TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM
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- ❖ The Ministry of Labour and Employment is to provide Career Skills Training under its National Career Service Project in partnership with TCS.

- ❖ Four Indian cosmonauts have begun their training in Russia again under India's Gaganyaan mission.
  - o Individuals who have selected for the mission are being trained at Russia's Gagarin Research & Test Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC).

- ❖ The United States has officially terminated its relationship with the World Health Organisation.
  - o The US President stated that the US will be redirecting the funds intended for WHO to other worldwide and deserving, urgent global public health needs.

- ❖ The Kerala Government announced that the ambitious project of the state called the K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network) project is to be implemented by December 2020.
  - o Under the K-FON project the Kerala Government aims to link all the houses and offices in the state with optical fibre network.

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology operating under Ministry of Science and Technology launched the Indian National Super Model.
  - o The Model was launched to help monitor transmission of COVID-19 infection.

- ❖ The International Everest Day is observed every year on 29 May.
  - o It is observed every year in memory of the first summit of Mt. Everest on 29 May 1953 undertaken by Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay from Nepal who became first humans to achieve the feat.

- ❖ The United Nations proclaimed June 1 to be the Global Day of Parents.
  - o The UN General Assembly declared Global Day of Parents on June 1 since 2012.

- ❖ "My Life – My Yoga" contest is a Video Blogging Contest.
  - o It is a joint effort by the Ministry of AYUSH and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

- ❖ COVID-19 is the first pan India biological disaster being handled by the legal and constitutional institutions of the country.
  - o Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the States and district authorities can frame their own rules on the basis of broad guidelines issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- ❖ The Ministry of Electronics and IT and IT Industry body NASSCOM has jointly developed India's national Artificial Intelligence Portal.
  - o The portal aims to aid the development of solutions based on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is stating that PM CARES FUNDS is not a 'public authority' under the Right to Information Act, 2005.
  - So it has refused to divulge any information about that fund under the RTI Act.

- The Central Drug Control Standard Organisation (CDCSO), India's top drug controller has permitted Gilead Sciences for marketing authorization of its anti-viral drug 'Remdesivir'.
  - Remdesivir had also been used during the Ebola outbreak.

- The 36th National Games, which were scheduled to be held between October and November in Goa, have now been postponed indefinitely due to COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The 35th edition was organized at Kerala in 2015.

- China will be setting up a 1,124-megawatt power project on Jhelum river in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under the multi-billion-dollar China–Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework.
  - The mega power project is called the Kohala hydropower project.

- The Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kiren Rijju inaugurated the India Community Coach Development Programme.
  - The programme has been launched to give more importance to Physical Education in schools.

- International Sex Workers Day is observed annually on June 2 of every year.

- The Chennai Metro Rail Limited has implemented a foot-operated elevator at Koyambedu in Chennai.
  - It is first kind of lift mechanism in India.

- The Former Supreme Court judge Justice A K Sikri has inaugurated the Indian Dispute Resolution Centre (IDRC) at Delhi.
  - It provides a paperless dispute resolution environment.

- R. Sreelekha is all set to become the first woman Director General of Police in Kerala.

- Switzerland has declared May 26 as Science Day in honour of visiting Geneva by the former President of India Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam.

- Carmen Reinhart of the USA become the chief economist and vice president at the World Bank for two year tenure.

- Srichand and Gopichand of Hinduja, who run the Hinduja Group of companies, occupied the second in the United Kingdom's Rich List 2020.
  - Inventor Sir James Dyson has topped the Sunday Times Rich List 2020 for the first time.

- The International Day of Action for Women's Health is an international observance celebrated on May 28 every year since 1987.

- It is being coordinated by the Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights (WGNRR).

❖ Cessna Caravan, the world's largest all-electric aircraft of the USA, made its first successful flight.

- The engine of that all-electric aircraft is made by MagniX.

❖ Roger Federer of Switzerland is the highest paid athlete in the world for the first time, according to Forbes's annual list.

- Naomi Osaka of Japan is the first female athlete overtaking fellow tennis player Serena Williams of USA as the highest paid female athlete in the world.

❖ Russia is testing its nuclear-powered Skif missile which can hit a target as far as 6,000 miles away.

- It is being called the world's biggest dirty "doomsday bomb".

❖ World Digestive Health Day is celebrated every year on 29th May.

- The theme for the year 2020 campaign is "Gut Microbiome: A Global Perspective."

❖ The Union Cabinet approved renaming of Kolkata Port Trust to Shyama Prasad Mukerjee port trust.

- Earlier, the announcement was made during the 150th anniversary celebrations of Kolkata Port Trust.

❖ Anubhav is a week-long online project, organized by SPIC MACY seeks to help youngsters indulge in mystical and diverse aspects of Indian art, culture and heritage.

- Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music And Culture Amongst Youth is SPIC MACAY.

❖ The Government of India launched Kisan Credit Card campaign to 1.5 lakh dairy farmers working with Milk Unions and Milk producing Companies.

- It is a part of Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

❖ The Bimal Julka Committee on Rationalization of Film Media operating under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting submitted its report to the ministry for the development of Film industry.

❖ PM Modi will hold a virtual bilateral summit with the Australian PM Scott Morrison.

- This is the first ever virtual bilateral summit to be held by India.

❖ The World Bank recently launched the Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020.

- The report says that the Emerging Market and the Developing Economies are highly vulnerable.

❖ The central government has initiated a consultation process for the formulation of new science, technology, and innovation policy (STIP 2020), a fifth policy in a row.

- This process has been jointly initiated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Office to the Principal Scientific Advisor to Government of India.

❖ To foster the inclusion of LGBTQAI+ employees, Mahindra Logistics Ltd. (MLL) has unveiled a five-year plan.

- It aims at hiring queer people and extending benefits to same-sex partners.

❖ The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) predicts that there would be a 24% increase in the expansion of Ameri Ice Shelf (AIS) boundaries by 2021 and another 24% expansion by 2026 from its 2016 positions.

- The Amery Ice Shelf is one of the largest glacier drainage basins in the world, located on the east coast of Antarctica.

❖ The Long-distance runner Kiranjeet Kaur has been handed a four-year ban by World Athletics' anti-doping body for testing positive for a banned substance (Enobosarm).

❖ The Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju and tribal affairs minister Arjun Munda inaugurated Khelo India e-Pathshala programme which aims to provide online coaching and education to athletes living in far-off areas.

- The progamme was launched by the Sports Authority of India (SAI), in association with National Sporting Federations (NSFs) recently.

❖ India and Australia have signed a historic agreement, called 'Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA)', to allow access to military bases for logistics support.

❖ The Union minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari launched the United Nations Development Programme campaign called "Prevention of Human and Animal Mortality on highways".

- The campaign is launched to bring down the accident rates.

❖ The Asian Football Confederation confirmed that India will host 2022 Women's Asian Cup.

- This is the first time India is hosting the cup since 1979.

❖ The Reserve Bank of India created Payment Infrastructure Development Fund of Rs 500 crores.

- The fund has been created to increase point of sale infrastructure and other digital payment infrastructure in the country.

❖ Russia declared state of emergency after oil spilled into Ambarnaya river.

- The Ambarnaya River flows into environmentally sensitive Arctic Ocean.

❖ The Union Power Minister R K Singh initiated the '#iCommit' campaign to commemorate World Environment Day.

- The initiative calls upon all stakeholders and individuals to continue working towards energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainability to create a robust and resilient energy system in the future.

- ❖ The tenure of Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K Shanmugam has been extended by three months till October 31.
  - o The Central Government has communicated its approval for the extension to the state government.
- ❖ The Chhattisgarh Government recently launched Spandan Campaign.
  - o The campaign aimed to contain fratricide and suicide involving police personnel.
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, a plantation drive named "Thank Mom" has been started to increase the forest cover in the state.
- ❖ Krishnendu Majumdar becomes the new chairman of British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).
  - o He becomes the first Global Indian to be appointed to the prestigious role in BAFTA's 73-year history.
- ❖ India appointed Brajendra Navnit, a 1999 batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre as India's new ambassador to the World Trade Organization (WTO).
  - o The appointments committee of the cabinet chaired by prime minister also appointed Rajeev Tapno, a 1996 batch Gujarat cadre IAS officer, as the senior adviser to the executive director at the World Bank for a period of three years.
- ❖ Google has developed new app called Sodar.
  - o It will notify a user whenever a person is closer than the pandemic allows.
- ❖ The Lieutenant Governor (LG) of Jammu and Kashmir (JK) Girish Chandra Murmu launched JK Employees Salary Tracker Mobile App "Mera Vetan".
- ❖ World Pest Day is celebrated every year on June 6 to raise awareness of how pest management helps preserve the quality of life.
  - o The day is initiated by the Chinese Pest Control Association.
- ❖ China has issued a white paper on the country's battle against COVID-19.
  - o The document is titled "Fighting COVID-19: China in Action."
- ❖ New Zealand declared itself COVID-19 free following the recovery of its last patient.
- ❖ Pakistan witnessed the highest inflation in the world during the fiscal year 2020.
- ❖ The member countries of the G20 Group have pledged to donate more than USD21 billion to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic.

- ❖ The Indian Air Force has designed, developed and manufactured ARPIT - an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation.
- ❖ The natural gas has been continuously flowing out of a gas well in Assam following a blowout.

- This happened after the blowout at the Oil India Limited's (OIL) Baghjan gas well in Assam's Tinsukia district.

❖ The Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy along with the Mekins Industries has developed Ultra Violet C (UVC) based Cabinet to disinfect COVID-19 patients.

❖ The Government of India has allocated Rs 1,01,500 crores under the MGNREGA programme in the year 2020-21 so far.
  - This is the highest provision of funds allocated for the scheme since its launch.

❖ Adani Green Energy Ltd has bagged the world's largest solar bid of USD 6 billion from the state-run renewable energy agency SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India).
  - Under this project, the group will build 8,000 MW photovoltaic (PV) power plant and will also set up a 2,000 MW domestic solar panel.

❖ Uttarakhand opened its biggest biodiversity park in Haldwani on the World Environment Day.
  - The various species of plants have been brought to the park from diverse terrains like Niti Mana Valley of Uttarakhand.

❖ The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts hosted a four day virtual fair for around 200 Indian Exporters.
  - It is the First virtual Trade Fair of India.

❖ Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, CBIC has launched its flagship programme Turant Customs, at Bengaluru and Chennai.
  - Under this, Importers will now get their goods cleared from Customs after a faceless assessment is done remotely by the Customs officers located outside the port of import.

❖ National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to provide its training partners access to the TCS iON Digital Glass Room.
  - The new partnership between NSDC and TCS will help in strengthening NSDC's online aggregation platform eSkill India.

❖ Indian weightlifter K Sanjita Chanu has been cleared of doping charge by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF).
  - The IWF took the decision based on the recommendation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

❖ The Government of Bangladesh has launched an online network called Shohojodha.
  - It is to facilitate plasma exchange between recovered COVID-19 patients and those undergoing treatment for coronavirus in the country.

❖ The private sector will now be allowed to use ISRO facilities and other assets to improve their capacities in the sector.

- The Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani announced that the Phase-2 of the Saurashtra-Narmada Avataran Irrigation (SAUNI) Yojana will be completed before August 15.
  - The scheme aims to meet the drinking water requirements of Saurashtra and Kutch regions with Narmada waters.
- The Bharatmala Pariyojana that was scheduled to be completed in 2021-22 is to be completed by 2025-26.
  - The scheme was launched for road construction in India.
- The Eastern Naval Command (ENC) has inaugurated the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex at Vishakhapatnam.
- The Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami inaugurated7.87 km two-tier flyover, the longest bridge in the State, at Salem.
  - He announced that the flyover would be called Puratchi Thalaivi J. Jayalalithaa two-tier flyover.
- The Tamil Nadu government has notified that 1018 towns and cities have been rechristened throughout the state to suit their Tamil pronunciation.
  - It was done by the Ministry of Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology (Government of Tamil Nadu).
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has reconstituted a committee to look into the welfare of freedom fighters.
  - It is formed with the minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy as the chairman and nine "eminent freedom fighters" from across the country as its members.
- The Digital technology firm in the waste management space "Recykal" has joined hands with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages (HCCB) for developing sustainable plastic waste management practices.
  - It is called Project Prithvi, a pan-India partnership.
- Renjith Kumar, an aerospace entrepreneur hailing from Thiruvanatha puran of Kerala, has been bestowed with NASA Distinguished Service Medal.
  - It is an award similar to the NASA Service Medal, but awarded to non-government personnel.
- 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o 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.
  - o It has revealed that more than an estimated 2,000 Indian gaurs inhabit the 300 sq. km range.
- ❖ International Albinism Awareness Day is observed on 13th June every year.
  - o The theme of this year is 'Made To Shine'.
- ❖ The International Labour Organization and the UNICEF have released a report on Child Labour.
  - o The report has been released under the title of "COVID-19 and Child Labour: A Time of Crisis, A Time to Act".
- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organization has developed 'GermiKlean'.
  - o It is a sanitising chamber that can be used to sanitise uniforms of security and police personnel.
- ❖ The National Institute of Space Research (INPE) announced that the increase in deforestation of Amazon forests has been the highest in 2019 as compared to last 5 years.
  - o Deforestation in the region has increased after President Jair Bolsonaro took office in 2019.
- ❖ A list of countries such as New Zealand, Fiji, Montenegro, Tanzania, Vatican, Seychelles, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, St Kitts and Nevis have declared themselves as covid free.
  - o The Punjab Government has launched "Ghar Ghar Nigrani" mobile application to undertake house to house surveillance to eliminate COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Researchers of IIT Kharagpur have developed an Artificial Intelligence based cyber-physical system to monitor social distancing in public places.
- The Veteran Urdu poet Anand Mohan Zutshi 'Gulzar' Dehlvi recently passed away.
  - Gulzar was the editor of "Science ki Duniya", the only science magazine published in Urdu by the Government of India.
- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir recently launched the Poultry policy, 2020.
- The Chilean and Argentine researchers have unearthed teeth of a species called Magallanodon baikashkenk in the Patagonia region.
  - It is belonging to a mammal that lived 74 million years ago.
- The Bank of Baroda, India's third-largest lender has decided to completely digitise it's lending operations.
- The Uttar Pradesh state Government has launched 'Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana' to educate child labourers in the state.
- PepsiCo Foundation announced that it will invest to provide safe water access to agricultural communities and help women in high water-risk areas in West Bengal and Maharashtra in association with WaterAid.
- The Karnataka government is planning to establish a monkey park on the uninhabited islands in the Sharavathi backwaters region.
- The traditional art of 'talamaddale', a variant of Yakshagana theatre, is an ancient form of performance dialogue or debate performance in the Karavali and Malnad regions of Karnataka and Kerala.
- Raja Parba festival was celebrated at Odisha.
  - It is dedicated to Mother Earth (Bhuma Devi) and womanhood at large.
- The Pune based Serum Institute of India is to supply Pneumonia vaccine to low-income countries.
  - The Institute is one of the leading manufacturers of vaccines and immunobiological drugs.
- The Delhi Government is to convert the Radha Soami Spiritual Centre into a COVID-19 care facility.
  - This centre will be the largest COVID-19 facility in the world.
- The AYUSH Ministry has launched 'Yoga at Home, Yoga with Family' campaign to mark the International Yoga Day 2020.

- Recently, the Kerala Government has started a virtual class initiative called 'First Bell'.
- The Odisha Cabinet accorded the State song status to 'Bande Utkala Janani'.
  - It was a patriotic poem written by Kantakabi Laxmikant Mohapatra.
- West Bengal government has launched a job portal 'KarmaBhumi' for IT professionals who have returned to the state amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In Telangana, Hyderabad City Police has launched a programme called "She Triumphs through Respect, Equality, and Empowerment" (STREE)
  - It is to support and empower women victims of domestic violence and abuse.
- International Picnic Day is observed on June 18, every year.
- The Historian Dinyar Patel has written a fine biography "Naoroji: Pioneer of Indian Nationalism".
- The United States has indicated that it would like to secure priority access to doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
  - This prioritisation of domestic markets has become known as vaccine nationalism.
- The Supreme Court of India has stayed annual Rath Yatra at Puri's Jagannath Temple in Odisha which was scheduled from June 23.
  - The apex court said that 'Lord Jagannath won't forgive us if we allow this year's Rath Yatra'.
- In rupee term, the Mumbai based Indian Multinational company, Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) was valued at USD 150 billion.
  - RIL is the first-ever Indian company to achieve a market value of above Rs 11 lakh crore.
- Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is the usage and licensing fee that telecom operators are charged by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).
- The CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) of Lucknow has received permission to carry out the Phase III trial of antiviral drug Umifenovir.
  - The Umifenovir drug prevents the entry of the virus into human cells and also acts by priming the immune system.
- Recently, China has announced tariff exemption for 97% of exports from Bangladesh.
- The SIDBI bank will implement the PM SVANidhi Scheme under the guidance of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- The Former Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel was appointed as chairman of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) for a four year term.
  - It is a Delhi-based think tank that works closely with governments on various policy reforms.
- The Karnataka government observed June 18 as "Mask Day" to spread awareness about the use of masks.
- Recently novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has begun infecting minks in the Netherlands.
  - When the pathogen is transmitted from human to animals, it is known as reverse zoonosis.

- The state government of Tripura has decided to start a scheme for school students.
  - The scheme is named 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' – meaning 'Play Little, Study Little'.
- The Ambubachi Mela will not be organized in the Kamakhya Temple at Guwahati of Assam for the first time since 1565.
  - Kamakhya is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths.
- Three drugs (Fabiflu, Cipremi and Covifor) have been launched in India by pharmaceutical companies for the treatment of Coronavirus.
  - Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has launched the antiviral drug named Fabiflu for treatment of mild to moderate cases of novel Coronavirus.
- Sector-50 metro station of Noida has been dedicated to the transgender community by the NMRC - Noida Metro Rail Corporation.
- The World Athletics announced that Laurent Boquillet has been appointed as the Head of Global Development.
- The RIC (Russia-India-China) Meeting was organised to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Second World War.
- Patanjali has launched its Ayurvedic medicine Coronil, Swasari Vati and Anu Taila.
  - It claims that the drug can treat COVID-19.
- Saudi Arabia announced that it will hold a "very limited" Hajj this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - The Hajj pilgrimage in the holy city of Mecca is considered a must for Muslims at least once in their lifetime.
- The United States Government has decided to suspend 'Green Cards and Non-Migrant Work Visas' till the 31st December 2020 in an effort to protect jobs.
- Mark William Calaway, better known as The Undertaker, is an American professional wrestler.
  - He announced his retirement from WWE (World Wrestling Entertainment).
- Donald Trump appointed the Indian American scientist Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan as the Director of the National Science Foundation (NSF).
  - He is the second Indian-American ever to be nominated to the prestigious science position after Mr Subra Suresh.
- Serbia in June 2020 became the first country to conduct National Elections in Europe amid the Covid issue.
- India has pledged USD 10 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over the coming two years.
- Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami inaugurated a compressed biogas plant at Namakkal.

- o The plant was established by the Indian Oil Corporations at a cost of `25 crore.

❖ The Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen has won the prestigious 2020 Peace Prize of the German Book Trade.

