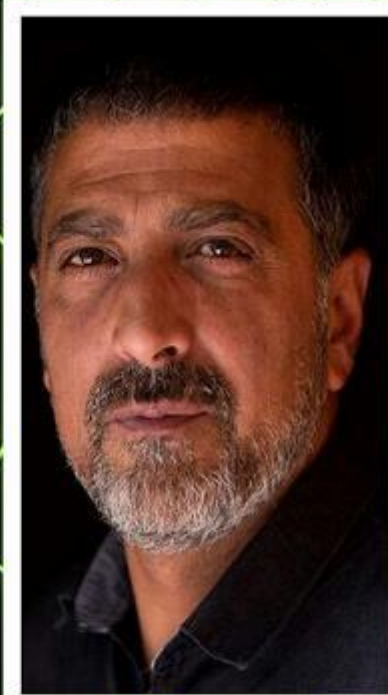


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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Migration and Development Brief report is recently prepared and released by the Migration and Remittances Unit, Development Economics (DEC) under the World Bank.
- ❖ The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has upgraded Trichy international airport to category II airport from category I.
 - Meanwhile, Tuticorin, Prayagraj, Jabalpur, Hubli and Gorakhpur airports have been elevated to category III from category IV.
- ❖ Sweden has taken the herd immunity approach in dealing with the coronavirus.
- ❖ The scientists of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) operating under Department of Science and Technology have invented a natural product for Alzheimer disease.
 - The Berberine used in traditional medicines has been converted into Ber-D.
- ❖ The robotic device HCARD - Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device was launched to help frontline health care workers.
 - It was developed by CSIR laboratory located in Durgapur, West Bengal.
- ❖ The foreign ministers of the BRICS grouping are to discuss on measures to combat COVID-19.
 - The video conference is to be hosted by Russia as it is the current rotating head.
- ❖ The Kerala Government has approved the Ordinance for deferring six days' salary of government teachers and employees for six months.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has ruled that the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to graduate and postgraduate medical and dental courses does not violate the rights of minorities under the Constitution.
 - The ruling came on the petition filed in 2012 by the Christian Medical College, Vellore.
- ❖ Germany classified the organization Hezbollah as a terrorist organization in its soil.
 - The Hezbollah is a Shia Islamist political party that is based in Lebanon.
- ❖ Following the failure of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) to pay host fee to the International Boxing Association (AIBA), India lost its rights to host the 2021 Men's World Boxing Championship.
 - The tournament will now be hosted by Serbia.
- ❖ Punjab Government announced the extension of curfew till May 17 to handle the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ Suresh N Patel, an eminent banker, has become the new Vigilance Commissioner of the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).
 - He was administered the oath of the office by Central Vigilance Commissioner, Sanjay Kothari through a video link.
- ❖ Nagaland state government imposed a COVID-19 cess on diesel and petrol, becoming the first state to introduce COVID-19 cess in India.
- ❖ The Geographical Indication (GI) tag has been given to Black rice of Manipur, also called the Chak-Hao, Gorakhpur Terracotta of Uttar Pradesh and Kadalai Mittai of Kovilpatti of Tamilnadu.
 - In 2004–05, Darjeeling tea became the first GI tagged product in India.
- ❖ The task force headed by Atanu Chakraborty on National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) has submitted its final report to the Finance Minister.
 - The NIP will play a significant role in fulfilling India's goal of becoming a \$5 trillion economy by FY 2025.
- ❖ The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced that it is to provide 3 million USD for India's PAHAL project.
 - PAHAL is Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity.
- ❖ The Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, deemed university operating under Defence Research and Development Organization has designed microwave sterilizer called "ATULYA".
 - It is used to disintegrate COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ The National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) operating under Department of Science and Technology has launched YASH to focus on COVID-19.
 - YASH is Year of Awareness on Science and Health.
- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has selected SpaceX, Blue Origin, and Dynetics, the three space firms to build new lunar landing systems.
 - It will carry astronauts to the moon by 2024.
- ❖ Indian Railways has launched Shramik Special trains to bring back home people stranded in different parts of the country due to lockdown.
- ❖ Kisan Sabha App is developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi.
 - It works to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management system.
- ❖ Thikri pehra is community policing practiced in Punjab and Haryana.
 - It was started 20 years back in the states in the aftermath of terrorist movement and prevent the crimes of Kala Kachcha gang group.



- ❖ The Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu recently inaugurated the revamped strategic bridge "Hangpan Dada" over River Subansiri at Daporijo in Upper Subansiri district in the state.
 - The reconstruction work was entrusted to the Border Road Organization (BRO) under Project ARUNANK.
- ❖ The Tirunelveli Municipality Corporation has created the State's first Social Distancing theatre.
- ❖ Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal was banned for 3 years by the Pakistan Cricket Board recently for not reporting corrupt approaches.
- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga operating under Ministry of Jal Shakti launched "IDEAthon".
 - It focuses on "The Future of River Management" to explore how the COVID-19 crisis will change the river management strategies.
- ❖ The IIT Ropar has come up with a design of an autonomous 'WardBot'.
 - It can deliver medicines and food to COVID-19 patients in isolation wards.
- ❖ The Assam State Government launched new scheme 'Dhanwantari' for home delivery of medicines.
 - The medicines below 200 rupees will be provided free of cost to patients.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Health Department has come up with a unique idea of providing free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence through e-sanjeevani-opd.
- ❖ The Ahmedabad based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research became the first authorized study centre in the country to carry out plasma research under trial in view of Covid 19.
- ❖ Rakesh Sharma the Executive Director of Bajaj Auto as the President International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) for a two-year mandate.
 - IMMA is the association represents the manufacturing industry of two wheelers at the global level.
- ❖ A National E-Commerce Market place was launched by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) called "Bharat Market".
 - The initiative is to be guided and supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The US President had nominated Indian American Ashok Michael Pinto as the US representative to IBRD (International Bank of Reconstruction and Development).
 - The IBRD, its lending arms and the International Development Association are collectively known as World Bank.

- ❖ The US Department of the Treasury has stated that it will be borrowing about US \$3 trillion in the second quarter to support the US economy amid COVID-19.
- ❖ Russia will be launching its first Arktika-M satellite to monitor the Arctic climate and environment later this year.
- ❖ The 2021 Commonwealth Youth Games is being postponed to 2023 as it faced clash of dates with the Tokyo Olympics.
 - The 17th Commonwealth youth games were to be held in 2021 at Trinidad and Tobago.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has launched 'Samudra Setu' (Sea Bridge) operation as a part of the nation's efforts to bring back Indian citizens from abroad.
 - Under the operation, INS Jalashwa and Magar have departed for the port of Male in the Maldives to begin the evacuation of Indian citizens.
- ❖ China's new Long March 5B carrier rocket took its maiden flight.
 - It is carrying the trial version of the country's new-generation manned spaceship and a cargo return capsule for test into space.
- ❖ Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan was launched by Niti Aayog in association with Piramal Foundation.
 - It is focussed on ensuring the wellbeing of senior citizens during the COVID.
- ❖ The Jharkhand Government launched three schemes to increase working hours of MNREGA workers.
 - These are Birsa Harit Gram Yojana, Nilamber-Pitamber Jal Samridhi Yojana and Veer Shahid Poto Ho Khel Vikas Yojana.
- ❖ The US President appointed Indian American Diplomat Manisha Singh as his envoy to OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Develop).
- ❖ The Global Response International Pledging Conference, an online summit, was recently initiated by the European Union.
 - However, US and Russia did not take part in the conference.
- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy released report on "Impact of Energy Efficiency Measures, 2018-19".
 - The report assessed annual savings of energy and carbon dioxide emissions.
- ❖ Mustafa Kadhimi has become Iraq's new Prime Minister.
 - Earlier, Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November 2019 due to massive anti-government protests.
- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that the cooperative banks involved in the activities related to banking are covered within the meaning of 'banking company'.

- In this regard, the Parliament of India has legislative competence to provide for procedure for recovery of loan under the Sarfaesi Act, 2002.
- ❖ The Maharashtra government has allowed the 12-hour shift for workers in factories across the state until June 30.
 - The decision has been taken in the wake of factories facing the labour shortage as migrant workers have headed back to their homes.
- ❖ The Sanjivani Application was developed by Ministry of AYUSH.
 - It will help in studying the impacts of AYUSH based interventions in preventing COVID-19.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government decided to increase the retirement age of its staff from 58 and 59.
 - It will also apply to all teachers in government and government-aided schools and colleges, and in State public sector undertakings.
- ❖ The United Nations Environment Programme extended the term of actress Dia Mirza as the Goodwill ambassador of India till 2022.
- ❖ Vista Equity Partners, a US-based firm will soon invest into Reliance Jio Platforms for a 2.32 percent stake.
 - This would be the third major investment in Reliance Industries Limited in a short span of time.
- ❖ The United Nations and its partner agencies have launched 6.7 billion USD global appeal in order to fight against COVID-19.
 - The Aid is to be done under the “Global Humanitarian Response Plan”.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The Defence Ministry of India recently approved the abolition of 9,304 posts in the military engineering services.
 - The posts were abolished based on the recommendation of Shekatar Committee.
- ❖ The World Health Organization and the United Nations Postal Agency released a commemorative stamp to mark 40th anniversary of eradication of small pox.
 - In 1980, the organization officially declared that the world is free from small pox.
- ❖ The Department of Consumer Affairs operating under Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Food and Public Distribution launched Suraksha Store Initiative.
- ❖ The Bengaluru city corporation has launched Pranavayu programme to create awareness on the need to self-examine the respiratory health for Bangaloreans
- ❖ The Elongated tortoise or Sal forest tortoise is a species of tortoise found in Southeast Asia and parts of the Indian Subcontinent, particularly Northeast India.
 - IUCN Red List Status is Critically Endangered.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government launched the 'Pravasi Rahat Mitra' app for the migrant workers of the state who have been returning from other states amid the lockdown.
- ❖ As per the recent study published in the European Heart Journal, Men are more prone to get COVID-19 infection than women.
 - The Study reveals that higher blood levels of ACE2 enzyme in men enables Coronavirus to infect the healthy cells.

- ❖ Vitamin D is known to modulate the response of white blood cells, preventing them from releasing too many inflammatory cytokines (part of the body's immune response to fight infections).
 - The Covid virus is known to cause an excess of pro-inflammatory cytokines, called a cytokine storm.
- ❖ An Iranian missile hit its own support vessel during a training exercise in the Gulf of Oman.
- ❖ The Thanjavur Netti Works (pith works) and Arambavur Wood Carvings of Perambalur belonging to Tamil Nadu were awarded the Geographical Indication Tag.
 - Thanjavur Netti Works (Thanjavur Pith Work) is made from Netti (pith) from a marshy plant called as Aeschynomene Aspera.
- ❖ The Spirulina groundnut Chikki was developed by Mysuru-based Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI).
 - Spirulina is a biomass of cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) that can be consumed by humans and animals.
- ❖ The Ministry of MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises) launched Champions Portal (Champions - Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes).
 - The portal aims at creating modern ICT tools to assist Indian MSMEs.
- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control) are to conduct a sero survey.
 - A Sero Survey is testing of blood serum of individuals and determine the presence of antibodies against COVID-19.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Government has launched "FIR Aapke Dwar Yojana".
 - Madhya Pradesh is the first state in the country to launch such an innovative scheme on police subject.
- ❖ The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide \$3.6 million to assist India in its response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The United States has been the world's largest provider of bilateral assistance in public health.
- ❖ Rajasthan government is levying a 2 per cent Krishak Kalyan fees on agricultural produce brought or bought or sold in mandis.
- ❖ The Gujarat government has promulgated an Ordinance expanding the purview of the Agricultural Produce Markets (APMC) Act on the Act called Gujarat Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (Promotion and Facilitation Act, 1963).
 - It is to include livestock under agricultural produce and to provide better market access to farmers.



- ❖ Bharosa is a dedicated counselling helpline for the students of Central University of Odisha.
- ❖ The Supreme Court refused to restore 4G internet in Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
 - Earleir in January of 2020, in the Anuradha Bhasin case or popularly known as the Kashmir internet case, the Court ordered review of restrictions placed in J&K.
- ❖ India is to host the FIFA Under 17 Women's World Cup game in 2021.
- ❖ The All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) has nominated N Bala Devi and Sandesh Jhingan for the Arjuna Award of 2020.
 - Arjuna Award is an honour that has been bestowed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ Telangana recently became the first Indian state to tell farmers what to grow.
 - The government will now be regulating the cultivation of crops and will limit the growing of paddy crops to just 50 lakh acres and Red Gram to 10 lakh acres.
- ❖ The IIT-Roorkee professor, Kamal Jain, has claimed to have developed software.
 - It can help to detect any sign of pneumonia and whether it is due to COVID-19 or any other bacteria within five seconds using an X-ray scan of the suspected patient.
- ❖ NASA's Mars helicopter — destined to be the first aircraft to attempt powered flights on another planet — has been named 'Ingenuity'.
 - The name was given by the Indian-origin girl Vaneeza Rupani.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries (RIL), has once again become Asia's richest person after striking a mega deal with Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook.
 - According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he beat Chinese billionaire and the Co-founder of Ali Baba firm Jack Ma.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump nominated Indian-American Saritha Komati reddy as a judge at the District Court for the Eastern District of New York.
 - She is hailing from Telangana.
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh (MP) has become the first state in the country to provide a mid-day meal ration to students of primary and secondary school.
 - Under this, the money for the food will be transferred online by the state government in the bank accounts of the parents.
- ❖ The Resistance Front is an offshoot of the terrorist group Lashkar-e-Toiba.
 - It is the new name of terror group in Kashmir.

- ❖ Ramanand Sagars popular TV serial 'Ramayan' which is re-airing on Doordarshan became the world's most-watched show with 7.7 crore viewers.
 - Ramanand Sagar had made this serial based on Valmiki's Ramayana and Tulsidas' Ramcharitmanas.
- ❖ For the first time in Pakistan's history, a Hindu, named as Rahul Dev, has been selected as a pilot in the Pakistan Air Force.
- ❖ India's first test bus for the Covid 19 disease was flagged off on Maharashtra Day in Mumbai.
 - The bus is an initiative by the C19 Taskforce of IIT Alumni Council.
- ❖ Tennis Star Sania Mirza became the first Indian to win the Fed Cup Heart Award for her successful return to the Tennis court post-motherhood.
 - The Fed Cup Heart Award is an International Tennis Federation (ITF) initiative.
- ❖ India participated in a meeting of foreign ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) via video conference.
 - It was convened by the current chair, Russia.
- ❖ Recently, Indian Army has proposed 3 years of voluntary Tour of Duty (ToD) for civilians on a trial basis - a shift from the concept of permanent service/job towards internship/temporary experience.
 - The Army plans to take civilians to serve in the force as both officers and Other Ranks.
- ❖ Rebooting the Economy through Science, Technology, and Research Translations (RESTART)' is a digital conference organized National Technology Day.
 - It was organized by the Technology Development Board (TDB), an autonomous organization of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) along with, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ❖ The New Development Bank of BRICS will be providing USD 1 billion loan to India to fight COVID-19 pandemic as an 'Emergency Assistance Program Loan'.
- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana government have geared up to provide tap water connections to all the rural households in the area by December 2022, which is ahead of the national goal by 2024-25.
 - Both the States presented their plan to the Department of Drinking water & Sanitation of the Jal Shakti Ministry.
- ❖ India attended the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting through video conferencing.
 - Theme is "Delivering a coordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response".

- ❖ The United Nations recently released the World Economic Situation and Prospects Report, 2020.
- ❖ The United Nations observes May 16 as International Day of Living Together in Peace.
 - It was officially recognised by the General Assembly in December 2017.
- ❖ The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank approves a loan of 145 million USD to improve irrigation facilities and flood management in West Bengal.
 - The project is to focus on the Damodar Valley of West Bengal.
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resource Development (HRD) has developed an e-governance platform 'SAMARTH Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)' under the National Mission of Education in Information and Communication Technology Scheme (NMEICT).
 - The platform has been implemented at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra.
- ❖ The World Bank approved 1 billion USD aid to India to accelerate "India's COVID-19 Special Protection Response Programme".
 - The fund will be used to provide social assistance to poor, severely impacted and vulnerable households.
- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that like HIV, the novel coronavirus could become endemic and "may never go away".
 - A disease is endemic like the chicken pox and malaria when its presence or usual prevalence in the population is constant.
- ❖ Quinine Nongladew is a village named after the alkaloid quinine extracted from the bark of cinchona.
 - It is a village in Meghalaya which was called Quinine because of the plantation.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has declared a cyclone alert, named 'Cyclone Amphan', for the Indian coastline across the Bay of Bengal.
 - The cyclone name was suggested by Thailand and will be the last name from the original list of 64 cyclone names proposed back in September 2004.
- ❖ The E-NAM (Electronic-National Agricultural Market) initiative has reached its set target of 1000 Mandis.
 - It was launched in 2016 under the platform called "One Nation One Market".
- ❖ India observed National Dengue Day on May 16 as suggested by the Union Health Ministry to create awareness about the disease.
- ❖ The National Disaster Management Authority launched the National Migrant Information System.



- It is a central online repository for the migrant workers.
- ❖ The scientists of Advanced Research Centre for powder metallurgy and new materials along with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences (SCTIMST) have developed new biodegradable implant.
 - The implants were developed from Iron-Manganese alloy.
- ❖ Recently, Pakistan signed a contract with China Power firm for the construction of the Diamer-Bhasha dam.
 - It is located on the Indus River in northern Pakistan between Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Gilgit Baltistan.
- ❖ The Madurai Railway Junction recently got ISO-14001 certification (International Organization for Standardization) for better service.
 - ISO 14001 is the international standard that specifies requirements for an effective environmental management system (EMS).
- ❖ United States President Donald Trump announced that the US will donate ventilators to India.
- ❖ Germany's Bundesliga has become the world's first major sports competition to resume its season post nationwide lockdown imposed to contain coronavirus pandemic.
 - The Bundesliga, means "Federal League", is the primary football league in Germany.
- ❖ US investment firm General Atlantic will be acquiring 1.34% stake in Reliance Jio for around Rs 6600 crore on a fully diluted basis.
 - This is the 4th largest investment in Jio platform in last 30 days following the deals done by Facebook, Silver Lake and Vista Equity Partners.
- ❖ A new species has just been discovered using a Twitter image and thus has been named as Troglomyces twitteri.
 - It belongs to an order called Laboulbeniales - a type of parasitic fungus.
- ❖ The National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) has released a report, in its official newsletter called Nyaya Deep, on number of under trials released during the lockdown period.
 - The highest number of under trial prisoners released was 9,977 in Uttar Pradesh, followed by 5,460 in Rajasthan and 4,547 in Tamil Nadu, 3,698 in Punjab and 3,400 in Maharashtra.
- ❖ The Government of India implemented the recommendations made by the Shekatkar Committee to create border infrastructure.
 - The Shekatkar Committee was formed in 2018.
- ❖ The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) released Rs 20,500 crores.
 - The funds will act as front-loading resources to the cooperative banks and the Regional Rural Development Banks (RRBs).

- ❖ Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and his rival Abdullah Abdullah have signed a power-sharing deal, ending months of political uncertainty.
- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on May 18th laid the foundation Tiruppur Medical College Hospital from Chennai through Video Conference.
- ❖ The Moderna Coronavirus Vaccine becomes the first in the world to show positive results by generating immune response against the SARS-CoV-2 Virus (COVID-19).
 - The 'mRNA-1273' vaccine has been developed by US-based Biotechnology firm Moderna Inc in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- ❖ The Hanko is a personal stamp of Japan.
 - Under the age old Hanko tradition in Japan, the employees have to go to the office premises for security reasons.
- ❖ Recently, a rare palm, *Pinanga andamanensis*, has been successfully cultivated at Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala).
 - *Pinanga andamanensis* is a rare palm endemic to South Andaman Island's Mount Harriet National Park.
- ❖ The Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan of India is to take charge as the Chairman of the World Health Organization (WHO) Executive Board for three years.
 - Harsh Vardhan is to succeed Japan's Dr. Hiroki Nakatani, who is the current Chairman of the 34-member board.
- ❖ The Ministry of Defence approved procurement of 26 defence items to boost "Make in India" initiative.
 - This was done through the amendment of Public Procurement Order 2017.
- ❖ The Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on May 19th laid the foundation stone for the construction of a government medical college at Perumbakkam in Tiruvallur district.
 - While 60% of the funds for this would be borne by the Centre, the remaining by the State government.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu health Department launched an intensive 'micro-plan' to control and contain the Covid virus infection in 34 most affected wards spread over three municipal zones in Chennai.
- ❖ The European country Slovakia has recorded the lowest number of deaths per capita from the coronavirus.
- ❖ The number of beneficiaries of Ayushman Bharat touched 1 crore.
 - The Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched in 2018.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has given the security clearance to the Swiss firm Zurich Airport International AG for the construction of Jewar airport in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- The greenfield project has been considered as an alternative to New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport.
- ❖ Union Finance Ministry announced it will launch National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission.
 - The mission will ensure that every child in the country necessarily attains foundational literacy and numeracy in Grade 3 by 2020.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Nyay Yojana was launched by Chhattisgarh government to ensure "minimum income availability" to farmers of the state through direct bank transfer.
 - The scheme was launched in the state on May 21, the death anniversary of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- ❖ The Charan Paduka Campaign was launched in Madhya Pradesh by the Police Department of the Madhya Pradesh for the migrant workers passing through the state.
 - Under the campaign the migrant workers were provided with shoes and slippers to reduce their pain.
- ❖ The Union government has given the nod for a two-lane tunnel road in the Anakkampoyil-Kalladi-Meppadi corridor in Kerala.
 - On completion, this 6.5-km tunnel will be the third longest tunnel in the country.
- ❖ Mee Annapurna programme has been launched for the welfare of farmers in Maharashtra.
- ❖ Recently, scientists at Pune based Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), have mapped two alternative dwarfing genes Rht14 and Rht18 in wheat.
 - It can help in reducing rice crop residue burning i.e. stubble burning.
- ❖ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the E-Conclave of Defence MSME (Micro Small and Medium Enterprises).
 - The Conclave will certainly help India achieve its target of 25 billion defence production by 2025.
- ❖ US President Donald Trump recently announced his plan to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty signed with Russia after around 18 years.
 - The treaty was signed in 2002 to enhance military transparency.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India announced the reduction in the Repo Rate from 4.4% to 4%.
 - The reverse repo rate was also reduced to 3.35 percent.
- ❖ The World Bee Day theme for the year 2020 is "Bee Engaged".
 - As per Food and Agricultural Organization database, in 2017-18, India ranked eighth in the world in terms of honey production (64.9 thousand tonnes) while China stood first with 551 thousand tonnes of honey production.

- ❖ The New York-based Private equity firm KKR has announced to invest Rs USD 1.5 billion in Jio Platforms for a stake of 2.32%.
 - This is fifth such investment in Reliance Jio followed by Facebook, Silver Lake, Vista Equity Partners and General Atlantic.
- ❖ The Operators began shutting down the Philippsburg nuclear power plant in southern Germany.
 - Germany has half a dozen more nuclear plants but they will be shut down by the end of 2022.
- ❖ The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has formed a six-member committee to prepare a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for phased resumption of training on sports once the coronavirus-forced national lockdown is lifted.
 - It will be headed by SAI secretary Rohit Bharadwaj.
- ❖ The Union Environment Ministry has allowed a proposal to set up a desalination plant inside the eco-sensitive zone of Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park.
 - The project will be coming up at Kuthiraimozhi village in Kadaladi Taluk of Ramanathapuram.
- ❖ The Indian economist Abhas Jha has been appointed by the World Bank to a key position on climate change and disaster management in South Asia region.
- ❖ The Former Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Jayalalithaa's house 'Veda Nilayam' is set to become a memorial house.
- ❖ Israel has named a street in Tel Aviv after celebrated Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore as a tribute on his 159th birthday.
- ❖ The World Thyroid Day is observed on May 25th across the World.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government announced that it will be setting up a Migration Commission for the welfare of migrants.
 - The Migration Commission will primarily work to ensure job and social security of the migrant workers through the skill mapping of the migrants.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways notified emission norms for L7 (quadricycles) category for BS VI.
 - The vehicles with four wheels with mass more than 400 kg are placed under L7 category, which is the size of a three-wheeler but with four tyres and is fully covered like a car.
- ❖ Mizoram grants 'industry' status to sports, the first state in India to do so.
 - It is aimed to further bolster the sports activities, by attracting investment.
- ❖ Earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter Scale hit Manipur.
 - According to the National Center for Seismology (NCS), the earthquake's epicentre was 13 km south-west of Moirang in Manipur.

