

May - 12

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Locusts normally arrive during July-October, but have already been spotted in Rajasthan.
 - Locusts are a group of short-horned grasshoppers.
- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved US\$ 500 million for 'Covid-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project' initiated by India.
 - It will be implemented by the National Health Mission (NHM), the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with the Tata Power to modernize infrastructure of 37 airfields of Indian Air Force.
- ❖ The Institute of Advanced Virology in Thiruvananthapuram of Kerala has gained membership to the prestigious Global Virus Network (GVN) - an international association of medical virologists.
 - This is the first institution in the country to get the prestigious GVN membership.
- ❖ Jharkhand banned manufacture, sale and storage of pan masala, containing Magnesium Carbonate, for one year under the Food Safety and Standards Regulation 2011.
 - Jharkhand becomes the third state after Maharashtra and Bihar to impose a ban on pan masala.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu government has constituted a high-level committee headed by former Reserve Bank of India governor C Rangarajan.
 - It will assess the overall immediate impact of Covid-19 pandemic on different sectors of state economy.
- ❖ The USA President Donald Trump has said the coronavirus outbreak has hit the US harder than the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor during World War II or the 9/11 terror attacks, pointing the finger at China.
- ❖ The MahaKavach App, a real-time digital contact tracing mobile application, was launched by the Government of Maharashtra.
 - It enables citizens to contribute and assist the health authorities in contact tracing, geo-fencing and tracking of quarantined COVID-19 patients.



NATIONAL

Prime Minister Research Fellowship Scheme (PMRF)

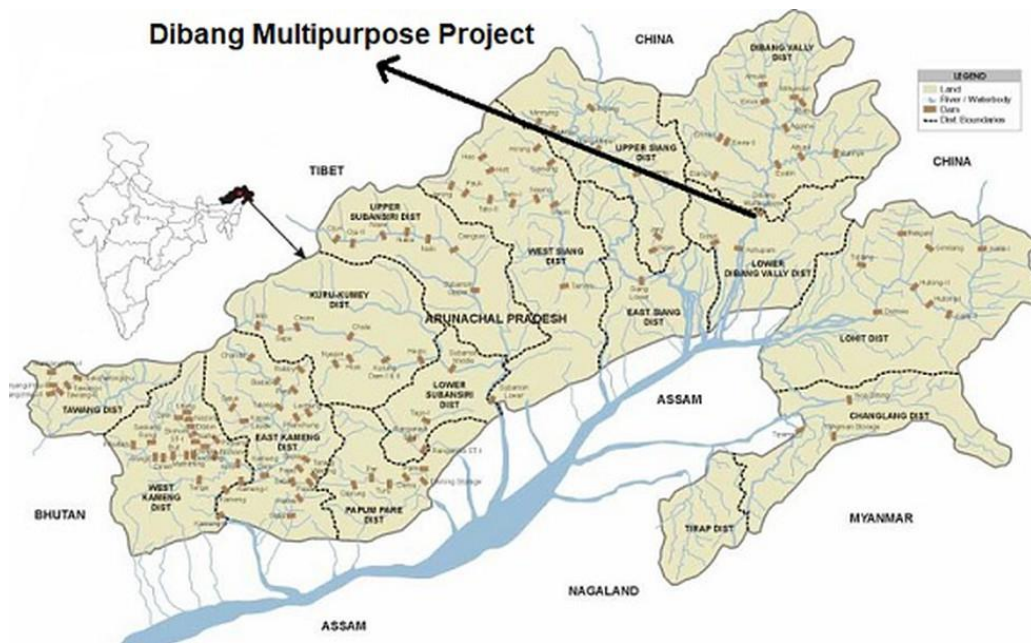
- ❖ A new amendment makes GATE score mandatory for the students of any other institutes other than the central institutes.
- ❖ The PMRF Scheme was first introduced in the Union Budget 2018-19.
- ❖ The scheme is designed to improve quality of research in higher educational institutions.
- ❖ In other words, the institutes should offer science and technology degrees.
- ❖ The institutes that are eligible under PMRF scheme include IISERs, IITs, IISc Bengaluru and other top central universities and NITs.

NBW Clearance of Projects

- ❖ The National Board for Wildlife (NBW), headed by Prime Minister, met last time in 2014.
- ❖ After 6 years gap, it recently gave its approval for the following projects.
- ❖ Drilling of boreholes inside Sharavathi Lion Tailed Macaque sanctuary in Karnataka.
- ❖ Construction and commissioning of Lakhwar Multipurpose Project (300 MW) in Dehradun and Tehri Garhwal districts by Uttarakhand, close to the Binog Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ❖ Railway line through Amrabad tiger corridor in Telangana.
- ❖ Highway expansion through the Mollem Wildlife Sanctuary in Goa.
- ❖ Etalin hydropower project on Dibang River in Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley.
- ❖ Dibang is a tributary of the Brahmaputra river which flows through the states of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam.

Dibang Valley

- ❖ Dibang Valley is one of India's most biodiverse zones.
- ❖ It is also home for the Idu Mishmi community.
- ❖ It has subtropical evergreen broad-leaved forest and subtropical rain forests.
- ❖ The project falls under the richest bio-geographical province of the Himalayan zone and one of the mega biodiversity hotspots of the world.
- ❖ The proposed project location falls at the junction of the Paleoarctic, Indo-Chinese, and Indo-Malayan biogeographic regions.