❖ MSDE-IBM partnership unveils Free Digital Learning Platform "Skills Build Reignite" to reach more job seekers & provide new resources to business owners in India.

❖ The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps of Iran has announced that it will set up its permanent military base in the Indian ocean by March next year.

❖ ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) was given approval by the Government for further development of the Shwe Oil & Gas project.

- o The Shwe Oil & Gas Project is located in Myanmar.

❖ Grandmaster P. Harikrishna become the 1st Indian to join the USD 150,000 Chessable Masters.

❖ The government of Maharashtra announced the "Maha Parwana" to attract fresh investment in industries.

❖ NASA has named it's headquarter building at Washington D.C after its first African American Female Engineer Mary W.Jackson.

❖ Vini Mahajan become the First Woman Chief Secretary of Punjab.

❖ Russia has announced that it will take the first tourist for a spacewalk in 2023.

❖ In the European football sport, Liverpool has won the English Premier League title 2019/20 for the first time.

❖ Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru becomes the 1st airport in India to get an indigenously-developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System (AWMS).

❖ The World's largest chariot festival Rath Yatra of Jagannath temple held in coastal district of Puri, Odisha.

❖ Infosys becomes 1st Indian Company to sign Climate Pledge with Amazon and Global Optimism to Become Net-Zero Carbon by 2040.

❖ Indian Railways' Central Railway zone has installed Automated Ticket Checking & Managing Access (ATMA) machine, 1st of its kind at Nagpur station.

❖ HDFC Ergo & UK Tech firm Tropogo jointly launched India's 1st 'pay as you fly' Insurance for Drones.

❖ In 2020, Green Mizoram Day was observed on June 11 across Mizoram in India.

❖ Every year on June 30, World Social Media Day is celebrated.

- o The day was first celebrated in 2010 by Mashable.

TAMIL NADU

TNRTP

- ❖ The Tamilnadu state has come out with Rs 300 crore COVID-19 assistance package to benefit 1.4 lakh people under the Tamil Nadu Rural Transformation Project (TNRTP).
- ❖ The fund for the project is backed by the World Bank, which was announced by Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswamy.
- ❖ It will bridge the supply-chain gap in rural enterprises during the lockdown.
- ❖ It will help farmers, producers and women's self-help groups.
- ❖ The fund will provide hope to these migrants who want to start their own enterprises in the state.

First permanent director of CICT

- ❖ R. Chandrasekaran has been appointed the first permanent director of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT) located in Chennai.
- ❖ CICT is an autonomous Institute of higher research functioning under the Ministry of Human Resources Development established in 2006.
- ❖ It was formerly known as the Centre of Excellence for Classical Tamil (CECT).
- ❖ It had been functioning at the Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore.
- ❖ In May 2008, the CECT was moved to Chennai and was rechristened as the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT).
- ❖ The Institute is responsible for the Kural Peedam Award.

'Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) for the Poor'

- ❖ The 13-year-old girl from Madurai M Nethra was appointed as 'Goodwill Ambassador (GWA) for the Poor' by the United Nations Association for Development and Peace (UNADAP).
- ❖ The UNADAP recognition brings to the girl the opportunity to address the upcoming Civil Society forums at the UN conferences in New York and Geneva.

Keeladi Excavation

- ❖ A furnace like structure that may belong to the sangam era was unearthed at Manalur.
- ❖ A burial urn containing human bones was unearthed in a Keezhadi cluster village of Konthagai.
- ❖ It is to be noted that six burial urns were already unearthed in March at Konthagai.

- ❖ It is believed that Konthagai was the burial site of Keeladi.
- ❖ Archalogists also unearthed an intact backbone of an animal.

Background

- ❖ The sixth phase of archaeological excavation at Keeladi of Sivagangai District resumed.
- ❖ The report further noted that India is home to 3, 30,400 HNWIs (High-Net-Worth Individuals - individuals with USD 1 million or more in net assets).
- ❖ The excacavation so far has revealed that keeladi had a 2600 year old civilization.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology has taken up the excavation in the keeladi cluster.
- ❖ This cluster includes the nearby villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur.
- ❖ Keeladi is in sivagangai district on the banks of Vaigai River.
- ❖ The first three phases of excavation (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-18) were carreid out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ❖ The State Archaelogy Department took over the excavation for the fourth (2018-19) and fifth phase (2019).

NEET reservations

- ❖ The Tamilnadu Government appointed panel suggested that 10% subquota reservation to the Government school students in the mode of horizontal in the Medical College admissions throught NEET exams.
- ❖ The panel was headed by retired Justice Kalaiyarasan.
- ❖ The Horizontal reservation is well within the vertical reservation available to SC/ST/OBC/General categories in Education.

Tamilnadu in NIRF

❖ With the maximum number of institutes among the TOP 50 ranks of almost all categories, Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading state contributing in Indian Higher Education.

❖ Tamil Nadu remains King in Engineering College list with 1/5th of top 100 engineering colleges in India.

❖ According to the National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings, 2020, Among the top 100 engineering colleges in the country, 18 are from Tamil Nadu.

❖ The top education institution of the country is IIT Madras along with being the best engineering college in the country for the fifth time in a row.

❖ National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli is the only other engineering college in the top 10 from Tamil Nadu, ranked 9.

❖ Among the colleges rank, Tamil Nadu alone has one-third of the top 100 humanities, arts and science colleges in India.

❖ In the 2019 ranking, there were 35 colleges from the state while this year 32 colleges are in the list out of a total of 100 colleges.

❖ For the first time the Madras Medical College has figured among the top medical colleges and is ranked at 12.

NIRF 2020

Name	City	Total Score	Rank
Anna University	Chennai	58.71	12
Bharathiar University	Coimbatore	58.3	13
University of Madras	Chennai	52.55	22
Alagappa University	Karaikudi	49.22	36
Bharathidasan University	Tiruchirappalli	46.41	53
Madurai Kamaraj University	Madurai	45.58	60
Periyar University	Salem	41.09	83
The Gandhigram Rural Institute	Gandhigram	40.65	91

Water from Mettur

❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami opened water from Mettur dam to Delta region for Kuruvai irrigation purpose.

❖ This is the 17th time water is being discharged from the Mettur dam on the customary date of June 12.

❖ In the history of Mettur dam, only 16 times (years) water was discharged on the customary date of June 12.

❖ Earlier in 2008 (exactly 12 years ago), water from Mettur dam was discharged on the customary date of June 12.

❖ From August 13, 2019 to till date (June 12, 2020), the dam is having 100 ft water for the past 305 days.

❖ In the year 2005-06, for 427 days, the water level in the Mettur dam did not go below 100 ft.

❖ Through this, 16.05 lakhs acre of farm land in 12 district of Delta region including Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruchy, Karur, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Pudhukottai and Nagapattinam, will get irrigation facility.

Ordinance on Reservation

❖ The Tamilnadu State cabinet granted its approval to promulgate an ordinance to give horizontal reservation.

❖ It is likely to be between 7.5% and 10%.

❖ It is given to government school students who clear NEET exams for admission to medical courses from this academic year.

❖ The decision comes in the wake of recommendations by the Justice P Kalaiyarasan led committee.

Five manimandapams (Memorials)

❖ Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy laid the foundation stone for five manimandapams to honour the leaders.

❖ The memorials for King Perumbidugu Mutharaiyar, Justice Party leadr AT Panner Selvam, Tamil Cinema Stat MKT Thiagaraja Bhagavathar are coming up at K Abishekapuram in Tiruchy District.

❖ A memorial for poet Kavimani Desika Vinayagam Pillai will be raised at thovalai in Kanniyakumari District.

❖ The foundation for dome was laid for Allala Ilaiya Nayakar at Jedarpalayam near Namakkal District.

Agaram excavation

- ❖ Archaeologists of the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department (TNAD) have found a gold coin during the excavation at Agaram, part of the Keeladi cluster.
- ❖ The coin dates back to the 17th Century AD, and used to be referred to as 'Veerarayan' coin.
- ❖ Different types of 'Veerarayan' coins have been found earlier in Thanjavur.

Sivakalai Excavation

- ❖ The sixth phase of excavation began at Adichanallur near Thoothukudi.
- ❖ It is also known as the 'Cradle of ancient Tamil civilisation'.
- ❖ There are many ancient things called muthumakkal thaazhi found at Sivakalai near Eral at Thoothukudi District.

Excavations in Kodumanal

- ❖ Recently, the State Department of Archaeology, Chennai has identified 250 cairn-circles from the Kodumanal excavation site in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ This is for the first time that 10 pots and bowls were discovered from the site.
- ❖ Findings from the site also include an animal skull, beads, and copper smelting units, the mud walls of a workshop, potteries, and Tamil Brahmi script.
- ❖ This has thrown light on burial rituals and the concept of afterlife in megalithic culture.
- ❖ A megalith is a large prehistoric stone that has been used to construct a structure or monument, either alone or together with other stones.
- ❖ Kodumanal is a village located in the Erode district in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It is located on the northern banks of Noyyal River, a tributary of the Cauvery.

- ❖ It was once a flourishing ancient trade city known as Kodumanam, as inscribed in Patittrupathu of Sangam Literature.
- ❖ It served as a trade-cum-industrial centre from 5th century BCE to 1st century BCE.

Child Bone at Konthagai

- ❖ During the sixth phase of ongoing excavations in the ancient site of Keeladi skeletal remains of a child were excavated from Konthagai village.
- ❖ This is the first time that archaeologists from the Tamil Nadu state archaeology department are working in Konthagai in the Sivagangai District.

MSME at Tamilnadu

- ❖ The Central Government has allocated 4125 crore rupees to Tamil Nadu for rejuvenating the Micro, Small and Medium (MSME) industries sector.
- ❖ It forms 10% of the total allocation of the scheme, and the scheme is being effectively implemented in the state.

NATIONAL

Delimitation Commission

❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker has nominated 15 MPs from Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh as "associate members" of the Delimitation Commission to assist the panel in redrawing parliamentary and assembly constituencies of the northeastern states and the union territory.

❖ The government had recently constituted the Delimitation Commission, to be headed by former Supreme Court judge Ranjana Prakash Desai.

❖ It is to redraw Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the northeastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland.

❖ Delimitation literally means the process of fixing limits or boundaries of territorial constituencies in a state that has a legislative body.

❖ These commissions have been constituted four times in India — 1952, 1963, 1973 and 2002.

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

❖ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs announced that 23 additional Minor Forest Produce of Minimum Support Price has been included.

❖ The Indian Forest Act, 1927 defines forest produce.

❖ However, the MFP got its definition only in 2007.

❖ It was done by enacting the Forest Rights Act or Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

❖ MFP is defined as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.

❖ MFP includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, Tusser, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu/kendu leaves, medicinal plants and herbs, roots, tuber.

❖ Thus, the definition of "minor forest produce" includes bamboo and cane.

Cyclone Nisarga

❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has informed that a depression formed in the Arabian sea.

❖ It is headed towards the coast in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

❖ It was termed by Bangladesh.

❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been mandated with the duty to name cyclones that develop over the North Indian ocean, including Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.

One Nation One Ration Card Scheme

- ❖ The Union Minister of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public distribution Shri Ram Vilas Paswan announced that three more states namely Sikkim, Odisha and Mizoram are being included in the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (PDS).

- ❖ Through the Integrated Management of PDS, the Government of India is trying to reach the benefits of National Food Security Act.

- ❖ The scheme aims to provide the quota of food grains to the citizens anywhere in the country.

- ❖ So far, the scheme has been enabled in 17 states and Union Territories.

- ❖ By August, three more states namely Manipur, Uttarakhand and Nagaland are to be added to the cluster.

Definition of MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved the changes made to the definition of MSMEs.

- ❖ This revision was done after 14 years since the MSME Development Act came into existence in 2006.

- ❖ According to the new definition, MSMEs with investment of Rs 1 crore and Rs 5 crores have been classified as Micro units.

- ❖ The MSMEs with annual turnover between Rs 10 crore and Rs 50 crores are classified as small units.

- ❖ The MSMEs with annual turnover of Rs 50 crore and above are classified as Medium units.

- ❖ There are more than 60 million MSMEs in the country.

- ❖ They contribute to 29% of India's GDP and are offering 110 million or 11 crore jobs.

- ❖ They contribute to almost half of exports from the country.

CHAMPIONS

- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched technology platform called CHAMPIONS.

- ❖ CHAMPIONS Stand for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

- ❖ It is a technology driven Control Room-Cum-Management Information System which utilizes modern information and communication technology (ICT) tools.

- ❖ The complete platform was created by National Informatics Centre.

One Sun One World One Grid

❖ Recently, the Government of India has called for bids to roll-out the 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) plan.

❖ The vision behind this is 'The Sun Never Sets'.

❖ It has been taken up under the technical assistance program of the World Bank.

❖ The Union Ministry of New and Renewable energy (MNRE), through this initiative, plans to build global consensus about sharing solar resources among more than 140 countries of West Asia and South East Asia.

Rajesh Bhushan Committee

❖ The Cabinet secretary had constituted a committee tasked with reforming the drug regulatory system under the chairmanship of Rajesh Bhushan.

❖ The Department of Pharmaceuticals under the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilisers deals with the pharma industry.

SWADES

❖ The Indian Government will conduct a skill mapping exercise under SWADES initiative to map the skills of the Indian workers returning from overseas.

❖ SWADES stands for Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support.

❖ It aims to create a database of qualified Indian citizens based on their experience and skillsets.

❖ It is a collaborative initiative of the Ministries of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Civil Aviation and External Affairs.

TULIP

❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of HRD (Human Resource Development) launched an internship learning programme called "TULIP".

❖ The programme has been launched for fresh engineering graduates.

❖ Under the programme, they will get opportunities to work with 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in India.

❖ The internship will be held for one year.

Pharmacopoeia commission

❖ The Union Cabinet approved to re-establish the Pharmacopoeia commission for Indian Medicine and Homeopathy under Ministry of AYUSH.

❖ The commission has been set up by merging Pharmacopoeia Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeia Laboratory.

❖ This will boost quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and enhance their regulation.

❖ The commission is an autonomous body that operates under Ministry of AYUSH.

❖ Pharmacopoeia means drug making.

One India, One Agriculture Market

❖ The Union Cabinet approved an ordinance that will pave the way for the creation of 'One India, One Agriculture Market'.

❖ It is named as the Farming Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Ordinance, 2020 in order to ensure the barrier-free trade in agricultural produce.

❖ This ordinance will promote barrier-free inter-state and intra state commerce and trade outside the physical premises of markets notified under State Acts for the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee.

❖ It aims to set up an ecosystem where farmers and traders both have the freedom of choice of sale and purchase of agricultural produce.

❖ It also proposes an electronic trading in transaction platform for ensuring a seamless trade electronically.

❖ The farmers will not be charged any cess or levy for sale of their produce under this Act.

❖ The Union cabinet also approved The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Ordinance, 2020.

❖ This step will empower the farmers to engage with aggregators, processors, large retailers, wholesalers, and exporters on a level playing field without any fear of exploitation.

One India, One Agri-Market

China Border infrastructure

❖ The government has approved new guidelines to boost infrastructure in areas along China border.

❖ It provides to spend 10% funds of a centrally sponsored scheme only on projects in Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.

Startup Blink Ecosystem Rankings 2020

❖ Startup Blink measures ecosystems based on the number of startups, their quality and business environment.

❖ As per this index, India is ranked at 23rd position, a drop of 6 places from 17th position in 2019.

❖ It should be noted that India is home to the third-largest startup ecosystem.

❖ The ranking has been topped by the United States (US), followed by the United Kingdom (UK), and Israel at 2nd and 3rd position.

❖ Among the top 100 startup cities, only four India cities were named in "2020 Cities Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem"

❖ These are Bengaluru, New Delhi, Mumbai, and Hyderabad.

Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules of 2020

❖ These are notified by the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

❖ These rules seek to regulate the production, import, trade, ownership and operation of unmanned aircraft systems or drones.

❖ No unmanned aircraft (UA) system shall be operated in India unless there is in existence a valid third party insurance policy to cover the liability that may arise on account of a mishap.

❖ Nano-drones weighing 250 grams or less can be operated without a drone pilot license.

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Food Safety Index

❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) had shared the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index'.

❖ Gujarat has topped India's food safety index among larger states, while Chandigarh topped among the union territories.

❖ Goa topped the index among the small states.

❖ Gujarat was followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra among the larger states in food safety and Goa was followed by Manipur and Meghalaya among the smaller states.

❖ Among the Union Territories, Chandigarh was followed by Delhi and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in food safety.

Deccan Queen train - 90 years

❖ It is also known as the "Queen of Deccan"

❖ It runs between Mumbai and Pune.

❖ It began operations on 1st June 1930.

❖ This train holds many a record, including that of being India's first superfast train, first long-distance electric-hauled train, first vestibuled train, the first train to have a 'women-only' car, and the first train to feature a dining car.

Coal Exchange of India

❖ India will soon be setting up a coal trading platform as it gears up to bring in commercial mining in the coal sector.

❖ Under the proposal, the entire coal produced in the country will be traded on a platform called 'Coal Exchange'.

❖ Coal Exchange will be an online coal trading platform where the pricing will be determined in a transparent manner on the basis of demand and supply.

❖ The setting up of India's first coal trading platform is significant as it paves the way for the entry of multiple buyers and sellers in the coal sector.

❖ Coal Exchange is expected to be the only trading platform for organised sale of coal in India.

NAIMISHA 2020

❖ The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), New Delhi will organize online NAIMISHA 2020 - Summer Art Program.

❖ It is an initiative to provide a chance to participants and art enthusiasts to create and learn from practicing artists.

❖ The exhibition of selected artworks from the program will be displayed on So'ham, the cultural media platform of NGMA.

❖ NGMA was established in 1954, at the Jaipur House, New Delhi.

❖ It is run and administered as a subordinate office to the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

18th CAT Bench

❖ The Government of India recently inaugurated the 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for the Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ The tribunal will adjudicate complaints regarding conditions of service of public servants

❖ The CAT has been conferred with the powers to exercise itself as a High Court.

❖ This has been done under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.

Operation Desert Chase

❖ The Rajasthan Police recently arrested two civil defence employees in Jaipur based on Military Intelligence inputs.

❖ The inputs were obtained under Operation Desert Chase.

❖ It is an anti-espionage operation that was started by the Military Intelligence in 2019.

❖ The men were arrested under Official Secrets Act, 1923.

❖ The Operation Tupac is a military intelligence operation by ISI (Inter-Service Intelligence) of Pakistan.

❖ The operation has the objective to disintegrate India.

Classification based on Waste water output

❖ Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will classify railway stations under the red, orange and green category based on the quantity of waste water generated.

❖ Red: railway stations generating waste water equal to or more than 100 Kilo Litres per Day.

❖ Orange: those greater than 10 KLD but less than 100 KLD.

❖ Green: less than 10 KLD waste water generation.

5th National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development released National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) for the educational institutions in the country.

❖ The IIT Madras topped the list followed by IISc Bangalore.

❖ The third place was secured by IIT Delhi.

❖ IIT Madras becomes best engineering college.

❖ In the University category, the top rank is IISc Bangalore followed by Jawaharlal Nehru University of Delhi and at third rank is Banaras Hindu University.

❖ The first NIRF ranking was released in 2016.