- ❖ Puntius sanctus is a new species of small freshwater fish recently discovered in Velankanni in Tamil Nadu.
 - These are known locally as 'Paral' in Kerala and 'Kende' in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government has released its first skill map of migrant workers who returned to the State during the lockdown.
 - The government has said it will provide them employment in the State as per their skills and experience.
- ❖ India's Aarogya Setu has become the world's largest contact tracing app, reaching over 11 crore 40 lakh people in just 40 days.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation's (WHO) recently announced moratorium on testing hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), the controversial anti-malarial drug, for treating COVID-19.
- ❖ Google Play Store has approved the BevQ app which will be used to distribute liquor in Kerala.
- ❖ The government has launched the bug bounty programme that will be hosted by the MyGov team.
 - The programme will enable security researchers to avail rewards for finding security vulnerabilities within the aarogya setu app.
- ❖ The British author J.K. Rowling released first two chapters of her new Children's book "The Ickabog".
 - The Ickabog is her first children's book since Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was published in 2007.
- ❖ The World Vape Day is to be observed on May 30 all over the world, a day before World No Tobacco Day.
 - It aims to increase awareness on e-cigarettes and help smokers that are unable to quit smoking.
- ❖ May 28 is marked as World Hunger Day.
 - It is an initiative of the Hunger Project.
- ❖ The Karnataka State Government announced that it will launch a "State Health Register" to collect data of all its citizens.
 - The register is first of its kind in the country.
- ❖ Under its Perspective Aviation Complex for Long Range Aviation (PAKDA) programme, Russia has constructed its first Stealth Bomber.
- ❖ The Operation Warp Speed is a public-private partnership, initiated by the Federal Government of the United States, to facilitate and accelerate the development of COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is likely to allow banks to assign zero risk weight for loans that will be extended to the micro, medium and small enterprises (MSMEs) under the Atmanirbar Bharat package.

- Zero risk would mean that banks will not have to set aside additional capital for these loans.
- ❖ Montenegro is the first country in Europe to declare itself coronavirus-free.
 - Montenegro is a Balkan country.
- ❖ The United States has declared that it no longer considers Hong Kong autonomous from China.
 - This could result in loss of Hong Kong's special trading status with the US and threaten its standing as an international financing hub.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture proposes to develop E-Heritagepedia and E- Artist pedia, so that renowned artists can do virtual programme modules to teach their art.
- ❖ China's Parliament has passed new legislation for Hong Kong that will for the first time empower Beijing to draft national security laws for the Special Administrative Region (SAR).
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh government will develop 800 km roads as Herbal roads in the state.
 - These herbal roads will have medicinal and herbal trees along with the land on their both sides.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Government launched Rojgar Setu Yojana to help migrant workers.
 - The scheme provides employment to the migrant workers.
- ❖ The Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology has now been renamed as Central Institute of Petrochemicals, Engineering and Technology.
 - The name change was registered under Tamil Nadu Societies Registration Act, 1975.
- ❖ As per the WHO, the Indian firms involved in the development of COVID-19 vaccine are Serum Institute of India (SII), Bharat Biotech, Zydus Cadila, and Indian Immunologicals Limited.
- ❖ Renowned astrologer Bejan Daruwala passed away in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
 - Bejan Daruwala was ranked among the 100 great astrologers in the last 1,000 years in 'The Millennium Book of Prophecy'.
- ❖ The first Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Ajit Jogi recently passed away.
 - He served Chhattisgarh as its Chief Minister on behalf of the Indian National Congress party from November 2000 to November 2003.
- ❖ Thierry Delaporte becomes new CEO and MD of Wipro.
 - Earlier, he was the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Capgemini group.

TAMIL NADU

Cauvery Water Management Authority

- ❖ The union government decided to bring the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ Earlier it was under the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.
- ❖ The Central Government notified the Cauvery Water Management Scheme on June, 2018 constituting the 'Cauvery Water Management Authority' and the 'Cauvery Water Regulation Committee' (CWRC).
- ❖ The CWRC is to ensure that the Tribunal's order is carried out in due spirit.

State	Quantity of water allocated (Latest)
Karnataka	284.75 tmcft, including 4.75 tmcft for Bengaluru
Tamil Nadu	404.25 tmcft
Kerala	30 tmcft
Puducherry	7 tmcft

Singampatti Zamin

- ❖ Zamindar Murugadoss Theerthapathy passed away.
- ❖ He was India's last crowned prince and was residing in Singampatti, a small Palayam near Tirunelveli.
- ❖ He was the 31st crowned king in the Singampatti Zamin.



NATIONAL

Nutrient Based Subsidy Scheme

- ❖ Recently Union government has approved the subsidy for non-urea fertilizers this year to ₹22,186 crores.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also approved the inclusion of ammonium phosphate, under the nutrient-based subsidy scheme.
- ❖ Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) Scheme is being implemented, since 2010 by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- ❖ Under NBS, a fixed amount of subsidy decided on an annual basis, is provided on each grade of subsidized Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers depending on its nutrient content.
- ❖ The NBS scheme was sought to deregulate subsidy on non-urea fertilizers and expected to reduce the subsidy burden substantially.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the fertilizers except urea are to be provided to the farmers at subsidized rates.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on secondary nutrients such as N, P, K and S (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium and sulphur) and also micro nutrients.

CARES Programme

- ❖ The COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Programme is CARES Programme.
- ❖ The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) today signed a \$1.5 billion loan.
- ❖ It will support the government's response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Central Vista

- ❖ The Expert Appraisal Committee cleared the proposal to new Parliament at Rs 922 crores.
- ❖ The Parliament was constructed 93 years ago.
- ❖ The Central Vista of New Delhi includes Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhavan, India Gate, North and South Block and National Archives.
- ❖ This was designed by Edwin Lutyens and Baker.

About the Project

- ❖ The project plans on revamping the South and North blocks of Central Secretariat, Parliament House, and 3 km long Rajpath.
- ❖ Under this project, A new parliament building will be built by July 2022 and a Common Secretariat by March 2024.

- ❖ A new triangular shaped Parliament building will be built.
- ❖ The Present North and South Blocks will be turned into Museums.
- ❖ The Prime Minister's Office, residences of PM and Vice President will be reconstructed.
- ❖ No new Building will be higher than the India Gate.

Micro Irrigation

- ❖ In the financial year 2019-20, Tamilnadu (2,06,853.25 ha) is on top at the all-India level for micro-irrigation coverage.
- ❖ It is followed by Karnataka and Gujarat with 1,41,103.56 Ha and 1,08,322.00 Ha of coverage respectively.
- ❖ This has been achieved as part of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- ❖ It is a programme aimed at promoting the "more crop per drop" concept by focussing on water-saving technologies.

Bamboo Conclave

- ❖ The Minister of State for North East Development held Bamboo Conclave through video conference.
- ❖ It was to boost the economy of the country with the help of Bamboo resources.
- ❖ North East region of India consists of 60% of bamboo reserves of the country.
- ❖ The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was amended in 2017 to make Bamboo as Grass.

Liquor and GST in India

- ❖ The states in general impose heavy excise duty on liquor.
- ❖ The Delhi Government imposed 70% hike as Special Corona Fee in liquor prices.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh imposes "special duty on liquor" and uses the funds collected to maintain stray cattle.
- ❖ The state of Tamil Nadu imposes VAT (Value Added Tax) on liquor
- ❖ The sale of liquor has been banned in the states of Gujarat and Bihar,
- ❖ In all other states, liquor contributes certain amount to the exchequers.
- ❖ The State Excise duty is levied on liquor.
- ❖ According to the report of Reserve Bank of India called "State Finances: A study of Budgets of 2019-20", the excise duty on alcohol accounts to 10% to 15% of the state revenue of majority of the states.
- ❖ It is the second or third largest contributor to states revenue.

- ❖ This was the main reason the state governments wanted liquor to be kept out of GST.

Death Certificate in India

- ❖ The birth and death certificates are issued in India under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969.
- ❖ Under the Act, the Central Government shall appoint Registrar General of India.
- ❖ Though the state governments had rights to issue death certificates, the centre had passed orders to report such issuances to it.
- ❖ According to Disaster Management Act, the states will certainly have to follow the orders of center, though they have their own powers.

Saras Collection

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj launched the “The Saras Collection” on the GeM (Government E Marketplace) platform.
- ❖ The initiative is a joint effort of the Ministry of rural development, GeM and Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).
- ❖ The Saras Collection aims to promote daily utilities made by self-help groups.
- ❖ The GeM is a government owned portal that was set up as National Public Procurement Portal in order to procure goods and services that are required by the central and state governments.



GARUD

- ❖ The Director General of Civil Aviation launched ‘GARUD’ portal to fast-track exemptions of coronavirus-related drone operations.
- ❖ GARUD means Government Authorisation for Relief Using Drones.

Darbar Move

- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has asked the Centre and the Union Territory (UT) administration to take a final call on the continuation of Darbar move.
- ❖ It is a 148-year-old practice of shifting capitals annually between Srinagar (Summer Capital) and Jammu (Winter Capital).
- ❖ The practice was reportedly started in the late 19th century by Ranbir Singh, the Maharaja of Jammu and Kashmir.



IMD on Gilgit

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has begun to include Jammu and Kashmir, Gilgit-Baltistan, Ladakh and Muzaffarabad into its meteorological sub-division of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ This change comes after Pakistan Government decided to hold elections in Gilgit-Baltistan.

प्रादेशिक मौसम विज्ञान केंद्र, नई दिल्ली
भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय

Regional Meteorological Centre, New Delhi
India Meteorological Department
Ministry of Earth Sciences

Dated: 06 MAY 2020
Time of Issue 1200 HRS IST

WEATHER WARNING FOR NORTHWEST INDIA

MET-SUBDIVISION	06 May	07 May	08 May	09 May	10 May
Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan and Muzaffarabad	Thunderstorm /Lightning accompanied with gusty winds (Speed 30-40 kmph) and hail at isolated places.	NIL	NIL	Thunderstorm /Lightning at isolated places.	Thunderstorm /Lightning accompanied with gusty winds (Speed 30-40 kmph) at isolated places.
		NO WARNING	NO WARNING		

Internet penetration in India

- ❖ The Internet and Mobile Association of India recently released a report.
- ❖ According to the report, the active internet users in rural India (227 Million) have increased by 10% as compared to that of urban India (205 Million).
- ❖ In terms of Internet penetration, India (40%) lagged behind US (88%) and China (61%).
- ❖ The female internet users were higher than that of the male internet users.
- ❖ Among states, Delhi topped in internet penetration followed by Kerala.

Internet Usage in India

- ❖ Kantar, the world's leading data, insights and consulting company released its ICUBE 2019 report on digital adoption and usage trends in India.
- ❖ All monthly active Internet users in India use a mobile phone as one of the devices to access the Internet.
- ❖ About 84% of users access the Internet for entertainment purposes.

Vandhe Bharat Mission

- ❖ The Government of India has begun "Vandhe Bharat Mission".
- ❖ It is considered as one of the biggest evacuation exercise.
- ❖ It aims at bringing stranded Indians from all over the world.
- ❖ The entire Vandhe Bharat Mission is to be led by Air India.



New road for Kailash Mansarovar

- ❖ A new and faster road route through Uttarakhand to reach Kailash Mansarovar is complete.
- ❖ Kailash Mansarovar is a pilgrimage site nestled in the Himalayas in Tibet.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the road.

- ❖ It almost goes up till Lipulekh Pass Uttarakahand at the India-China border, 17,000 feet above the sea level.
- ❖ It connects the pass to Dharchula, a town in Uttarakahand's Pithoragarh.
- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is carrying out the project.
- ❖ Lipulekh pass is close to the tri-junction of India, China and Nepal.
- ❖ Mount Kailash is a 6,638 m high peak in the Kailash Range, which forms part of the Trans Himalaya in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- ❖ Mount Kailash is considered to be sacred in four religions: Bon, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.
- ❖ The mountain is located near Lake Manasarovar (Source of Indus and Brahmaputra) and Lake Rakshastal (Source of Sutlej).
- ❖ The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is undertaken by two routes - Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.



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.



Mission Sagar



- ❖ The Government of India has launched “Mission Sagar”.
- ❖ It aims at providing food items, Ayurvedic medicines related to COVID-19, HCQ tablets to Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Seychelles and Comoros.
- ❖ It is being conducted under close cooperation of Ministry of Defence and Ministry of External Affairs.
- ❖ It has been deployed under the India’s vision “SAGAR” in the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ In 2015, India introduced its vision of Indian Ocean called “SAGAR”, Security and Growth for All in the Region.

Sample Registration System (SRS)

- ❖ Recently, the Registrar General of India released data related to birth rate, death rate and infant mortality rate in its Sample Registration System (SRS) bulletin for 2018.
- ❖ The rates are calculated per one thousand of the population.
- ❖ SRS is a demographic survey for providing reliable annual estimates of infant mortality rate, birth rate, death rate and other fertility and mortality indicators at the national and sub-national levels.
- ❖ Registrar General of India was founded in 1961 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

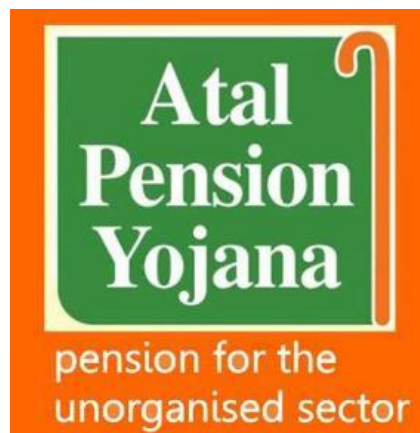
Highlights of 2018 SRS

- ❖ India’s birth rate has declined from 36.9 in 1971 to 20.0 in 2018.
- ❖ The birth rate has continued to be higher in rural areas compared to urban areas in the last four decades.
- ❖ Bihar (26.2) continues to remain at the top of list in birth rate while Andaman and Nicobar (11.2) is at the bottom.
- ❖ The death rate of India declined from 14.9 in 1971 to 6.2 in 2018.

- ❖ The decline has been steeper in rural areas.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate at 8 and Delhi has a lowest death rate of 3.3.
- ❖ Infant mortality rate (IMR) has decreased to 32 compared to 1971 (129).
- ❖ Madhya Pradesh has the highest IMR of 48 and Nagaland has the lowest IMR of 4.

Atal Pension Yojana

- ❖ The “Atal Pension Yojana” launched on May 9, 2015.
- ❖ It has completed 5 years of its implementation.
- ❖ The scheme was replaced with Swavalamban Yojana.
- ❖ It was established to provide old age income security to the unorganized sector.
- ❖ The Scheme can be subscribed by any Indian citizen of age 18 to 40 years.
- ❖ It provides a minimum guaranteed pension of Rs 1000 to Rs 5000 on attaining 60 years of age.
- ❖ It is implemented by PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) operating under Ministry of Finance.



India State-Level Disease Burden Initiative

- ❖ It was launched under the collaboration of ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).
- ❖ The initiative has given its report on district-level trends of child growth and child mortality.
- ❖ The child mortality rate has dropped by 49% between 2000 and 2017.
- ❖ Though child mortality and child growth has improved, the inequality between the districts is high.

- ❖ The main causes of under-5 deaths according to the report are diarrheal diseases, preterm birth, lower respiratory infections, low birth weight and birth asphyxia.



Dholka Election verdict

- ❖ The Gujarat high court declared the election of state BJP minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama's from the Dholka constituency in the 2017 elections as void on grounds of malpractice and manipulation.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India has set up a 3-member committee headed by Umesh Sinha to examine details of Gujarat High Court's judgement on the election petition concerning Dholka assembly constituency.

PM Announcement on Self Reliant

- ❖ The Prime Minister announced 5 pillars of a self-reliant India, which will lead the world into the 21st century
- ❖ Economy will bring quantum jump, not just incremental change.
- ❖ Infrastructure becomes a symbol of modern India.
- ❖ System is technology-driven and fulfils the dreams of the 21st century and is not based on the policy of the past century.
- ❖ Demography is our strength and source of energy for self-reliant India.
- ❖ Demand: Cycle of Supply and Demand to boost economy and provide the power to harness its full potential.



Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan

- ❖ PM Modi announced a special economic package worth Rs 20 lakh crore to enable self-reliant India.
- ❖ The economic package is 10% of the GDP.
- ❖ The new economic package is to be used to provide relief to labourers, middle class, farmers and industries that have suffered the most due to lock down.
- ❖ The package will address the five important aspect of production supply chain: Land, Labour, Liquidity, Law and Local.
- ❖ The scheme will not only help to strengthen the chain of local supply but will also promote the locally produced products.
- ❖ Under the new scheme, the Finance Minister announced 15 different measures.
- ❖ The Scheme will also focus on Vocal for Local.

Highlights

- ❖ The Government has changed the definition of MSMEs by increasing the investment limit upwards.
- ❖ Also, earlier, only investment was used to define MSMEs.
- ❖ With the changed definition both investment and turnover is used to define MSMEs.

- ❖ It is to be noted that for an enterprise to come under the category of MSME it has to fulfil both investment and turn over conditions.
- ❖ Also, under the new definition, the differentiation between the manufacturing and service based MSMEs is being removed.

Existing and Revised Definition of MSMEs



Existing MSME Classification			
Criteria : Investment in Plant & Machinery or Equipment			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Mfg. Enterprises	Investment < Rs. 25 lac	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr.
Services Enterprise	Investment < Rs. 10 lac	Investment < Rs. 2 cr.	Investment < Rs. 5 cr.

Revised MSME Classification			
Composite Criteria : Investment And Annual Turnover			
Classification	Micro	Small	Medium
Manufacturing & Services	Investment < Rs. 1 cr. and Turnover < Rs.5 cr.	Investment < Rs. 10 cr. and Turnover < Rs.50 cr.	Investment < Rs. 20 cr. and Turnover < Rs.100 cr.

- ❖ Loans worth to Rs 3 lakh crore are made collateral free for MSME sector.
- ❖ This is extended to firms whose outstanding loans are Rs 25 crore or those firms whose annual turnover is Rs 100 crore.
- ❖ Loan tenure is 4 Years with moratorium of 12 months on principal amount.
- ❖ Interest will be capped
- ❖ No Guarantee fee is required; however, 100% credit guarantee cover will be given to Banks & NBFCs on principal as well as interest.
- ❖ Global tenders will be disallowed in government procurement for tenders upto Rs 200 crores.
- ❖ The Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and Tax Collected at Source (TCS) rates are to be reduced by 25%.
- ❖ This will last till March 2021.
- ❖ The deadline of Vivad Se Vishwas Scheme is postponed to 31st December 2020.
- ❖ Today, under Employment Provident Fund scheme, 12% is contributed by the employee and 12% by the employer.
- ❖ For next 3 months, private employers and their employers need to pay only 10%.

Sohrai Khovar painting

- ❖ Recently, Jharkhand's Sohrai Khovar painting and Telangana's Telia Rumal have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ The Sohrai Khovar painting is a traditional and ritualistic mural art.
- ❖ A mural is any piece of artwork painted or applied directly on a wall, ceiling or other permanent surfaces.
- ❖ Telia Rumal Handloom involves art of Ikat tradition using natural vegetable dyes.
- ❖ Ikat is a dyeing technique used to pattern textiles.
- ❖ Telia Rumals were worn as a veil by princesses at the erstwhile court of the Nizam of Hyderabad, and as a turban cloth by Arabs in the Middle East.



India-China Border dispute

- ❖ The Indian and Chinese troops have clashed at two points along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) recently.
- ❖ The incidents took place in the Naku La sector in Sikkim and in a contested area near Pangong Tso Lake in Ladakh.
- ❖ Naku La sector is located ahead of Muguthang or Cho Lhamu (source of River Teesta).
- ❖ Pangong Tso is a salt water lake formed from Tethys geosyncline.
- ❖ One-third of this water body is in Indian control while the rest is under Chinese control.



SC power for complete Justice

- ❖ A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by the Chief Justice of India Bobde, declared that superior courts enjoy untrammelled power to take up any cause to do complete justice.
- ❖ The court clarified that there is no fetter on the exercise of discretion of this court in referring questions of law to a larger Bench in review petitions.
- ❖ Being a superior court of record, it is for this court to consider whether any matter falls within its jurisdiction or not.
- ❖ Unlike a court of limited jurisdiction, the superior court of record is entitled to determine for itself questions about its own jurisdiction.
- ❖ The nine member bench also invoked Article 142 of the Constitution in this case.
- ❖ It is related with the review of Sabarimala case.

PAC Chairman

- ❖ The Congress leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been yet again appointed as the chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- ❖ Every year, the Lok Sabha Speaker re-constitutes the panels including PAC.
- ❖ It is traditionally headed by the representative of the main Opposition party.
- ❖ The PAC is the most powerful panel of the Parliament.
- ❖ It is empowered to consider all CAG reports and give recommendations to Government.
- ❖ The panel can look into any accounts and fund flow and its irregularity related issue to examine and summon any Government officers and private individuals.
- ❖ Though Chairman has authority to discuss and select any subject to be examined, voting system helps the ruling party to take decisions in the report.

Fund devolution to states

- ❖ The Finance Ministry on May 11 has released Rs. 6,195 crore to 14 states to fight against the spread and the treatment of COVID-19.
- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission recommended this grant.
- ❖ As per the Finance Ministry, the grant will help the state governments in taking preventive measures for the containment of Coronavirus.
- ❖ The grant is a mechanism that has been provided by the Finance Commission for compensation of any form of loss by the states from the centre.
- ❖ The grant forms the second-largest block of Finance Commission transfers after the assistance given to the local rural bodies.

Direct seeding of rice

- ❖ The farmers of Punjab and Haryana are being encouraged to adopt “direct seeding of rice” due to shortage of labourers.
- ❖ In this method, there is no nursery preparation.
- ❖ Instead, the seeds are directly drilled into the field with the help of a power tractor.
- ❖ It helps in saving water up to 25%.
- ❖ It enhances fertilizer use and system productivity.
- ❖ There is minimal disturbance to soil structure.

India's Atma nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan

- ❖ India's package is not entirely a government spending.
- ❖ The package includes spending of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❖ It ranks behind the stimulus packages announced by the US, Japan, Sweden, Australia and Germany in terms of spending percentage of the GDP.
- ❖ However, in terms of the value, India's package ranks at 19th position.
- ❖ Smaller economies such as Belgium and Luxembourg have spent fifth of their GDP at 20.7% and 19.2%, respectively.
- ❖ The ranks have been decided after analyzing the data compiled in 'COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Index (CESI)' by economist Ceyhun Elgin.
- ❖ Rs 20 lakh crore worth coronavirus stimulus package is higher than the GDP of a few economies such as Greece, New Zealand, Vietnam, Portugal, and Romania.
- ❖ India's stimulus value is almost equal to Pakistan's GDP of USD 284 billion.
- ❖ The package is the fifth-largest among the G-20 countries in terms of spending in relation to GDP.

Country	Package Details	Value in terms of GDP
Japan	USD 1.1 trillion recovery package	21.1% of its GDP
United States (US)	USD 2.7 trillion packages (largest in pure dollar terms)	13% of its GDP
Sweden	-	12% of its GDP
Australia	-	10.8% of its GDP
Germany	USD 815 billion package	10.7% of its GDP
India	USD 265 billion (Rs 20 lakh crore)	10% of its GDP
France	-	9.3% of GDP
Spain	€200 billion	7.3% of GDP
Italy	Approx. USD 815 billion package	5.7% of GDP
UK	£1.25 billion	5% of GDP

EventBot

- ❖ The Computer Emergency Response of Team (CERT) of India has issued warning against a new malware called “EventBot”.
- ❖ The malware according to CERT steals personal financial information from Android phone users.
- ❖ The EventBot malware that is spreading is a Trojan.
- ❖ CERT operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.



Project 39A

- ❖ It is a report by research organization Project 39A of National Law University, Delhi.
- ❖ The study chose three states and Union Territories namely Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Maharashtra.
- ❖ These states were chosen as they ranked high in awarding capital punishments.
- ❖ The trial courts in Delhi awarded death penalty invoking the concept of society’s collective conscience.
- ❖ ‘Collective conscience of society’ as a ground to justify death penalty was first used by the Supreme Court in the 1983 judgment of Machhi Singh v. State of Punjab.
- ❖ Collective conscience found its most recent endorsement in the 2017 judgment of the Supreme Court in the December 2012 Delhi gang rape case of Mukesh v. State of NCT of Delhi.
- ❖ The study also revealed non-compliance by the trial courts with the sentencing framework laid down by the Supreme Court in its 1980 judgment in Bachan Singh v. State of Punjab.
- ❖ In that case, a Constitution bench of the Supreme Court was called upon to decide the constitutional validity of the capital punishment.
- ❖ The Law Commission in 2015, headed by Justice A P Shah proposed to abolish capital punishments.
- ❖ However, the commission had made the proposal only to non-terrorism cases.

President Salary Cut

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind recently announced that he is to donate 30% of his salary to aid the GoI in the fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The Union Budget 2018 increased the salaries of president and vice president of the country.
- ❖ Currently, the salary of president of India is 5 lakhs per Month, increased from 1.5 lakh per month.
- ❖ Also, the vice president salary was increased from Rs 1.10 lakhs to Rs 4 lakhs.
- ❖ The salaries of state governors were also increased to Rs 3.5 lakhs.
- ❖ Article 59 says that the emoluments and allowances of the President of India shall not be reduced during his term of office.
- ❖ But in this case, the President is offering it as donation at his will and the salary is not being cut.
- ❖ The same Article also empowers the President to use his official residence without rent.

