

May - 01

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Saudi Arabia, US, Canada, Norway, and Qatar to set up 'Net Zero Producers Forum' for oil and gas producers to support implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- ❖ A group of 15 in France, explored the cave as part of the Deep Time project for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - 'Deep Time' project aimed at studying how people adapt to changes in living conditions, environments.
- ❖ In a move to counter China's dominance of supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region, trade ministers of India, Japan and Australia have formally launched the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI).
 - The SCRI aims to create a virtuous cycle of enhancing supply chain resilience with a view to eventually attaining strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth in the region.

TAMIL NADU

Project 'Pyrasol'

- ❖ The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was laid at Chennai.
- ❖ The pilot plant is part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol'.
- ❖ It was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- ❖ The project will ultimately lead for the technology development to transform urban organic waste and sewage sludge into biochar and energy in Indian Smart Cities as well as in other urban centres.

NATIONAL

E-2025 initiative

- ❖ The World Health Organisation recently identified twenty-five countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025.
- ❖ This is called the E-2025 initiative.
- ❖ The WHO is to provide technical guidance and specialised support to these countries under the initiative.

- ❖ Three of the identified countries were from Africa
- ❖ They were namely Eswatini, Botswana and South Africa.

Ladakh Ignited Minds Project

- ❖ The Indian Army initiated the Ladakh Ignited Minds Project to provide educational opportunities for the Ladakhi students from Kargil and Leh districts.
- ❖ The MoU has been signed with HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited) and a Kanpur based NGO, the National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation.

LAC Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that around 14,491 hectares of land in Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been certified as organic.
- ❖ This is the first large contiguous territory to be certified under government scheme.
- ❖ The organic certification was provided under the Large Area Certification (LAC) Scheme of the Participatory Guarantee System certification programme.
- ❖ This was launched under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana.

Single crystal blades



- ❖ The DRDO has developed single-crystal blades technology for helicopters.
- ❖ It has supplied 60 of these blades to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

- ❖ The single-crystal high-pressure turbine (HPT) blades are made of a nickel-based superalloy.

INTERNATIONAL

Chandler Good Government Index

- ❖ It is an annual Index.
- ❖ It is built by government practitioners, for government practitioners, measuring the capabilities and effectiveness of 104 governments around the world.
- ❖ The Chandler Institute of Governance (CIG) is an international non-profit organisation, headquartered in Singapore.
- ❖ India has been ranked 49th.
- ❖ Singapore ranks first in Asia.

Overall Rank	
1	 Finland
2	 Switzerland
3	 Singapore
4	 Netherlands
5	 Denmark
6	 Norway
7	 Sweden
8	 Germany
9	 New Zealand
10	 Canada

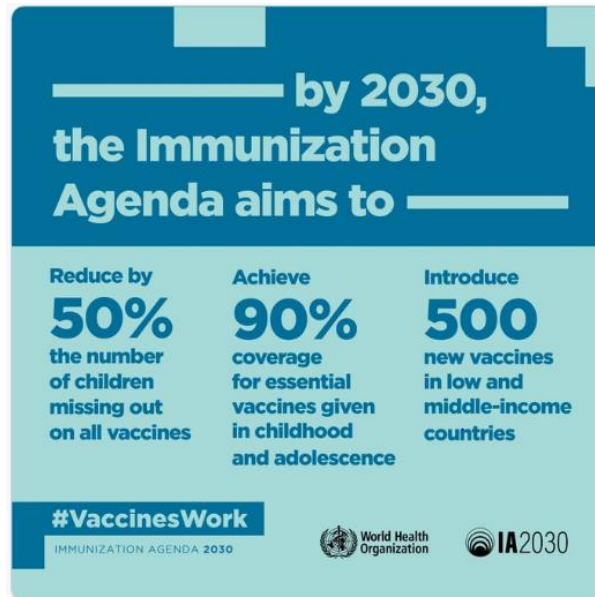
Gambia eliminates Trachoma

- ❖ Gambia became the second African country to eliminate Trachoma.
- ❖ Trachoma is one of the leading causes of blindness.
- ❖ Ghana became the first African country to eliminate Trachoma in 2018.
- ❖ Trachoma is one of the Neglected Tropical Diseases.

- ❖ Trachoma is caused by bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis.