❖ The NIRF ranks institutions in 10 categories namely engineering, university, management, college, medical, pharmacy, law, dental and architecture.

❖ For the first time, Dental colleges were added this year's list.

NIRF India Ranking 2020

Overall Category
- IIT Madras,
- IISc Banglore,
- IIT Delhi

University Category
- IISc Bangalore,
- JNU New Delhi,
- BHU Varanasi

Engineering Category
- IIT Madras,
- IIT Delhi,
- IIT Bombay

Management Category
- IIM Ahmedabad,
- IIM Bangalore,
- IIM Calcutta

Pharmacy Discipline
- Jamia Hamdard University,
- Punjab University,
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research Mohali

Colleges Category
- Miranda House DU,
- LSR for Women DU,
- Hindu College DU

Medical Discipline
- AIIMS, New Delhi,
- PGIMER Chandigarh,
- Christian Medical College, Bangalore

Law Discipline
- National Law School of India University, Bengaluru,
- NLU New Delhi,
- Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad

Architecture Discipline
- IIT Kharagpur,
- IIT Roorkee,
- NIT Calicut

Dental College
- Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Science,
- Manipal College of Dental Science,
- Dr DY Patil Vidyapith Pune

Per Drop More Crop

❖ The Government of India has allocated Rs 4,000 crores under Per Drop More Crop component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana for the year 2020-21.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)

Har Khet ko Pani
More Crop Per Drop

❖ The Per Drop More Crop of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana focuses on water use efficiency through sprinkler and drip irrigation.

❖ It also aims at reducing fertilizer use, labour expenses and input costs.

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❖ Along with this, the Government of India has also informed about the creation of Micro Irrigation Fund Corpus of Rs 5,000 crores along with NABARD.

Health Insurance to Migrant Workers

❖ The Government of India has extended its flagship programme, Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat) to the migrant workers.

❖ The National Health Authority that is implementing the scheme will issue E-Cards to the eligible migrants identified under the scheme.

❖ The main reason is that the workers returning belong to rural India.

❖ And at least 80% of the beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat are from rural India.

❖ The Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is a paperless and cashless scheme that aims to provide health cover up to Rs 5 lakhs per family per year.

Safety Record in 2019-20

❖ The Indian Railways recorded its best-ever safety performance during the past year with zero passenger deaths due to rail accidents.

❖ The Railways registered the best ever safety record between April 2019 and March 2020.

❖ There has been no death of rail passengers in any train accident in the subsequent period also between April 1 and June 8 this year.

❖ This has been achieved for the first time in 2019-2020 since the introduction of Railway System in India 166 years ago in 1853.

Landmark Achievements in Indian Railways 2019

- Zero passenger fatalities during the year
- 194 trains upgraded to Utkrisht standard in 2019-20
- Real Time Train Information System in collaboration with ISRO fast tracked
- Stations with High Speed free Wi-Fi cross 5500
- First Railway Commando Battalion 'CORAS' launched
- Total numbers of bio-toilets increase to 2,34,248 in 65,627 coaches

Link to DBO

❖ The construction of the 255-km long Darbuk-Shyokh-Daulat Beg Oldie (DS-DBO) all-weather road is said to be the immediate reason behind the standoff between Indian Army and a Chinese Army.

❖ Built by the Border Road Organization (BRO) under the Ministry of Defence, the road runs almost parallel to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and connects Leh to DBO.

❖ DBO is the northernmost corner of Indian territory in Ladakh.

❖ It has the world's highest airstrip, originally built during the 1962 war.

❖ In 2008, the Indian Air Force (IAF) revived it as one of its many Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) along the LAC.

Supreme Court on Reservation

❖ The Supreme Court observed that the Right to reservation isn't a fundamental right.

❖ It was adjudicating a bunch of cases on quota for OBC candidates in Tamil Nadu's medical colleges.

❖ The court held that nobody can claim right to reservation as a fundamental right, and hence not giving the quota benefits cannot be construed as a violation of any constitutional right.

❖ The court said it appreciates different political parties in Tamil Nadu coming together for a common cause.

❖ The court directed petitioners to approach Madras High Court with their appeal and seek relief for the same from there.

❖ The petitions was asking for 50 per cent OBC reservation in seats, surrendered by Tamil Nadu in the All India Quota for under graduate, post graduate medical and dental courses in 2020-21.

❖ It said that in Tamil Nadu, there is 69 per cent reservation for OBCs, SC and ST and within this, OBC reservations are about 50 per cent.

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

- o Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- o Indian Institute of Sciences (IISc)
- o 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

- o The Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata - at 7th position
- o Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore - at 14th position
- o 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.

iFLOWS

- iFLOWS is a flood warning system that alerts flood prone areas.
- It was launched in Mumbai.
- iFLOWS is Integrated Flood Warning System.

P K Mohanty Committee

- The Reserve Bank of India has constituted an internal working group to review guidelines of ownership of private sector banks.
- The group is to be headed by the Executive Director of RBI, P K Mohanty.
- It is to examine the regulations to hold financial subsidiaries through non-operative financial holding company.

DDMA

- The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal has formed an Expert Advisory Committee to advise the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).
- The Disaster Management Act, 2005 provides detailed legal frameworks of the disaster management authority at national, state and district levels.
- The State Disaster Management Authority is headed by the Chief Minister of the state.
- But in case of Delhi, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi is the Chairperson of Delhi Disaster Management Authority and the CM of Delhi is the Vice-Chairperson of the authority.

Arogya Path

❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's (CSIR) National Health Supply Chain portal called "Arogya Path" was launched.

❖ It is to provide real-time availability of health care supplies.

M B Lal Committee

❖ In 2009, the Government of India constituted the M B Lal Committee following the fire accident at the IOCL terminal in Jaipur of Rajasthan.

❖ The recent massive fire at the Baghjan Oil field, Assam had caused serious environmental damages and recalled the recommendations of that committee.

ARJUN

❖ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) opearting under the Central Railways recently launched a Robot called "Captain Arjun".

❖ ARJUN is Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice.

ADIP Camp

❖ The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment organized the first ever ADIP camp.

❖ ADIP aims to provide Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchasing and fitting of aids.

❖ The camp was conducted to distribute free assistive aids to Divyangjans under the ADIP scheme at Firozpur district of Punjab.

❖ The camp was organized by ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India) operating under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Civil Services Board

❖ The Punjab government, last week, constituted a three-member civil services board to decide on IAS transfers and postings in the state.

❖ The Supreme Court had in 2013 directed the Centre and the states to set up a civil services board.

❖ It is to insulate the bureaucracy from political interference and to put an end to frequent transfers of civil servants by political bosses.

❖ The civil services board is headed by chief secretary of a state.

NDRF funding

❖ The Finance Ministry has given approval to a proposal to allow individuals and institutions to contribute directly to the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).

❖ The NDRF was set up under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

❖ It is meant to "meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation" for any threatening disaster situation.

❖ It is a fund managed by the Central Government for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.

❖ It is constituted to supplement the funds of the State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) of the states.

❖ It is located in the "Public Accounts" of Government of India under "Reserve Funds not bearing interest".

❖ The PM CARES Fund or the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund are not public authorities subject to questions under the Right to Information Act.

Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo 2020

❖ It was e-inaugurated by Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers).

❖ The exhibition is the first-ever virtual exhibition in India.

❖ It was organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

YUKTI 2.0

❖ The Union Human Resource Development Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal launched YUKTI 2.0 web portal initiative.

❖ YUKTI stands for Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology, and Innovation.

❖ It is in line with the mission of making Atma Nirbhar Bharat.

❖ The YUKTI 2.0 portal is for the Higher Education Institutes of New Delhi.

Private Sector Participation in Space Activities

❖ The Cabinet has approved setting up of Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe).

❖ The Cabinet approved the participation of the private sector in various space activities.

❖ IN-SPACe will have the responsibility to guide the private sector in various space activities.

❖ The State-owned enterprise New Space India Limited (NSIL) was founded in March 2019.

Suicides in India

❖ India has the highest suicide rate in the South-East Asian region, according to the World Health Organization report released last year.

❖ India's suicide rate is at 5 suicides per 100,000 people.

❖ India also had the third-highest female suicide rate (14.7) in the world.

❖ Suicide was decriminalised in India in 2017, but Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code still stays.

Extension of Sub-Categorization of OBCs

❖ Recently, the Union Cabinet has approved a six-month extension to the commission appointed to examine sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), up to 31st January 2021.

❖ At present, there is no sub-categorization and 27% reservation is a monolithic entity.

❖ The commission is headed by Retired Justice G Rohini.

❖ It was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of the President on 2nd October 2017.

❖ Article 340 of the Indian Constitution lays down conditions for the appointment of a Commission to investigate the conditions of the backward classes.

The Annual TB Report

❖ It is prepared and published by the Central TB Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

❖ 24.04 lakh notified TB patients in 2019 in India, which is a 14% increase from 2018.

❖ The country is achieving near-complete on-line notification of TB patients through the NIKSHAY system.

❖ The Government of India renamed the 'National Tuberculosis Control Program' to the 'National Tuberculosis Elimination Program'.

❖ It is with a focus on eliminating Tuberculosis (TB) from the country by 2025

❖ In the larger state category, Gujarat was awarded as the best-performing state followed by Andhra Pradesh and Himanchal Pradesh at 2nd and 3rd place.

eBlood

❖ The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the eBlood Services Mobile Application.

❖ The application is an initiative of the Indian Red Cross Society.

Navigating the New Normal

- ❖ NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog has launched the behaviour change campaign 'Navigating the New Normal' and its website.
- ❖ It focusses on COVID-safe behaviours, especially wearing masks, during the 'Unlock' phase of the ongoing pandemic.
- ❖ The partners for this are
  - o Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF),
  - o Centre for Social and Behavioural Change (CSBC) of Ashoka University,
  - o Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), and
  - o Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD).

NAVIGATING THE NEW NORMAL

Wheat producer in India

- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (MP) this year has surpassed Punjab to become the number one contributor of wheat in India.
- ❖ Of the total wheat area cultivated in the country, Madhya Pradesh's share was 31 per cent.

Lal-Bal-Pal

- ❖ Pune-based NGO Sarhad to launch a series of literary and cultural programmes to strengthen connections between Maharashtra and West Bengal.
- ❖ It aims in a bid to revive the Independence-era spirit of the 'Lal-Bal-Pal', named after nationalists Lala Lajpat Rai, 'Lokmanya' Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Bipin Chandra Pal.

Locust control

- ❖ The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) has initiated to develop a vehicle mounted ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control to reduce the limitations of importing equipment.

❖ India is to be the first country in the world to control desert locusts using drones.

Sankalp Parva

❖ The Union Ministry of Culture has announced to celebrate a 2-week long tree plantation campaign called 'Sankalp Parva' from 28th June to 12th July 2020.

❖ Under the Sankalp Parva, the Ministry of Culture has recommended planting 5 tress: Bargad, Awla, Pepal, Ashok and Bel.

❖ These 5 trees represent the herbal heritage of the country.

Surakshit Dada-Dadi, Nana-Nani Abhiyan

❖ It has been launched to ensure well-being of Senior Citizens amid COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ The campaign is a collaborative effort between NITI Aayog and Piramal Foundation.

Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan

❖ Recently, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has released the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat: Annual Action Plan (2020-21)'.

❖ It is released on the occasion of 'International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking'.

❖ It is a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Department.

❖ This campaign was originally launched in 2015 by Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab.

❖ The Narcotics Control Bureau has identified the "most affected" 272 districts which mostly belong to Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and the North-East lead the states.

Postal Ballot System

❖ Recently, Union Law Ministry has reduced the age limit for senior citizens who opt for postal ballot in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

❖ Now, the voters aged above 65 years or a Covid-19 suspect can opt for postal ballot.

❖ Earlier, in 2019, the Law Ministry had amended the Conduct of Election Rules to allow persons with disabilities and those who are 80 years of age or above to opt for postal ballot during Lok Sabha and Assembly elections.

❖ Voters of Bihar will be the first to benefit from the amended rules.

❖ Bihar will be the first state to have assembly polls after the coronavirus outbreak in India.

INTERNATIONAL

D 10 Club

❖ The British government has approached the US with the prospect of creating a 5G club of 10 democracies, including India, amid growing security concerns related to Chinese telecom giant Huawei.

❖ It includes G7 countries – UK, US, Italy, Germany, France, Japan and Canada – plus Australia, South Korea and India.

❖ It will aim to create alternative suppliers of 5G equipment and other technologies to avoid relying on China.

Energy Process Report

- ❖ The Energy Progress Report was released by the International Energy Agency, the International Renewable Energy Agency, the United Nations Statistics Division, the World Bank and the World Health Organization.
- ❖ The United Nations-mandated SDG 7 is aimed at ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy by 2030.
- ❖ According to the report, the global electrification rate progressed steadily from 2010 to 2018, rising to 90 per cent of the world's population in 2018 from 83 per cent in 2010.
- ❖ In 2018, India was among top three countries with largest deficits regarding access to electricity.
- ❖ Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and India had the three largest deficits: 85 million, 68 million and 64 million people respectively.

Black Lives Movement

- ❖ The Black Lives Movement is an African-American movement that campaigns against violence and racism towards black people.
- ❖ The movement campaigns against killings of black people, police brutality, racial profiling and racial inequality in the United States.
- ❖ The movement began in 2013.
- ❖ The movement spread to Canada, Australia and Germany as well.
- ❖ The United States is facing nationwide protests over the death of an African American George Floyd.

Expansion of G7 club

- ❖ The US President Donald Trump has said that he wanted to include India, Russia, South Korea, and Australia in the group.
- ❖ The G7, originally G8, was set up in 1975 as an informal forum bringing together the leaders of the world's leading industrial nations.
- ❖ Russia was formally inducted as a member in the group in 1998, which led G7 to become G8.
- ❖ The Russian troops action into eastern Ukraine and conquering Crimea in 2014 drew heavy criticism from the other G8 nations.
- ❖ The other nations of the group decided to suspend Russia from the G8 and the group became G7 again in 2014.

Ebola epidemic

- ❖ Democratic Republic of Congo has declared a new Ebola epidemic in the western city of Mbandaka.
- ❖ This is the Democratic Republic of the Congo's 11th outbreak of Ebola since the virus was first discovered in the country in 1976.
- ❖ The virus is transmitted to people from wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission.
- ❖ An experimental Ebola vaccine, called rVSV-ZEBOV proved highly protective against EVD in a major trial in Guinea in 2015.

THAAD

- ❖ China is opposing THAAD defence systems in South Korea.
- ❖ THAAD is an acronym for Terminal High Altitude Area Defense.
- ❖ This anti-ballistic missile defense system has been designed and manufactured by the US company Lockheed Martin.
- ❖ It has been deployed at South Korea, the UAE, Guam, Israel and Romania.

Antifa

❖ US administration has announced that the far-left group Antifa would be designated as a terrorist organization.

❖ This announcement was made after massive protests following the death of George Floyd.

❖ Antifa/ Anti-fascists is not a single organization but rather an umbrella term for far-left-leaning movements that confront or resist neo-Nazis and white supremacists at demonstrations.

C-TAP

❖ The Costa Rica and World Health Organization have launched C-TAP.

❖ C-TAP is COVID-19 Technology Access Pool.

❖ The C-TAP will act as an one-stop shop for information, scientific knowledge and intellectual property for global community.

Non-Permanent Member of UNSC

❖ The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) will hold its elections in June 2020.

❖ India is highly expected to win the elections from the Asia Pacific seat for the tenure of 2021 to 2022.

❖ India is the sole contender from this region and its name was proposed by all the 55 member Asia Pacific Group countries.

❖ The UNSC elections are held in the UN General Assembly hall with each of the 193 UN member states casting their votes in a secret ballot.

❖ The 10 non-permanent seats are divided on regional basis

  o   Five seats for African and Asian States.

  o   Two seats for the Latin American and the Caribbean States.

  o   Two seats for Western European and other States.

  o   One seat for the Eastern European States.

WEF summit 2021

- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF) announced that it is to host its next summit in Davos under the theme "The Great Reset" in 2021.
- ❖ The forum has named the summit as "A Unique Twin Summit".
- ❖ The World Economic Forum was established in 1971.

Global Vaccine Summit

- ❖ India is to join the UK-led virtual Global Vaccine Summit.
- ❖ India will be one among the 50 countries participating at the summit.
- ❖ The summit is being held to raise at least 7.4 billion USD of funds for GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance.
- ❖ The GAVI alliance was set up in 2000 under the partnership of UNICEF, WHO, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Bank, research agencies, vaccine manufacturers and several other private sector partners.

India at UNSC

- ❖ India is expected to be selected for the UNSC Non-Permanent seat for the 8th term.
- ❖ India's approach at the United Nations Security Council is to guided by the 5s that were set out by PM Modi.
- ❖ They include Samvad (Dialogue), Samman (Respect), Shanti (Peace), Sanriddhi (prosperity) and Sahyog (cooperation).

Nature Index

- ❖ The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been ranked No.1 among the Indian Universities in India on Research Output by the prestigious Nature Index for 2019-2020.
- ❖ The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing has topped the Nature Index 2020.
- ❖ SRM Institute of Science and Technology in Chennai has been ranked No.1 private university in India and 21st rank among Indian universities by the Nature Index 2020.
- ❖ The 'Nature Index' serves as an indicator of high-quality research in the Natural and Physical Sciences.
- ❖ The Nature Index Annual Tables showcase institutions with the highest outputs of top-quality research.

Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China

❖ It is the first of its kind.

❖ A group of eight democracies have launched Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China.

❖ The Alliance was formed by Japan, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, Lithuania, Norway, Netherlands and USA.

❖ It is an international cross-party group of legislators that are working towards reforms on democratic countries approach towards China.

❖ The alliance believes that China under the rule of the Chinese Communist Party represents a global challenge.

75th session of the UN General Assembly

❖ The world leaders will not travel to New York for the annual UN General Assembly session in September 2020 for the first time in 75 years.

❖ The UN General Assembly session this year (2020) commemorates 75 years of the existence of the United Nations.

❖ The President of the UNGA is Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria.

❖ The President of the United Nations General Assembly is a position voted for by representatives in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a yearly basis.

❖ The session of the assembly is scheduled for every year starting in September.

China in deepest point of earth

❖ An Unmanned submersible of China dived deep down to 10,907 metres to the world's deepest point Mariana Trench.

❖ It is located in the western Pacific Ocean east of the Mariana Islands.

❖ Challenger Deep is in the Mariana Trench, which is seven miles below the surface of the Pacific Ocean.

Korean Dispute

❖ North Korea has cut off all inter-Korean communication lines with the South, including a hotline between the two nations' leaders.

❖ It is a country in East Asia constituting the northern part of the Korean Peninsula.

❖ The country is bordered to the north by China and by Russia along the Amnok and Tumen rivers, and to the south by South Korea, with the heavily fortified Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two.

QS World University rankings

❖ The 17th edition of the QS World University rankings has been released.

❖ It is an annual publication of University rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS).

❖ Previously, it was called Times Higher Education – QS world University rankings.

❖ It is the only international ranking to have received the approval of International Ranking Expert Group (IREG).

❖ It rates the world's top 1000 universities.

❖ Top three from India featured in top 200 and their rankings: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay (172), followed closely by Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore (185), and IIT Delhi (193).