Sachet Ship

- ❖ The Defence Minister Rajnath Singh commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) sachet and two interceptor boats C-451 and (IBs) C-450 in Goa.
- ❖ The ship 'Sachet' has been first in the series of five offshore patrol vessels (OPVs).
- ❖ It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard (Ltd).



5th tranche of Atma Nirbhar Bharat package

- ❖ With the announcement of the final tranche, the overall stimulus provided by the Package amounts to Rs 20,97,053 crore.

Health

- ❖ To prepare India for future pandemics.
- ❖ Government will be setting up of infectious diseases hospital blocks in all districts.
- ❖ Integrated public health labs will also be set up in the districts.
- ❖ National Institutional Platform for health will be established by ICMR
- ❖ National Digital Health Blueprint will also be implemented.

Education

- ❖ PM eVIDYA - A programme for multi-mode access to digital/online education will be launched immediately.
- ❖ It is to be launched to unify the efforts related to online education.
- ❖ It will include two major initiatives namely “One Nation One Digital Platform” and “One Class One Channel”.
- ❖ Manodarpan: An initiative for psychosocial support of students, teachers and families for mental health and emotional wellbeing will be launched
- ❖ National Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Mission for ensuring that every child attains learning levels and outcomes in Grade 5 by 2025 will also be launched by December 2020.

State Finances

- ❖ States net borrowing ceiling for 2020-21 is Rs. 6.41 lakh crores, based on 3% of GSDP.
- ❖ Now the borrowing limits of States increased from 3% to 5%, for 2020-21.
- ❖ The Part of the borrowing will be linked to specified reforms.
- ❖ The reforms include universalisation of ‘One Nation One Ration card’, improving ease of doing business, power distribution reforms and streamlining urban local body revenues.

Public Sector Enterprises

- ❖ A list of strategic sectors requiring presence of PSEs in public interest will be notified.
- ❖ In strategic sectors, at least one enterprise will remain in the public sector but private sector will also be allowed.

Others

- ❖ Swayam Prabha DTH channels to support and reach those who do not have access to the internet.

Final dose

The fifth tranche of the economic package under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was announced on Sunday

Health



- Public spending to be increased; more health and wellness centres
- Infectious diseases hospitals and public health labs to be set up in all districts

Disinvestment



- Public sector firms in non-strategic sectors to be privatised
- No more than four public sector undertakings to remain in 'strategic' sectors; to be notified soon

States



- Borrowing ceiling raised from ₹6.41 lakh crore (3% of GDP) to ₹10.69 lakh crore
- Only a quarter of this hike is unconditional; rest are linked to reforms in specified areas

Unemployment



- MGNREGS allocation hiked by ₹40,000 crore to fund 300 crore person days
- Aimed at giving migrants who have returned home an income option

Industry



- Fresh insolvency proceedings suspended for a year, eligible loan size to be hiked from ₹1 lakh to ₹1 crore
- COVID-19 related debt not to trigger defaults; firms can list abroad directly

61st cavalry

- The Indian Army is to convert the 61st cavalry into a regular armoured regiment with tanks.
- It is the only horse serving cavalry in the world.
- This is largely a ceremonial unit based in Jaipur.



Star rating of garbage free cities

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs released star rating of garbage free cities for the year 2019-20.
- Around 5 cities were given 5-star rating.
- This includes Ambikapur, Surat, Rajkot, Mysuru, Indore and Navi Mumbai.

Star Rating				
Garbage Free Cities				
5 Star★★★★★				
Ambikapur	Chhindwara	Narkhed	Badnawar	Nashik
Rajkot	Kanthaphod	Panchgani	Gwalior	Paithan
Surat	Katni	Panhala	Hathod	Panvel
Mysore	Khargone	Rajapur	Khandwa	Pen
Indore	Omkareshwar	Ratnagiri	Maheshwar	Phulambri
Navi Mumbai	Pithampur	Sasvad	Sardarpur	Rajura
	Singrauli	Shirdi	Shahganj	Ramtek
3 Star★★★				
Tirupati	Ujjain	Tasgaon	Ahmednagar	Raver
Vijayawada	Ambarnath	Thane	Akola	Sailu
Chandigarh	Bhiwandi Nizampur	Vadgaon	Anjangaon Surji	Sangamner
Bhilai Nagar	Brahmapuri	Vengurla	Ashta MH	Shahada
Jashpur Nagar (M)	Chandrapur M	Vita	Ballarpur	Shendurjanaghat
Narharpur (NP)	Deolali Pravara	Nawanshahr	Barshi	Shirpur- Warwade
Patan (NP)	Dhule	1 Star★		
Raigarh	Gadhinglaj	Chirala	Bhagur	Uran Islampur
Rajnandgaon	Indapur	GVMC Visakhapatnam	Daund	Vaijapur
Bilaspur	Jalgaon	Palamaneru	Georai	Varangaon
Saragaon (NP)	Jalna	Sattenapalli	Jamner	Vasai Virar
Barsur(NP)	Jejuri	Baramkela (NP)	Jawhar	Waduj
New Delhi	Junnar	Berla (NP)	Kalyan Dombivali	Aligarh
Ahmedabad	Kagal	Chikhalakasa (NP)	Khanapur M	Gajraula (NPP)
Bagasra	Karhad	Katghora (NP)	Khapa	Ghaziabad
Gandhinagar	Khed	Pakhanjur (NP)	Khopoli	Jhansi
Jamnagar	Lonavala	Delhi Cantt.	Kulgaon-Badlapur	Lucknow
Talala	Mahabaleshwar	Bhavnagar	Kurundvad	Noida
Karnal	Malkapur S	Tarsadi	Mahad	
Jamshedpur	Matheran	Vadodara	Mahadula	
Bhopal	Mauda CT	Visavadar	Malkapur K	
Burhanpur	Mira-Bhayandar	Vyara	Mangalvedhe	
	Murgud	Rohtak	Murbad	
			Nagbhid	

Super cyclonic storm - Amphan

- ❖ Amphan turned into a super cyclonic storm.
- ❖ This is the second super cyclonic storm faced by India since Fani in 1999.
- ❖ The Super Cyclonic storm will hit the coast of Odisha and West Bengal according to the Indian Meteorological Department.
- ❖ The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs is preparing evacuation plan and response preparedness.
- ❖ The warnings about a cyclone are given by the Indian Meteorological Department.
- ❖ Arabian Sea is comparatively less prone to cyclonic storms than Bay of Bengal.

Konark sun temple - Mission Surya Nagari

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has taken up the Complete Solarisation of Konark sun temple and Konark town in Odisha.
- ❖ It was built by King Narasimhadeva I, the great ruler of Ganga dynasty in the 13th century.
- ❖ This temple was also known as 'Black Pagoda' due to its dark color.

- ❖ Similarly, the Jagannath Temple in Puri was called the “White Pagoda”.
- ❖ The Konark is the third link of Odisha’s Golden Triangle.
- ❖ The first link is Jagannath Puri and the second link is Bhubaneswar (Capital city of Odisha).
- ❖ The temple is included in UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984.
- ❖ The temple is perfect blend of Kalinga architecture and its heritage.
- ❖ The Chandrabhaga Mela is conducted here annually.



New PSU Privatisation Policy

- ❖ The new PSU Policy will categorise the sectors as Strategic and Non-Strategic ones.
- ❖ The government will retain maximum of four and minimum of one in the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in Strategic Sectors.
- ❖ All other Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in Non-Strategic sectors will be either privatised or merged or brought under the holding companies.
- ❖ It is with an aim to minimise the administrative cost of the Central Government.
- ❖ The Strategic sector PSUs in India are
 - Arms & Ammunition of defence equipment
 - Defense aircraft & warships
 - Atomic energy
 - Applications of radiation to agriculture, medicine and non-strategic industry
 - Railways
- ❖ Companies in which Central Government holds 51% stake are known as CPSEs or PSUs.
- ❖ Privatisation means migration from the Public to Private Sector through the transfer of ownership, management and control.

Privatization

Benefits of Privatization:

Economic Benefits:

- One-time cash injection to gov't revenues
- Competitive imperative
- Market capitalization

Social Benefits:

- Commercial control over enterprise (more disclosure)
- 'Private – dividend' more public money for programs and services

PPE producer in World

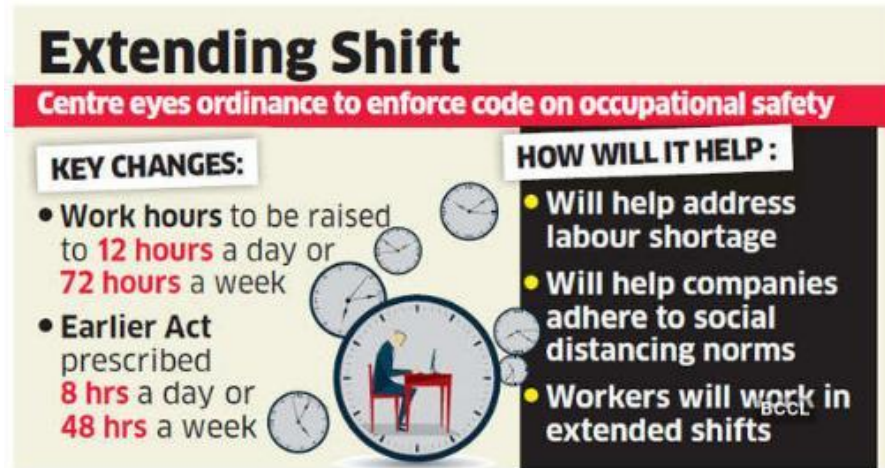
- ❖ India became the second largest producer of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the world.
- ❖ China is the leading producer of PPE in the world.
- ❖ India is now producing 2.06 lakh PPE kits every day.
- ❖ The Textiles Committee recently launched the Synthetic Blood Penetration Testing Equipment on PPE.



Ordinance to increase work hours

- ❖ The Central Government is to pass an ordinance that will allow state governments to increase the flexibility of work hours of employees.
- ❖ The ordinance will address the issue of shortage of labours.
- ❖ It will facilitate the companies to maintain social distancing.
- ❖ Also, it will enforce code on Occupational Safety, Working Conditions and Health.
- ❖ The code empowers states to notify work hours.

- ❖ Currently, the prescribed working hours of labours according to the act is 8 hours a day.
- ❖ The State Governments cannot amend laws that are under center's list.
- ❖ It shall only work on state and concurrent list.



Khudol Initiative

- ❖ The United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth has listed Manipur's Khudol among the top 10 global initiatives for an inclusive fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Khudol is a crowdfunded initiative of Ya_All, an Imphal-based NGO.
- ❖ It had created India's first transgender football team.
- ❖ The initiative entails ensuring food, health and hygiene of the LGBTQI+ community, people living with HIV, daily-wage earners, children and adolescents.

CoAST India (Collaboration/Covid Action Support Group)

- ❖ It is a GIS-enabled dashboard that includes an India map reflecting the movement of migrants in real time on their long journeys.
- ❖ It has been developed by India Observatory in collaboration with Gujarat's district Anand-based Forest Ecological Security (FES) as its main nodal point.

Definition of domiciles at J&K

- ❖ The 2020 order defines domiciles as anyone "who has resided for a period of 15 years in the UT of J&K or has studied for a period of seven years and appeared in Class 10th/12th examination in an educational institution located in the UT of J&K or who is registered as a migrant by the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants)".

- ❖ It said that children of central government officials including the all India services, public sector units, autonomous body of Centre, Public Sector Banks, officials of statutory bodies, central universities and recognised research institutes of the Centre who have served in J&K for a “total period of 10 years” will be domiciles.
- ❖ The domicile status also applies to “children of such residents of J&K who reside outside J&K in connection with their employment or business or other professional or vocational reasons but their parents should fulfil any of the conditions provided”.

NEW RULES

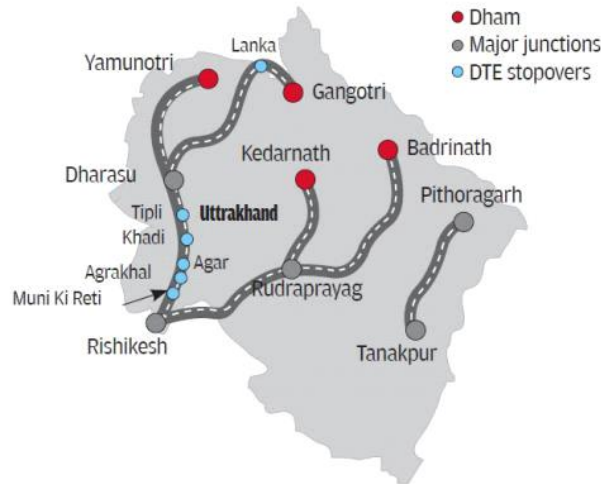
- **Domicile rights extended to all migrants who have been registered** by Relief and Rehab Commissioner in the erstwhile state
- Anyone who has **studied for a period of 7 years and appeared in Class 10th or 12th exams** in J&K is eligible for domicile certificate
- Change in rules, though **only for lower-end govt jobs**, is politically significant as state employment was previously in accordance with definition of permanent residents

Chamba Tunnel

- ❖ It is a 440-m tunnel constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) below the densely populated Chamba town on the Rishikesh-Dharasuroad National Highway in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The report further noted that India is home to 3, 30,400 HNWI's (High-Net-Worth Individuals - individuals with USD 1 million or more in net assets).
- ❖ The Tunnel has been dug by the Border Road Organization under the Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It is under the project of Char Dham Pariyojana Project.

- ❖ The project involves developing and widening 900-km of national highways connecting the holy Hindu pilgrimage sites of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri.
- ❖ It is a programme taken up by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Proposed Char Dham highway



Domicile rules for J&K

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs amended a 2010 legislation, the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Decentralisation and Recruitment Act).
- ❖ It has substituted the term “permanent residents” with “domiciles of UT [Union Territory] of J&K.”
- ❖ It has redefined domicile through Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization (Adaption of state laws) order, 2020 issued under the Jammu & Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019.
- ❖ The 2010 Act pertained to employment in the Civil Services comprising “district, divisional and State” cadre posts.
- ❖ Earlier, only permanent residents of J&K were eligible to apply for gazetted and non-gazetted posts.
- ❖ The power to issue domicile certificates has been vested in the tehsildar (revenue officer).

About Domicile

- ❖ Domicile - The country that a person treats as their permanent home.
- ❖ It is a place where one makes their permanent home and where one is considered to be a permanent resident.
- ❖ An example of one’s domicile is the home state where one live.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana

- ❖ The Government of India announced that around 9 crore 60 lakh farmers were benefitted under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.
- ❖ This was mainly done through the PM-KISAN Scheme
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana aimed to ease the life of the people during lock down.
- ❖ The PM-KISAN scheme was launched in 2019.
- ❖ Under the scheme Rs 6000 was deposited to the accounts of eligible farmers in three installments annually.
- ❖ The scheme targeted the small and marginal farmers.

Vaccine Development in India

- ❖ The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has established stable cultures of COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) from the samples of the patients.
- ❖ CCMB Virologists isolated infectious viruses from several isolates.
- ❖ The ability to culture the virus in the lab will enable the virologists at CCMB to work towards the drug testing and vaccine development to fight COVID-19.
- ❖ If a large amount of virus is cultured and inactivated, it can be used as an inactivated virus vaccine.
- ❖ Once the inactivated virus is injected, the human immune system will start triggering the production of germ-specific antibodies.

INTERNATIONAL

Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups

- ❖ The Great American Economic Revival Industry Groups were created by U.S. President Donald Trump to combat the economic impact of the ongoing 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ Among them 6 members have been chosen from the Indian-American community for the Great American Economic Revival group by the USA President.
- ❖ These include Google's Sundar Pichai and Microsoft's Satya Nadella, IBM's Arvind Krishna, Micron's Sanjay Mehrotra, Ann Mukherjee from Pernod Ricard and Ajay Banga from Mastercard.
- ❖ Other prominent members appointed by Trump are Tim Cook, Mark Zuckerberg, Elon Musk and Bill Ford.
- ❖ It was a second task force, following the White House Coronavirus Task Force.
- ❖ The White House Coronavirus Task Force is headed by the U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

USA ships at South China Sea

- ❖ U.S. Warships Enter Disputed Waters of South China Sea.
- ❖ An Australian warship has also joined with this.
- ❖ The area is near waters claimed by both Vietnam and Malaysia as well as China.
- ❖ China claims most of the energy-rich South China Sea, within a U-shaped "nine-dash line" on its maps.
- ❖ But that is not recognised by its neighbours.
- ❖ Vietnam recently protested after China said that China had established two administrative districts on the Paracel and Spratly islands in the disputed waters.



About

- ❖ The South China Sea is a marginal sea.
- ❖ It is a part of the Pacific Ocean, encompassing an area from the Karimata and Malacca straits to the Strait of Taiwan.
- ❖ The nine-dash line refers to the claims by China in the South China Sea.
- ❖ It includes the Paracel Islands, the Spratly Islands, the Pratas Islands, the Maccles field Bank and the Scarborough Shoal.
- ❖ The claim encompasses the area of Chinese land reclamation known as the "Great Wall of Sand".

USCIRF Annual Report 2020

- ❖ The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has released its annual report recently.
- ❖ The report placed India alongside countries, including China, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.
- ❖ It has downgraded India to the lowest ranking, “countries of particular concern” (CPC).

Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2019

- ❖ It is released by the Australian Think Tank - the Institute for Economics and peace.
- ❖ India has moved to the seventh position from the previous year's eighth spot.
- ❖ The countries ahead of it are Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan and Somalia.

Permanent Representative - UN ambassador

- ❖ India has appointed diplomat T S Tirumurti, the present Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations.
- ❖ The Permanent Mission is the diplomatic mission that every member state deputed to the United Nations.
- ❖ It is headed by a Permanent Representative, who is also referred to as the “UN ambassador”.
- ❖ It is under the Vienna Convention on the Representation of States.
- ❖ India was among the select members of the United Nations that signed the United Nations Declaration at Washington on January 1, 1942.
- ❖ India also participated in the historic UN Conference of International Organization at San Francisco from April 25 to June 26, 1945.

Special 301 Report

- ❖ The United States Trade Representative (USTR) has released its Annual Special 301 Report recently.
- ❖ It identifies trade barriers to United States companies and products due to the intellectual property laws.
- ❖ The Report includes a list of “Priority Foreign Countries”, that are judged to have inadequate intellectual property laws.
- ❖ The report also contains a "Priority Watch List" and a "Watch List".

- ❖ India continues to be on the 'Priority Watch List' for lack of adequate intellectual property (IP) rights protection and enforcement.
- ❖ The other countries placed on the list include Argentina, Algeria, Chile, Russia, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Ukraine.
- ❖ The countries that were removed from the list are Canada, Kuwait and Thailand.

Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) - 2020

- ❖ It has been released by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).
- ❖ The center is a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council.
- ❖ Most of the disaster displacements were triggered by tropical storms and monsoon rains in South Asia and East Asia and Pacific.
- ❖ Bangladesh, China, India and the Philippines each recorded more than four million displacements in 2019.
- ❖ Nearly five million people were displaced in India in 2019 — the highest in the world so far.
- ❖ 2019 was the seventh warmest year since 1901 in India; its monsoon was the wettest in 25 years.
- ❖ Eight tropical storms also hit in 2019.



Mekong River dispute

- ❖ According to a study, China's upstream activities along the Mekong River have long been contentious.
- ❖ The US funded study was carried out by the research and consulting firm, Eyes on Earth.
- ❖ The report was published by the UN-backed Sustainable Infrastructure Partnership, and the Lower Mekong Initiative.
- ❖ It is a multinational partnership of the U.S. with Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

- ❖ Mekong River runs through six countries.
- ❖ It is starting from China known as the Lancang River.
- ❖ It flows in countries like Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar.
- ❖ It is emptying into the South China Sea via Vietnam.
- ❖ It is the lifeblood of these Southeast Asian countries.



Budget Transparency

- ❖ India ranked 53rd among 117 countries in budget transparency and accountability.
- ❖ It was as per the Open Budget Survey conducted by the International Budget Partnership.
- ❖ New Zealand topped the list.
- ❖ South Africa, Mexico and Brazil were the other top performers.

e-RMB - Digital Currency

- ❖ China is to trial a digital yuan in four urban areas of it.
- ❖ It seeks to be the first major economy to launch a digital currency.
- ❖ The People's Bank of China (PBOC) will be the sole issuer of the digital yuan.



R&D Statistics and Indicators 2019-20

- ❖ It is based on the national S&T survey 2018 brought out by the National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- ❖ India's gross expenditure in R&D has tripled between 2008 & 2018.
- ❖ With the rise in research publication, the country is globally at the 3rd position.
- ❖ The two main contributors were Department of Science and Technology (63%) and Department of Biotechnology (14%).
- ❖ The first two ranks were occupied by USA and China.
- ❖ India is also 3rd in the number of Ph.D. in science & engineering.
- ❖ India's per capita R&D expenditure has increased to \$ 47.2 in 2017-18 from \$ 29.2 in 2007-08 on the basis of Purchasing Power Parity (PPP).
- ❖ India spent 0.7% of its GDP on R&D in 2017-18.
- ❖ Among the BRICS countries, it was Brazil 1.3%, Russian Federation 1.1%, China 2.1% and South Africa 0.8%.
- ❖ India is ranked at 9th position in terms of Resident Patent Filing activity in the world.
- ❖ According to WIPO, India's Patent Office stands at the 7th position among the top 10 Patent Filing Offices in the world.
- ❖ The women participation in the R&D field has increased from 13% to 24%.



The Most Popular Central bank

- ❖ RBI has the maximum number of Twitter followers across all central banks in the world with 7.45 lakh followers.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has beaten US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank on Twitter by emerging as the most popular central bank.
- ❖ Closely behind RBI is the Bank Indonesia.
- ❖ At the third spot is Banco de Mexico - the apex bank of Mexico.

NAM Summit

- ❖ The PM of India attended the NAM Summit representing India through a video conference.
- ❖ It has been convened at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as current chair of the Movement.
- ❖ The title of the summit is “We stand together against COVID-19”.
- ❖ This is the first NAM Summit being attended by Modi since he was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2014.
- ❖ The 2016 summit was held in Venezuela and 2019 summit was in Azerbaijan.
- ❖ In 2012, the former PM Manmohan Singh participated at the Tehran NAM summit at Iran.

About NAM

- ❖ The NAM is Non-Aligned Movement forum of 120 developing countries.
- ❖ It is not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- ❖ After the United Nations, NAM is the largest grouping of states.
- ❖ The countries of the Non-Aligned Movement represent nearly two-thirds of the United Nations' members and contain 55% of the world population.
- ❖ The summit was agreed to convene at the Bandung Conference in 1955.
- ❖ It was established in 1961.
- ❖ The key people in this initiative were Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

Lost at Home

- ❖ UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has published a report named “Lost at Home” report.
- ❖ The largest number of internally displaced children due to conflict are found in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❖ Syrian Arab Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Yemen accounts to more than half of persons displaced.

War Medal

- ❖ The Russian President Vladimir Putin awarded the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un a commemorative war medal.
- ❖ The medal has been awarded to mark the 75th anniversary of victory over Nazi forces in the Second World War.

Iran's new currency

- ❖ It is set to be re-named and re-valued.
- ❖ Iran's money will soon likely be called the Toman.
- ❖ The present unit of Iranian currency is Rial.
- ❖ Now one Toman will be 10,000 rials.
- ❖ It marks the reduction of four zeroes in the rial.
- ❖ Gheran is another new denomination.
- ❖ 100 Gheran makes a Toman.

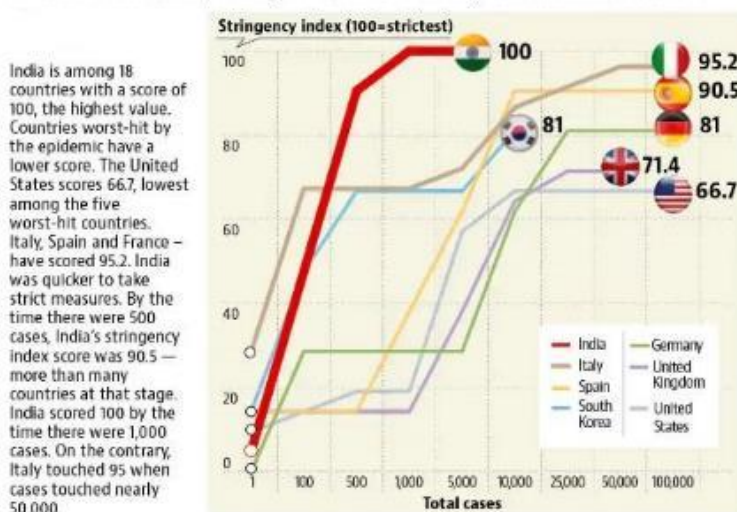


Stringency Index

- ❖ 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.