Global immunization strategy - WHO

- ❖ This strategy will boost the immunization services worldwide.
- ❖ It aims at achieving 90 percent coverage for the essential vaccines that are given in childhood and adolescence by 2030.



ECONOMY

RBI new guidelines

- ❖ The RBI recently laid down set of instructions to improve the corporate bank governance.
- ❖ The post of MD and CEO shall not be held by the same person for more than 15 years.
- ❖ However, they can be reappointed after a cooling period of three years.
- ❖ The MD or the CEO shall not hold these posts more than twelve years.
- ❖ However, in extraordinary circumstances, they shall be allowed to continue till 15 years.
- ❖ The guidelines are not applicable to the foreign banks whose branches are operating in the country.
- ❖ The maximum age limit of the Chairman or the Non-Executive Director has been fixed at 75 years.

- ❖ The fixed remuneration for the Non-Executive Directors shall not exceed Rs 20 lakhs.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Zhurong

- ❖ China's first Mars rover has been named 'Zhurong' after a traditional fire god.
- ❖ The rover is currently aboard China's Mars probe Tianwen-1.
- ❖ China's Tianwen-1 probe aims to analyse and map the Martian surface and geology, looking for water ice and studying the climate and surface environment.

Supercomputer - UK

- ❖ The Met Office of UK and Microsoft are to build a weather forecasting supercomputer in the UK.
- ❖ The supercomputer is expected to be one of the top twenty-five supercomputers in the world.
- ❖ This Supercomputer is to run completely on renewable energy.

ENVIRONMENT

Maui dolphins



- ❖ The New Zealand Government along with World Wide Fund and some few fishing companies is to develop a drone that is capable of finding and tracking Maui dolphins using AI.
- ❖ The Maui Dolphins are found only in the West Coast of New Zealand.

- ❖ They are one of the smallest dolphin's subspecies globally.
- ❖ There are only 63 Maui dolphins left in the world.
- ❖ The IUCN has listed the Maui Dolphins under Critically Endangered species.

STATES

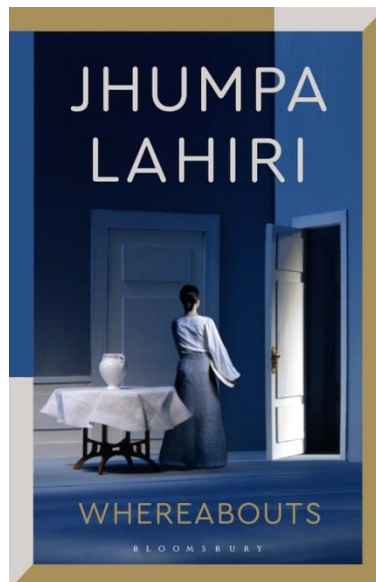
E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government won the "E-Panchayat Puraskar 2021".
- ❖ It was followed by Assam and Chhattisgarh at the second position.
- ❖ Odisha and Tamil Nadu stood third.
- ❖ Every year, the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj awards those states, which ensure maximum use of information technology for gram panchayats.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Whereabouts - Jhumpa Lahiri

- ❖ Renowned American author Jhumpa Lahiri has launched her new novel titled "Whereabouts".
- ❖ The book is an English translation of the Italian novel 'Ias Dove Mi Trovo'.
- ❖ That was written by the author Jhumpa Lahiri itself.
- ❖ It was published in 2018.





Oscars 2021

- ❖ The 93rd Academy Awards were held on April 25.
- ❖ The ceremony was broadcast from two locations in Los Angeles, The Dolby Theatre and Union Station.
- ❖ Nomadland won big at the Oscars as it won the Best Picture, Best Director (Chloe Zhao, Nomadland - winner) and Best Actress (Frances McDormand) awards.
- ❖ Anthony Hopkins won the Best Actor for The Father.
- ❖ David Fincher's Mank took home awards for cinematography and production design.

MISCELLANEOUS

Project DANTAK

- ❖ The Project completes 60 years in Bhutan.
- ❖ Project DANTAK was established in 1961 under the leadership of the Third King of Bhutan and then Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru.
- ❖ It was established with the objective of developing roads, telecommunication networks and other such landmark infrastructure-related projects in Bhutan.
- ❖ Its nodal agency is Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