❖ In total, 21 Indian higher education institutions (24 in last year) have found their place in the list.

QS World University Rankings 2021: Global Top 20

2021	2020		
1	1	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
2	2	Stanford University	USA
3	3	Harvard University	USA
4	5	California Institute of Technology	USA
5	4	University of Oxford	UK
6	6	ETH Zurich	Switzerland
7	7	University of Cambridge	UK
8	9	Imperial College London	UK
9	10	University of Chicago	USA
10	8	University College London	UK
11	11=	National University of Singapore	Singapore
12	13	Princeton University	USA
13	11=	Nanyang Technological University (NTU)	Singapore
14	18=	Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)	Switzerland
15	16	Tsinghua University	China (Mainland)
16	15	University of Pennsylvania	USA
17	17	Yale University	USA
18	14	Cornell University	USA
19	18=	Columbia University	USA
20	20	University of Edinburgh	UK

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International Religious Freedom Report 2019

- ❖ Recently, the US State Department has released this annual report.
- ❖ The report is a survey of the state of religious freedom across the world.
- ❖ The IRF report listed countries for positive developments in religious freedom and negative examples.
- ❖ Nicaragua, Nigeria and China were cited as negative examples.
- ❖ It published a report i.e. the country report for India to highlight the issue of religious freedom in the country.
- ❖ Earlier, the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF report) downgraded India's religious freedom to the lowest grade — in the 'Country of Particular Concern (CPC)' category.
- ❖ It highlighted the developments that took place in 2019 i.e. the status of Jammu and Kashmir, the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

Ramon Magsaysay Award

- ❖ A Manila, Philippines based foundation that gives out Ramon Magsaysay Award announced that the awards are being cancelled due to COVID-19.
- ❖ The award is considered as the Nobel Prize of Asia.

- ❖ The Award recognizes and honours individuals that have achieved distinction in their field and help others generously.

- ❖ The Award has been given in five categories namely journalism, government service, public service, literature and creative communication.

- ❖ Magsaysay became the president of Philippines in 1953.

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.

Kathy Sullivan

- ❖ The American Astronaut and Oceanographer Kathy Sullivan recently reached the deepest point in the ocean, Challenger Deep.

- ❖ With this she has become the first woman to reach the deepest point in the earth.

- ❖ In 1984, Kathy made her spacewalk debut and became the first woman to walk in space.

- ❖ Now by reaching Challenger Deep, she has created a new record of first person in the world to walk in space and also reach the deepest point on the earth.

- ❖ She is also the first woman to reach the deepest point in the ocean.

❖ Challenger Deep is located in the Western Pacific Ocean in the southern end of Mariana Trench.

❖ It is in the ocean territory of Federated States of Micronesia.

Galwan Valley

❖ A violent clash recently took place between India and China at Galwan Valley in Ladakh.

❖ This is the first such unprecedented escalation between India & China along the border since 1975.

Police Reforms in USA

❖ US President Donald Trump signs the new executive order for police reforms.

❖ The new order seeks to improvise the treatment towards African-Americans and other communities by police officers.

Nepal Boundary issue

❖ The Nepal Parliament recently passed an amendment bill to redraw its political map.

❖ The new map is to include Kalapani, Lipulekh and Limpiyadhura which is claimed by India also.
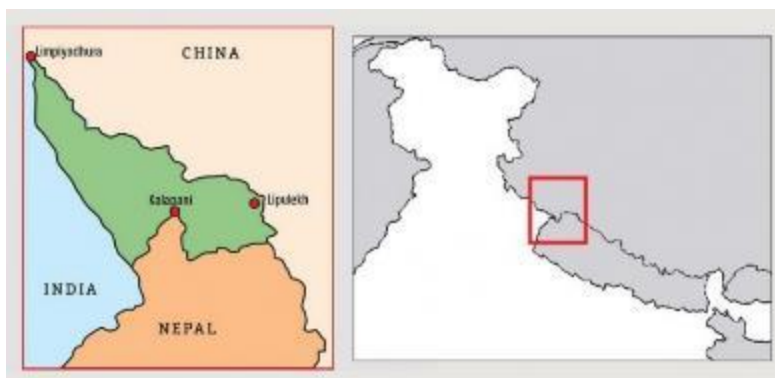
World Competitive Index

- ❖ The Institute of Management Development recently released this.
- ❖ India was ranked 43rd in the ranking.
- ❖ Singapore secured the top position in the ranking system.
- ❖ The ranking is created by the business school based in Singapore and Switzerland.

Victory Day parade

- ❖ India is to send its tri-services contingent of all three services namely army, navy and air force to Russia.
- ❖ This is the first time all the three services of India are participating.
- ❖ The military parade of Russia is held at the Red Square, Moscow with the President of Russia as the guest of honour.
- ❖ Every year, the Victory Day is celebrated on May 9.
- ❖ The parade is held every year to mark the surrender of Nazi Germany in 1945.

Pashupatinath temple

- ❖ India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve infrastructure of the Pashupatinath temple complex.
- ❖ The Pashupatinath temple is the largest temple complex in Nepal.
- ❖ It is located on the Bagmati river of Nepal.

World Investment Report, 2020

- ❖ The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released its report.
- ❖ According to the report, India is the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019.
- ❖ The FDI of India has increased from 42 billion USD in 2018 to 51 million USD in 2019.

India 9th largest
Recipient of FDI in
2019

GPAI

- ❖ India joined the Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence as a founding member.
- ❖ The GPAI-Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence is a multi-stake holder initiative that will guide development of Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ The other leading member countries that joined along with India are UK, USA, European Union, Australia, France, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Republic of Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, etc.
- ❖ It is the first initiative of its kind.
- ❖ It will be supported by Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) via a secretariat in Paris.

SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute) yearbook 2020

- ❖ The Swedish think-tank SIPRI launched this recently.
- ❖ According to the yearbook, India and China have increased their nuclear arsenal as compared to 2019.
- ❖ The think tank says that China is developing the nuclear triad for the first time.
- ❖ India is also developing naval component of its nuclear triad.
- ❖ According to SIPRI, the nine major nuclear armed states of the world include US, UK, Russia, France, India, Pakistan, China, North Korea and Israel.
- ❖ US and Russia alone possess 90% of world nuclear weapons.
- ❖ There are 13,400 nuclear weapons at the start of 2020.
- ❖ There were 13,865 nuclear weapons at the beginning of 2019.
- ❖ The U.S. and Russia have reduced their nuclear arsenals under the 2010 New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START).

- ❖ India's nuclear arsenal went up from 130-140 in 2019 to 150 in 2020.
- ❖ China's nuclear arsenal had gone up from 290 warheads in 2019 to 320 in 2020.
- ❖ Pakistan's nuclear arsenal has reached 160 in 2020.

World nuclear forces, January 2020

Country	Deployed warheads*	Other warheads**	Total 2020	Total 2019
USA	1 750	4 050	5 800	6 185
Russia	1 570	4 805	6 375	6 500
UK***	120	95	215	200
France	280	10	290	300
China		320	320	290
India		150	150	130–140
Pakistan		160	160	150–160
Israel		90	90	80–90
North Korea	..	(30–40)	(30–40)	(20–30)
Total	3 720	9 680	13 400	13 865

Border Personnel Meeting points

- ❖ These are the locations along the disputed Sino-Indian border.
- ❖ The first formal Border Personnel Meeting point was established in 2013.
- ❖ There are five meeting points, two in the Indian Union Territory of Ladakh, one in Sikkim, and two in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ They are as follows
  - o Daulet Beg Oldi - Ladakh
  - o Chushul - Ladakh
  - o Nathu La - Sikkim
  - o Bum La - Arunachal Pradesh
  - o Kibithu - Arunachal Pradesh

Xinjiang region

- ❖ U.S. President Donald Trump has signed legislation calling for sanctions over the repression of China's Uighur Muslims in Xinjiang region.
- ❖ Uighurs are a Muslim minority community concentrated in the country's northwestern Xinjiang province.

❖ Xinjiang is technically an autonomous region within China — its largest region,

❖ It is rich in minerals, and sharing borders with eight countries, including India, Pakistan, Russia and Afghanistan.

Asian Development Outlook (ADO)

❖ It is a report released by Asian Development Bank.

❖ The ADO analyses economic and development issues in developing countries in Asia.

❖ ADB is a regional development bank established in 1966.

❖ It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.

❖ Japan holds the largest proportion of shares in ADB followed by the USA.

❖ It aims to promote social and economic development in Asia and the Pacific.

❖ India is a founding member.

Election to UNSC

❖ Recently India, Norway, Ireland, Mexico and Kenya were elected as the non-permanent members of the UNSC for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2021.

❖ Each year, the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of ten in total) for a two-year term.

❖ Previously, India was elected for the years 1950-1951, 1967-1968, 1972-1973, 1977-1978, 1984-1985, 1991-1992 and most recently in 2011-2012.

❖ The presidency of the Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the member states' names.

❖ India will assume the rotating presidency of the Council for the month of August in 2021.

Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list

❖ Mukesh Ambani has jumped into the exclusive club of the world's top 10 richest people.

❖ With a net worth of USD 64.5 billion, he is currently ranked 9th on the list of World's top billionaires.

❖ Ambani owns 42% of Reliance Industries Ltd and the company recently declared itself net-debt free.

World's Top 10 Richest People

Rank	Name/ Country	Net Worth (In Billions)	Company
1	Jeff Bezos	USD 160.1	Amazon
2	Bill Gates	USD 108.7	Microsoft
3	Bernard Arnault & family	USD 103.2	LVMH
4	Mark Zuckerberg	USD 87.9	Facebook
5	Warren Buffet	USD 71.4	Berkshire Hathaway
6	Steve Ballmer	USD 68.9	Microsoft
7	Larry Ellison	USD 68.9	Oracle
8	Amancio Ortega	USD 65.8	Zara
9	**Mukesh Ambani**	**USD 64.6**	**Reliance Industries**
10	Larry Page	USD 64.3	Google

President of the UNGA

❖ The UN General Assembly get its first Turkish president

❖ The Turkish diplomat Volkan Bozkir was elected President of the forthcoming landmark 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

2020 India Ideas Summit

❖ The 45th annual meeting of the United States India Business Council (USIBC) will be marked with the 2020 India Ideas Summit.

❖ Every year the Summit is being organized by the USIBC.

GAFA Tax

- ❖ The United States has reportedly pulled out of talks aimed at overhauling the global tax system for digital giants.
- ❖ U.S. officials have slammed the move as discriminating against American firms.
- ❖ France as well as U.K., Spain, Italy and others have imposed taxes on the largest digital firms.
- ❖ GAFA tax is named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon.
- ❖ It is a proposed digital tax to be levied on large technology and internet companies.

National Security Bureau

- ❖ China is planning to establish a 'Special Bureau - National Security Office' in Hong Kong.
- ❖ It will have the rights to deal with criminal cases and analyze intelligence that is related to the national security.
- ❖ Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China since 1997 when the former colony was returned by Britain to China.
- ❖ The only Matters related to foreign affairs and defense of Hong Kong are controlled by China.

Rule of Law Index

- ❖ It is released by the World Justice Project, an independent organization in the USA.
- ❖ India has secured 69th rank of 128 countries in the recent times.

EAG meeting

- ❖ India attended the virtual 32nd special Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) plenary meeting, under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

- ❖ The EAG is a regional body comprising nine countries: India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
- ❖ Established in 2004, it is an associate member of the FATF.

Treasury Securities of USA

- ❖ India (USD 157.4 billion) has become the 12th largest holder of United States Government Securities.
- ❖ On behalf of the Government of India, India's Central bank - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) invests in foreign assets.
- ❖ The Treasury Securities backed by the United States Treasury Department is one of the safest assets for any Central Bank around the world.
- ❖ Top 3 Countries (at the end of April 2020)
  - o Japan - USD 1.266 Trillion
  - o China - USD 1.073 Trillion
  - o United Kingdom - USD 368.5 Billion

Island dispute between China and Japan

- ❖ A group of Islands without inhabitants located at the South China Sea has been a point of disagreement between Japan and China since 1972.
- ❖ The island is known by the name Senkakus in Japan, while in the People's Republic of China and Taiwan the Islands are known by the name Diaoyu.
- ❖ The Senkaku Islands are located in the East China Sea between Japan, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of China (Taiwan).
- ❖ The entire area under which the Senkaku Islands are located is known by the name Tonoshiro in Japan.
- ❖ The Tonoshiro area will be renamed as Tonoshiro Senkaku as per Japan's new Law.

Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

❖ The people's Republic of China will join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

❖ The fifth-largest arms-exporter in the world was China.

❖ Under this treaty, international sales and transfer of conventional arms are regulated as per the global standards.

❖ The treaty was adopted at the United Nations General Assembly in 2013.

❖ It came into force from 24th December 2014.

❖ India has not signed the treaty yet.

❖ The U.S. President has announced that the U.S. will never ratify the Arms Trade Treaty.

Pakistan's Hindu Temple

❖ The foundation stone for the first Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Krishna in Pakistan's capital city Islamabad was laid.

❖ The temple is the first to be constructed in Islamabad since the Independence of Pakistan.

❖ The name of the temple will be Shri Krishna Mandir.

Vienna Convention

❖ The External Affairs Ministry of India has decided to reduce the staff strength of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad by 50%.

❖ It has also directed the Pakistan Government to implement the same by reducing 50% of its staff from its Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

❖ India take this decision after Pakistan violated Vienna Convention.

World's first Yoga University outside India

❖ It was launched at United States Los Angeles city.

❖ The Yoga University has been named after Swami Vivekananda.

❖ It was launched as a part of the commemorations for the 6th International Yoga Day.

Global Education Monitoring Report

❖ It is an evidence-based annual report published by UNESCO.

❖ Its mandate is to monitor progress towards the education targets in the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) framework.

❖ It has also developed the World Inequality Database on Education (WIDE).

FATF Grey List - Pakistan

❖ Pakistan again managed to escape from entering the 'Blacklist.

❖ It was taken under the FATF Chairmanship of China.

❖ It was during the Plenary and Working Groups Meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

❖ For the FATF year from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020, China has the Presidency of FATF.

❖ From 1st July 2020, Germany will take over the Presidency of FATF until 30th June 2021.

Victory over Nazism

❖ The Tri Services of the Indian Armed Forces contingent participated in the Russian Victory Day Parade at the Red Square, Moscow

❖ This year marks the 75th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in 1945 during Second World War.

❖ The Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was among the special invitees who attended the event live.

❖ India had participated in the Russian Parade for the first time in 2015.

❖ However, only the Indian army had participated then.

Verified initiative

❖ India with 12 other countries lead the "Verified" initiative launched by the United Nations.

❖ It is to fight the spreading of misinformation about COVID-19 with fact-based accurate information.

❖ The theme of "verified" is Science, Solidarity and Solution.

Global Trends - Forced Displacement in 2019

- ❖ It was an annual report released by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

- ❖ On Global front, the displacement number is 79.5 million or one in every 97 people on the planet at the end of 2019.

- ❖ Five countries account for two-thirds (68%) of people displaced across borders: Syria, Venezuela, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Myanmar.

Number of Forcibly Displaced People Reaches New High

Number of forcibly displaced people worldwide by year*

Year	Number
2012	42.7m
2013	51.2m
2014	59.2m
2015	65.1m
2016	65.5m
2017	68.5m
2018	70.8m
2019	79.5m

* Internally displaced, refugees and asylum seekers.
Source: UNHCR
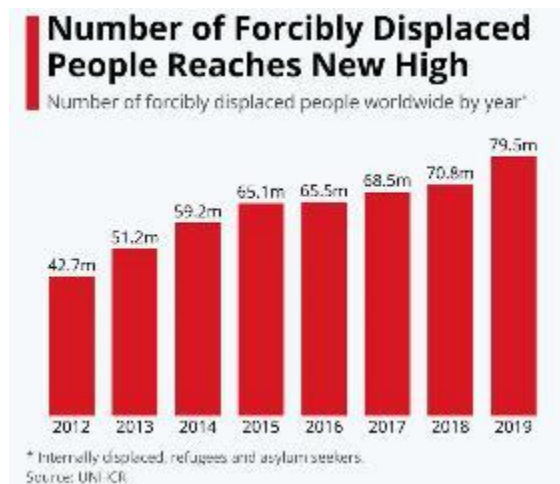
Global Status Report on Preventing Violence Against Children 2020

- ❖ It is a first of its kind report by United Nations (UN).

- ❖ According to this report, up to 1 billion children are affected by physical, sexual or psychological violence.

- ❖ The report has been launched by
  - o World Health Organization (WHO)
  - o UNICEF
  - o UNESCO
  - o UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the End Violence Against Children.

WEO

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that the Indian economy will have a big 4.5 % contraction in 2020.
- It was highlighted in the "A Crisis Like No Other, An Uncertain Recovery" under the World Economic Outlook (WEO).

World's first monetary gold-backed US Gold digital currency

- It was introduced in India, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Middle East and Africa.
- It was by IBMC Financial Professionals Group in partnership with US Gold Currency Inc and Blockfills.

List of Technology Pioneers of 2020.

- Two Indian startups Stellapps and Zestmoney were featured in the List
- It was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF).

75th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter

- The Charter was signed in San Francisco on June 26, 1945 and came into force on October 24, 1945.
- It is the foundational treaty of the United Nations.

Giant Ethiopian Renaissance Dam

- A consensus had been reached between the three countries (Ethiopia, Sudan and Egypt) over the Giant Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).
- The dam will not be filled unilaterally by Ethiopia.
- Ethiopia started construction for the dam on the Blue Nile river.
- Blue Nile river originates from Lake Tana in Ethiopia and flows downstream through Sudan to Egypt.

Kohala Hydro Power Project

❖ A Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement (TPPA) was signed for the construction of the Kohala Hydro Power Project.

❖ It was signed between the Government of Pakistan, Chinese Company - China Three Gorges Corporation, and Government of Azad Kashmir (Part of Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

❖ The Hydro Power Project is located on the river Jhelum.

❖ The project is part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor.

ECONOMY

Eight Core Industries

❖ The lockdown resulted in core sector output contracting 38% in April 2020 compared to the same month in the previous year.

❖ This is the second straight month in negative territory for the index of eight core sector industries, after a 9% fall in March 2020.

❖ The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

MSP rate for Kharif crops

❖ The Union Cabinet approved an increase in Minimum Support Price (MSP) for 14 Kharif crops.