Global Nutrition Report 2020

- ❖ It is the world's leading independent assessment of the state of global nutrition.
- ❖ India is among 88 countries that are likely to miss global nutrition targets by 2025.
- ❖ It also identified the country as one with the highest rates of domestic inequalities in malnutrition.
- ❖ India is identified as among the three worst countries, along with Nigeria and Indonesia
- ❖ The Global Nutrition Report was conceived following the first Nutrition for Growth Initiative Summit (N4G) in 2013.
- ❖ It is a multi-stakeholder initiative, consisting of a Stakeholder Group, Independent Expert Group and Report Secretariat (WHO or FAO is not involved).

Chair of the World Health Organization

- ❖ India is to hold the chair of the World Health Organization in May 2020 after Japan completes its tenure.
- ❖ India will continue to hold the chair for the next three years.

Taiwan as an observer

- ❖ The US Senate passed an Act to make Taiwan an observer at the World Health Organization.
- ❖ In this regard, a meeting was held to gain support from Australia, India, Brazil, Japan, Israel and Republic of Korea.
- ❖ India also participated this meeting.
- ❖ Currently Taiwan is ruled by the Republic of China (ROC).
- ❖ However, China claims Taiwan to be its part under its "One China Principle".
- ❖ Taiwanese on the other hand want a separate land.



Global Solidarity Trial of COVID-19

- ❖ The Indian Council for Medical Research is to participate in this trial.
- ❖ ICMR-National AIDS Research Institute (NARI) is the name of the national coordination site for the Solidarity trial in India.
- ❖ The Gujarat Hospitals from four major cities are to participate in the trial.
- ❖ This includes Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Surat and Rajkot.
- ❖ The WHO has launched four mega trials to test the efficiency and accuracy of four treatments.
- ❖ The treatments are as follows
 - Hydroxychloroquine
 - Remdesivir
 - Lopinavir-Ritonavir
 - Lopinavir-Ritonavir along with Interferon.
- ❖ Lopinavir and Ritonavir are currently being used to treat HIV infections.
- ❖ Remdesivir has still not been approved anywhere in the world.
- ❖ Remdesivir drug blocked Ebola virus in Rhesus monkeys.

Taiwan - China Dispute

- ❖ The Chinese civil war forced the defeated Kuomintang, or Nationalist, to flee to the Taiwan island in 1949.
- ❖ While Taiwan is self-governed and de facto independent, it has never formally declared independence from the mainland China.
- ❖ It is known as the “one country, two systems” formula.
- ❖ To this date, Taiwan is not a part of the WHO.
- ❖ Taiwan is a member of the World Trade Organization, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation and Asian Development Bank under various names.
- ❖ India has refused to endorse the “one-China” policy since 2010.
- ❖ Although they do not have formal diplomatic ties, Taiwan and India have been cooperating in various fields.



WTO chief

- ❖ The World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Roberto Azevedo from Brazil resigned from his position.
- ❖ He would step down from his position on August 31.
- ❖ His second four-year term was scheduled to end on September 2021.

Kalapani issue

- ❖ Nepal approved a new map that included the territories of Kalapani, Lipuleh and Limpiyadhura.
- ❖ However, the territories have been claimed by India as well.
- ❖ India claims Kalapani as part of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand's and Nepal claims it as a part of its Dharchula district.
- ❖ Lipulekh pass is located in Uttarakhand atop the Kalapani at a tri-junction between India, China and Nepal.



73rd World Health Assembly Meeting

- ❖ The Coalition of 120 nations including India has provided their support to Australia's push in the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ They supported the resolution called 'Resolution on COVID 19 Response' to conduct investigation on China over the origin of COVID-19.
- ❖ It was for an independent inquiry into the origin of the COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ China and US are not the part of this resolution.
- ❖ Moreover China also opposed the investigation.
- ❖ Currently, the available information reveals that the coronavirus is a zoonotic disease

- ❖ The Zoonotic sources are animals from which the diseases can transmit to humans.
- ❖ The World Organization for Animal Health will conduct field missions to identify the zoonotic source of the virus.
- ❖ The World Health Assembly is WHO's decision-making body.
- ❖ The members of the assembly meet every year in Geneva in Switzerland during the month of May.

Baltic Travel Bubble

- ❖ Creating a travel bubble involves reconnecting countries or states which have shown a good level of success in containing the Covid-19 pandemic domestically.
- ❖ Such a bubble would allow the members of the group to restart trade ties with each other and open travel and tourism.
- ❖ The Baltic countries have opened their borders to one another creating “travel bubble”
- ❖ The Baltic Countries are those countries that are in the Northern Europe and in the eastern coast of Baltic sea.
- ❖ The countries that are referred to Baltic state include Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.
- ❖ The countries that border Baltic sea include Russia, Sweden, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Germany, Poland, Lithuania.



Israel PM

- ❖ Benjamin Netanyahu-led government was sworn into office in Israel in the kneset, the Israel Parliament.
- ❖ This marks the beginning of Netanyahu's fifth term in office, his fourth consecutive term.
- ❖ Benny Gantz took his oath of office as the alternate prime minister and future prime minister after Netanyahu's swearing-in.

New Water Routes

- ❖ India and Bangladesh signed the second Addendum of the Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol in Bangladesh.
- ❖ This will help in export of Bhutanese cargo, stone chips and North East Cargo to Bangladesh.
- ❖ It will increase economy of Bangladesh and lower Assam.
- ❖ Both added the Sonamura-Daudkandi route on the Gomti river in Tripura and Rajshahi-Dhulian-Rajshahi route in Bangladesh, along with the four new routes., to the list of Indo-Bangladesh protocol routes.
- ❖ The five new ports of call on the Indian side are Maia, Kolaghat, Sonamura, Dhulian, and Jogigopha.
- ❖ On the Bangladesh side, they are Sultanganj, Rajshahi, Chilmari, Bahadurabad, and Daudkandi.
- ❖ The inclusion of Jogigopha will help in connectivity with Meghalaya, Bhutan and Assam.
- ❖ Currently there are six ports of call between India and Bangladesh.
- ❖ On India's side, they are, Haldia, Kolkata, Pandu, Karimganj, Dhubri, and Shilghat.
- ❖ On the Bangladesh side, they are Khulna, Narayanganj, Sirajganj, Mongla, Pangaon, and Ashuganj.



WHO Foundation

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the creation of the WHO Foundation.
- ❖ It is an independent grant-making entity.
- ❖ It will support the organization's efforts to address the most pressing global health challenges.
- ❖ It's Headquarters is at Geneva of Switzerland.

New president of the New Development Bank (NDB)

- ❖ Marcos Troyjo has been elected as the new president of the New Development Bank (NDB).
- ❖ He is a former deputy economy minister of Brazil and will replace India's KV Kamath as a president of this multilateral financial institution.
- ❖ India's Anil Kishora will be the bank's vice-president and Chief Risk Officer.
- ❖ K. V. Kamath, from India, was the first elected president of the NDB.
- ❖ It is also referred to as the BRICS Development Bank.
- ❖ is headquartered in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The first regional office of the NDB is in Johannesburg, South Africa
- ❖ It was established by the Fortaleza declaration of BRICS in 2014.

ECONOMY

One Nation One Ration Card

- ❖ Bihar, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal and Daman and Diu have been integrated with the 'one nation, one ration card' scheme.
- ❖ The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution approved this.
- ❖ The aim of the scheme is inter-state portability of ration cards.
- ❖ It will ensure all beneficiaries especially migrants.
- ❖ They can access PDS across the nation from any PDS shop of their own choice.
- ❖ Already there are 12 more states in the scheme.
- ❖ These states include Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Rajasthan and Tripura.



Easy access

Under the 'One nation, one ration card' system, beneficiaries can buy subsidised foodgrains from a ration shop in any part of the country

Ration card-Aadhaar linkage must to access the portability scheme

The scheme will be rolled out across the country on: July 1, 2020

States providing portability of PDS entitlements:

- Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana and Tripura
- A person will only be eligible for the subsidies supported by the Centre, which include rice sold at ₹3/kg and wheat at ₹2/kg
- Even if a beneficiary moves to a State where grains are given for free, he/she will not be able to access those benefits

A migrant will be allowed to buy a maximum of 50% of the family quota. This is to ensure that the individual, after shifting to another place, does not buy the entire family quota in one go

E-NAM

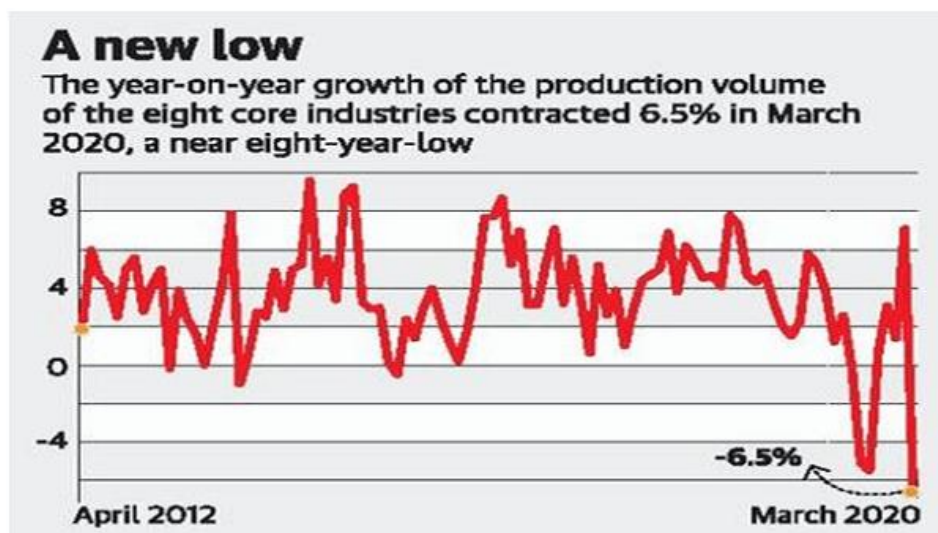
- ❖ For the first time, a mandi from the state of Karnataka has been added to the E-NAM platform.
- ❖ Also, E-NAM has been integrated with the Rashtriya E-Market Service of Karnataka.
- ❖ This is the first time, two trading platforms of agriculture commodities have been integrated in India.
- ❖ As of now, the mandis (785 mandis) added were from the states of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh.

- ❖ The Electronic National Agriculture Market was launched in 2016.
- ❖ It facilitates farmers, buyers and traders to trade their commodities online.



Core sectors

- ❖ The output of the core industries has reduced by 6.5% in the month of March.
- ❖ The Data was released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ This is the sharpest reduction since 2012.
- ❖ The core sectors of India include crude oil, steel, natural gas, refinery product, cement, fertilizer, electricity and coal.
- ❖ The eight crore industries have a weight of 40.27% in the Index of Industrial Production.
- ❖ The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is published by the Central Statistical Organization.
- ❖ The IIP indicator measures broad sectors namely mining, electricity and manufacturing.
- ❖ The IIP is calculated with 2004-05 as the base year.



Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

- ❖ Recently, Union government has revised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Minor Forest Produce (MFP).
- ❖ MFP includes all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.
- ❖ It includes bamboo, canes, fodder, leaves, gums, waxes, dyes, resins and many forms of food including nuts, wild fruits, honey, lac, tusser etc.
- ❖ MSP for MFPs is revised once every three years by the Pricing Cell constituted under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- ❖ The MSP is the rate at which the government buys produce from farmers and tribal.

Advisories to Fisheries Sector

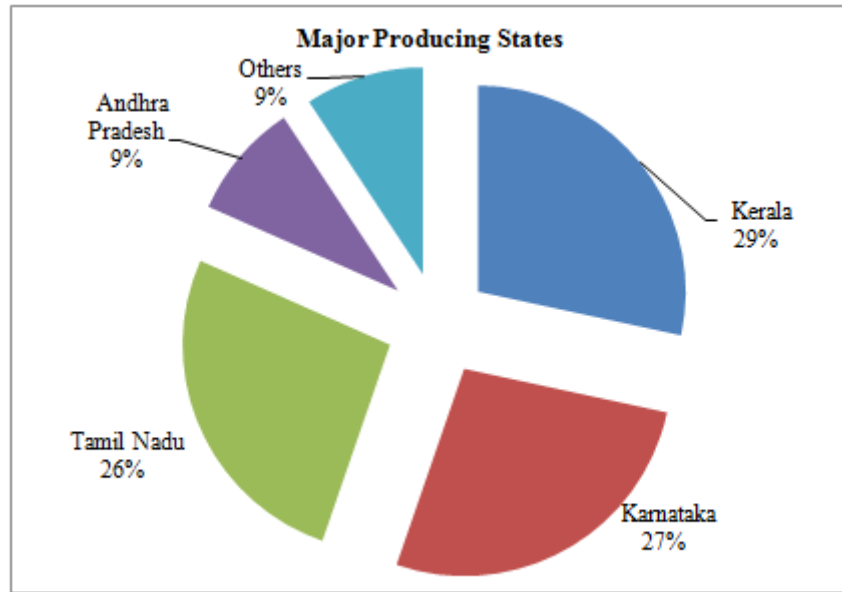
- ❖ The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) released advisories to fisheries sector in 12 languages.
- ❖ Apart from Hindi and English, advisories were issued in 10 regional languages.
- ❖ These were prepared and issued by ICAR-CIFRI (Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute), Barrackpore.
- ❖ The advisories for fisheries sector have become part of FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) global guidelines.

Coking Coal in India

- ❖ India is trying to sign a MoU with Russia on Coking Coal.
- ❖ India will require 180 million tonnes of coking coal by 2030-31.
- ❖ It is to be mainly used to cater steel industry.
- ❖ The National Steel Policy aims to increase the steel production by 300 million tonnes by 2030.
- ❖ Also, India aims to meet 35% of its coking coal demands indigenously.

Coir Production in India

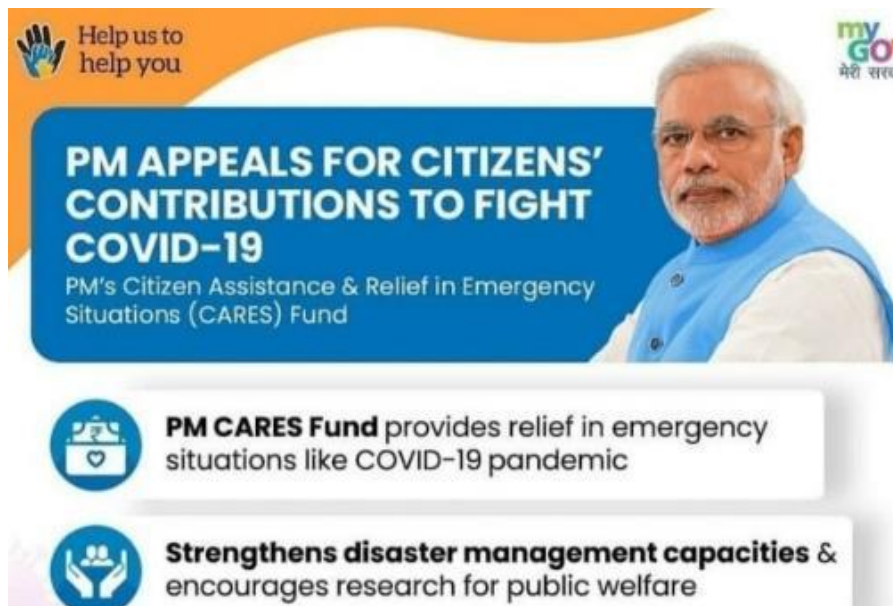
- ❖ The Coir Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding with IIT Madras.
- ❖ India and Sri Lanka are the leading producers of Coir (90% Global Production).
- ❖ India fulfills two-thirds of the coir product needs in the world.





Source: Coconut Development Board

PM CARES Fund.

- ❖ Rs 3,100 crores are allocated from PM CARES Funds for Covid 19.
- ❖ It was headed by Prime Minister.
- ❖ The other members include Home Minister, Defence Minister and Finance Minister.
- ❖ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India were not allowed to audit the funds.
- ❖ The independent auditors were appointed by the trustees for the auditing purpose.
- ❖ The funds were collected based in donations of organizations and individuals.



PM APPEALS FOR CITIZENS' CONTRIBUTIONS TO FIGHT COVID-19
PM's Citizen Assistance & Relief in Emergency Situations (CARES) Fund

-  **PM CARES Fund** provides relief in emergency situations like COVID-19 pandemic
-  **Strengthens disaster management capacities & encourages research for public welfare**

PM-KISAN scheme

- ❖ The Agriculture Ministry released Rs 18,517 crores under PM-KISAN scheme.
- ❖ The funds were released as a part of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana.
- ❖ The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana was launched on 24th February, 2019.
- ❖ Under the scheme, all the small and marginal farmers are to be provided with income support of Rs 6,000 per year in three installments.

Atmanirbar Campaign - Second Package

- ❖ Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled the second tranche of measures of the government's "atmanirbhar (self-reliant) campaign".

Key measures

- ❖ Free food grains will be supplied to all Migrant labourers for 2 months i.e. May and June, 2020.
- ❖ Technology system to be used to enable Migrants to access PDS (Ration) from any Fair Price Shops in India so as to achieve 100% National portability by March, 2021 under One Nation one Ration Card scheme.



2ND TRANCHE OF ECONOMIC STIMULUS: KEY MEASURES

- ▶ Free food grain supply to migrants for next 2 months
- ▶ ₹5,000cr special credit facility for street vendors
- ▶ 5kg of rice/wheat per family and 1 kg of chana to non-card holders
- ▶ Interest subvention support of 2% for Mudra Shishu loan payees
- ▶ PDS ration cards to be made portable; 100% coverage under 'One Nation One Ration Card' by March 31, 2021
- ▶ ₹30,000cr additional emergency working capital fund for farmers through NABARD
- ▶ Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) for migrant worker/Urban poor
- ▶ ₹2 lakh cr of concessional credit boost to 2.5cr farmers through Kisan credit cards
- ▶ ₹6,000cr employment push using CAMPA funds
- ▶ Extension of housing subsidy scheme for middle-income families till Mar 2021

- ❖ 6,000 crore of funds under Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority (CAMPA) will be used for Afforestation and Plantation works.

Atmanirbar Campaign - Third Package

- ❖ The third Tranche of the funds are to be allocated to agriculture and allied activities.
- ❖ Around Rs 1 lakh crore is being allocated to Farmer Producer Organization and cooperative societies.
- ❖ Rs 10,000 crore has been allocated to Micro Food Enterprise.
- ❖ This will work on cluster based approach.
- ❖ Under the initiative, Kashmir can focus on Saffron, Bihar on Makhana, Tamil Nadu on Tapioca, Karnataka on Ragi, Andhra Pradesh on Chillies, North East
- ❖ Government will launch Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries to fill in critical gaps in the fisheries value chain.
- ❖ The Operation Green will be extended from TOP crops (Tomato, Onion and Potato) to all crops.

Atmanirbar Campaign – Fourth Package

- ❖ The Government of India is to bring upon policy reforms in eight sectors.
- ❖ Commercial mining is to brought in coal sector.
- ❖ India being the third largest bearer of coal reserves is still importing coal.
- ❖ The Commercialization of coal will help reduce imports.
- ❖ The Ministry of Minerals will come up with Mineral Index.
- ❖ The FDI limits in the defence sector are being increased from 49% to 74%.
- ❖ The Power Distribution Companies in Union Territories are to be privatized.
- ❖ The Government will establish research reactor in PPP mode to produce medical isotopes.
- ❖ The Government intends to make India a MRO (Maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft) hub.
- ❖ Most of the aircrafts in India go abroad to get their maintenance and repair works done.

GOAL programme

- ❖ The Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Arjun Munda launched “GOAL Programme” in partnership with Facebook.

- ❖ GOAL Programme is Going Online As Leaders.
- ❖ The programme is being launched to provide mentorship to the tribal youth in digital mode.

FME

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme – “Scheme for Formalization of Micro food processing Enterprises (FME)” for the Unorganized Sector on All India basis.
- ❖ It envisages increased access to credit by existing micro food processing entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs in the Aspirational Districts.
- ❖ It will have Cluster approach and will focus on perishables commodities.
- ❖ It will be implemented over a 5-year period from 2020-21 to 2024-25.
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- ❖ Expenditure for this is to be shared by Government of India and States at 60:40.

20 MAY 2020
CABINET DECISIONS





Making Food Processing Units Globally Competitive

Scheme for formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (FME) Approved (2/2)

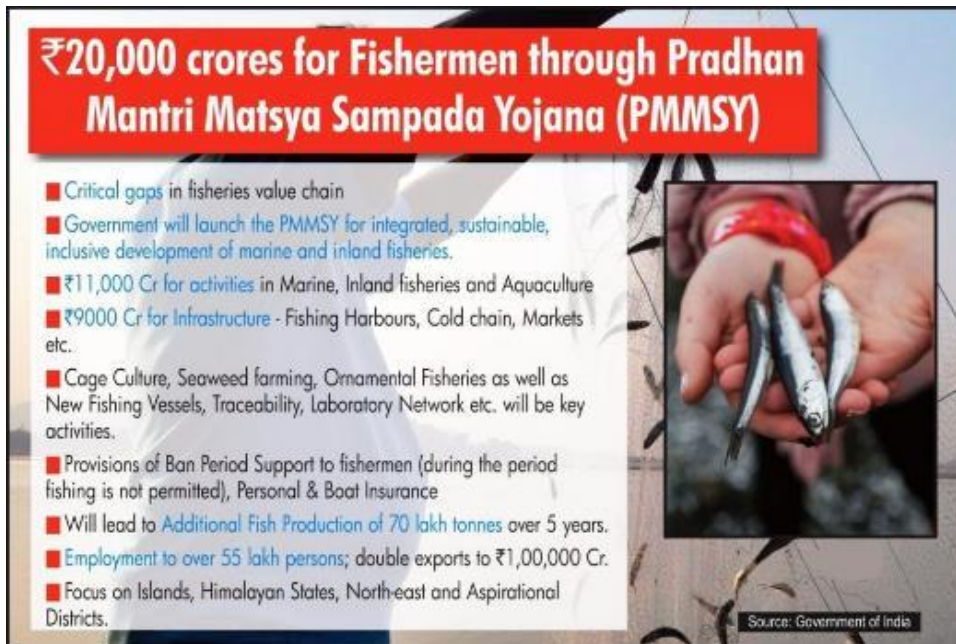
-  **Nearly 8 lakh micro-enterprises to benefit** through access to information, better exposure & formalization
-  **To generate 9 lakh skilled & semi-skilled job;** create more off-farm jobs & aid in doubling of farmers income
-  Micro enterprises to get a credit linked subsidy at **35% of project cost with ceiling of ₹10 lakh**
-  **Grant to FPOs for backward/forward linkages,** common infrastructure, packaging, marketing & branding
-  Enhanced compliance with **food quality & safety standards;** encourage waste to wealth activities

ECLGS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) for MSMEs and MUDRA borrowers.
- ❖ Under the Scheme, 100% guarantee coverage is to be provided by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) for additional funding of up to Rs. 3 lakh crore to eligible MSMEs and interested MUDRA borrowers.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for implementation of this scheme.
- ❖ It is a scheme to bring about Blue Revolution.
- ❖ It will be implemented during a period of 5 years from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25.
- ❖ The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is the implementation agency.



₹20,000 crores for Fishermen through Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- Critical gaps in fisheries value chain
- Government will launch the PMMSY for integrated, sustainable, inclusive development of marine and inland fisheries.
- ₹11,000 Cr for activities in Marine, Inland fisheries and Aquaculture
- ₹9000 Cr for Infrastructure - Fishing Harbours, Cold chain, Markets etc.
- Cage Culture, Seaweed farming, Ornamental Fisheries as well as New Fishing Vessels, Traceability, Laboratory Network etc. will be key activities.
- Provisions of Ban Period Support to fishermen (during the period fishing is not permitted), Personal & Boat Insurance
- Will lead to Additional Fish Production of 70 lakh tonnes over 5 years.
- Employment to over 55 lakh persons; double exports to ₹1,00,000 Cr.
- Focus on Islands, Himalayan States, North-east and Aspirational Districts.

Source: Government of India

- ❖ It will be implemented through two components namely, Central Sector Scheme (CS) and Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS).
- ❖ Central Sector Scheme (CS) - The entire project cost will be borne by the Central government (i.e. 100% central funding).
- ❖ The Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) Component is divided into non-beneficiary oriented and Beneficiary orientated sub components/activities.
- ❖ Under this, the entire project cost will be shared between Centre and State as detailed below for the non-beneficiary orientated sub-components/activities.
 - North Eastern & Himalayan States - 90% Central share and 10% State share.
 - Other States - 60% Central share and 40% State share.