INTERNATIONAL

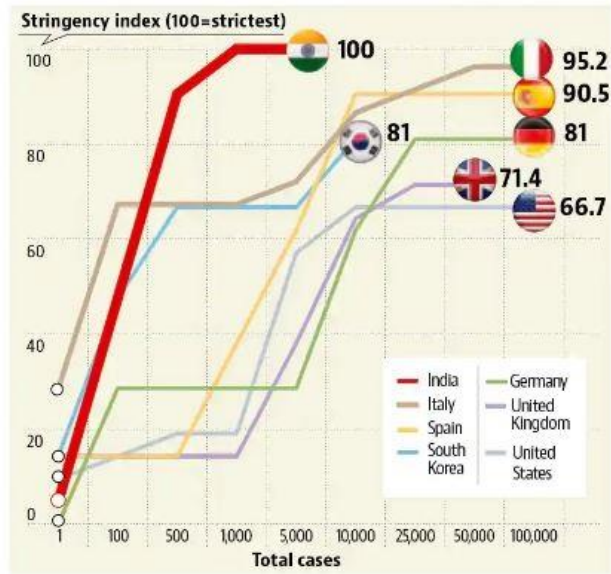
Stringency Index

- ❖ A Stringency Index was created by the Oxford University.
- ❖ It shows how strict a country's measures were, and at what stage of the pandemic spread it enforced these.
- ❖ As per the index, India imposed its strictest measures much earlier than others.
- ❖ India scored 0.7 below than Australia, Thailand, Taiwan, and South Korea.

INDIA'S STRICT, QUICK RESPONSE

The Government Response Stringency Index is a score assigned to countries by researchers at the University of Oxford based on seven indicators such as closure of schools and workplaces, and restrictions on travel, etc. A higher score means a country has taken stricter measures.

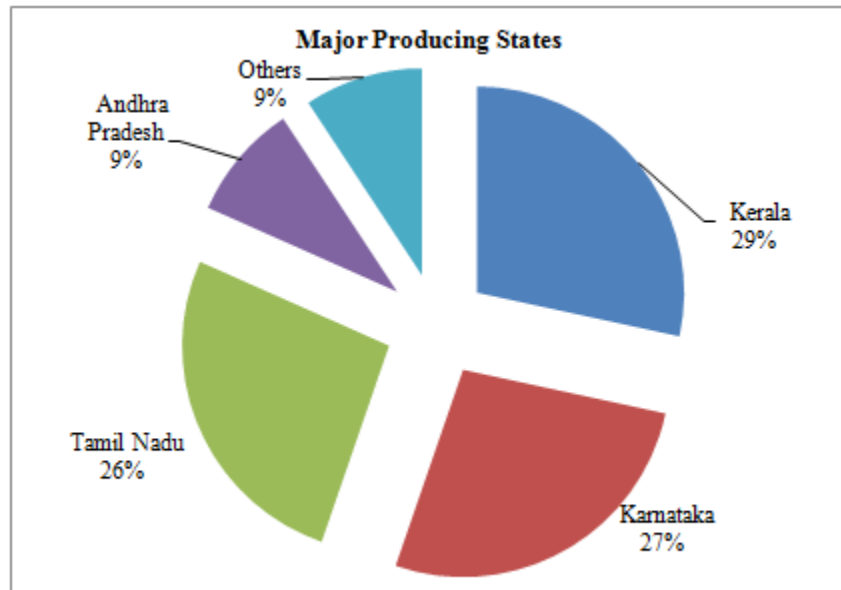
India is among 18 countries with a score of 100, the highest value. Countries worst-hit by the epidemic have a lower score. The United States scores 66.7, lowest among the five worst-hit countries. Italy, Spain and France – have scored 95.2. India was quicker to take strict measures. By the time there were 500 cases, India's stringency index score was 90.5 – more than many countries at that stage. India scored 100 by the time there were 1,000 cases. On the contrary, Italy touched 95 when cases touched nearly 50,000



ECONOMY

Coir Production in India

- ❖ The Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Madras.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka are the leading producers of Coir (90% Global Production).
- ❖ India fulfills two-thirds of the coir product needs in the world.



Source: Coconut Development Board

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) - May 09

- ❖ It was organized by the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) together with Environment for the Americas (EFTA).
- ❖ Theme of this year is “Birds Connect Our World”.
- ❖ Before 2018, there were two of the world’s largest bird education campaigns, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) and World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD).
- ❖ On 2017, in the margins of the CMS COP12 in Manila, Environment for the Americas (EFTA), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), announced an innovative partnership to increase awareness of the plight of migratory birds around the world.
- ❖ Starting in 2018, the new joint campaign adopted the single name of “World Migratory Bird Day”.
- ❖ The major events to celebrate this day are to be organized twice a year, on the second Saturday in May and in October.

[About CMS](#)



- ❖ In order to protect the migratory species throughout their range countries, a Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), has been in force, under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ It is also referred to as the Bonn Convention.
- ❖ CMS is the only global and UN-based intergovernmental organization established exclusively for conservation and management of terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.



World Fair Trade Day - May 09

- ❖ It is endorsed by the World Fair Trade Association.
- ❖ It is the global authority on fair trade, comprised of over 450 member organisations from 75 countries around the world.
- ❖ Theme of the year is "Planet Fair Trade, Enterprises for the new economy".