❖ It was based on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The Fluctuation

MSP FOR KHARIF CROPS

CROPS	2019-20	PROPOSED FOR 2020-21
Paddy (Common)	1815	1868
Paddy (Grade A)	1835	1888
Bajra	2000	2150
Maize	1760	1850
Tur	5800	6000
Urad	5700	6000
Moong	7050	7196
Groundnut	5090	5275
Soyabean	3710	3880
Nigerseed	5940	6695
Cotton (Medium Staple)	5255	5515
Cotton (Long staple)	5550	5825

In ₹ per quintal

BCCL
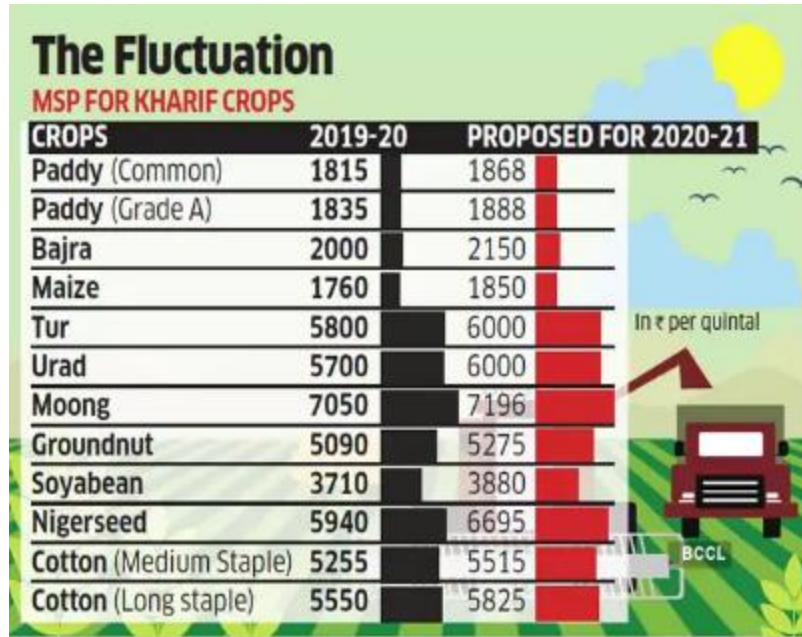
PM SwaNidhi scheme

❖ Under PM Swanidhi scheme, the centre will provide a special credit facility of Rs 5000 crore for the street track vendors.

❖ The scheme is expected to benefit 5 million street vendors, hawkers, those running small shops and those selling goods on handcrafts.

Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

❖ A working group constituted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on social stock exchanges has submitted its recommendations.

❖ The panel was set up by Sebi in September 2019 under the Chairmanship of Ishaat Hussain.

❖ It is a novel concept in India.

❖ It is meant to serve private and non-profit sector providers by channelling greater capital to them.

❖ With this, Social welfare enterprises and non-profits could soon get to raise the so-called social capital on a transparent electronic platform.

Schemes for Electronics Sector

❖ The Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched three new schemes to boost electronics sector.

❖ They are Production linked incentive scheme, cluster scheme (EMC 2.0) and component manufacturing scheme (SPECS).

❖ India is now the second largest mobile manufacturing country in the world.

Real Time Electricity Market

- ❖ The Indian Energy Exchange launched Real Time Electricity Market (RTM).
- ❖ The main aim of the launch is to help discoms to plan their power requirements.
- ❖ It will help distribution companies to manage their power demand-supply variation.
- ❖ It will help the discoms and schedule green energy.
- ❖ This will help India achieve its target of 175 GW of renewable energy by 2022.
- ❖ India Energy Exchange is an electronic system that is regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).

Essential Commodities Act 1955

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has made historic amendments to Essential Commodities Act 0f 1955.
- ❖ Under the amendment to Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the agricultural commodities such as pulses, cereals, onions oil seeds and potatoes have been deregulated.
- ❖ It will relieve the private investors from the fear of excessive regulatory interference.
- ❖ Also, the amendment will allow clamping of stock limits only under very extreme circumstances.
- ❖ This includes famines and natural calamities.
- ❖ The stock limit is not applicable to processors and value chain participants.

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

- ❖ Recently, the National Statistical Office (NSO) released the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for July 2018 to June 2019.
- ❖ PLFS is India's first computer-based survey launched by the National Statistical Office (NSO) in 2017.

- It gives estimates of key employment and unemployment indicators like the labour force participation rate, worker population ratio, proportion of unemployed and unemployment rate in rural households annually and on a quarterly basis for the urban households.
- India's unemployment rate fell to 5.8% during 2018-19 from 6.1% during the same period of 2017-18.
- The urban unemployment rate reduced to 7.7% from 7.8%.
- The rural unemployment reduced to 5% from 5.3%.
- According to monthly data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, unemployment rate in India shot up significantly from 7.87% in June 2019 to 23.48% in May 2020.

Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings

- The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) MAITREE program, launched the "Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings" initiative.
- It will pioneer ways to make workplaces healthier and greener.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) is under the administration of the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

Jaya Jaitly Task Force

- The Government of India has constituted Jaya Jaitly Task Force that will work on the issues of women and child development.
- The task force was constituted by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The team will work on Lowering Maternal Mortality Rate, Improving Nutritional Levels, Examining issues that are related with age.
- The force will also work on issues related to Infant Mortality Rate, Total Fertility Rate, Maternal Mortality Rate, Child Sex Ratio Rate, Sex Ratio at Birth and other issues related to health and nutrition.

Online waste exchange programme

- The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the first online waste exchange programme of India.
- The programme was launched for safe disposal of toxic wastes and promotes recycling and reuse of toxic wastes.
- The platform launched is to comply the principles of 6Rs namely Reuse, Recycle, Reduce, Redesign, Refurbish and Remanufacture.

Forex reserves of India

❖ Amid pandemic, India's foreign exchange reserves are rising and are slated to hit the $500 billion mark soon.

❖ The level of foreign exchange reserves has steadily increased from $5.8 billion as of March 1991 to the current level.

❖ The rising reserves have helped the rupee to strengthen against the dollar.

❖ Forex reserves are external assets in the form of gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the IMF) and foreign currency assets accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.

❖ The foreign currency assets include capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings.

❖ As much as 64 per cent of the foreign currency reserves is held in the securities like Treasury bills of foreign countries, mainly the US.

❖ India also held 653.01 tonnes of gold as of March 2020.

❖ It is held at overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements, while the remaining gold is held domestically.

Saffron and Heeng Production

❖ The Institute of Himalyan Bio resource Technology has partnered with the Department of Agriculture; Himachal Pradesh will join hands to boost the production of Heeng and Saffron in India.

❖ Saffron and Heeng are the most precious and valuable spices in the world.

❖ A large amount of Saffron is being imported into India.

❖ Currently, Saffron cultivation is done only in Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ Now, Saffron cultivation is to be introduced in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh as well.

❖ Similarly, there is no production of heeng in the country.

❖ Heeng is a perennial plant.

❖ It produces oleo-gum resin from its roots after 5 years of plantation.

Most expensive city in the World

- ❖ According to the Mercer's 2020 Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai is the 60th most expensive city in the world.

- ❖ Also, it is the 19th most expensive in Asia.

- ❖ Mumbai is the most expensive city in India.

- ❖ Amongst the other Indian cities, Mumbai was followed by New Delhi at 101st position and then by Chennai at 143rd position globally.

- ❖ The other least expensive cities include Bengaluru (171) and Kolkata at 185.

- ❖ The Survey measured its ranking including 209 cities.

- ❖ The global list created by the survey was topped by Hong Kong, followed by Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.

- ❖ The third position was retained by Tokyo of Japan and Zurich of Switzerland as that of the previous year.

- ❖ New York was at 6th position; Shanghai of China was at seventh.

- ❖ Bern and Geneva of Switzerland were at eighth and ninth positions respectively.

- ❖ Beijing was at tenth position.

Grants-in-aid

- ❖ The Terms of Reference of the Finance Commission require it to recommend grants-in-aid to the States.

- ❖ These grants include
  - o Revenue deficit grants
  - o Grants to local bodies
  - o Disaster management grants

- ❖ For 2020-21, the Commission has recommended devolution of 41% of the divisible pool of taxes.

- ❖ This is 1% lower than the percentage recommended by the 14th Finance Commission.

- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission used the following criteria while determining the share of states:
  - o 45% for the income distance
  - o 15% for the population in 2011
  - o 15% for the area
  - o 10% for forest and ecology
  - o 12.5% for demographic performance
  - o 2.5% for tax effort.

Sale of Loan Exposures

❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently released a draft framework for "Sale of Loan Exposures" and "Securitization of Standard Assets".

❖ The move is aimed at building a robust secondary market for bank loans that could ensure proper price discovery and can be used as an indicator for impending stress.

❖ The guidelines issued are applicable to Scheduled Commercial Banks.

❖ This includes All India Financial Institutions such as EXIM Bank, NABARD, Non-Banking Financial Companies.

❖ It also includes recommendations of Committee on Development of Housing Finance Securitization Market in India chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Universal Basic Income (UBI)

❖ The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has informed the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) that the recommended implementation of a universal basic income was "under examination and active consideration" of the Centre.

❖ It is a programme for providing all citizens of a country or other geographic area/state with a given sum of money, regardless of their income, resources or employment status.

❖ The Economic Survey of India 2016-17 has advocated the concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an alternative to the various social welfare schemes in an effort to reduce poverty.

❖ The main idea behind UBI is to prevent or reduce poverty and increase equality among citizens.

India's Forex

❖ India's foreign exchange reserves has crossed the milestone $500 billion mark for the first time ever in the country's history.

❖ India has surpassed South Korea and Russia as the third biggest holder of forex reserves only behind Japan and China.

2020 India Mobile Payments Market Report

❖ The S&P Global Market Intelligence's has launched this report.

❖ According to the report mobile payments and card transactions exceeded cash withdrawals from automated teller machines (ATMs) for the first time in 2019.

❖ Google Pay and PhonePe led the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payment space.

Palamgur and Neera

- ❖ The Khadi and Village Industries Commission is to roll out a project to produce Palamgur and Neera.
- ❖ It was first launched in Maharashtra where there are more than 50 lakh palm trees.
- ❖ The initiative has been rolled out by the Ministry of MSME (Micro, small and Medium Enterprises).

Fifth Recession of India

- ❖ Since Independence in 1947, India has faced four recessions.
- ❖ According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the recessions occurred in 1958, 1966, 1973 and 1980.
- ❖ The current Economic crisis, due to Covid 19 crisis, faced by India is the worst of all the previous recessions.

Gas trading

- ❖ The Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) launched the first nationwide online delivery-based gas trading platform for the delivery of natural gas.
- ❖ It will act as a subsidiary of Indian Energy Exchange.
- ❖ The IEX is an electronic system regulated by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.
- ❖ The headquarters of IEX is located in New Delhi.
- ❖ The GAIL and Petronet LNG have joined this IEX.
- ❖ As the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases after the United States and China, India has been aiming to achieve its emission reduction commitments through the use of green fuel and natural gas.

Advisory Panel on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)

- ❖ The IBBI recently reconstituted advisory panel by inducting four members.
- ❖ The committee was constituted in 2017 and is chaired by a noted banker Uday Kotak.
- ❖ The IBBI is a regulator that oversees insolvency proceedings in the country.
- ❖ It was established in 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code.

SATYABHAMA

❖ A portal named 'Science and Technology Yojana for Atma Nirbhar Bharat in Mining Advancement (SATYABHAMA)' was launched by Union Ministry of Mines and Coal, Pralhad Joshi.

❖ It is also being integrated with the NITI Aayog portal - NGO Darpan.

❖ The portal has been designed and developed by emphasizing the need for promoting the role of digital technology in the mineral and mining sector of the country.

❖ The Mines Informatics Division of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is the implementing agency of the portal.

Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan

❖ Through this scheme, Union Government plans to provide employment to migrant workers and create rural infrastructure

❖ The scheme will be launched from village Telihar in Khagaria district of Bihar.

❖ This campaign will work in mission mode for 125 days with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore.

❖ A total of 116 districts across six states, namely Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Odisha (where maximum migrant workers have returned) have been chosen for the campaign.

To empower & provide livelihood opportunities to returnee migrant workers and rural citizens

Focused campaign of 125 days across 116 districts in 6 states to work in mission mode

Public works worth ₹50,000 crore to be carried out under the scheme

Focused implementation of 25 different types of works to provide employment & to create durable infrastructure

Coal Mining in India

❖ The PM of India launched the auction of 41 coal mines for commercial mining.

❖ Despite having the world's fourth-largest coal-reserves and being the second-largest producer India still does not export coal

❖ But India is the world's second-largest coal-importer.

❖ The government has set the target to gasify around 100 million tonnes of coal by 2030.

Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund

❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved setting up of this fund worth Rs 15000 crore.

❖ The fund is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan stimulus package.

❖ It would facilitate much needed incentivization of investments for dairy and meat processing and value addition infrastructure and establishment of animal feed plant in the private sector.

UCBs and MSCBs under RBI supervision

❖ The 1482 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) and 58 Multi-State Cooperative Banks (MSCBs) will be brought under the supervision of India's Central Bank- the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

❖ The decision was taken by the Government following the financial irregularities of the Punjab & Maharashtra Cooperative (PMC) Bank that was unearthed.

International Comparison Program (ICP)

❖ The World Bank has released new Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) for reference year 2017.

❖ It was under ICP, that adjust for differences in the cost of living across economies of the World.

❖ ICP is the largest worldwide data-collection initiative, under the guidance of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC).

❖ Purchasing Power Parities (PPPs) of Indian Rupee per US$ at Gross Domestic Product (GDP) level is now 20.65 in 2017 from 15.55 in 2011.

India's position

❖ In 2017, India retained the position of third largest economy, accounted for 6.7 percent ($8,051 billion out of World total of $119,547 billion) of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPPs.

❖ China (16.4%) and United States (16.3%), respectively.

❖ India is also third largest economy in terms of its PPP-based share in global Actual Individual Consumption and Global Gross Capital Formation.

About PPP

❖ The rate at which the currency of one country would have to be converted into that of another country to buy the same amount of goods and services in each country.
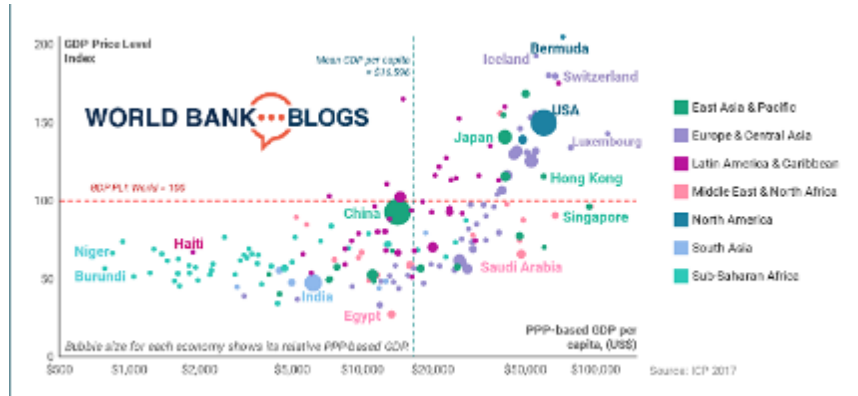
Annual banking statistics - 2019

❖ It was released by Switzerland's central bank Swiss National Bank (SNB).

❖ India is at the 77th position in terms of money parked by its citizens and enterprises with 0.06%.

❖ Britain holds the first place in this list.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Proxima b

❖ The international team of scientists confirmed the existence of the planet named Proxima b that is of the size of the earth.

❖ The planet is revolving Proxima Centauri star in the Alpha Centauri star system.

❖ The new planet found orbits its sun in just 11.2 days.

❖ Proxima Centauri is located 4.2 light years away from the sun.

❖ It is a red dwarf star and is one-eighth the mass of the sun.

❖ Proxima Centauri is the closest star to the sun.

AB Aurigae star system

❖ The SPHERE instrument of the Very Large Telescope has captured the birth of new planet in the AB Aurigae star system recently.

❖ This is the first time in human history the birth of a star is being witnessed.

❖ It was depicted by the European Southern Observatory.

❖ Very Large Telescope, is located in European Southern Observatory, northern Chile.
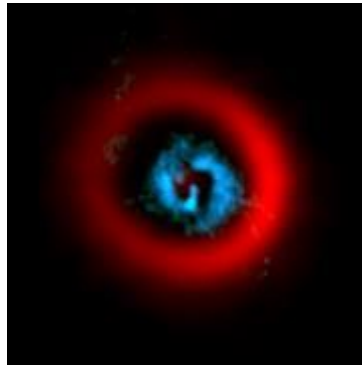
Scorpion Fish - Scorpaenospsis neglecta

❖ The Researchers at the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute have found a rare fish from the Gulf of Mannar.

❖ The specimen was deposited at the National Marine Biodiversity Museum of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI).

❖ It is a leading tropical marine fisheries research institute in the world, headquartered in Kochi, Kerala.

❖ The fish is locally called Scorpion Fish for its venomous tail.

❖ This is the first time, the species has been found alive in the Indian waters.

2019 LD2

❖ Astronauts have recently discovered a rare space object.

❖ The object looks like both asteroid and comet.

❖ The new space object is called Active Asteroid.

❖ The asteroid has been named 2019 LD2.

❖ It has an orbit like an asteroid and a tail like a comet.

❖ The 2019 LD2 shares the orbit of Jupiter and is a part of the asteroid swarm called Jupiter Trojans.

❖ The space object found is the first that emits gas just like a comet.

❖ The asteroid was discovered by the Asteroid Terrestrial-impact Last Alert System (ATLAS).

SpaceX

❖ The SpaceX has become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space.

❖ The SpaceX astronaut mission completed its first journey as the astronauts in the Crew Dragon Capsule entered the International Space Station (ISS).

❖ The SpaceX Company sent Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken to space through a Falcon 9 rocket.

❖ The mission will end the reliance of NASA on Russian space rockets.

❖ SpaceX was the first private company in the world to return rockets back to the earth.

❖ The astronauts have named the commercial spacecraft after one of the retired winged orbiters, 'Endeavour'.

❖ The International Space Station (ISS) is a modular space station (habitable artificial satellite) in low Earth orbit.

❖ It is the largest artificial object in space and the largest satellite in low Earth orbit, regularly visible to the naked eye from Earth's surface.

❖ The ISS circles the Earth in roughly 93 minutes, completing 15.5 orbits per day.

❖ The ISS programme is a multi-national collaborative project between five participating space agencies:

  o NASA (United States),

  o Roscosmos (Russia),

- o JAXA (Japan),
- o ESA (Europe),
- o CSA (Canada).

Ultra Swachh

❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit named Ultra Swachh.

❖ It includes a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc.

❖ The Ultra Swachh Unit houses a catalytic converter that makes it environment friendly.

❖ The system uses an advanced oxidative process (ozonation) called Ozonated Space Technology.

❖ The device also uses Ozone Sealant Technology that involves trapping of Ozone.

❖ Ozonation is a type of advanced oxidation process, involving the production of very reactive oxygen species able to attack a wide range of organic compounds and all microorganisms.

High Performance Magnesium Alloy

❖ The Indian Institute of Technology Madras researchers have developed a high-performance magnesium alloy.

❖ It can replace steel and aluminium in automobiles.

❖ The new engineered alloy is strong, highly ductile and its super plasticity is achieved at higher strain-rates which reduces overall manufacturing time, effort and costs.

❖ It is also lightweight, which helps lower the carbon footprint of vehicles.

Near-Earth objects (NEO)

- ❖ The Center for Near-Earth Object Studies (CNEOS) of NASA has revealed that five Asteroids are going to pass by the Earth.
- ❖ The asteroids, also known as space rocks, that will pass by Earth are 2020 KF, 2020 KE4, 2020 KK7, 2020 KD4, and 2020 KJ1.
- ❖ The Asteroid 2020 KE4 is expected to burn out in the atmosphere.
- ❖ Asteroids and Comets are the Near-Earth objects (NEOs) that orbit the Sun.
- ❖ While they orbit, they come closer to Earth within a distance of 30 million miles of orbit of the Earth, which makes them near-Earth object.
- ❖ Asteroids are usually formed in the warmer inner layer of solar system within the orbits of Jupiter and Mars.
- ❖ On the other hand, Comets are formed in the cold outer solar system.