- Union Territories (with legislature and without legislature) - 100% Central share.

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

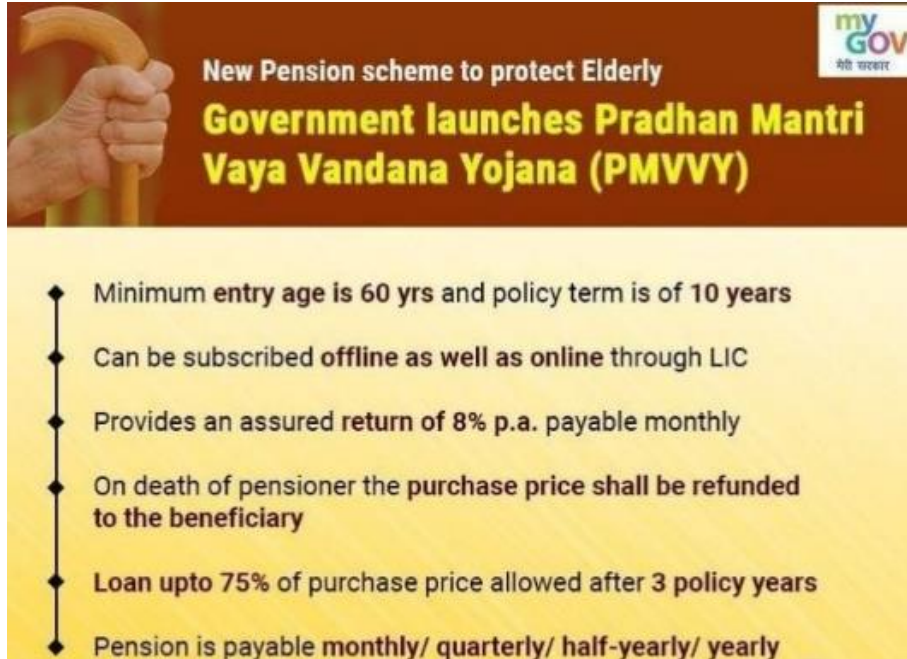
- ❖ Union Government has approved the launch of Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS).
- ❖ It aims to give a boost to domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- ❖ The projects under the Scheme will be provided with up to 75% government funding in the form of 'Grant-in-Aid'.
- ❖ The remaining 25% of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) whose constituents will be Indian private entities and State Governments.
- ❖ A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) is a legal entity that is formed for a well-defined, sole and narrow purpose.
- ❖ Union Government in 2019, has set up defence industrial corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor includes - Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Chitrakoot and Jhansi.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor includes - Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli.



PMVVY

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the Extension of Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) up to 31st March, 2023.
- ❖ It is a Pension Scheme exclusively for the welfare of and to enable old age income security the senior citizens aged 60 years and above.
- ❖ One can invest a maximum amount of ₹15 lakh under Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) scheme.
- ❖ The tenure of the policy is set at 10 years.

- ❖ The Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India has been given the sole privilege to operate this Scheme



New Pension scheme to protect Elderly
Government launches Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana (PMVY)

- Minimum entry age is 60 yrs and policy term is of 10 years
- Can be subscribed offline as well as online through LIC
- Provides an assured return of 8% p.a. payable monthly
- On death of pensioner the purchase price shall be refunded to the beneficiary
- Loan upto 75% of purchase price allowed after 3 policy years
- Pension is payable monthly/ quarterly/ half-yearly/ yearly

General Financial Rules

- ❖ The Government of India amended General Financial Rules to make sure the goods and services that are of value less than Rs 200 crores are procured from domestic firms.
- ❖ The GFR 2017 (General Financial Rules) have been amended by the Central Government.
- ❖ Under the new amendment, global tenders henceforth will be disallowed in government procurement that are of value Rs 200 crores.
- ❖ “Disallowing Global Tenders” is stopping foreign investments to a particular threshold to boost indigenous companies.

Coir Geo Textiles

- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - III, the Coir Geo Textiles are to be used in rural road development.
- ❖ This is to be done by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency.
- ❖ The coir geotextiles degrades into humus.
- ❖ This enriches the soil.
- ❖ The Phase III of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched in December 2019.
- ❖ The aim is to connect the Gramin Agricultural markets, hospitals and higher secondary schools.



Status Paper on Government Debt

- ❖ The Ministry of Finance released Status Paper on Government Debt 2018-19.
- ❖ The debt of central government dropped marginally from 45.8% in 2017-18 to 45.7% in 2019.
- ❖ The external debt was 2.7% of GDP.
- ❖ Current debt of India stands at Rs 1.3 crore crore.
- ❖ Around 94% of centre's liabilities were of domestic debts.
- ❖ According to the report, the overall debt of centres and states declined by 68.7% in March 2018 to 68.6% in 2019.

World Steel Report

- ❖ The World Steel Association released the World Steel Report.
- ❖ According to the report, the crude steel production in India declined by 65%.
- ❖ India is currently operating under its National Steel Policy 2017.
- ❖ Under the policy, India is to increase its steel production to 300 million tonnes by 2030.
- ❖ China has reported 1.7% fall in steel production.
- ❖ This is the first time China is facing an output decline.

FSDC

- ❖ Recently, the government had included ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY) secretary in the FSDC in view of the increased focus of the government on digital economy.
- ❖ Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) is constituted in 2010.
- ❖ It is not a statutory body.
- ❖ The Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and
- ❖ Its members are

- Governor, Reserve Bank of India;
- Finance Secretary and/or Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs;
- Secretary, Department of Financial Services;
- Chief Economic Adviser, Ministry of Finance;
- Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India, etc.

India Jewellery Report

- ❖ The World Gold Council released its report on Retail Gold Insights: India Jewellery Report.
- ❖ According to the report, around 37% of Indian women never bought jewellery.
- ❖ The report says that gold jewellery was the second most popular item among “Fashion and Lifestyle” shoppers next to clothes and silk sarees.

FDI in India - 2019/20

- ❖ The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India rises up by 18 per cent to reach USD 73 billion in 2019-20.
- ❖ It was a data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- ❖ This jump in the investment has been the highest in four years.
- ❖ The total FDI has doubled up from 2013-14 when it was only USD 36 billion.
- ❖ Singapore has once again emerged as the largest equity FDI source.

electronic PAN (e-PAN)

- ❖ The Union Finance Minister has launched the facility of instant allotment of PAN.
- ❖ The facility will be available for those PAN applicants who have a valid Aadhaar number and also have their mobile number registered with Aadhaar.
- ❖ The process will be paperless and an electronic PAN (e-PAN) will be issued to applicants without any cost.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

19 interstellar asteroids

- ❖ The first known permanent population of asteroids has been discovered in the new study.
- ❖ The study has been published in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.
- ❖ It was discovered between Jupiter and Neptune by the Brazilian Astronomers.
- ❖ It roams in between the giant planets of the solar system.
- ❖ The first interstellar asteroid known as 'Oumuamua was discovered in 2017.
- ❖ The asteroid has come from the star called Vega in the constellation Lyra.
- ❖ The asteroids belong to a group of objects called Centaurs.



- ❖ The asteroids have been originating from outside of our solar system.
- ❖ It is believed that the asteroids have been captured from other stars billions of years ago.
- ❖ As the universe began to expand, the sun was born and the gravity of the growing sun sucked these asteroids into the solar system.
- ❖ These asteroids once belonged to another star and are now orbiting between Jupiter and Neptune.
- ❖ They have been orbiting our sun and hiding in plain sight.
- ❖ The newly discovered asteroids are believed to have been present almost since the birth of our solar system, 4.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ The close proximity of the stars meant that they felt each other's gravity much more strongly in those early days than they do today.
- ❖ This enabled asteroids to be pulled from one star system to another.
- ❖ Astronomers believe the space rocks were ripped from their original location as the universe expanded and the sun grew rapidly, creating its own gravitational pull.
- ❖ The enormous force of the burgeoning star sucked the rocks into the formative solar system and they have remained here ever since.

Clinical Trials for Covid

- ❖ Germany has approved first clinical trials of a COVID-19 vaccine on humans.
- ❖ The German Biotechnology company BioNTech's vaccine program was authorized for human clinical trials.
- ❖ BioNTech and Pfizer are jointly developing BNT162.
- ❖ This is the fourth authorized clinical trial worldwide.
- ❖ In Britain, volunteers in a trial at the University of Oxford are set to be given the first dose of a potential vaccine.
- ❖ It was based on a virus found in chimpanzees.
- ❖ Aside from Biontech and Oxford, three other clinical trials on humans have been approved worldwide.
- ❖ The Chinese and US developers among the first to move.
- ❖ Beijing approved the first trial for a vaccine developed by the military-backed Academy of Military Medical Sciences and Hong Kong based CanSino Bio.
- ❖ The US drug developer Moderna already started the trial with the US National Institutes of Health.
- ❖ Another US lab, San Diego-based Inovio Pharmaceuticals, also began first phase human trials.

Name of Vaccine	Developer Name	Current stage of clinical Trials	Start Date
AD5-NCOV (Adenovirus Type 5 Vector)	CanSino Biological & Beijing Institute of Biotechnology	Phase 2	10 April
ChAdOx1	University of Oxford	Phase 1/2	23 April
INO-4800 DNA plasmid vaccine	Inovio Pharmaceuticals	Phase 1	3 April
Inactivated	Beijing Institute of Biological Products	Phase 1	10 April
PiCoVacc (Inactivated + alum)	Sinovac	Phase 1	13 April
BNT162 mRNA	BioNTech/Fosun Pharma/Pfizer	Phase 1/2	Approved, not started
LNP-encapsulated mRNA-1273	Moderna/NIAID	Phase 1	3 March

Hubble Space Telescope

- ❖ NASA celebrated its 30 years of launch of Hubble Space Telescope on April 24.
- ❖ It is one of the longest living Space Telescopes in the world.

- ❖ The telescope has played a crucial role in the discovery of accelerating expansion of the cosmos with the partnership of European Space Agency.
- ❖ On its 30th anniversary, the Hubble Telescope captured a Cosmic Reef.
- ❖ The Cosmic Reef is a group of stars.
- ❖ Each star in the group is ten times the size of the sun.
- ❖ The stars are in a nebula.
- ❖ Nebula is a giant cloud of gas and dust.
- ❖ The reef has red colour glowing around.
- ❖ The red colour comes due to the glowing of nitrogen and hydrogen gas.
- ❖ The blue colour in the reef is because of the presence of oxygen.



Nano-Microbial Disinfectant

- ❖ INST (Institute of nano science and technology) scientists at Mohali in Punjab find low-cost metal-free nanomaterial towards disinfection of garments under visible light exposure.
- ❖ It can be an alternative to silver and other metal-based materials.

Mycobacterium MW

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has started the trials of anti-leprosy drug trials against COVID-19.
- ❖ The drug trial is to be conducted with the help of Mycobacterium MW.
- ❖ It is a heat killed bacteria.

Smart Dust Bin

- ❖ A Madras IIT-incubated start-up Antariksh has developed a 'smart bin system'.
- ❖ It works to prevent the spread of COVID-19 through waste generated at hospitals, clinics, public places and quarantine zones.

- ❖ Called 'AirBin', the system developed by Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Madras enables remote monitoring of waste accumulation levels through smart phone.



COVID Action Collab

- ❖ It is an initiative ideated by the Catalyst Group.
- ❖ It is now to test sewage for the presence of COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ The main objective of this initiative is to diagnose COVID-19 early, to prevent new infections and to treat the disease with care.
- ❖ The COVID-19 patients shed the virus through stools and urine.

NanoBlitz 3D

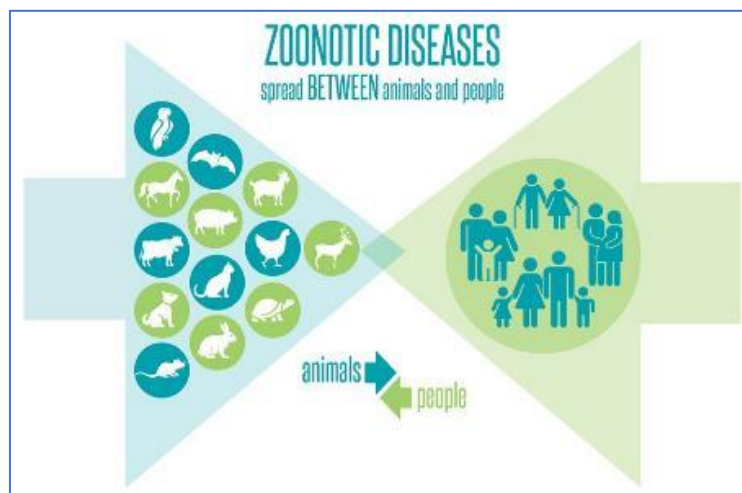
- ❖ The International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) has developed an advanced tool NanoBlitz 3D.
- ❖ It is used for mapping Nano-mechanical properties of materials like multi-phase alloys, composites, and multi-layered coatings.
- ❖ It can measure hardness and elastic modulus of a given material.

COVID-19 Tools (Act) Accelerator

- ❖ The World Health Organization along with the other international leading organizations such as Global Fund, UNITAID, CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) etc has launched the COVID-19 Tools (Act) Accelerator.
- ❖ The collaboration helps to speed up the development, production and access to therapeutics, diagnostics and vaccines of COVID-19.

Zoonotic Diseases

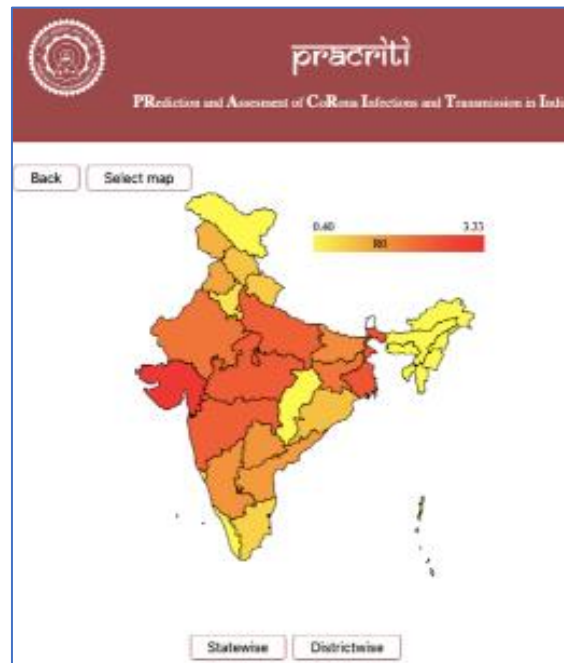
- ❖ According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 60% of all infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic, and about 75% of all emerging infectious diseases are zoonotic in nature.
- ❖ Zoonotic diseases, also called zoonosis, are illnesses caused by germs that are passed between animals and people.
- ❖ Among zoonosis that emerged or re-emerged recently, the UNEP counts
 - Ebola,
 - Bird flu (Avian Influenza),
 - Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS),
 - Rift Valley fever,
 - Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS),
 - West Nile virus,
 - Zika virus disease,
 - COVID-19.



PRACRITI

- ❖ Researchers from IIT Delhi have developed web-based dashboard to predict the spread of COVID-19 in India.
- ❖ The dashboard has been named PRACRITI-Prediction and Assessment of Corona Infections and Transmissions in India.
- ❖ The dashboard provides basic reproduction number “R naught”.
- ❖ R0 is the number of people that the virus spreads to from a single infected person.
- ❖ The dashboard provides R0 value for every district, state based on the data available from the National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and World Health Organization.

- ❖ Hence, with the help of R_0 value, future predictions of the spread of the disease can be obtained.



Ruhdaar Ventilator

- ❖ A team of engineering students from IIT Bombay, NIT Srinagar have come forward to solve the problem of ventilator requirement.
- ❖ The team has come up with a low-cost ventilator using locally available materials, named Ruhdaar.
- ❖ The ventilator has been designed by taking assistance from the Design Innovation Centre (DIC) at Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), J&K.
- ❖ The Centre is an initiative of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.



Merger of two Black holes

- ❖ For the first time the scientists of Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Laboratory (LIGO) have recently recorded the first merger of black holes that were of unequal mass black holes.

- ❖ The event has been named as GW190412.
- ❖ This observation once again confirms Einstein's theory of general relativity.
- ❖ That theory predicts the existence of higher harmonics, i.e. gravitational waves at two or three times the fundamental frequency.
- ❖ One was some 30 times the mass of the Sun and the other had a mass nearly 8 times the solar mass.
- ❖ Solar Mass is the standard of mass in astronomy that is used to indicate masses of other masses.
- ❖ One solar mass is equal to 2×10^{30} Kg.
- ❖ This is almost five years after the first ever detection of gravitational wave signals by these powerful detectors.
- ❖ The actual merger took place at a distance of 2.5 billion light years away.

About LIGO

- ❖ The Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory.
- ❖ It works to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to develop gravitational-wave observations as an astronomical tool.
- ❖ Two large observatories were built in the United States with the aim of detecting gravitational waves by laser interferometry.
- ❖ A black hole is an object in space that is so dense and has such strong gravity that no matter or light can escape its pull.
- ❖ Because no light can escape, it is black and invisible.



Feluda and Crispr technology

- ❖ It was developed by Scientists at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research — Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).
- ❖ It is a low-cost, paper-strip test which can detect the new coronavirus within an hour.
- ❖ The test is based on a bacterial immune system protein called Cas9.

- ❖ It uses cutting-edge gene-editing tool Crispr-Cas9 system.
- ❖ CRISPR technology is basically a gene-editing technology.
- ❖ It can be used for the purpose of altering genetic expression or changing the genome of an organism.
- ❖ The technology can be used for targeting specific stretches of an entire genetic code or editing the DNA at particular locations.

Catalyst from Fish

- ❖ The Institute of Nano Science and Technology operating under Department of Science and Technology has launched an environment friendly catalyst for rechargeable metal battery.
- ❖ The Catalyst used is made of fish gills.
- ❖ It is low cost and can be used in energy conversion devices.
- ❖ It will overcome the bottlenecks in storage technologies such as metal-air battery, fuel cell and biofuel.
- ❖ Usually, platinum, a very expensive metal is used as catalyst.

Ozone Layer

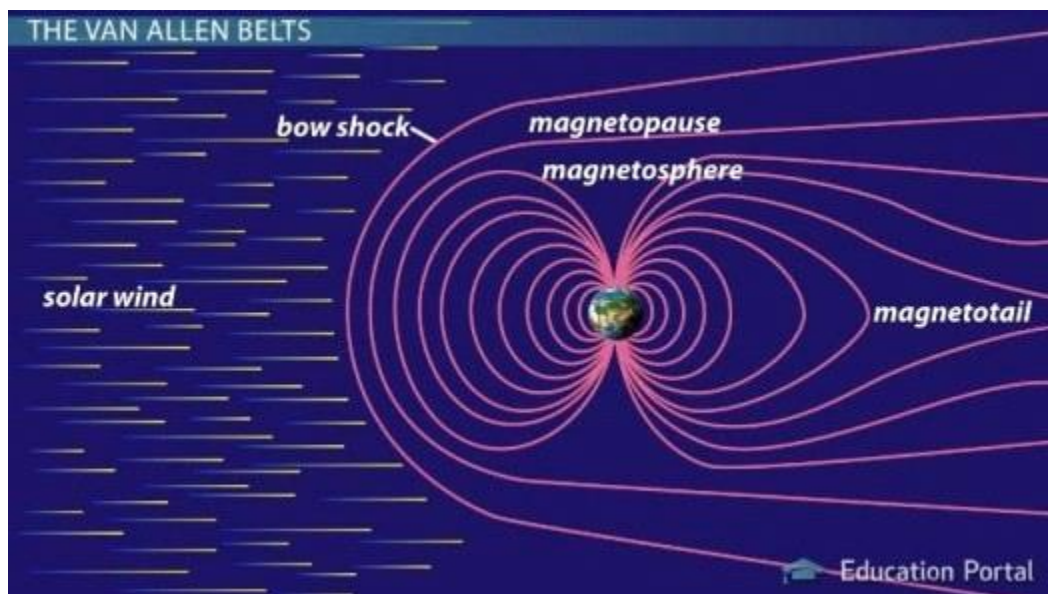
- ❖ The C3S (Copernicus Climate Change Service) and CAMS (Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service) confirmed that the hole in the Ozone layer has healed itself.
- ❖ The main reason for the hole to heal by itself is the polar vortex.
- ❖ According to the scientists the closure of the hole is not due to the reduced pollution levels due to COVID-19 lock down.
- ❖ The hole was 1 million square kilometres wide above the Arctic.
- ❖ It was the largest pole that was found in the history of Ozone layer.
- ❖ It was formed due to unusual climatic conditions.
- ❖ The Polar Vortex is a winter phenomenon.
- ❖ The polar vortex has been recorded to be extremely powerful, and temperatures inside it have been very cold.
- ❖ Polar Vortex is cyclonic circular winds that blow in the stratosphere from west to east.
- ❖ Polar Vortex extends from tropopause through the stratosphere and into the mesosphere.
- ❖ When the vortex is strongest, cold air is less-likely to plunge deep into North America or Europe.
- ❖ Ozone layer is found mainly in the upper atmosphere, an area called the stratosphere, between 10 and 50 km from the earth's surface.

Fluid Simulation Code

- ❖ The Indian Scientists at the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism has developed fluid simulation code to study electric field structure in the magnetosphere of the Earth.
- ❖ The study will help to plan the future space missions.
- ❖ The sun is the major source that deposits plasma around the earth.
- ❖ It forces its plasma towards the earth through its solar wind.
- ❖ This creates interplanetary magnetic field that is carried by the solar magnetic field.
- ❖ The interaction of the earth's magnetic field and the interplanetary magnetic field creates magnetosphere of the earth.
- ❖ The magnetosphere of the earth has several numbers of satellites revolving.

About magnetosphere

- ❖ It is the region around a planet dominated by the planet's magnetic field.
- ❖ The Earth has the strongest one of all the rocky planets.
- ❖ It is generated by the convective motion of charged, molten iron, far below the surface in Earth's outer core.



BoBBLE – Bay of Bengal Boundary Layer Experiment

- ❖ It is a project funded by Union Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Natural Environment Research Council of UK.
- ❖ A team from Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and UK based University of East Anglia have created a blueprint for accurate prediction of monsoon, tropical cyclones and other weather related forecast.
- ❖ The team carried out studies of oceanographic properties on board RV Sindhu Sadhana in the southern Bay of Bengal.

Bug Snifer

- ❖ Researchers at the Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune have developed 'bug sniffer,' a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria.
- ❖ It can detect pathogens with a limit of detection of 10 cells per 1 milli liter within 30 minutes.
- ❖ The most common disease-causing bacteria is Escherichia coli and Salmonella typhimurium.
- ❖ The Bug Snifer is a biosensor that uses synthetic peptides, magnetic nanoparticles, and quantum dots to detect the presence of bacteria.
- ❖ The ARI is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology.



Remdesivir Drug

- ❖ The United States Food and Drug Regulatory body allowed emergency use of anti-viral vaccine Remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ Remdesivir was developed to treat Ebola virus and Marburg virus.

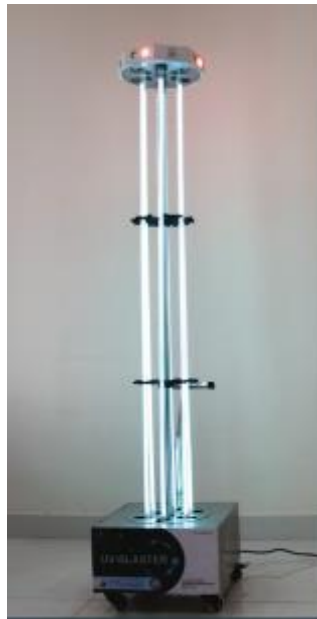
eCovSens

- ❖ The scientists in National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad have developed a biosensor called the eCovSens.
- ❖ It is a non-invasive bio-sensor testing device
- ❖ The sensor is used to detect COVID-19 virus in saliva samples.
- ❖ NIAB was established in 2010 by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.



UV Blaster

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organization has developed Ultra Violet Disinfection Tower for chemical free and rapid disinfection.
- ❖ It is highly helpful for disinfecting high tech surfaces such as computers, electronic equipment and other gadgets.
- ❖ The UV Disinfection tower can be operated through mobile phone or laptop remotely.



Arogya Setu Mitr

- ❖ In partnership with the Tech Mahindra, Tata Group and Swasth, the Arogya Setu Mitr was launched.
- ❖ The feature is to be available in the Arogya Setu application.
- ❖ It will offer free online consultation to COVID-19 with the data provided by the three private sector firms and government entities.
- ❖ It is to perform as an individual site.

- ❖ It cannot access data from the application Arogya Setu.
- ❖ It was initiated with the advice of Niti Aayog principal scientific advisor of the Prime Minister.



