is the first permanent, treaty based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community.
- ❖ Its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, entered into force on July 1, 2002.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

KOI-456.04

- ❖ A team of scientists from the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research (MPS) in Gottingen (Germany), the Sonneberg Observatory, the University of Göttingen, the University of California, and NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), have discovered a new planet by using Kepler Space Telescope.
- ❖ It is named KOI-456.04 & its host star called Kepler-160.
- ❖ The massive exoplanet KOI-456.04 orbits its star located some 3,000 light-years away from the Earth.
- ❖ It is less than twice the size of Earth.
- ❖ It takes approximately 378 days to complete one orbit.
- ❖ The star Kepler-160 has at least three planets in its orbit & emits visible light, which is something that most exoplanets' stars don't do.
- ❖ This is significant because most exoplanets' stars tend to be small and fainter than the Sun and mostly emit infrared radiation – belonging to the 'red dwarf' classification of stars.



ENVIRONMENT

Import of Exotic Species

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently issued advisory to import of Exotic Live Species.

- ❖ Under the new guidelines, the Ministry has said that “Exotic Live Species” are to be construed to mean only under Appendices I, II and III of the CITES (Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species).
- ❖ Under Appendix I of the CITES, no trade happens.
- ❖ Under Appendix II, trade shall be allowed only with minor permission.
- ❖ In Appendix III, there are large numbers of birds and animals that are listed that can be traded.
- ❖ The Exotic Live Species are plant or animal species that move from the original range to a new one.
- ❖ Some of the most sought after exotic species in India are Ball python, Scarlet Macaw, sea turtles, sugar glider (*Petaurus breviceps*), marmoset and grey African parrots.