Sun's Corona

- ❖ Scientists have recently discovered tiny flashes of radio light emanating from all over the Sun.
- ❖ It could help in explaining the long-pending coronal heating problem.
- ❖ The data was collected with the help of the Murchison Widefield Array (MWA) radio telescope located in the Western Australia.
- ❖ The Sun's corona is the outermost part of the Sun's atmosphere.
- ❖ The corona is usually hidden by the bright light of the Sun's surface.
- ❖ The corona is about 10 million times less dense than the Sun's surface.
- ❖ This low density makes the corona much less bright than the surface of the Sun.
- ❖ The corona's temperature causes its particles to move at very high speeds.
- ❖ These speeds are so high that the particles can escape the Sun's gravity.

Arsenicum album

❖ Ministry of AYUSH has recommended the Arsenicum album, a homeopathic drug

❖ The drug has been recommended for preventive use of COVID-19.

❖ The drug is made by heating arsenic in distilled water.

Solar Corona

❖ The researchers at the University Of Hawaii Institute Of Technology (IFA) have been studying the solar corona.

❖ It is an outermost atmosphere of the sun that expands into interplanetary space.

❖ This stream of charged particles that have been radiating from the surface of the Sun is called the Solar wind and it expands to fill the entire Solar system.

❖ The corona has been most easily seen during a total solar eclipse.

❖ When the moon is directly between the Earth and Sun which blocks the bright surface of the Sun is the total solar eclipse.

Molybdenum dioxide

❖ The scientists and researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences operating under Department of Science and Technology have invented a low cost effective way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide.

❖ Molybdenum dioxide can act as efficient catalyst to reduce energy used in splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen.

❖ The process is called electrolysis.

❖ Molybdenum Dioxide has the potential to replace the catalyst that is being currently used Platinum.

❖ The splitting of water is important to obtain hydrogen.

Magnetocaloric material

❖ The scientists from the Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), have recently developed earth based magneto caloric material to treat cancer.

❖ The ARCI is an autonomous Research and Development Centre operating under Department of Science and Technology.

❖ The Magnetic Caloric materials provide controlled heating.

❖ The main advantage of the using the material is that the cells cool down as soon as the magnetic field is removed.

ISRO agreement

❖ The Indian Space Research Organization recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Science (ARIES), Nainital.

❖ It works on the cooperation in the field of Space Situational Awareness and Astrophysics.

❖ The main objective of the MoU is to protect the Indian space assets from space debris threats.

❖ Under the Space Situation Awareness, India is focusing on debris tracking, collision avoidance, satellite anomaly detection, monitoring threats from space weather station, prediction of threats from asteroids and meteorites.

Internet-controlled Robot

❖ An engineer from Thane of Maharashtra has developed an internet-controlled robot.

❖ It was designed and created by Pratik Tirodkar, founder of a start-up PNT Solutions, Dombivali.

❖ The robot has been named Coro-bot.

❖ The bot is first of its kind.

❖ The Coro-bot has been deployed for first time at the Holy Cross hospital in Kalyan in Mumbai.

❖ It eliminates the need of physical presence or contact of nurses or ward boys with the patient

❖ The robot has a special option of controlling it through an application from any part of the world.

❖ The robot becomes the first in world to use Internet of Things technology in medical field.

Aerosols Radiative Forcing (ARF) at Trans - Himalayas

❖ Recently, a study by the Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) has found that radiative forcing of aerosols i.e. effect of anthropogenic aerosols is much higher over the high altitudes of western trans-Himalayas.

❖ ARF is the effect of anthropogenic aerosols on the radiative fluxes at the top of the atmosphere and at the surface and on the absorption of radiation within the atmosphere.

❖ ARIES, Nainital is an autonomous research institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology.

❖ Aerosols are defined as a combination of liquid or solid particles suspended in a gaseous or liquid environment.

Direct Seeding of Rice

- ❖ The Punjab government has decided to deploy direct seeding of rice (DSR) technique instead of the traditional transplantation of paddy this year.

- ❖ It is due to the shortfall of agricultural labourers triggered by reverse migration in the wake of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

- ❖ Under the DSR, the pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.

- ❖ There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.

- ❖ In transplanting paddy, farmers prepare nurseries where the paddy seeds are first sown and raised into young plants.

COVID BEEP

- ❖ The Union Minister of India Jitendra Singh recently launched COVID BEEP.

- ❖ It is the first physiological parameter monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.

- ❖ COVID BEEP is Continuous Oxygenation and Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod.

- ❖ It is the first indigenous wireless cost-effective parameter monitoring system.

- ❖ It was developed by IIT Hyderabad and ESIC Medical College Hyderabad.

ANANYA

- ❖ The Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) under the Ministry of Defence has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray to fight against COVID-19.

- ❖ The spray has been named ANANYA.

- ❖ It is a water-based spray.

Titan

- ❖ The moon of Saturn, Titan is drifting away faster than before.
- ❖ This has been identified by the researchers in NASA and also scientists in Italian Space Agency.
- ❖ This data was received from the Cassini Spacecraft of NASA.
- ❖ The Cassini Space Craft Mission, or the Cassini-Huygens Mission is a joint space mission of NASA, Italian Space Agency and the European Space Agency.
- ❖ The mission was launched to study saturn, its moons, and rings.
- ❖ There are around 82 moons that are orbiting Saturn.
- ❖ The earth's own moon drifts 1.5 inches from the Earth every year.
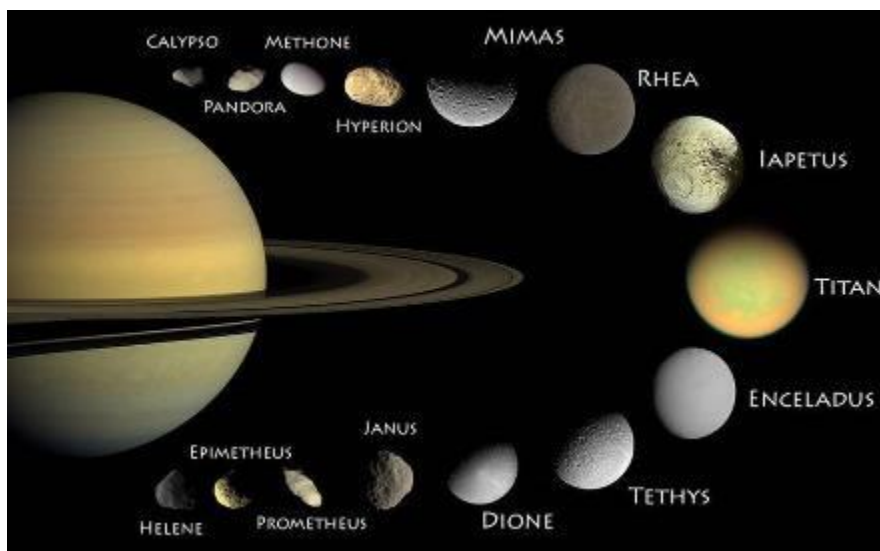
GM seeds

- ❖ In the current kharif season, farmers would undertake mass sowing of GM seeds for maize, soyabean, mustard brinjal and herbicide tolerant (Ht) cotton, although these are not approved.

- ❖ Genetic engineering aims to transcend the genus barrier by introducing an alien gene in the seeds to get the desired effects.

- ❖ The alien gene could be from a plant, an animal or even a soil bacterium.

- ❖ Bt cotton, the only GM crop is allowed in India.

- ❖ In India, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is the apex body that allows for commercial release of GM crops.

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.
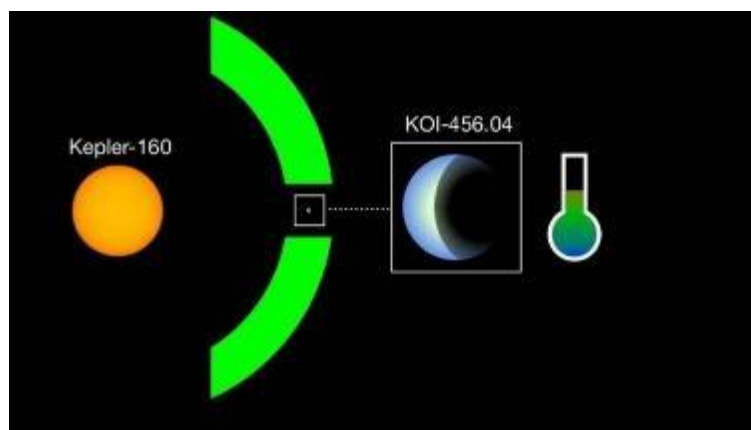
Joint Lunar Mission

- ❖ Japan is planning for a joint lunar mission with India, named Lunar Polar Exploration (LPE).

- ❖ The mission will be launched after 2023.

❖ The mission will be launched from Japan, and the designated launch vehicle is the H3 rocket, manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries.

Malathion

❖ It is a pesticide that is widely used in agriculture, residential landscaping, public recreation areas, and in public health pest control programs such as mosquito eradication.

❖ It was supplied by the Hindustan Insecticides Limited to Iran for Locust Control Programme.

Fifth State of Matter

❖ The NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) scientists in the International Space Station unveiled the first results of Bose-Einstein condensate experiments.

❖ It is revealed that the particles can be manipulated free from Earthly constraints.

❖ Bose-Einstein Condensates (BEC) were predicted by Indian Mathematician Satyendra Nath Bose and Albert Einstein almost a century ago.

❖ BEC is a state of matter that is typically formed when a gas of bosons is cooled to temperatures close to absolute zero.

❖ There are four state of matter namely solid, liquid, gas and plasma.

❖ The BEC is the fifth state of matter and was created by the scientists 25 years ago.

❖ The fourth state of matter called the plasma was described by the chemist Irving Langmuir.

BE CONDENSATES   SOLIDS   LIQUIDS   GASES   PLASMAS

Clinical Management Protocol of COVID-19

❖ The Union Health Ministry has recently included Remdesivir as a part of investigational therapy and updated Clinical Management Protocol of COVID-19 patients.

❖ The ministry has also added loss of taste and loss of smell as two key symptoms of COVID-19 infection.

❖ Under the updated protocol, the Ministry has removed its earlier recommendation of the use of Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) in severe cases.

❖ Also, the usage of HCQ along with Azithromycin was also removed.

Solar Eclipse in 2020

❖ The Earth is to witness an annular solar eclipse on June 21, 2020, the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

❖ The eclipse is to be the deepest as the moon is to cover 98.8% of the sun.

❖ The eclipse is to be visible to states such as Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttarakhand.

❖ A solar eclipse takes place whenever the moon passes in between the Earth and the sun.

❖ There are four types of solar eclipses.

❖ They are partial solar eclipse, total solar eclipse, hybrid solar eclipse and annual solar eclipse.

❖ The Annular eclipse occurs when the sun and moon are in line with the earth.

❖ This solar eclipse takes place only when the moon is farthest from the Earth.

❖ During this eclipse, the sun appears as a bright ring or an annulus.

Dexamethasone

❖ It is "the first drug to be shown to improve survival in COVID-19".

❖ It is a steroid drug typically used to reduce inflammation.

❖ It is used to treat conditions such as arthritis, blood/hormone/immune system disorders, allergic reactions, certain skin and eye conditions, breathing problems, certain bowel disorders, and certain cancers.

❖ It is also used as a test for an adrenal gland disorder (Cushing's syndrome).

❖ The observation was based on a clinical trial called RECOVERY (Randomised Evaluation of COVid-19 therapy) by the University of Oxford in England.

❖ The drug is manufactured in India by Cadila Healthcare or Zydus Cadila of Ahmedabad.

India's first infectious disease Diagnostic Lab

❖ This mobile laboratory was constructed under the scheme Atma Nirmar Bharat in a record time of 8 days.

❖ It was built with the assistance of Department of Biotechnology.

❖ It is constructed with a safety level of BSL-2 (Bio Safety Level 2).

❖ The lab can perform 50 RT-PCR tests per day and around 200 ELISA (Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay) tests per day.

❖ ELISA is designed to detect soluble substances such as antibodies, proteins and hormones.

Antigen Tests

❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research recommended the use of Rapid Antigen test kits along with RT-PCR in containment zones.

❖ The Antigen test kits will allow faster diagnosis.

❖ Just like the RT-PCR test of COVID-19, the antigen testing also looks for virus rather than the antibodies.

I Lab

❖ The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has launched the I-Lab (Infectious disease diagnostic laboratory) in New Delhi.

❖ This is the first-ever I-Lab in India that was launched.

❖ It will be deployed by the Department of Biotechnology in one of its COVID testing hubs.

❖ The I-Lab is a mobile testing facility that will be used for collecting samples and testing for Covid-19 across inaccessible areas in the rural regions of the country.

❖ Andhra Pradesh Med-Tech Zone and Ministry of Science and Technology had collaborated for this project to address the shortage of healthcare technologies in India.

❖ Andhra Pradesh Med-Tech Zone (AMTZ) is Asia's first medical equipment manufacturing ecosystem that is uniquely dedicated to medical technologies and has been supported by various Ministries of India.

Micius

❖ It is the world's first quantum communications satellite, launched by China in 2016.

❖ The satellite serves as the source of pairs of entangled photons.

❖ Recently, it has sent light particles to the Earth to establish the world's most secure communication link.

CIPREMI

❖ The Union Health Ministry added 'Remdesivir' only for restricted emergency use for Covid 19.

❖ Hetero and Cipla Pharmaceuticals were granted approval by the Drug Controller General of India for the production and marketing of this antiviral drug Remdesivir.

❖ Under the brand name 'Covifor', the Hyderabad based Hetero Pharmaceuticals' generic version of Remdesivir will be marketed in India.

❖ The United States-based biopharmaceutical company, Gilead Sciences is the developer of this drug.

❖ Cipla was granted the voluntary non-exclusive by Gilead Science for manufacturing and marketing of the drug in India under generic drug name 'CIPREMI'.

❖ Covifor is the second such drug to enter the Indian market after Fabiflu by Glenmark.

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

❖ United Kingdom, Singapore, and Japan are the only countries where the drug has been approved.

BeiDou Satellite System 3 (BDS - 3)

❖ China completed the launch of its final satellite of BDS - 3.

❖ It is a part of the third generation of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS-3) and was the 55th satellite of the Beidou system.

❖ BDS-3 has started providing global navigation services from December 2018 to countries that had signed the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) of China.

❖ BeiDou means 'Big Dipper' in Mandarin.

❖ It is an effort to compete with the United States Government's NAVSTAR Global Positioning System (GPS), Russia's GLONASS, and the Galileo Systems of the European Union.

Detection of Fluorine

- ❖ The presence of singly ionised fluorine for the first time in the atmospheres of hot Extreme Helium Stars was detected.

- ❖ This discovery makes a strong case that the main formation of these objects involves a merger of a carbon-oxygen (CO) and a Helium (He) white dwarf.

- ❖ It was a study by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) an autonomous institute of Department of Science and Technology.

- ❖ An extreme helium star or EHe is a low-mass supergiant that is almost devoid of hydrogen.

- ❖ Hydrogen is the most common chemical element of the universe.

Liquid Cooling and Heating Garment

- ❖ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has got an Indian patent for its liquid cooling and heating garment (LCHG) for the period of 20 years.

- ❖ It is made up of biocompatible fabrics and components in order to give a comfortable temperature and removal of sweat for the astronauts.

Maareech Torpedo Decoy System

- ❖ The Indian Navy has inducted this system.

- ❖ It is an Indigenously developed Maareech capable Advanced system.

- ❖ A Maareech Torpedo is a self-propelled underwater missile that can be launched from a surface vessel, submarine, and airplane.

SPARC

- ❖ Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras are collaborating with the researchers in Germany to develop new materials for green energy solutions.

- ❖ This project has been taken up under the Scheme for Promotion of academic and Research Collaboration or SPARC.

Domestication of Chicken

- ❖ The DNA sequencing of 863 genomes has showed the first domestication of chicken occurred in south-western China, northern Thailand and Myanmar.

- ❖ According to Charles Darwin, chickens were domesticated around 4,000 B.C. from a single ancestor, Red Jungle Fowl in the Indus Valley.

New Clinical Management Protocol

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has released an updated Clinical Management Protocol.

- ❖ Under this. Dexamethasone was advised as an alternative to Methylprednisolone.

- ❖ The Dexamethasone drug is to be only used for COVID-19 positive patients who require oxygen support or those with an excessive inflammatory response.

ENVIRONMENT

Game Farming

- ❖ The Government of Botswana, an African nation, announced that it would allow farmers in the country to keep small game on their farms to encourage locals' participation in agro-tourism.

- ❖ A game farm is a place where game animals are raised to stock wildlife areas for hunting.

- ❖ The term also includes places where such animals are raised to be sold as food or for photography.

State of India's Environment 2020

- ❖ Recently, the 'State of India's Environment 2020 in Figures' report was published by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).

❖ The report outlines the status of sustainable development, livestocks, forests, water, waste, air, land, wildlife and other natural resources, environmental crimes and global economic risk.

❖ According to it, the internal displacements in India were the highest in the world in 2019.

❖ These internal displacements were caused by disasters and extreme weather conditions like floods, cyclones and droughts.

Nagar Van

❖ The Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the "Nagar Van" scheme.

❖ The scheme emphasises on urban forestry.

❖ Under the scheme, around 200 urban forests are to be developed all over the country in next five years.

Environment Performance Index

❖ The Yale University recently released the 12th edition of biennial Environment Performance Index.

❖ The index provided 10-year observation on environmental performance at national and international level.

❖ The index ranks 180 countries on 32 performance indicators across 11 categories covering environmental health and ecosystem vitality.

❖ India scored 168th rank out of 180 countries

❖ All the South Asian countries were ahead of India except Afghanistan.

Green Sticker

❖ All BS-VI compliant vehicles will have to display a green sticker from October 1, as per the latest government order.

❖ The green sticker will have registration details.

❖ As per Government's order, all motor vehicles will be fitted with tamper-proof, high-security registration plates (HSRP).

❖ The third number plate will also have colour coding for fuel used in the vehicle to help detect polluting vehicles from the non-polluting ones.

Sixth Mass extinction

❖ The ongoing sixth mass extinction may be one of the most serious environmental threats to the persistence of civilisation.

❖ This research was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS).

The "Big Five" mass extinctions

Late Ordovician (440 million years ago)

First mass extinction
85% of all species, including marine invertebates like:
- graptolites
- brachiopods
- conodonts.

Late Devonian (374 million years ago)

Second mass extinction
75% of all species including:
- brachiopods
- bivalves
- sarcopterygians.

Permian (250 million years ago)

Third mass extinction (the largest)
95% of all species, including marine animals like:
- *Dimetrodon*
- *Estemmenosuchus*
- *Orthacanthus*
- trilobites
- *Moschops*.

Jurassic (200 million years ago)

Fourth mass extinction
80% of all species, including:
- icthyosaurs
- paddle-finned plesiosaurs
- phytoplankton
- many species of frogs, salamanders, turtles, snakes, spiders and grasshoppers.