New Covid symptoms

- ❖ The British Journal of Dermatology Researchers has so far observed 5 skin patterns of the COVID-19 cases.
- ❖ The skin condition causes purple, blue or red discoloration of the toes.
- ❖ A study in the International Journal of Dermatology (IJD) has described the condition as chilblain-like lesions.
- ❖ They are as follows
 - Red Rashes (Pseudo-Chilblain lesions)/COVID Toe
 - Small blisters on the limbs and trunks
 - White or pink skin
 - Maculopapules
 - Livedo

Monoclonal neutralizing antibody

- ❖ The Israel Institute of Biological Research has isolated the key COVID-19 antibody.
- ❖ The “monoclonal neutralizing antibody” developed by the institute is reported to neutralize COVID-19 virus inside the infected person.
- ❖ The antibody is called monoclonal as it was isolated from a single recovered cell.

- ❖ This is the first time, the antibodies of COVID-19 are isolated from monoclonal antibodies.
- ❖ The antibody can possibly be the antidote.
- ❖ Till now, the antibodies that have been isolated are polyclonal.
- ❖ Polyclonal is isolating anti bodies from several recovered cells.
- ❖ Antibodies are proteins naturally produced in human bodies in order to respond the foreign particles that invade human bodies.

Hypoxia

- ❖ Recently medical practitioners have reported a condition called silent or happy hypoxia.
- ❖ In this case, Covid-19 patients have extremely low blood oxygen levels, yet they do not show signs of breathlessness.
- ❖ Hypoxia is a condition wherein there is not enough oxygen available to the blood and body tissues.
- ❖ A medical device called a pulse oximeter can be used in the early detection of silent hypoxia.

Takis - Italian Firm

- ❖ Italian researchers from Takis compnay claim to have developed the world's first coronavirus vaccine.
- ❖ The potential coronavirus vaccine neutralised the virus in human cells for the first time.
- ❖ All potential coronavirus vaccine candidates are being developed based on the genetic material of DNA protein "spike".
- ❖ Spike is the molecular tip used by the coronavirus to enter human cells.

Corona virus - in vitro Testing

- ❖ In India, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), Hyderabad is the only centre to pool samples of COVID-19 in the country.
- ❖ Pooling of samples is the process of collecting the virus samples.
- ❖ The CCMB in Hyderabad has collaborated with Eyestem Research Private Limited, a Bengaluru based company.
- ❖ It is for an attempt to grow novel coronavirus in human cells that will enable vitro testing of potential vaccines or drugs for the virus.
- ❖ The team will use Eyestem's human lung epithelial cell culture system
- ❖ It will help in understanding the pathological and molecular characteristics of COVID-19.

- ❖ The test which will be performed in vitro (in glass) means that it will be done outside the living organism which will involve isolated tissues, cells, or organs.

Project CARD

- ❖ NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology have launched the Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics (CARD).
- ❖ It aims to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- ❖ Project CARD's first goal is to roll out at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July.

Clinical Trials of Ayush

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare began clinical trials of AYUSH medicines.
- ❖ The Clinical trials of AYUSH medicines such as Ashwagandha, Guduchi, Yashitimadhu and Ayush 64 are to be conducted on voluntary health workers.
- ❖ The initiative is being jointly conducted by the Ministry of AYUSH and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) along with Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
- ❖ Already, the trials of Ayurvedic tablet Zingivir is being conducted.

First fabric based face mask

- ❖ The Startup of IIT Delhi has found an antimicrobial face mask that can be washed and reused for 50 times.
- ❖ The Nanosafe Solutions at IIT Delhi has developed the masks to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The NSAFE face mask provides 99.2% of bacterial filtration.
- ❖ This is the first fabric-based face mask that is antimicrobial and washable.

Photo detector

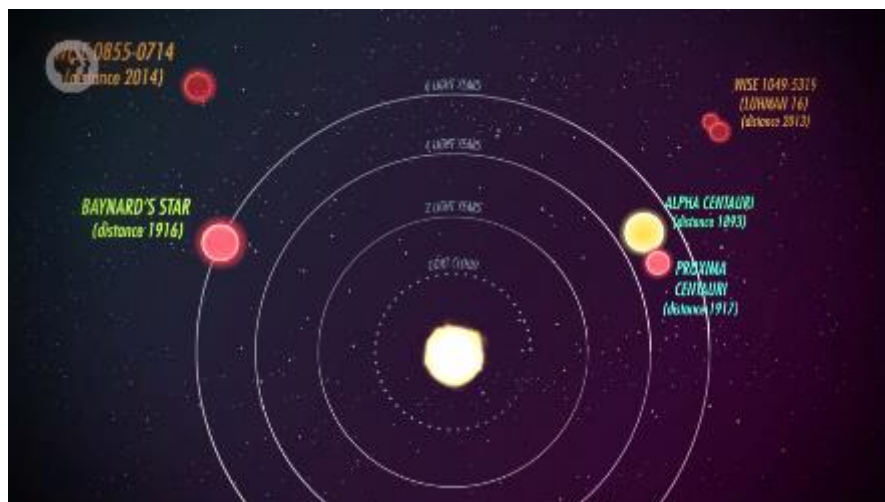
- ❖ The scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed an economical and energy-efficient wafer-scale photo detector.
- ❖ The thin slice-based photo detector has been fabricated using gold – silicon interface for security applications.
- ❖ The technology could help detect weak scattered light.
- ❖ Photo detectors are one of the most significant part of any optoelectronic circuit.

Brown dwarfs

- ❖ A group of international astrophysicists have identified cloud bands on the surface of Luhman 16A.
- ❖ Luhman 16A is the closest known brown dwarf.
- ❖ It is one of a pair of binary brown dwarfs in the Vela constellation.
- ❖ They are similar to those seen on Saturn and Jupiter.
- ❖ Luhman 16A has been a part of the binary system that also contains a second brown dwarf i.e. Luhman 16B.
- ❖ After Alpha Centauri and Barnard's star, it has been the third closest system to our sun, at a distance of 6.5 light-years.
- ❖ The technique of polarimetry has been used for the first time by the scientists.
- ❖ The researchers used an instrument on the very large telescope in Chile.
- ❖ It is to determine the properties of atmospheric clouds that are outside of the exoclouds or solar system.

About

- ❖ Brown dwarfs are those objects that are lighter than the stars but heavier than the planets.
- ❖ Brown dwarfs are also called failed stars, because their masses are intermediate to the largest planets and the smallest main sequence stars.
- ❖ They typically have the 13 to 80 times the mass of the Jupiter.
- ❖ Their masses being too small, they are unable to sustain fusion of their hydrogen to produce energy.



Human monoclonal antibodies in India

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has sanctioned the project to develop human monoclonal antibodies (hmAbs).

- ❖ It will work as a therapy for COVID-19 infections.
- ❖ The project will generate hmAbs from patients that are in convalescent phase.
- ❖ Monoclonal antibodies will be virus-neutralizing and will be able to block the spread of infection by binding to the virus and making it ineffective.
- ❖ Israel was the first to isolate monoclonal antibodies.
- ❖ The council has passed the project under its flagship project named the New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative Programme (NMITLI).
- ❖ It is the largest PPP (Public-private partnership) model of Research and Development programme in the country.
- ❖ The project will involve Indian Institute of Technology, Indore and National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune and Bharat Biotech Industry and PredOmix Technologies, Gurugram for a public health emergency.

Favipiravir trial in India

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) begins its clinical trials on Favipiravir and Phyto pharmaceutical.
- ❖ Favipiravir is commonly used in China and Japan and also in other countries to treat influenza.
- ❖ The CSIR is also working on native herbs as biological medicine.
- ❖ The DGCI (Drug Controller General of India) has approved the clinical trials.

PiCoVacc – China's Vaccine

- ❖ China has developed a coronavirus vaccine - PiCoVacc.
- ❖ It has been developed by Beijing-based Sinovac Biotech.
- ❖ It has proven very effective in monkeys.
- ❖ This is being considered as the world's first animal trial for a coronavirus vaccine.

Indian Coronavirus vaccine

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has partnered with Bharat Biotech International Limited to develop India's first fully indigenous coronavirus vaccine.
- ❖ Bharat Biotech is a Hyderabad-based leading Vaccine manufacturing company.
- ❖ It will be developed using the virus strain, which has been isolated at ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.



Covid Kavach Elisa Test

- ❖ The National Institute of Virology of Pune has indigenously developed antibody detection kit for COVID-19.
- ❖ The kit was jointly developed by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) and NIV.
- ❖ It will test the presence of IGG antibodies in the sample.
- ❖ The test measures the amount of specific RNA.
- ❖ It requires minimal bio-safety and bio-security requirements as compared to that of the RT-PCR test.
- ❖ It is sensitive, cost-effective and rapid.
- ❖ It can test up to 90 samples together in a single run of 2.5 hours.
- ❖ The Gujarat based Zydus Cadila is to produce the kits on a large scale.
- ❖ The NIV is to conduct the technology transfer to the company.
- ❖ This is a huge leap in the progress of India's fight against COVID-19 as India is importing most of its diagnostic materials.
- ❖ ELISA is Enzyme-linked Immuno sorbent Assay.
- ❖ ELISA is used to detect antibodies for a wide range of infections, especially antibody of HIV.



DRUVS Cabinet

- ❖ Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) premier lab, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), has developed an automated contactless UVC sanitization cabinet, called Defence Research Ultraviolet Sanitizer (DRUVS).
- ❖ It is having contactless operation.



- ❖ It has been designed to sanitize mobile phones, iPads, laptops, currency notes, cheque leaves, challans, passbooks, paper, envelopes, etc.
- ❖ The RCI has also developed an automated UVC currency sanitizing device, called NOTESCLEAN.

India Solar Market Leaderboard 2020 - report

- ❖ Mercom India Research has recently released this data report.
- ❖ India installed 7.3 GW of solar capacity in 2019 and secured its spot as the world's third-largest solar market after USA and China in the world.
- ❖ The country boasts of cumulative solar installations of about 35.7 GW at the end of December 2019.
- ❖ Adani was the largest project developer in terms of cumulative solar installations as of December 2019.
- ❖ Tata Power Solar held the top spot in terms of cumulative solar rooftop installations and as well for the year 2019.

- ❖ Huawei was the leading solar inverter supplier in the country during 2019.

Swasth Vayu

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bangalore has developed BiPAP ventilator named Swasth Vayu.
- ❖ It is a non-invasive breathing support device, for the use of non-critical non-ICU cases of Covid-19.
- ❖ BiPAP stands for Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure.
- ❖ It is a type of positive pressure ventilator.
- ❖ The ventilator has been designed in a record time of 36 days.
- ❖ The ventilator includes provisions to connect oxygen concentrator externally.
- ❖ The ventilator has been accredited by NABL.
- ❖ NABL is National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories.



COBAS 6800

- ❖ The Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated the COBAS 6800 RT PCR machine to the nation.
- ❖ The machine is completely automated and performs high end RT-PCR tests.
- ❖ The machine will help to increase the testing capacity of the country.
- ❖ It is capable of providing test results of 1,200 samples in 24 hours.
- ❖ It has been placed at National Centre for Disease Control, Delhi.
- ❖ The machine can also detect pathogens such as Hepatitis, Chlamydia, HIV, Papiloma, MTb, CMV, Neisseria, etc.
- ❖ The machine was developed by Roche Diagnostics.

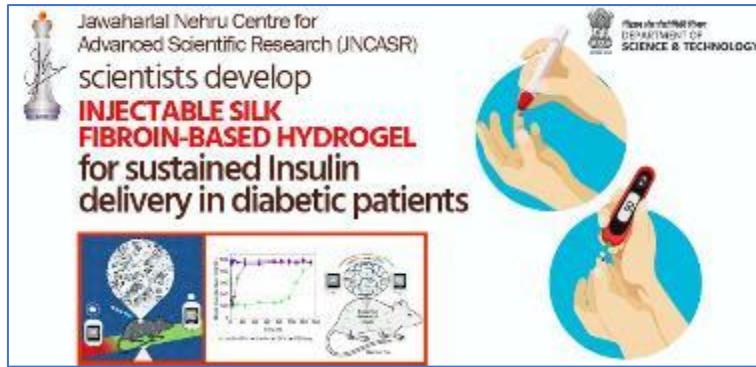


Z-Scan Method

- ❖ Recently, scientists from IIT (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad and CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (Kolkata) have developed the Z-scan method
- ❖ It helps to monitor the origin as well as the progression of Parkinson's disease in human beings.
- ❖ It is expected to help in monitoring both the early as well as late stages of the aggregation of ASyn and death of neuronal cells.
- ❖ An aggregation of a protein called Alpha-synuclein (ASyn) plays a crucial role in the development of Parkinson's disease.
- ❖ Parkinson's disease is a chronic, degenerative neurological disorder that affects the central nervous system.

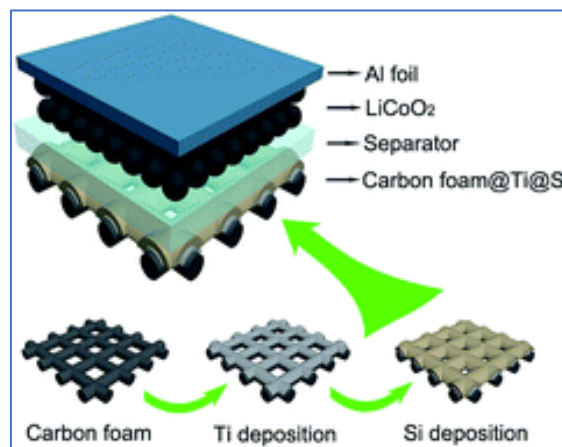
Injectable silk-fibroin based hydrogel

- ❖ The JNCASR (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research) has developed injectable silk-fibroin based hydrogel to deliver insulin to diabetic patients.
- ❖ It was developed using biocompatible additives.
- ❖ It increases insulin level in the blood for a longer period.
- ❖ Fibroin is an insoluble protein.
- ❖ The fibroin is produced by silk worm.
- ❖ Silk has two proteins in its raw state called sericin and fibroin.



Light Carbon Foam

- ❖ The researcher from Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed light carbon foam that will replace lead batteries.
- ❖ The carbon foam is easy to fabricate, non-toxic and affordable.
- ❖ It is also useful to make heat sink, electromagnetic interference shielding in aerospace, electrode for lead-acid batteries, hydrogen storage and water purification systems.
- ❖ The Carbon foams are porous.
- ❖ The pores in the batteries help increase efficiency.

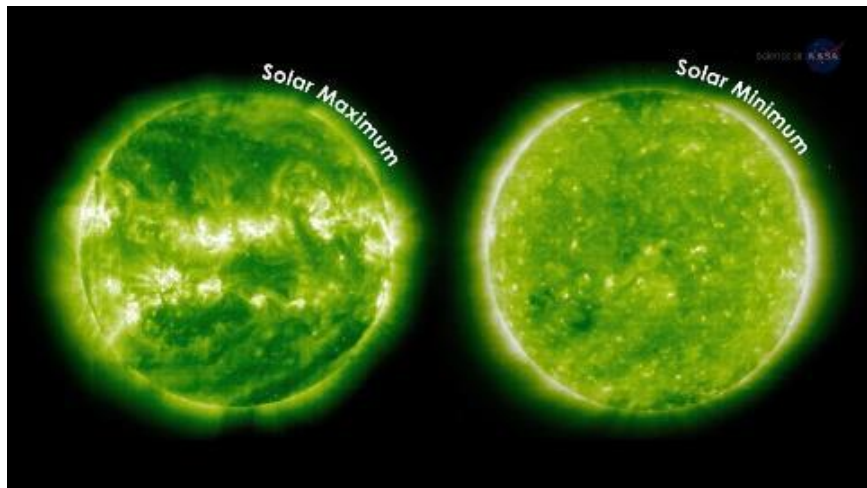


Super Earth

- ❖ The scientists from New Zealand have discovered the “Super Earth”.
- ❖ It potentially holds the conditions to sustain human life.
- ❖ It is one of the handful of planets discovered that are of the same size and orbiting distance as that of the earth.
- ❖ The planet is larger than the earth and hence the name “Super Earth”.

Sunshine recession

- ❖ The sun is to enter into the deepest period of 'sunshine recession'.
- ❖ The sun has reached into a state of 'solar minimum'.
- ❖ It simply means that the sun is changing its forms.
- ❖ It has been more than 100 days this year since sun has shown zero sunspots.
- ❖ The cycle of the sun lasts for 11 years.
- ❖ This is called Solar Cycle as well as Solar Magnetic Activity Cycle.
- ❖ Under Solar Cycle, the solar maximum and solar minimum refers to the periods of maximum and minimum sunspots respectively.
- ❖ The sun spots fade away every 11 years.
- ❖ The sun spots are magnetic in nature.
- ❖ Sunspots were observed in the early 17th century.
- ❖ It was first observed by Galileo Galilei.



12000 HP electric locomotive

- ❖ The Indian Railways operationalized the first 12,000 HP electric locomotives.
- ❖ The locomotive was built by the French Alstom Company under the Make in India initiative.
- ❖ The locomotive was manufactured at the Madhepura Electric Locomotive in Bihar.
- ❖ With this, India has become the sixth country in the world to produce high horse power locomotive.

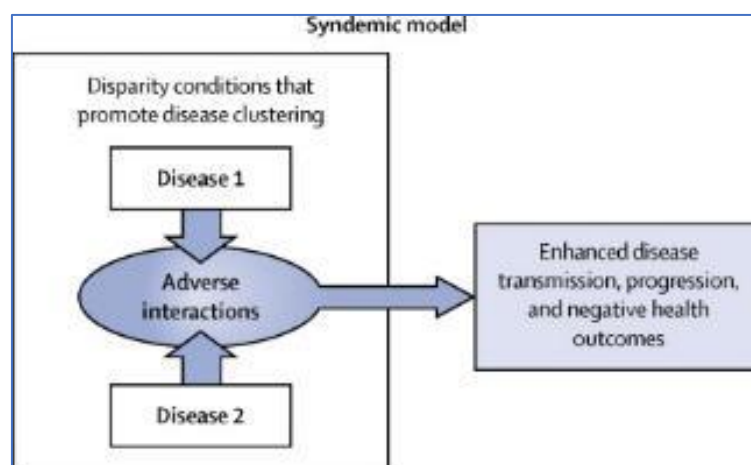


Agappe Chitra Magna

- ❖ It is a magnetic nanoparticle-based RNA extraction kit for use during testing for the detection of COVID-19.
- ❖ It was developed by Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) of Trivandrum along with Agappe Diagnostics Ltd of Cochin.
- ❖ The kit can be used for RNA extraction for RT-LAMP, RT-qPCR, RT-PCR and other isothermal and PCR based protocols for the detection of SARS-COV-2.

Syndemic

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Covid-19 is less likely to be eliminated (i.e. may become endemic).
- ❖ There is a possibility that the world will face increased burden of the diseases and thus the situation of syndemic.
- ❖ A Syndemic is a situation when two or more epidemics interact synergistically to produce an increased burden of disease in a population.

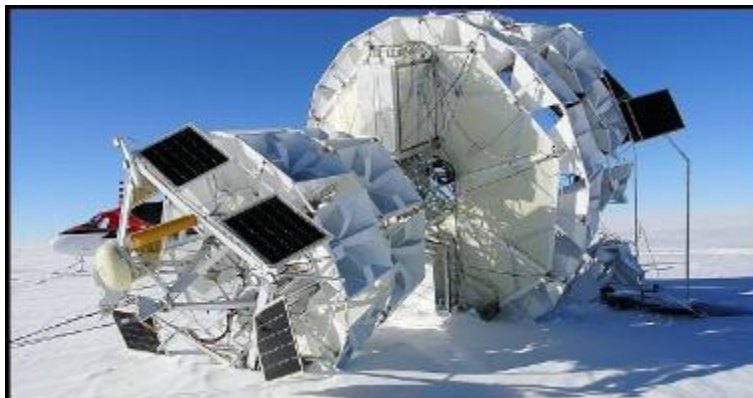


Device Independent Self-Testing (DIST)

- ❖ Recently, the scientists from S.N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences (SNBNCBS), Kolkata have developed a novel protocol to find out whether a pair of electrons is in an entangled state.
- ❖ This novel protocol to measure the status of entanglement is known as Device Independent Self-Testing (DIST) method.
- ❖ Quantum Entanglement is the physical phenomenon that occurs when a pair or group of particles is generated and they interact in such a way that the quantum state of each particle of the pair or group cannot be described independently of the state of the others.

Antarctic Impulsive Transient Antenna (ANTIA)

- ❖ The NASA researchers have found high energy particles erupting from ice in the Antarctic region.
- ❖ The researchers believe that these particles are proof to parallel universe.
- ❖ The ANTIA detect radio pulses that are being emitted by Antarctic ice sheet.
- ❖ The neutrinos in the ice produce radio pulses due to Askaryan effect.
- ❖ Askaryan effect is the phenomenon where a particle travelling at a velocity faster than light in a dense electric medium.
- ❖ It is the first NASA observatory of neutrinos.
- ❖ Neutrinos are the only particle that reaches the earth unattenuated.
- ❖ Neutrinos are high-energy particles that pose no threat to us and pass through most solid objects without anyone even noticing.
- ❖ Neutrinos constantly bombard Earth and 100 trillion neutrinos pass through our body every second.
- ❖ Rarely do they interact with matter.
- ❖ But if they do smash into an atom, they produce a shower of secondary particles we can detect.
- ❖ It allows us to probe where they came from in the universe.



WFIRST

- ❖ US Space agency has renamed its Wide-Field Infrared Survey Telescope (WFIRST) after its first chief astronomer Nancy Grace Roman.
- ❖ This next-generation space telescope will now be known as Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope and will be launched in 2025.
- ❖ Nancy Grace Roman is known as the mother of Hubble Space Telescope.

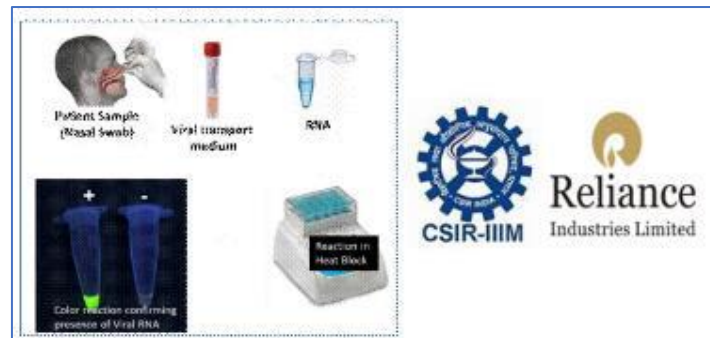


Cloud Atlas

- ❖ Astronomers from Canada, US & United Kingdom have developed a Cloud Atlas.
- ❖ It will enable them to predict which cloud can be expected on hot exoplanets like Jupiter.
- ❖ The cloud can be any from smoggy methane haze to sapphire.

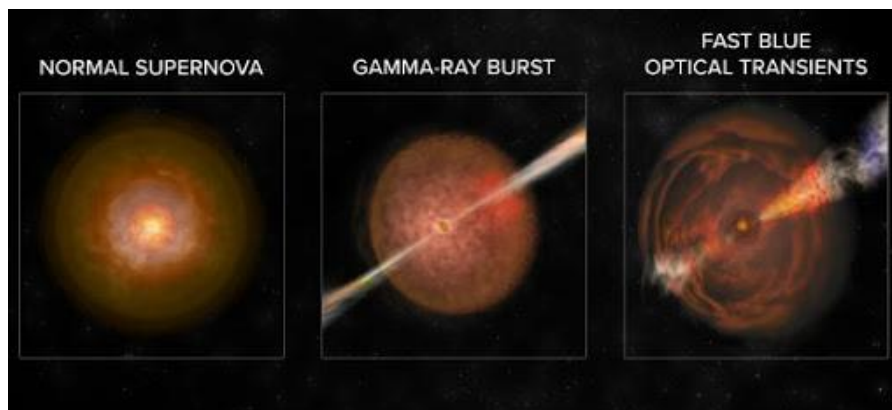
RT - Lamp Based test

- ❖ The CSIR-IIIM & Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is to develop this test for Coronavirus.
- ❖ RT-Lamp Test is Reverse Transcriptase-Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification.
- ❖ It is a nucleic acid based test carried out from nasal/throat swab sample from patients.
- ❖ While the current COVID-19 testing is done by real-time PCR their components are mostly imported.
- ❖ Further these tests are expensive; require highly trained manpower.
- ❖ On the other hand, the RT-LAMP test can be done in a single tube with minimal expertise in a very basic lab setup.



Fast Blue Optical Transient (FBOT)

- ❖ A new astronomical transient that is faster, brighter, and heavier at radio wavelengths has been spotted.
- ❖ The USA's Northwestern University-led team determined that the anomaly is the third fast blue optical transient (FBOT) ever captured in X-ray and radio wavelengths.
- ❖ It was after a bright burst was visually captured, in 2016, by the astronomers in a tiny galaxy 500 million lightyears away from Earth.
- ❖ The most famous FBOT is AT2018COW ("The Cow") - a rare event that appeared to be the birth of a neutron star or black hole.



SERS Sensing

- ❖ The Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) has developed a hybrid Surface-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy (SERS) platform of Molybdenum disulfide (MoS₂, an inorganic compound) nanostructure decorated with gold Nanoparticles (AuNPs).
- ❖ The SERS is a commonly used sensing technique in which inelastic light scattering by molecules is greatly enhanced when the molecules are adsorbed onto corrugated metal surfaces such as silver or gold nanoparticles (NPs).
- ❖ SERS detection has been emerging as a powerful tool for the detection of a variety of analytes due to its very high sensitivity and fingerprinting recognition capabilities.

ENVIRONMENT

JNTBGRI

- ❖ The Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has been selected as one of the Biological Knowledge and Resource Centers of the Indian Initiative on Earth Bio Genome Sequencing (IIEBS).
- ❖ The project is planning for a nationwide project to decode the genetic information of all known species of plants and animals in the country.
- ❖ The National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi is the coordinating center for the nationwide project involving a total of 24 institutes.
- ❖ The project is part of the Earth Bio Genome Project, an international initiative which aims to sequence the genetic codes of all of earth's eukaryotic biodiversity over a period of 10 years.
- ❖ Genome sequencing is ostensibly the process of determining the complete DNA sequence of an organism's genome at a single time.

New List of Cyclone names

- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has released a new list of names of tropical cyclones over north Indian Ocean including Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The new list comprises of 169 names including 13 from India.
- ❖ It is recommended by 13 member countries (13 names by 13 countries) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Thailand, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Iran are the 13 countries
- ❖ Gati, Tej, Aag, Neer, Vyom, Jhar, Jaladhi, Murasu, Probaho, Prabhanjan, Ghumi, Ambud and Vega are given by India.
- ❖ Among them Neer and Murasu are Tamil names.
- ❖ The Regional Specialize Meteorological Centre (RSMC) in New Delhi is responsible to name the cyclones in the region of Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea.
- ❖ Since the earlier list of 2004 is left with only one name – Amphan (shared by Thailand), all other 63 names were used.
- ❖ In 2004, 8 countries gave each 8 names into total 64 names.
- ❖ The 8 countries of 2004 list are India, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Oman, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- ❖ Now the addition is Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Iran.

Other names of Cyclones

- ❖ Typhoons in the China Sea and Pacific Ocean.

- ❖ Hurricanes in the West Indian islands in the Caribbean Sea and Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ Tornados in the Guinea lands of West Africa and southern USA.
- ❖ Willy-willies in north-western Australia.
- ❖ Tropical cyclones in the Indian Ocean.

Annexure-I

New list of tropical cyclone names adopted by WMO/ESCAP Panel Member Countries in April 2020 for naming of tropical cyclones over North Indian Ocean including Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea
(To be used after the name 'Amphan' from the previous list is utilised)

WMO/ESCAP Panel Member countries	Column 1		Column 2		Column 3		Column 4	
	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'	Name	Pron'
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Biporjoy	Arnab	Omab	Upakul	Upokul
India	Gati	Gati	Tej	Tej	Murasu	Murasu	Aag	Aag
Iran	Nivar	Nivar	Hamoon	Hamoon	Akvan	Akvan	Sepand	Sepand
Maldives	Burevi	Burevi	Midhili	Midhili	Kaani	Kaani	Odi	Odi
Myanmar	Tauktae	Tau Te	Michaung	Migjaum	Ngamann	Ngaman	Kyarhit	Kyathi
Oman	Yaas	Yass	Remal	Re-Mal	Sail	Sail	Naseem	Naseem
Pakistan	Gulab	Gul-Aab	Asna	As-Na	Sahab	Sa-Hab	Afshan	Af-Shan
Qatar	Shaheen	Shaheen	Dana	Dana	Lulu	Lulu	Mouj	Mouj
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Jowad	Fengal	Feinjal	Ghazeer	Razeer	Asif	Aasif
Sri Lanka	Asani	Asani	Shakhti	Shakhti	Gigum	Gigum	Gagana	Gagana
Thailand	Sitrang	Si-Trang	Montha	Mon-Tha	Thianyt	Thian-Yot	Bulan	Bu-Lan
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Man-Dous	Senyar	Sen-Yaar	Afoor	Aa-Foor	Nahhaam	Nah-Haam
Yemen	Mocha	Mokha	Ditwah	Ditwah	Diksam	Diksam	Sira	Sira

Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- ❖ The eleventh and first ever virtual Petersberg Climate Dialogue was held.
- ❖ This has been hosted by Germany since 2010.
- ❖ The Dialogue was co-chaired by Germany and the United Kingdom.
- ❖ It was originally an initiative of German Chancellor Angela Merkel after the failure of Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in 2009.
- ❖ India along with 30 nations participated this.

Air Pollution in India

- ❖ The NASA announced that Air Pollution in India has reached 20 year low.
- ❖ According to the data published by NASA, the Aerosol Optical Depth (AOD) in 2020 has been the least as compared to the average of 2016 to 2019.
- ❖ Aerosol Optical Depth is absorption of light by airborne particles in the atmosphere.

- ❖ The aerosols are particles in atmosphere released due to anthropogenic activities
- ❖ The Aerosol Optical Depth is the quantitative measure of aerosols present in the atmosphere.
- ❖ It measures the extinction of light when it passes through the atmosphere.
- ❖ As AOD increases, the rate of extinction of light increases.

CRISIL Research Report on Renewable Energy

- ❖ CRISIL has released its report on renewable energy.
- ❖ Karnataka retained its Number One position in the total installed capacity (15232 MW).
- ❖ Karnataka has the highest installed capacity for solar at 7,278 MW.
- ❖ Karnataka's wind energy capacity is at 4,791 MW.
- ❖ Gujarat's total renewable capacity crossed the 10,000 MW mark in FY20.
- ❖ It is the third State (10586 MW) after Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (14347 MW) to have more than 10 GW of installed capacity.
- ❖ In terms of overall solar energy capacity addition in FY20, the top three States were Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- ❖ In wind energy capacity addition in FY20, the top three were Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra.

Important Solar power Plants in India

- ❖ Bhadla Solar Park - Jodhpur district, Rajasthan - the world's largest solar park (2,245 MW).
- ❖ Pavagada Solar Park - Tumkur district, Karnataka - the World's second largest photovoltaic power station (2,050 MW).
- ❖ Kamuthi Solar Park - Ramanathapuram district, Tamilnadu - the world's 12th largest solar park (648 MW).
- ❖ It is one of the world's largest single location solar power project.
- ❖ It was commissioned by the Adani Group.

Global Energy Review 2020

- ❖ International Energy Agency (IEA) has released this report.
- ❖ Global energy demand is projected to fall six per cent in 2020.
- ❖ This will be steepest decline in percentage terms in 70 years and the largest ever in absolute terms.
- ❖ In India, energy demand would decline for the first time, following on from low demand growth in 2019.

- ❖ Established in 1974 as per framework of the OECD, IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Paris, France.
- ❖ A candidate country must be a member country of the OECD.
- ❖ But all OECD members are not IEA members.

Reports of IEA

- Global Energy & CO₂ Status Report.
- World Energy Outlook.
- World Energy Statistics.
- World Energy Balances.
- Energy Technology Perspectives.

Vizag Gas Tragedy

- ❖ Styrene Gas was leaked from the South Korean Firm LG Polymers Plant in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Styrene is a chemical compound that has been identified as neuro-toxins.
- ❖ It is also known as ethenylbenzene, vinylbenzene, and phenylethene.
- ❖ It has chemical formula of $C_6H_5CH=CH_2$.
- ❖ Styrene Gas is a colour-less and odour-less compound.
- ❖ Styrene Gas is a by-product of highly flammable raw material Styrene.
- ❖ Styrene is used as a raw material for making products that are commonly used in electric fan blades, cups and cutlery.
- ❖ It is a flammable liquid that is used in the manufacturing of polystyrene plastics, fiberglass, rubber, and latex.
- ❖ It is also found in vehicle exhaust, cigarette smoke, and in natural foods like fruits and vegetables.



Bengal Tiger

- ❖ The West Bengal Forest Ministry has announced that the number of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans has increased to 96 according to the census conducted for the year 2019/20.
- ❖ Under IUCN, the Royal Bengal Tigers are listed as Endangered Species.
- ❖ Spread over 4,262 sq km, the Sundarbans has mangrove cover in 2,125 sq km in India alone.
- ❖ A large part of the Sundarbans forest lies in Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is the world's largest mangrove reserve and one of the most unique ecosystems in South Asia.
- ❖ It has been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ❖ The Sundarban is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.



- ❖ The Indian Sundarban constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area.
- ❖ It is the 27th Ramsar Site in India.
- ❖ It is now the largest protected wetland in the country (4,23,000 hectares).
- ❖ It is also home to a large number of "rare and globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin, the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin, and the vulnerable fishing cat."

Strict Liability

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal's order on Visakhapatnam gas tragedy, found LG Polymers prima facie liable under the law principle of "strict liability".
- ❖ This liability was made redundant in India by the Supreme Court in 1986.

- ❖ In 1986, the Supreme Court replaced it with the 'absolute liability principle' in the Oleum gas leak case of Delhi.
- ❖ The principle of absolute liability is part of Article 21 (right to life).
- ❖ Under the "strict liability principle", a party is not liable and need not pay any compensation if a hazardous substance escapes his premises by accident or by an "act of God" among other circumstances.

Rule of Strict Liability :-

There are situation when a person may be liable for some harm even though he is not negligent in causing same. In other word, sometimes law recognized '**No fault**' liability. In this, connection, the rule laid down in two cases, firstly, in the decision of house of lords in **Rylands v/s Fletcher**, (1868) and secondly, in decision of supreme court of India **M.c Mehta v/s Union of India**, (1987) may be noted.

Spinosaurus aegyptiacus

- ❖ It is a giant theropod dinosaur that lived about 95 million years ago (Cretaceous period) in what is now North Africa.
- ❖ Recently its skeleton was found in the Kem Kem region of the Moroccan Sahara Desert.
- ❖ It is the world's only existing skeleton of this ancient predator.
- ❖ The study finds that it may have been a truly water-dwelling dinosaur.
- ❖ It makes history as it is the first known swimming dinosaur.



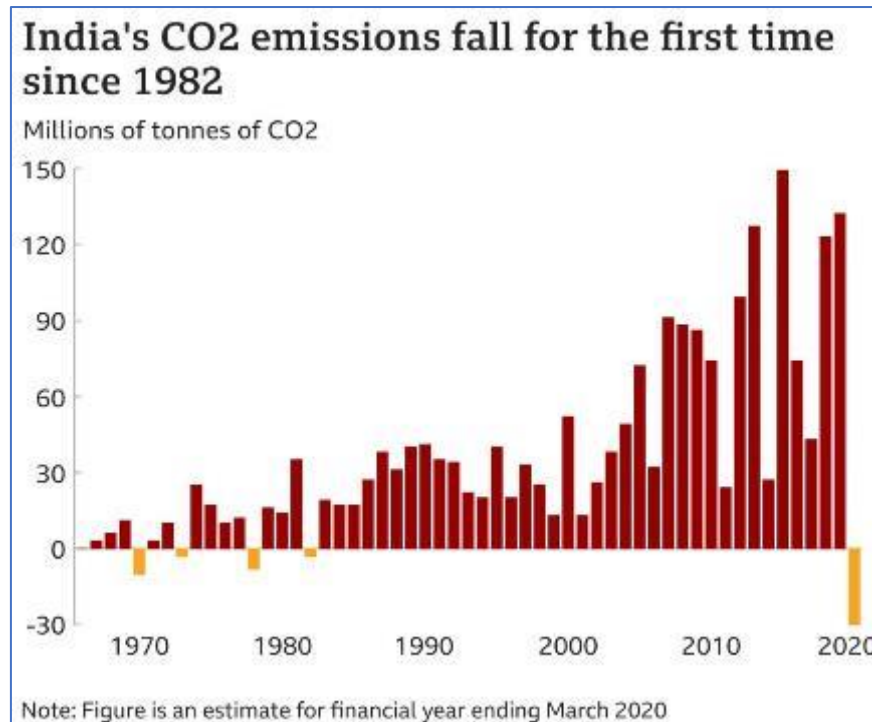
Ban on TB Drugs on crops

- ❖ Recently, the Central Insecticides Board and Registration Committee (CIBRC) has recommended to ban the use of antibiotics streptomycin and tetracycline.
- ❖ Streptomycin has important use for previously treated tuberculosis (TB) patients.
- ❖ It is also used in multidrug-resistant TB patients and in certain cases of TB meningitis (brain TB).
- ❖ Exposure to antibiotics like Streptomycin can lead to development of antibiotic resistance in humans and animals.
- ❖ The CIBRC was set up by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare in the year 1970 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides.



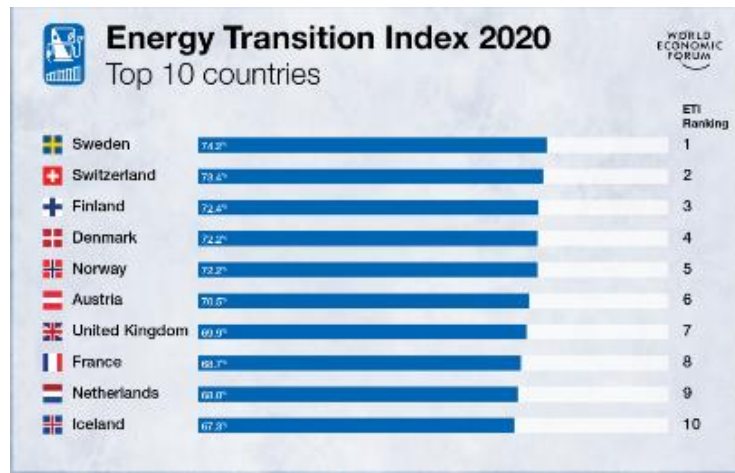
CO2 Emissions of India

- ❖ The Carbon dioxide Emissions in India has declined the least for the first time in the last four decades.
- ❖ It was a study conducted by Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
- ❖ It has reduced by 15% in March and by 30% in April.
- ❖ The carbon dioxide emission is slowed down due to slowdown in coal-fired electricity generation.
- ❖ The fall in the electricity use and competition from the renewables have weakened the demand for fossil fuels even before the COVID-19 hit.



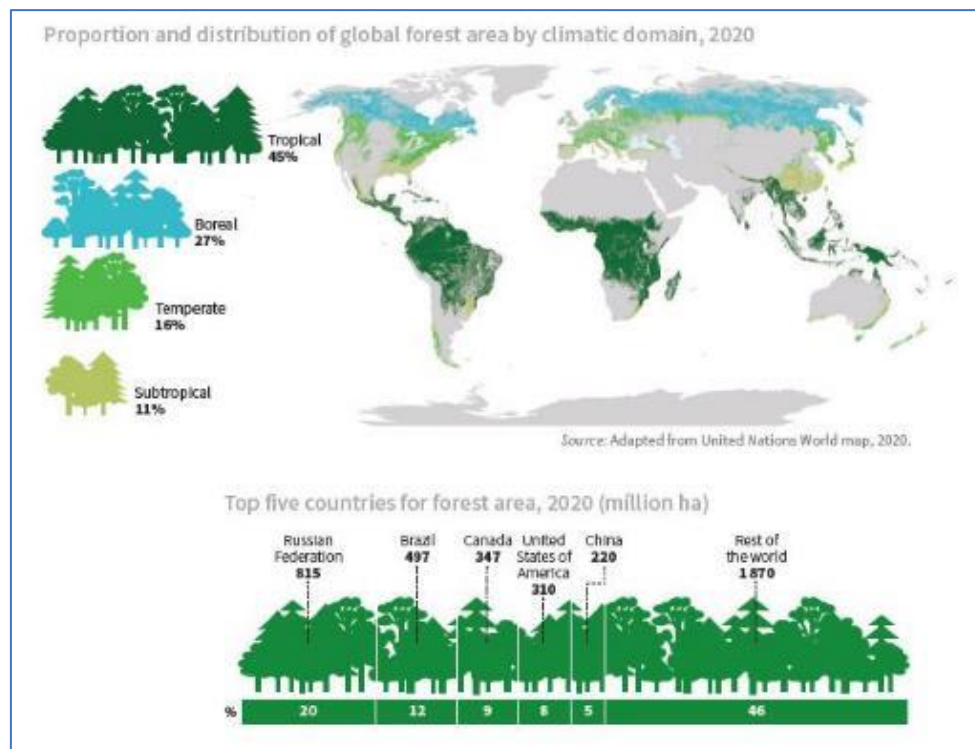
Global Energy Transition Index (GET Index)

- ❖ The World Economic Forum released this index in the name of WEF Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2020.
- ❖ According to the report, 75% of the countries have improved their environmental sustainability.
- ❖ India has moved up to 74th rank.
- ❖ Sweden has topped the ranking for the third consecutive year.
- ❖ It was followed by Switzerland and Finland.
- ❖ Only France (on the 8th position) and UK (on the 7th position) were the only G20 countries under top 10.
- ❖ For the first time, the US ranked outside top 25.
- ❖ According to the ranking, India and China were the emerging centres of power demand in the world.



Global Forest Resources Assessment 2020

- ❖ It has been released by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ It has examined the status of forests in more than 236 countries and territories between the period 1990 and 2020.
- ❖ The world lost 178 million hectare of forest since 1990, an area the size of Libya.
- ❖ Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020 followed by South America.



- ❖ On the other hand, Asia had the highest net gain of forest area in 2010–2020, followed by Oceania and Europe.

- ❖ The world's total forest area was 4.06 billion hectares (bha), which was 31 per cent of the total land area.
- ❖ The largest proportion of the world's forests were tropical (45 per cent), followed by boreal, temperate and subtropical.
- ❖ More than 54 per cent of the world's forests were in only five countries — the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and China.
- ❖ The highest per cent of plantation forests were in South America while the lowest were in Europe.

Feral horse

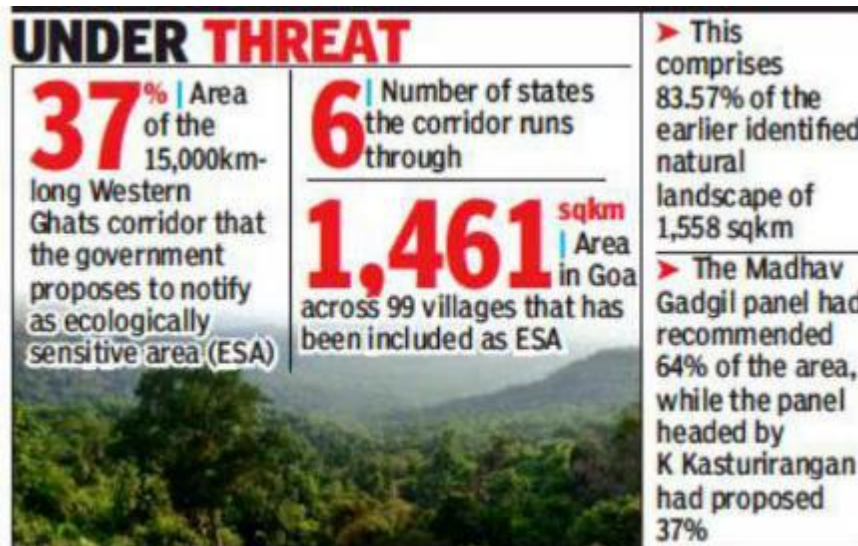
- ❖ The major exploration to extend drilling and testing of hydrocarbons by the Oil India Limited beneath the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park of Assam received environmental clearance from MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change).
- ❖ The park is the only region in India that supports feral horses.
- ❖ The Feral horse is not a true wild horse.
- ❖ The only true wild horse that exists today is the Przewalski's horse that is native to Central Asia.
- ❖ Australia has the largest population of feral horses in the world.



Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA)

- ❖ 6 States have expressed desire to expedite early notification of Ecologically Sensitive Area of Western Ghats.
- ❖ These six states include Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The government had constituted a High Level Working Group under the Chairmanship of Dr. Kasturirangan to conserve and protect the biodiversity of Western Ghats.

- ❖ Before that there was a committee headed by Gadgil.
- ❖ The Kasturirangan report seeks to bring just 37% of the Western Ghats under the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) zones — down from the 64% suggested by the Gadgil report.
- ❖ ESAs are located within 10 kms around Protected Areas, National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries.
- ❖ ESAs are notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) under Environment Protection Act 1986.



Five initiatives on Biodiversity conservation

- ❖ The United Nations framed 20 global actions to be implemented between 2010 and 2020.
- ❖ This is called Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.
- ❖ The year 2020 is called Super Year for Biodiversity.
- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change launched five initiatives on conservation of biodiversity.
 - “Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme” - It aims at engaging 20 students in post graduate programme for a period of 1 year.
 - United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) campaign called Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species.
 - Wildlife Crime Control Bureau campaign called Not All Animals Migrate by Choice.
 - World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties.
 - Webinar series on Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

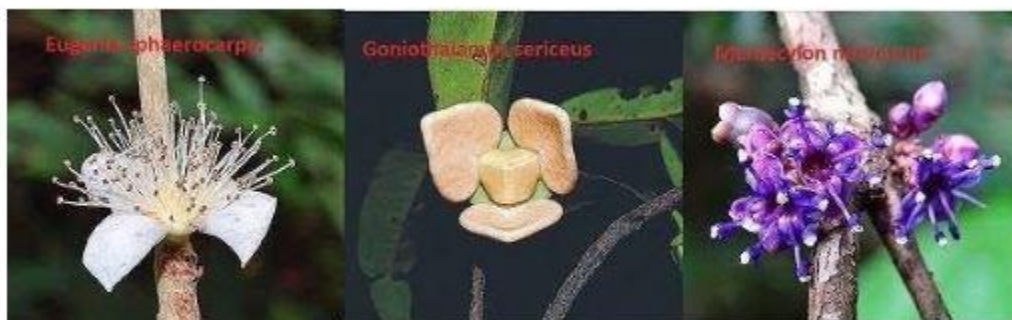
Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS)

- ❖ Recently FAO has designated 4 tea cultivation sites in China, Korea and Japan as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems.
- ❖ Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) was started by the FAO to safeguard and support the world's agricultural heritage systems.
- ❖ GIAHS are outstanding landscapes of aesthetic beauty that combine agricultural biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and a valuable cultural heritage.
- ❖ Three recognized GIAHS sites in India are
 - Kuttanad below Sea Level Farming System of Kerala.
 - Koraput Traditional Agriculture of Odisha.
 - Pampore Saffron Heritage of Kashmir.
- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and improve nutrition and food security.



New plant species from Western Ghats

- ❖ Three new plant species reported in the evergreen forest patches of the southern end of the Western Ghats in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ These are as follows
 - *Eugenia sphaerocarpa* of the Myrtaceae or Rose apple family - Found in Kakkayam area of the Malabar wildlife sanctuary in Kerala.
 - *Goniotalamus sericeus* of the Annonaceae family of custard apple - Found in the Kanyakumari wildlife sanctuary in Tamil Nadu.
 - *Memecylon nervosum* of the Melastomataceae.



Locusts Attack in India

- ❖ Large swarms of Desert Locusts have entered India's Rajasthan through Pakistan.
- ❖ The locusts swarms began from Iran in 2019, migrating to Pakistan and now have entered India in Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.



- ❖ The locust attack could further devastate India's agricultural economy and risk India's food security.
- ❖ The Locust Warning Organisation has suggested for the use of drones for sprinkling chemicals in Rajasthan to kill the locust.

Saleki Proposed Reserve Forest (PRF)

- ❖ The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) recently discussed a proposal for transferring 98.59 hectares of land from the Saleki Proposed Reserve Forest (PRF) for an open-cast coal mining project.
- ❖ Saleki is a part of Dehing Patkai elephant reserve, for a coal-mining project in Upper Assam.
- ❖ The reserve is located in the Dibrugarh and Tinsukia Districts of Assam.
- ❖ The Dehing Patkai forms the largest stretch of tropical lowland rainforests in India.