Cretaceous (145 million years ago)

Fifth mass extinction
76% of all species including:
- non-avian dinosaurs
- bivalves (*Exogyra* and *Gryphaea*)
- inoceramids
- flying reptiles (pterosaurs).

- Mass extinction refers to a substantial increase in the degree of extinction or when the Earth loses more than three-quarters of its species in a geologically short period of time.

- So far, during the entire history of the Earth, there have been five mass extinctions.

- The five mass extinctions that took place in the last 450 million years have led to the destruction of 70-95 per cent of the species of plants, animals and microorganisms that existed earlier.

- The sixth one, which is ongoing, is referred to as the Anthropocene extinction.

- Researchers have described it as the "most serious environmental problem" since the loss of species will be permanent.

- The loss of species has been occurring since human ancestors developed agriculture over 11,000 years ago.

- Tropical regions have seen the highest number of declining species.

Annual Report of Environment Ministry

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has released the Annual Report 2019-20.

- The report says that around 11,467 hectares of forest lands have been diverted in 22 states in 2019.

- The diversion has been made under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- Of all the diversions made, one-third was for Odisha based projects.

- The maximum number of projects was in Haryana.

Rise in Population of Asiatic Lion

- Recently, the Gujarat Forest Department has announced an increase in the population of Asiatic lions in the Gir forest region.

- Total 674 lions were recorded in 2020 compared to the 523 in the Lion Census of 2015.

- The lion population has grown by almost 29% from the last count in 2015.

- The count was estimated from a population observation exercise called Poonam Avlokan in place of the 15th Lion Census.

- Poonam Avlokan is a monthly in-house exercise carried out every full moon.

- The regular Lion Census is conducted once every five years since 1965.

- The last Census was conducted in 2015.

- It was 22,000 square kilo metres in 2015.

- In 2020, the spread increased to 30,000 square kilo metres.

- The Asiatic Lion is listed under Endangered in IUCN red list.

❖ In India, the Asiatic Lions are listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

❖ The "Asiatic Lion Conservation Project" has been launched by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).

❖ The project has been approved for three financial years from 2018 to 2021.

❖ Today they are restricted to Gir Forest National Park.

❖ It is located in the Junagadh district of Gujarat.

❖ Gir is often linked with "Maldharis".

❖ Maldharis are religious pastoral communities living in Gir.

GROWING NUMBERS

Year	Adult		Subadult	Cubs	Total
	Male	Female			
1990	99	95	27	63	284
1995	94	100	39	71	304
2001	101	114	57	55	327
2005	89	124	72	74	359
2010	97	162	75	77	411
2015	109	201	73	140	523
2020	159	262	115	138	674

Source: Gujarat state forest and environment department sources

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.

Classification of species under CITES

Appendix I — Trade permitted only in exceptional circumstances - 3% of all species (Example: African rhinoceros - threatened with extinction)

Appendix II — Trade strictly controlled - 97% of all species (Example: Orchidaceae - at risk of becoming threatened)

Appendix III — Request for assistance in controlling trade of species protected in a specific country (Example: Chilenian toad)

Source: CITES   © DW

Lonar Lake

❖ The Team of Scientists To Examine Why Maharashtra's Lonar Lake has turned Pink.

❖ Some experts have attributed it to the salinity and presence of algae in the water body.

❖ Lonar crater lake was identified as a unique geographical site by a British officer named CJE Alexander in 1823.

❖ It is an ancient circular lake created by a meteorite strike in Maharashtra.

❖ Lonar crater became a geo-heritage site in 1979.

❖ It is relatively young geologically, at just 50,000 years old.

❖ Lonar Lake lies within the extraterrestrial impact crater found within the great Deccan Traps, a huge basaltic formation in India.


Malabar Gliding Frog

❖ Recently, a rare amphibian, Malabar Gliding Frog was spotted in Pullad, Kerala.

❖ The amphibian is endemic to the rainforest of Western Ghats.

Coral Bleaching

❖ The Gulf of Mannar (GoM), spread around 21 islands, suffers significant damage caused by livelihood-linked human threats and climate change.

❖ The islands and the reef areas collectively constitute the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park (GMMNP).

❖ Corals in the GoM usually bleach in summer if the water temperature surpasses 30˚C, but they recover when it drops in August.

❖ According to recent study Cyclones Amphan and Nisarga have saved the Gulf of Mannar corals from mass bleaching.

❖ The windstorms along with two low pressures have significantly lowered seawater temperature in summer.

❖ It is expected that the bleached corals will completely recover by July-end without facing any mortality, provided the present climatic condition continues.

❖ Reduction in sewage inflow, industrial and human activities and halt in fishing during the lockdown have also assisted in improvement of reef health, resulting in enhanced fish population and faster coral recovery.
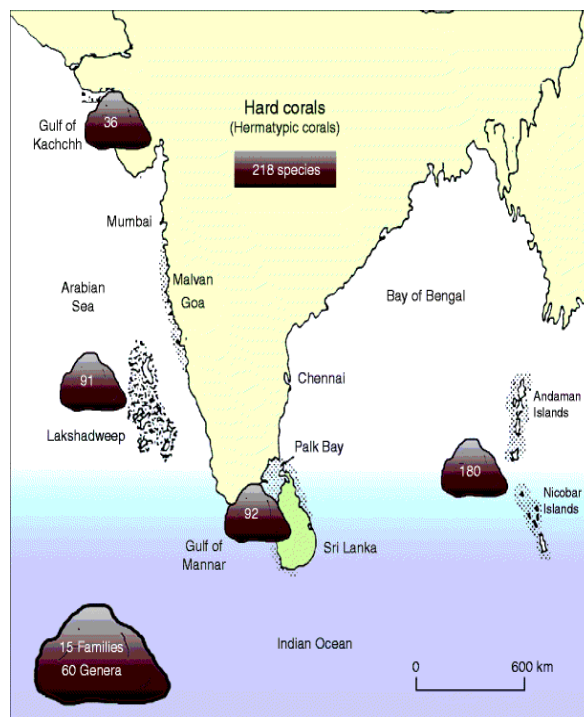

Schizothorax sikusirumensis

❖ A new fish species called Schizothorax sikusirumensis has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

❖ The name of the species has been derived from the names of the rivers where the fish was found.

❖ They are River Sirum and River Siku.

First Assessment of Climate Change over Indian Region

❖ The Ministry of Earth Science released its report.

❖ It is India's first-ever national forecast on the impact of global warming on the subcontinent in the coming century.

❖ It will be part of the next report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), expected to be ready in 2022.

❖ These projections are based on a climate forecasting model developed at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

❖ It indicates a rise in worldwide average surface air temperatures by 5°C by the end of the century if human activities keep emitting GHGs at the current rate.

❖ The average surface temperature of India could increase up to 4.4 degree Celsius by the end of 2100 as compared to the temperature between 1976 and 2005.

❖ The average temperature of the country increased by 0.7 degree Celsius as compared to the period between 1900 and 2018.
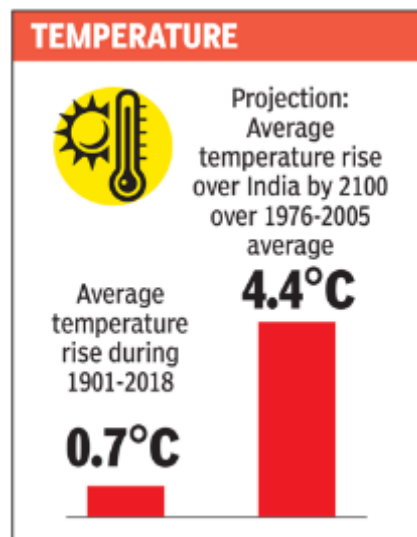
Arctic Sea Ice

❖ Recently, National Centre of Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has observed the largest decline in the Arctic Sea ice in the last 41 years.

❖ Sea ice covers about 7% of the Earth's surface and about 12% of the world's oceans.

❖ NCPOR was established as an autonomous Research and Development Institution of the Ministry of Earth Sciences in 1998.

❖ It is located in Goa.

❖ NCPOR is India's premier R&D institution responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and Southern Ocean regions.

- The Arctic Sea is located in the Arctic North Polar Region in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere.
- The Arctic Ocean is the smallest and shallowest of the world's five major oceans and it is also known as the coldest of all the oceans.

The Thing

- In 2011, on the Seymour Island of Antarctica, a group of scientists from Chile discovered a fossil (68 million years old egg).
- The fossil, since then was kept at a museum in Chile and was named 'The Thing'.
- "The Thing' was the second-largest egg in terms of size (29 by 20 centimeters)
- It is the second largest to the Madagascan Elephant Bird (extinct) egg and also the largest soft-shelled egg on record.

Stegodon Fossil

- A team of researchers found a fossil of an extinct ancestor of Elephant.
- It is estimated to be around between 5 to 8 million old.
- The fossil was discovered in the state of Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur District's Badshahi Bagh area.

❖ It was found at the Dhok Pathan Formation of the Sivalik range.

❖ It is said to be of a Stegodon (now extinct, a type of Elephant found until the late Pleistocene).

Decarbonising Transport in India

❖ NITI Aayog will launch the project 'Decarbonising Transport in India'.

❖ The project is in collaboration with the International Transport Forum (ITF).

❖ It is aimed for reducing the carbon dioxide emission caused due to transportation in the country.

❖ India's Decarbonising Transport initiative is a part of the DTEE project.

❖ DTEE stands for Decarbonising Transport in Emerging Economies.

❖ DTEE is a project of ITF under which Argentina, Morocco, and Azerbaijan are the participants.

❖ ITF is an intergovernmental organization with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCED).

Tillari forest area

❖ Maharashtra forest department declared Tillari forest area in Dodamarg and Sawantwadi range in coastal Sindhudurg district as a conservation reserve area.

❖ The Tilari ecosystem breeds tiger population and serves as the source population for the Sahyadri tiger reserve.

Report on illegal wildlife trade

❖ The First global report on the illegal wildlife trade was recently released by FATF (Financial Action Task Force).

❖ It is called the "Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade" report.

The illegal wildlife trade is not just a problem for countries where wildlife is illegally poached, transited or sold.

Criminals use legitimate wildlife trade, corruption or import-export front companies to launder their funds, making this crime a global money laundering threat.

FATF Report:
Money Laundering and the Illegal Wildlife Trade

Tiger Deaths in India

❖ The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has said that 750 tigers have died in the country in the last eight years (2012-19).

❖ Madhya Pradesh reported the highest casualties at 173

❖ Maharashtra has reported second highest deaths at 125.

Increase in Ozone Levels

❖ Recently, the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has observed an increase in ozone (a harmful pollutant) levels in the several cities of the country.

❖ The ozone is primarily a "sunny weather problem" in India as the presence of sunlight has a direct impact on formation of ground level ozone.

❖ Heat acts as a catalyst, facilitating photochemical reactions, hence higher concentrations of ozone are seen during the summer months.

❖ The characteristics of summer pollution include high winds, intermittent rains, thunderstorms, high temperature and heat waves.

❖ Usually, the ozone levels tend to spike when winter conditions subside, and its presence is felt most during the day.

❖ Ozone is not directly emitted by any source.

❖ It is formed by photochemical reactions between oxides of nitrogen (NOx), other volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and gases in the air under the influence of sunlight and heat.

❖ The 'good' ozone present in the earth's ozone layer protects human beings from harmful Ultraviolet (UV) radiation whereas the ground level ozone is highly reactive and can have adverse impacts on human health.

OZONE IN THE LOW ZONE
STRATOSPHERE — PROTECTIVE OZONE LAYER
TROPOSPHERE — DANGEROUS GROUND-LEVEL OZONE
POLLUTION + HEAT & SUNLIGHT = OZONE

STATES

Summer capital of Uttarkhand

- ❖ The Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya assented to declare Gairsain as new summer capital.
- ❖ The Gairsain is also called Bhararisen.
- ❖ The Legislative Assembly of the state is located at Dehradun, the winter capital city.
- ❖ The State of Uttarakhand was formed as the 27th state of India.
- ❖ The state was formed through the Uttar Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2000.

Athirapally project

- ❖ The Kerala government has issued a fresh no-objection certificate (NOC) for the state electricity board to proceed with the implementation of the proposed Athirapally hydro-electric project.
- ❖ Under the project, a dam is proposed to be constructed on the Chalakudy River.
- ❖ The Chalakudy River is a tributary of the Periyar River and originates in the Anamalai region of Tamil Nadu.
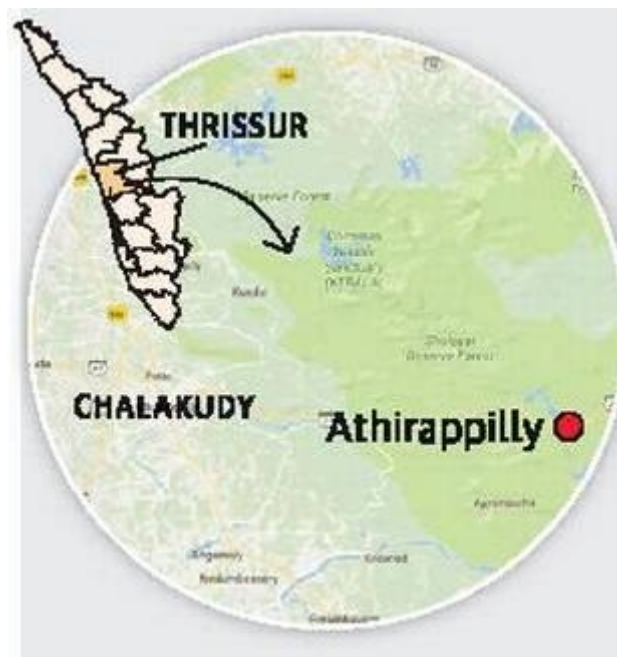
Dekho Apna Desh series

❖ Ministry of Tourism brings out the "Hidden Treasures of Chhattisgarh" through this webinar series.

- o Karkabhat – Megalithic burial site

- o Dipadih – Temple complex dating back to the 7th Century.

- o Ghotul – An ancient tribal system of education

- o Sonabai – Famous ornamentation works of Chhattisgarh

Mastaka Temple

❖ A 500 year old temple that submerged in the waters of Mahanadi resurfaced at the Padmabati village in Odisha.

❖ The temple is Gopinath Dev temple also called "Mastaka".

❖ The Archaeological Survey team has recently claimed this.

Trekking in the Himalayas - Magical Experiences

❖ The following places of uttarkhand were mentioned as the part of 32nd session of the Dekho Apna Desh - the webinar series of Ministry of Tourism.

- o Kuari Pass - also known as Curzon trail

- o Brahma Taal

- o Fotoksar - part of the Lingshed - Padum trek (also known as the Great Zanskar trek)

- o Roopkhund

ISO for tribal hostel

❖ Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students.

❖ The ST & SC Welfare Department of Odisha has launched the 'Mission Suvidya' project to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources.

❖ The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an international standard-setting body.

❖ It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana

❖ It was launched at Rajasthan's Pokhran.

❖ It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for empowerment of potter community in the remotest of locations in the country.

❖ The program reaches out to the potters in - U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.

Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK

❖ Jharkhand is to become the second state after Kerala to launch a job guarantee scheme.

❖ It will be on the lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA).

❖ It will focus on providing 100-day work for the unskilled workers living in the urban areas of the state.

❖ It will be named Mukhyamantri SHRAMIK (Shahri Rozgar Manjuri For Kamgar).

❖ Ayyankali Urban Employment Guarantee Scheme (AUEGS) is the 100-day employment guarantee scheme of the Kerala Government for urban poor.

Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme)

❖ The Rajasthan state Government launched this scheme.

❖ It is to provide pure and nutritious food to the economically weaker sections of the society.

Earthquakes in Northeast

❖ A medium intensity earthquake of 5.1 magnitude rocked Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur and the other northeastern States.

❖ As per the seismic hazard map of India, both the states of Mizoram and Tripura lie entirely in Zone V.
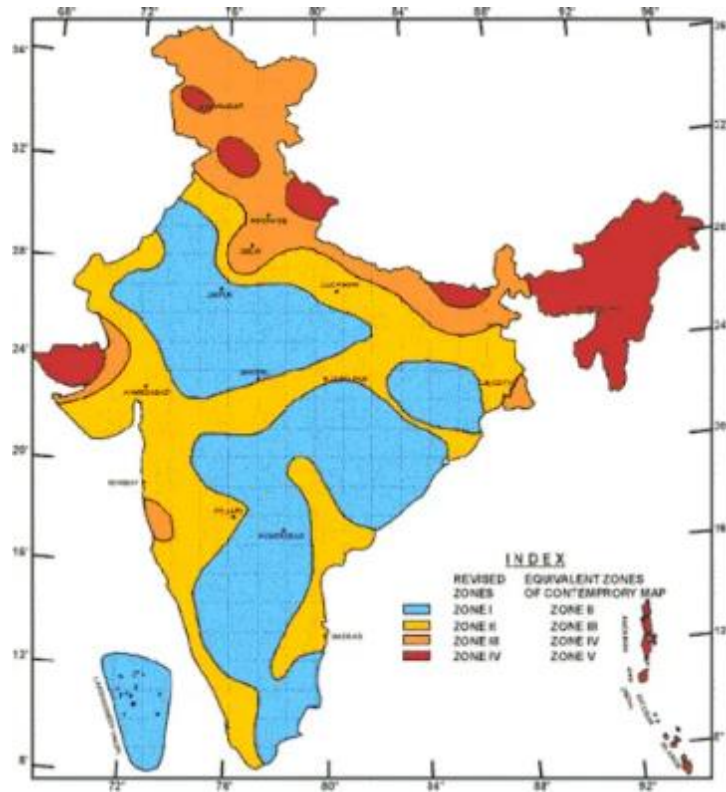
Khushinagar Airport

❖ Uttar Pradesh's Khushinagar Airport is declared as an International Airport.

❖ Khushinagar is a Buddhist pilgrimage town where Gautama Buddha attained Mahaparinirvana.

Devika and Puneja

❖ The Union Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh had inaugurated bridges - Devika and Puneja at Jammu & Kashmir.

❖ It was constructed by the Border Roads Organization (BRO).

Haritha Haram

❖ The Chief Minister of Telangana K Chandrashekhar Rao has launched the sixth phase of the Haritha Haram Programme.

❖ Under the sixth phase of the programme, the target has been set to plant 30 crore saplings across the state.

KK Shailaja

- ❖ United Nations honoured Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja by inviting her on panel discussion on World Public Service Day (June 23rd).
- ❖ She was the honored speaker from India to speak about the strategies that were adopted by the state to combat the pandemic.

Karnataka on Small Industries

- ❖ Karnataka become the First State to amend Industries Act for Small, Medium and Large-scale Industries.
- ❖ Gujarat and Rajasthan are the only two states in the country that have amended the Act (for small scale industries only).

Atma Nirbhar Uttar Pradesh Rojgar Yojana

- ❖ It was inaugurated by Narendra Modi for migrant workers of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This is the largest employment generating program in the country which provided employment to about 1.25 crore people in Uttar Pradesh.

Godhan Nyay Yojana

- ❖ Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel announced the launch of 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' in the state.
- ❖ It becomes first Indian state to buy cow dung from cattle owners.

Andhra Budget - 2020/21

- ❖ Andhra became the first Indian state to convene its Legislative Assembly and Council amid the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ AP Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan addressed the Assembly through video conference, which is also another first for the country.
- ❖ The Andhra state Government launched the Kapu Nestham scheme to provide financial support of Rs 75000 to women of Kapu community.

Nishtha Vidyut Mitra Scheme

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Madhya Kshetra Vidyut Vitaran Company Limited (MPMKVVCL) introduced this for women empowerment.
- ❖ Under this scheme, women Self-Help Groups at Gram Panchayat level will act as Nishtha Vidyut Mitra.

Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar

- ❖ Tripura government has launched this scheme to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women.
- ❖ The scheme is a part of the state's efforts to fight malnutrition and maternal mortality

At One Click initiative

- ❖ The Gujarat Government has launched this online cash aid initiative.
- ❖ It has committed financial aid for the MSMEs and bigger industrial units (including the textile industry).

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020

- ❖ Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was named the EY World Entrepreneur of the year 2020.
- ❖ Kiran is the second woman to win the award after Olivia Lum of Hyflux, Singapore.
- ❖ She is also the third Indian to win the award after Uday Kotak of Kotak Mahindra in 2014 and Narayana Murthy of Infosys in 2005.
- ❖ Kiran founded Biocon, a bio-enzymes company, in 1978.

Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020

- ❖ Indian writer, Kritika Pandey has been honoured with Commonwealth Short Story Prize 2020 for the Asia region.
- ❖ She won the prize for her story "The Great Indian Tee and Snakes".
- ❖ The Commonwealth Short Story Prize is awarded since 2012, for the best piece of unpublished short fiction from the Commonwealth.
- ❖ The prize is given to five regional winners namely Asia, Pacific, Africa, Canada and Europe, and the Caribbean.

Richard Dawkins award

- ❖ Javed Akhtar has become the first Indian to receive the Richard Dawkins award.
- ❖ Javed Akhtar is a renowned lyricist in the Indian film industry.
- ❖ The award is presented by the Atheist Alliance of America (an NGO).

❖ Richard Dawkins is an ethologist, author and an english evolutionary biologist.

World Food Prize 2020

❖ Indian-American Soil Scientist Dr. Rattan Lal has won the 2020 World Food Prize given by the World Food Prize Foundation.

❖ It is given to him for mainstreaming and developing a soil centric approach to increase food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.

❖ The World Food Prize was created in 1986 with sponsorship by General Foods Corporation.

❖ The Prize is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize in the field of agriculture.

❖ The Prize is presented each October on UN World Food Day (October 16).

❖ The World Food Prize Foundation is currently run by Barbara Stinson.

❖ It was conceived by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, the Father of Green Revolution.

❖ The first winner of this prize was MS Swaminathan in 1987, the Father of Indian Green Revolution.
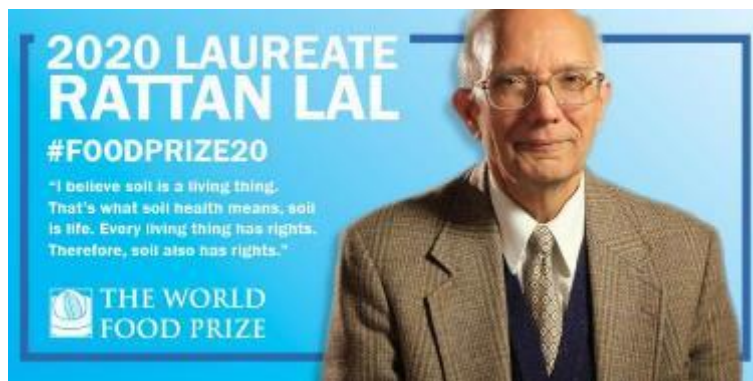
FIFA Ranking

❖ The FIFA ranking was released.

❖ The Indian Football team retained its 108th position.

❖ Belgium remained at the top spot and was ahead of France and Brazil.

❖ England and Uruguay continued to remain at fourth and fifth position.

❖ FIFA is Federation Internationale de Football Association.

❖ It is an international governing body of association football.

❖ It was founded in 1904 and is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.

Medal of the Order of Australia

❖ Indian Musician & founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia, Shobha Sekhar will be conferred this award.

❖ The medal of the order of Australia is awarded to the individuals contributing to their community or to Australia globally or domestically.

Kathy Lueders

❖ Kathy Lueders has become the new Associate Administrator of HEO- Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate of NASA.

❖ This makes her the first female head of the human space flight program.

Oscar Awards

❖ The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences & ABC Television Network have postponed the 93rd Academy Awards (Oscar awards) amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ The award ceremony has been rescheduled for the first time in 40 years.

❖ It takes place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California since 2001.

RNK		TEAM
1		Belgium
2		France
3		Brazil
4		England
5		Uruguay
6		Croatia
7		Portugal

Clare Connor

❖ Former England Women Cricket Captain Clare Connor becomes the 1st female president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) in 233 years.

❖ She will succeed Kumar Sangakkara on October 1, 2021.

SPORTS

Sports award Nomination

❖ Rohit Sharma has been nominated by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for the prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award 2020.

❖ Among other nominations, the BCCI nominated Shikhar Dhawan, Deepti Sharma and Ishant Sharma for Arjuna Awards.

Khelo India State Centres of Excellence

❖ The Ministry of Sports has launched Khelo India State Centres of Excellence to strengthen excellence of India in Olympics.

❖ It has identified state owned sports facilities in 8 states.

❖ The 8 centres to be established under the scheme are located in Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Manipur, Nagaland, Odisha, Telangana, Mizoram.

2023 Women's World Cup

❖ The FIFA handed the right to host this Football tournament to Australia and New Zealand.

❖ This is the first Women's World Cup to be hosted in the Asia-Pacific Region.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Milk Day - June 1

❖ It is celebrated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

❖ Theme: The 20th Anniversary of World Milk Day

❖ India is the largest producer of milk.

❖ India celebrates National Milk Day on November 26.

- ❖ It is the birth anniversary of Verghese Kurien.
- ❖ He is known as Father of Milk Revolution in India.
- ❖ It was his idea to launch Operation Flood in India in 1970.

Telangana Statehood Day - June 2

- ❖ The State of Telangana was formed on June 2, 2014.
- ❖ Telangana was the 29th state to be formed in the Union of India.

Menstrual Hygiene Day - May 28

- ❖ It was initiated by the German-based NGO WASH United in 2014.
- ❖ The date May 28 was chosen to observe the day because on an average the menstrual cycle for most women is 28 days and the menstruation period for most women is for five days.
- ❖ Hence, the date was kept as 28/5.
- ❖ The 2020 theme is 'Periods in Pandemic'.

World Bicycle Day - June 3

- ❖ It is celebrated by the United Nations to lay emphasis about the benefits of cycling.
- ❖ It is being celebrated since 2018 by the United Nations.

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression - June 4

- ❖ The day was established in 1982 in the background of the victims that suffered in Lebanon war and is marked by the United Nations.
- ❖ The Lebanon war was fought in 2006.
- ❖ The war was between Israel and Hezbollah.

World Environment Day – June 5

- ❖ To mark the first day of The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which was held in Stockholm, Sweden from June 5–16 in 1972
- ❖ This year's host is Colombia in partnership with Germany.
- ❖ This year's theme is Celebrating Biodiversity.
- ❖ The Carbon dioxide emissions that were recorded in a Hawaii Observatory - Mauna Loa Observatory reached 417 parts per million in May 2020.
- ❖ It is higher than record rise of CO2 - 414.8 ppm in May 2019.

International Day for the fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing – June 5

- ❖ It is observed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ It was elebrated for the first time in 2018.
- ❖ on June 5, 2016, the International treaty to end illegal fishing called the FAO Port State Measures Agreement was entered into force.
- ❖ It is the first international agreement on illegal fishing.

Russian Language Day - June 6

- ❖ The United Nations celebrated Russian Language Day.
- ❖ This was established by the UNESCO in 2010.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the birth day of Aleksandr Pushkin.
- ❖ He was a Russian Poet and is considered as the father of modern Russian literature.
- ❖ The United Nations Language Days were launched in February 2010 to celebrate cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- ❖ The UN Language days promote six of the official languages of the organization.
- ❖ The official languages of the United Nations are English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish, Russian and French.

World Food Safety Day - June 7

- ❖ It was launched by the United Nations in 2019.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to reinforce the call made by the Geneva Conference and Addis Ababa Conference in 2019 on "The Future of Food Safety".
- ❖ Theme of this year is Food Safety, Everyone's Business.
- ❖ The Addis Ababa Conference was the first International Conference on Food Safety.

World Oceans Day - June 8

- ❖ It is celebrated by the United Nations.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean.
- ❖ The countries were celebrating the Day after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development that was held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- ❖ The United Nations decided to celebrate the day in 2009.

World Brain Tumour Day - June 8

- ❖ Since 2000, World Brain Tumour Day has been observed on June 8.
- ❖ It was first highlighted by German Brain Tumour Association.
- ❖ The Government of India has introduced National Cancer Control Programme with the objectives of prevention, screening, early detection, diagnosis and treatment including palliative care in end stage.

Coral Triangle Day - June 9

❖ It is a massive celebration of the Coral Triangle.

❖ It is the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.

❖ It is one of the 3 mega ecological complexes on our planet, together with the Congo Basin and the Amazon Rainforest.

❖ It encompasses the seas of 6 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste.

World Accreditation Day - June 9

❖ The initiative of celebrating the day was launched by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

❖ Theme of this year is Accreditation, Improving Food Safety.

❖ In India, the day was celebrated by the Quality Council of India.

❖ The Quality Council of India was established in 1997.

❖ It was set up as a public private partnership based on the Netherlands model.

❖ It was set up by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal trade.

World Day against Child Labour - June 12

❖ It was launched in 2002 by the International Labour Organization, a United Nations body.

❖ According to the International Labour Organization, Africa has the largest child labours in the world.

❖ Nine out of ten children involved in labour works are in Asia, Africa and Pacific.

❖ This year, the focus is, "COVID-19/Protect children from child labour now, more than ever".

World Blood Donor Day – June 14

❖ It is celebrated on the birthday of Karl Landsteiner, who discovered various blood groups including ABO group.

❖ This discovery made Karl Landsteiner win the Nobel Prize in the year 1930.

❖ The theme for this year is "Safe blood saves lives" with the slogan "Give blood and make the world a healthier place".

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15

- ❖ It is celebrated on June 15 by the United Nations.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Lifting up Voices".
- ❖ This year the world health organization has launched a campaign "Safeguard older persons during COVID-19 and beyond".

World Wind Day - June 15

- ❖ It was established by the EWEA (European Wind Energy Association) and the GWEC (Global Wind Energy Council) in 2009.

International Day of Family Remittances - June 16

- ❖ It is observed on June 16 by the United Nations since 2015.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Remittances are a lifeline
- ❖ The remittances of India were 83 billion USD in 2019.

World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - June 17

- ❖ It was proclaimed by the United Nations in 1995 after the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was drafted.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Food, Feed Fibre-The links between consumption and land.

World Crocodile Day - June 17

- ❖ India is home to three crocodilian species
  - o The mugger or marsh crocodile
  - o The estuarine or saltwater crocodile
  - o The gharial
- ❖ The mugger is mainly a freshwater species, and found in lakes, rivers and marshes.

- It is found throughout the Indian subcontinent.
- The estuarine crocodile is found in Odisha's Bhitarkanika National Park, the Sundarbans in West Bengal and the Andamans and Nicobar Islands.
- The gharial is found mostly in Himalayan rivers.
- Gharials are enlisted as critically endangered species.
- National Chambal Sanctuary--also called the National Chambal Gharial Wildlife Sanctuary--is a protected area in northern India.
- It is located on the Chambal River near the tripoint of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- The Crocodile Conservation Project was launched in 1975 in different States.
- The Gharial and Saltwater crocodile conservation programme was first implemented in Odisha in early 1975 and subsequently the Mugger conservation programme was initiated.
- CrocBITE is an online database of crocodile attacks reported on humans.

Sustainable Gastronomy Day - June 18

- It was designated by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- The UNESCO , the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) facilitate the day in collaboration with the United Nations(UN) organisations.
- Gastronomy is known as the art of food and also referred to the local food and cuisine.

Juneteenth Day - June 19th

- Juneteenth is the portmanteau of June and nineteenth.
- The day is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the US and is observed on June 19.
- On June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas and announced the end of both the Civil War and slavery.
- Since then, it has become a largely symbolic date representing freedom for African Americans.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict – June 19

- In June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed this Day.
- The date was chosen to commemorate UN Security Council resolution of 2008.
- It has first recognised sexual violence as a weapon of war, rather than an unintended consequence of war.

World Sickle Cell Awareness Day – June 19

❖ This disease is a blood disorder which is inherited and passed down from parents to the child.

❖ In 2008, the UN General Assembly recognized sickle cell disease as a public health problem, and one of the world's foremost genetic diseases.

❖ In India, it is more common in south Gujarat, north Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and western Odisha.

❖ This year's theme is Keeping Hope Alive: Sickle Cell Disease and Covid-19.

World Sauntering Day – June 19

❖ The word 'saunter' means to walk slowly in a relaxed manner.

❖ The day is observed so that we slowdown from our hectic schedule.

World Refugee Day – June 20

❖ It is an international observance observed by the United Nations since 2001.

❖ The theme for this year is "every action counts."

International Yoga Day - June 21

❖ The theme of the day for this year is : Yoga for Health - Yoga at Home.

❖ On 2014, International Yoga Day was adopted under the Resolution by the United Nations General Assembly.

❖ It is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.

June solstice

❖ It is the solstice on the Earth that occurs each year falling on 21st June.

- In the Northern Hemisphere, the June solstice is the summer solstice, whilst in the Southern Hemisphere it is the winter solstice.
- It is also known as the northern solstice.

Father's Day

- It is observed on the third Sunday of June (In 2020 - June 21) in India every year.
- In America, Father's Day was founded by Sonora Smart Dodd and celebrated on the third Sunday of June for the first time in 1910.

World Music Day - June 21

- It was started in 1982 in France as 'Fete de la Musique', a music festival.
- The man behind it was the then French Minister of Culture Jack Lang.

World Hydrography Day - June 21

- It was adopted by the International Hydrographic Organization.
- The date chosen for this is the anniversary of the founding of the International Hydrographic Organization in 1921.
- The theme of this year is Hydrography- Enabling Autonomous Technologies.

WORLD HYDROGRAPHY DAY 2020
Enabling Autonomous Technologies
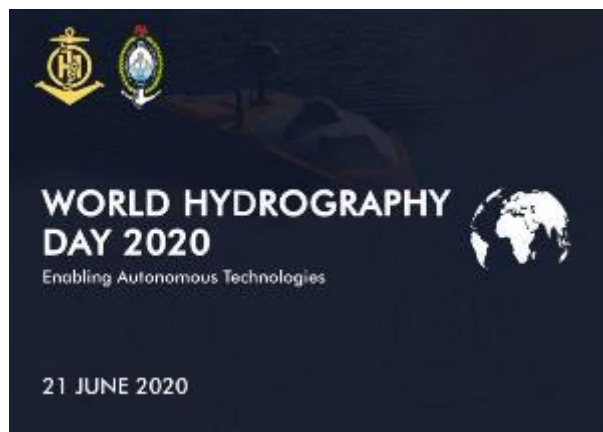
21 JUNE 2020

Horseshoe Crab Day - June 20

- Recently, IUCN has decided to observe the first-ever International Horseshoe Crab Day on 20th June 2020.
- It is regarded as a marine 'living fossil'.
- The following three are Indo-pacific species found in the coastal waters of India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan.
    - o The tri-spine horseshoe crab (IUCN - Endangered)

o   The coastal horseshoe crab (IUCN – Not Listed)

o   The mangrove horseshoe crab (IUCN – Not Listed)

❖ Odisha is their largest habitat in India.

International Olympic Day - June 23

❖ On 23rd June 1894, the International Olympic Committee was founded in Paris, France.

❖ It was first celebrated in the year 1948.

United Nations Public Service Day - June 23

❖ In 2002, the United Nations General Assembly designated 23rd June to be observed as 'United Nations Public Service Day.

❖ It aims to highlight the value and virtue of public service to the community.

International Widows Day - June 23

❖ The day had been established by The Loomba Foundation in memory of Shrimati Pushpa Wati Loomba.

❖ The United Nations General Assembly formally adopted this day in 2010.

❖ This year the theme is 'I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights'.

I AM GENERATION EQUALITY: Realizing Women's Rights

Day of the Seafarer – June 25

❖ It has now been included in the annual list of United Nations Observances.

❖ A resolution in this regard was adopted by the Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978, held in Manila of Philippines in 2010.

❖ International Maritime Organization (IMO) is the nodal agency for organizing it.

❖ The theme for this year is "Seafarers are Key Workers".

#SeafarersAreKeyWorkers

World Vitiligo Day – June 25

❖ The day was created by the non-profit organization's VR Foundation of USA and VITSAF of Nigeria.

❖ The first World Vitiligo Day was held on 25th June 2011.

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking - June 26

❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared this in order to make societies across the world free of drug abuse

❖ The Theme for this year is Better Knowledge for Better Care.

❖ On this occasion, UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) World Drug Report 2020 was also released.

Better knowledge for better care

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture - June 26

❖ The UN General Assembly proclaimed this day in 1997.

National Reading Day - June 19

❖ It is celebrated to honor Kerala's Father of Library Movement, Puthuvayil Narayana (P.N.) Panicker.

❖ His significant contribution made Kerala to achieve nearing the universal literacy rate.

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day - June 27

❖ United Nations on in 2017 has adopted a resolution to observe this day.

❖ This year marks the 4th MSME Day.

❖ The global theme for this Day in this year is 'MSME: First Responders to Social Needs'.

❖ In India, the theme is "COVID-19: The Great Lockdown and its impact on Small Business."

Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day

FIRST RESPONDERS TO SOCIETAL NEEDS

National Statistics Day – June 29

❖ It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Prof. P C Mahalanobis.

❖ He became 1st Indian statistician to receive world recognition and is called as Father of Indian Statistics.

❖ He is also referred as chief architect of Indian statistical system.

❖ In 1931, he established Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) in Kolkata.

❖ He was also a member of the 1st Planning commission (1951-56) of Independent India.

❖ The theme of Statistics Day, 2020 is selected as SDG- 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages) & SDG- 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls).

International Day of the Tropics – June 29

❖ It is to celebrate extraordinary diversity of tropics

❖ On 14 June 2016, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted this Day.

❖ On this day in 2014, Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi launched inaugural State of Tropics Report.

❖ Tropics are a region of Earth, defined as area between tropic of Cancer (23°27 N) and the tropic of Capricorn (23°27 S).

International Asteroid Day – June 30

❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in this regard on December 2016.

❖ It is held on the anniversary of the Tunguska impact over Siberia, Russian Federation that took place on June 30, 1908.

❖ It was the most harmful known asteroid-related event on Earth as it destroyed local plants and animals.

International Day of Parliamentarism – June 30

❖ The United Nations General Assembly designated this day in 2018.

❖ The date also marks the day in 1889 when the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the global organization of parliaments, was established.

❖ Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, founded in 930 is World's oldest parliament.

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