Stubble burning in Punjab

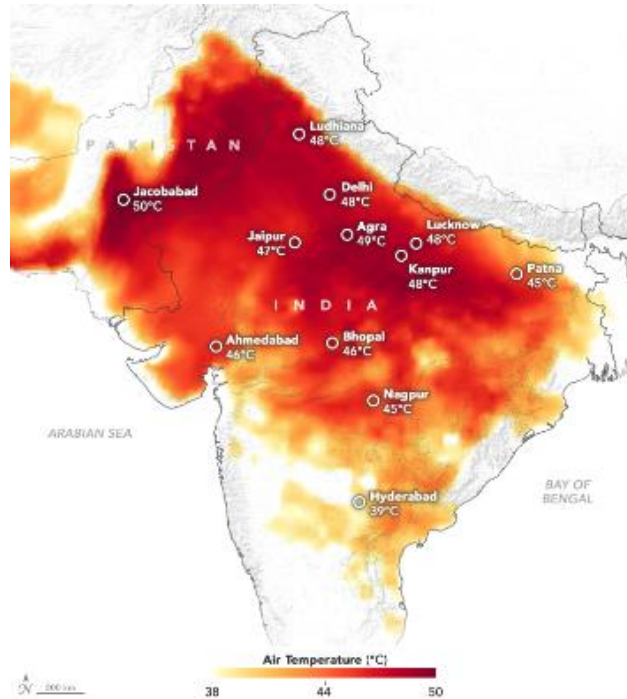
- ❖ Punjab has witnessed a spike in incidents of stubble burning in this year.
- ❖ The ban and action against the people burning the crop residue is regulated under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- ❖ It is a common practice followed by farmers to prepare fields for sowing of wheat in November as there is little time left between the harvesting of paddy and sowing of wheat.
- ❖ Stubble burning results in emission of harmful gases such carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide along with particulate matter.

- ❖ Open stubble burning emits large amounts of toxic pollutants in the atmosphere which contain harmful gases like methane (CH₄), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Volatile organic compound (VOC) and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.
- ❖ They may eventually cause smog.
- ❖ Burning husk on ground destroys the nutrients in the soil, making it less fertile.
- ❖ Heat generated by stubble burning penetrates into the soil, leading to the loss of moisture and useful microbes.
- ❖ An innovative experiment has been undertaken by the Chhattisgarh government by setting up gauthans.
- ❖ A gauthan is a dedicated five-acre plot, held in common by each village, where all the unused stubble is collected through people's donations.
- ❖ After that, it is converted into organic fertiliser by mixing with cow dung and few natural enzymes.



Heat Wave

- ❖ Several parts of north India are reeling under an intense heatwave with many districts in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh posting temperatures over 45 degrees Celsius or five degrees above what is normal.
- ❖ A Heat Wave is a period of abnormally high temperatures, more than the normal maximum temperature that occurs during the summer season.
- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has given the following criteria for Heat Waves
- ❖ Heat Wave need not be considered till the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40°C for Plains and at least 30°C for Hilly regions.
- ❖ When the actual maximum temperature remains 45°C or more irrespective of normal maximum temperature, heat waves should be declared.



Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary

- ❖ Bihar government is setting up India's first observatory for the mammals in Bhagalpur district at the Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS).
- ❖ Bihar is home to around half of the estimated 2,500-3,000 Gangetic dolphins in India.



- ❖ The Ganges river dolphin is primarily found in the Ganges and Brahmaputra Rivers and their tributaries in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal
- ❖ The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal in 2009.
- ❖ This decision was taken in the first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) chaired by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- ❖ It is also an official animal of the Indian city of Guwahati.

Charru mussel

- ❖ Charru mussel is an invasive mussel native to the South and Central American coasts.
- ❖ It is spreading quickly in the backwaters of Kerala, elbowing out other mussel.
- ❖ The rapid spread of the Charru mussel (*Mytella strigata*) may have been triggered by Cyclone Ockhi which struck the region in 2017.



STATES

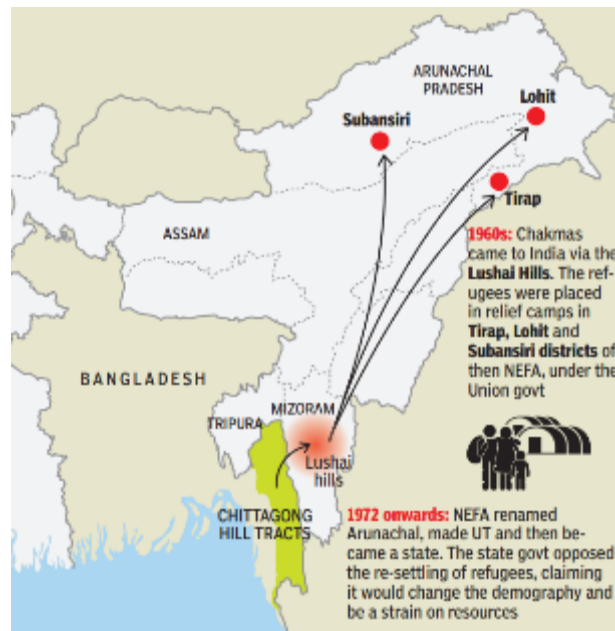
Kashmir Saffron

- ❖ It has been given geographical Indication Tag
- ❖ It is cultivated and harvested in Karewas (High lands) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ It is the only saffron in the world which is grown at an altitude of 1600m-1800m above the mean sea level.
- ❖ It is grown in Kishtwar, which is popularly known as “The Land of Sapphire and Saffron”.
- ❖ It was introduced in India by central Asian migrants around 1st century BC.
- ❖ It is known as Bahukam in ancient Sanskrit literature (Amarakosara).



Hajong and Chakma

- ❖ The Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region directed Arunachal Pradesh Government to include Hajong and Chakma communities in the COVID-19.
- ❖ The Chakma and Hajong communities are the migrants from the Chittagong hills of the then East Pakistan (now Bangladesh).
- ❖ They are still living in relief camps at Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The Chakmas were predominantly Buddhists and the Hajongs were Hindus.
- ❖ Currently, these tribes do not have citizenship or land rights in India.



African Swine Flu

- ❖ The Assam Government confirmed that more than 2,500 pigs were killed due to African Swine Flu in Assam.
- ❖ The African Swine Flu is a double-stranded DNA virus and is a causative agent of African Swine fever.

Madhya Pradesh's Covid measures

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh police launched 'Sankalp Scheme' to provide 24-hour help to elderly people.
- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government has launched 'Jeevan Amrit Yojana' to boost the immune system of people to fight (COVID-19) disease.
- ❖ Under this yojana, the state government will freely distribute an ayurvedic product called 'Trikut Churna (means three peppers)' prepared by the AYUSH Department free of cost to the citizens.

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh government launched Jeevan-Shakti Yojana.
- ❖ Under the scheme, women will prepare masks at homes in the urban areas and earn profit.

Bru-Reang refugee crisis

- ❖ There is an opposition to the proposed settlement of the displaced Brus in Kanchanpur Sub-Division of North Tripura district.
- ❖ The central Government, in January 2020, signed a historic pact for permanent solution of Bru refugees' issue.
- ❖ The agreement was between Union Government, Governments of Tripura and Mizoram and Bru-Reang representatives.
- ❖ As per the agreement the Bru tribes would be given land to reside in Tripura.
- ❖ The Brus, also referred to as the Reangs, are spread across the northeastern states of Tripura, Assam, Manipur, and Mizoram.
- ❖ In Tripura, they are recognised as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- ❖ More than 30,000 Bru tribes escaped from Mizoram in 1997.
- ❖ They have been living in various camps in Tripura since 1997.



Ayush Kavach App

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government launched Ayush Kavach App to help people access prescriptions.
- ❖ It will help the people to strengthen their immunity through ancient practices Ayurveda and Yoga.

Bishnu Sendra Parva

- ❖ Bishnu Sendra Parva is an annual hunting festival observed by tribals of Jharkhand and the neighbouring Odisha and West Bengal.
- ❖ For the first time in History, not a single animal was killed in this year's event because of a complete lockdown.



Nigah

- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Government is to launch a new programme called “Nigah”.
- ❖ The programme aims at educating family members that are coming from other parts of the country.

Labor Laws in Uttar Pradesh

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Government passed an ordinance to suspend labour laws in the state for three years.
- ❖ However, the ordinance does not include Building and other Construction Workers Act, Bonded Labor Act, Workmen Compensation Act and Payment Wages Act.
- ❖ Labour is a Concurrent subject.
- ❖ Therefore, both centre and state governments shall frame their own laws.
- ❖ However, approval of central government is required.

Noise at Bengaluru

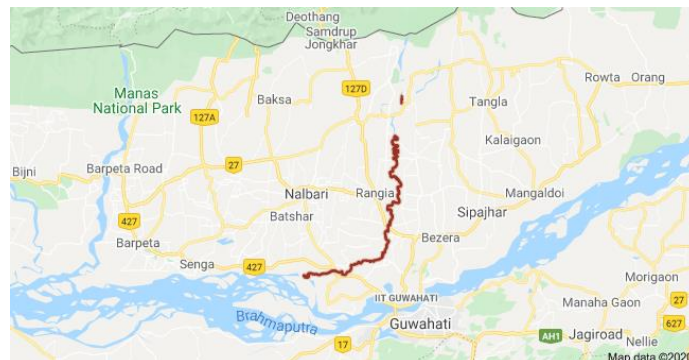
- ❖ A sonic boom is said to occur when an object travels through the air faster than the speed of sound and creates shock waves.
- ❖ If the aircraft is flying at a low altitude, the sonic boom may also lead to tremors similar to earthquakes and shattering of glass.

Contract farming in Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha Government has promulgated an ordinance allowing investors and farmers to enter into agreement for contract farming.
- ❖ It refers to a system of farming, in which bulk purchasers including agro-processing/exporting or trading units enter into a contract with farmer(s), to purchase a specified quantity of any agricultural commodity at a pre-agreed price.
- ❖ The Contract farming in India is regulated under the Indian Contract Act, 1872.
- ❖ The Model APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) Act, 2003 provides specific provisions for contract farming.
- ❖ The Ministry of Agriculture came out with a draft Model Contract Farming Act, 2018.

Puthimari River

- ❖ It rises in Assam, India.
- ❖ It is a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- ❖ It is known for its floods and high sediment load.
- ❖ Recently it is in news for flooding after Amphan cyclone.



Bihar GI tagged products

- ❖ Shahi litchi, katarni rice, Zardalu/jardalu mango and magahi paan (betel vine) are food items from the state of Bihar which has been awarded GI tag.
- ❖ Muzaffarpur, Vaishali, Samastipur, Champaran, Begusarai districts of Bihar have favourable climate for Shahi litchi.
- ❖ Bihar produces 40% of the litchi grown in the country, in which 60% are Shahi litchis.
- ❖ Zardalu Mango of Bhagalpur (Bihar) is famous in world by its unique fragrance.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

International Prize for Arabic Fiction 2020

- ❖ The Spartan Court by Abdelouahab Aissaoui has won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction.
- ❖ Aissaoui is the first Algerian to win the prize.
- ❖ It is sponsored by the Emirates Foundation in Abu Dhabi of the UAE.
- ❖ The Prize is run with the support, as its mentor, of The Booker Prize Foundation in London and funded by Department of Culture and Tourism, Abu Dhabi (DCT).

Pulitzer Prize 2020

- ❖ Three photojournalists from Jammu & Kashmir have won Pulitzer Prize 2020 in photography.
- ❖ These include Yasin Dar, Mukhtar Khan, and Channi Anand.
- ❖ The award was established by Joseph Pulitzer in 1917.
- ❖ The award is administered by Columbia University.
- ❖ It has been awarded for the achievements in magazine, newspaper, online journalism, musical composition, and literature.



Order of Rising Sun Award

- ❖ The Japan government has conferred the 'Order of Rising Sun' award on a Manipur physician Thangjam Dhabali Singh.
- ❖ It was given to him for promoting a better understanding of Japan in India and deepening ties between the two countries.
- ❖ Singh had organised the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Imphal of the Second World War.

- ❖ The award was constituted by Japanese Emperor Meiji in 1875.
- ❖ It is conferred on persons with achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, environmental preservation, welfare or achievements in their fields.



2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award

- ❖ Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar, the National Hydrographer to the government of India, has been honoured with this award.
- ❖ It was given for his outstanding contribution to Indian hydrography and across the wider Indian Ocean region.
- ❖ It was presented by the UK Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ It is named after the first Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.



Ramkinkar Baij

- ❖ The Ministry of Culture's National Gallery of Modern Art organised virtual tour titled "Ramkinkar Baij, Journey through silent transformation and expressions".

- ❖ It is to commemorate the 115th Birth Anniversary of Ramkinkar Baij on 26th May 2020.
- ❖ Ramkinkar Baij (1906-1980) was an iconic sculptor, painter and graphic artist.
- ❖ He was born in Bankura, West Bengal.
- ❖ Along with Nandalal Bose and Benodebehari Mukherjee, he played a pivotal role in making Santiniketan one of the most important centres for modern art in pre-Independent India.

Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award

- ❖ Recently women peacekeepers from India and Brazil have jointly won the United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year 2019 Award.
- ❖ Major Suman Gawani of the Indian Army and Commander Carla Monteiro de Castro Araujo of Brazil have been chosen for the award.
- ❖ Major Suman Gawani is the first Indian to receive the award.
- ❖ United Nations “Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award” was created in 2016.
- ❖ It recognizes the dedication and effort of an individual military peacekeeper in promoting the principles of UN Security Resolution.
- ❖ The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is the newest United Nations peacekeeping mission for the recently independent South Sudan, which became independent on 9 July 2011.
- ❖ It was established in 2011 under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1996.



SPORTS

MRF ICC Cricket Test match Rankings

- ❖ India loses top spot to Australia in test rankings.
- ❖ With Australia taking the top spot, India has slipped to the 3rd spot and New Zealand has gained 2nd position in the ICC test rankings.
- ❖ India was displaced from top of the Test list for the first time since October 2016.

Ban on saliva

- ❖ The former Indian Cricket player Anil Kumble led ICC (International Cricket Committee) Cricket Committee banned the use of saliva to shine the ball.
- ❖ The practice meant for swing bowling is now primarily held as health risk due to the threats of COVID-19.
- ❖ However, the ICC Cricket Committee saw no harm in use of sweat to shine the ball.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Labour Day - May 01

- ❖ The day is also known as International Worker's Day and May Day.
- ❖ In India, the first celebration of the Labour Day was organised in Madras (now Chennai) by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923.
- ❖ The Labour Day is celebrated to commemorate the happenings of May 4, 1886, the Haymarket affair (Haymarket Massacre) in the Chicago of USA.

Maharashtra/Gujarat Day – May 01



- ❖ In 1960, the Bombay Reorganization Act was passed by India's Parliament to divide the multilingual state of Bombay into Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ❖ The legislation came into effect on May 1, 1960.

World Tuna Day - May 2

- ❖ It is observed by the United Nations to spread the importance of conservation of the Tuna Fish species.
- ❖ It is being observed since 2017.
- ❖ The tuna fish account to 20% of marine capture of fisheries and 8% of globally traded sea food.

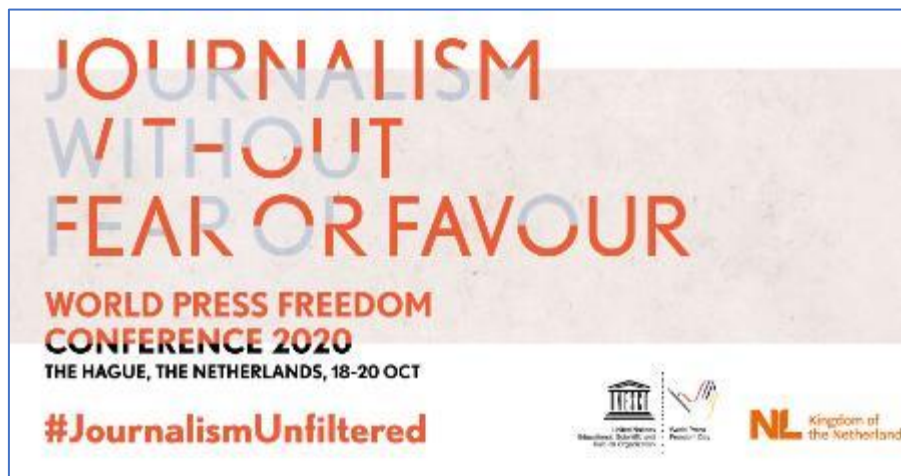


International Astronomy Day - May 2

- ❖ It is celebrated twice a year, once on September 26 and other on May 2.
- ❖ It was coordinated by the International Astronomical Union (IAU).
- ❖ The IAU was founded in 1919.
- ❖ India is a member of the Union.
- ❖ The headquarters of the Union is located in France.
- ❖ The International Year of Astronomy was celebrated in 2009.
- ❖ It was marked on 2009 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of observations of Galileo and also Kepler's findings in 17th century.
- ❖ In 1609, Galileo for the first time found craters and mountains on the moon that changes the perception of space.

World Press Freedom Day – May 03

- ❖ It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993.
- ❖ The day May 3 also marks the anniversary of Windhoek Declaration.
- ❖ It was a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in Windhoek, the capital of Namibia in 1991.
- ❖ UNESCO marks World Press Freedom Day by conferring the UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.
- ❖ It is given on a deserving individual, organisation or institution that has made an outstanding contribution to the defence and/or promotion of press freedom anywhere in the world.
- ❖ 2020 Theme is - "Journalism without Fear or Favor".
- ❖ Since 1993, the Global Conference is organized annually.
- ❖ The Netherlands is the host for 2020 World Press Freedom Conference.



World Laughter Day - May 3

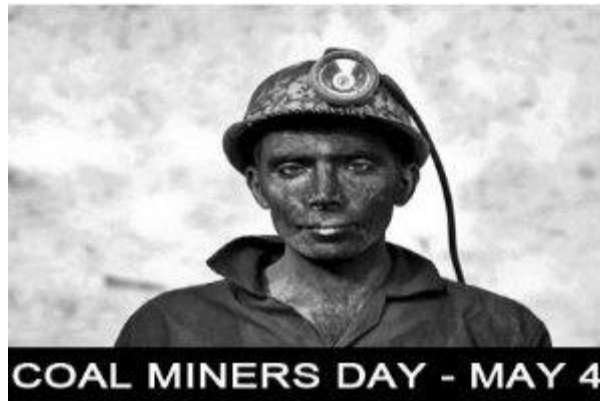
- ❖ It was first celebrated on May 10, 1998, in Mumbai, India.
- ❖ The day was arranged by Dr Madan Kataria, founder of the worldwide Laughter Yoga movement in 1998.

International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) - May 4

- ❖ It was instituted in 1999.
- ❖ There was a proposal across the world due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.
- ❖ The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon.
- ❖ The red color symbolizes fire and blue color symbolizes water.

Coal Miners Day - May 4

- ❖ Coal Miners Day is observed on 4th May every year to highlight the toughest profession and the people working in coal mines.
- ❖ Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel on Earth and Coal mining is the process of extracting coal from the earth.
- ❖ In India, coal mining began in 1774.
- ❖ John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Healthy of the East India Company commenced commercial exploitation in the Raniganj Coalfield of West Bengal along the Western bank of Damodar River.
- ❖ The states Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and some central and southern parts of the country are coal-rich regions.
- ❖ More than half of India's commercial energy needs are fulfilled by coal.



World Asthma Day – May 5

- ❖ The theme for World Asthma Day 2020 is 'Enough Asthma Deaths'.
- ❖ The annual observance is organized by the Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA).
- ❖ It was launched in 1993 under the collaboration of National Institutes of health, National Heart, Lung and Blood institute and the World Health organization
- ❖ Asthma is one of the major non-communicable diseases.

International Day of Midwives – May 5

- ❖ The day is observed by The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM).
- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the status of midwives and the essential care they provide to mothers and their newborns.
- ❖ 2020 theme is 'Celebrate. Demonstrate. Mobilize. Unite'.

Vesak – Buddha Poornima - Full Moon Day - May 7th

- ❖ It is the most sacred day to the Buddhists all over the world.
- ❖ It was on the Day of Vesak, two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 B.C that Buddha was born.
- ❖ It was also on the Day of Vesak that Buddha attained enlightenment.
- ❖ It was on the Day of Vesak that Buddha in his eightieth year passed away.
- ❖ The Day is commemorated by the United Nations every year since 2000.



World Athletics Day – May 7th

- ❖ It was celebrated in 1996 for the first time.
- ❖ International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) introduced this Day.
- ❖ It is to boost the participation of youths in athletics.

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day - May 8

- ❖ It is an annual celebration of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- ❖ This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, who was born on 8 May 1828.
- ❖ He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ World Red Cross Society provides for food shortages, natural disasters, wars as well as disease of an epidemic.

Victory in Europe Day - May 8

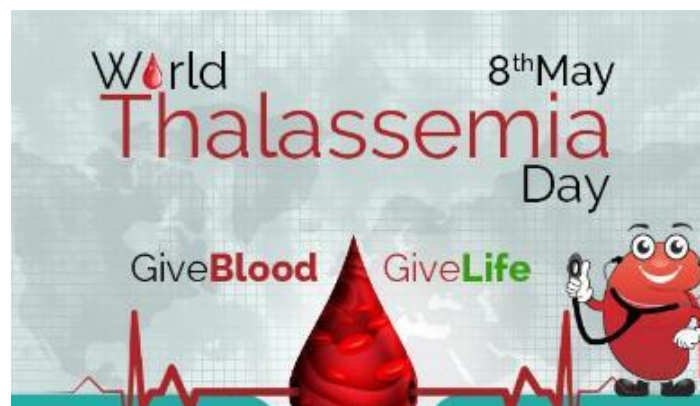
- ❖ It is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8 May 1945,
- ❖ It marked the end of World War II in Europe.
- ❖ The Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War is also celebrated on this day.



- ❖ The day was declared in 2004 and was commemorated by the United Nations since then.
- ❖ 2020 is the 75th year anniversary of this day.

World Thalassemia Day - May 8

- ❖ The theme for 2020 is - 'The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia - Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients.'
- ❖ It is organized by the Thalassemia International Federation since 1994.
- ❖ It is an inherited blood disorder that causes your body to have less hemoglobin than normal.
- ❖ Hemoglobin enables red blood cells to carry oxygen.
- ❖ Patients with thalassaemia suffer from anemia due to low levels of hemoglobin.
- ❖ West Bengal is the most affected state of Thalassemia.



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".

World Hand Hygiene Day - May 5

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) has marked this day.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Save Lives: Clean Your Hands".
- ❖ It is aligned with the Year of the Nurses and the Midwife.



World Mother's Day - May 10

- ❖ It is largely celebrated on the second Sunday of May every year.
- ❖ The modern Mother's Day began in the United States, at the initiative of Anna Jarvis in the early 20th century.
- ❖ In 1914, the USA President Woodrow Wilson signed a proclamation declaring the second Sunday in the month of May as a national holiday.

National Technology Day - May 11

- ❖ Every year, This Day is observed to remind India's technological advancements.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Focusing on Rebooting the economy through Science and Technology".
- ❖ On May 11th 1998, India tested its first successful Shakti-I nuclear missile.
- ❖ The missile was tested in the Indian Army Pokhran Test Range, Rajasthan.
- ❖ The operation was called "Operation Shakti" (Pokhran II).
- ❖ After this successful test, PM Vajpayee called India a complete nuclear state.
- ❖ It was led by our former Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ It made India the sixth country to join the nuclear club after P5 countries.
- ❖ It also made India the first country to not join the Non- Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT).
- ❖ Earlier India's first nuclear experiment was "Smiling Buddha" (Pokhran I).
- ❖ It was conducted in May 1974 at Pokhran.
- ❖ May 11 was also the day the DRDO (Defence Research Development Organization) accomplished the test of Trishul missile.
- ❖ It also marks the flight of first indigenous aircraft called Hansa-3.



International Nurse Day - May 12

- ❖ The birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale is celebrated as the International Nurse Day.
- ❖ The International Council of Nurses lead the celebration of this day.
- ❖ Theme of this year is “Nurses: A Voice to lead-Nursing the World to Health”.



- ❖ This year 2020 is celebrated as the Year of Nurse and Midwife as it is the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
- ❖ This is being organized by the World Health Organization in order to achieve Universal Health Coverage.
- ❖ Nightingale was called the “Lady with the Lamp”.
- ❖ She was born to a wealthy English family in Italy.



Endangered Species Day - May 15

- ❖ It was first celebrated in 2006.
- ❖ It recognizes the national conservation efforts to protect endangered species and their habitats.
- ❖ Endangered species are those which are on verge of extinction due to changes in the physical and biological conditions of the environment.
- ❖ IUCN's Red list covers a wide range of endangered species.
- ❖ According to IUCN, an endangered species is one that meets any one of the following criteria as given below
 - A 50-70% population decrease over 10 years.
 - A total geographic area less than 5,000 square kilometre or local population area less than 500 square kilometres.
 - A population size less than 2,500 adults.
 - A restricted population of 250 adults or a statistical prediction that it will go extinct within the next 20 years.

International Day of Families - May 15

- ❖ It is observed every year, since 1994.
- ❖ This year's theme is Families in Development: Copenhagen & Beijing+25.
- ❖ This year is 25th anniversary for Copenhagen Declaration and Beijing Platform for Action (1995).
- ❖ The Copenhagen Declaration was an outcome of World Summit for Social Development in 1995.
- ❖ The Beijing Declaration was a resolution adopted by the UN at the end of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women.

International Day of Light – May 16

- ❖ It is the anniversary of the first successful operation of the laser in 1960 by physicist and engineer, Theodore Maiman.
- ❖ It was inaugurated by the UNESCO in 2018.

45th Sikkim Day - May 16

- ❖ It marks the day in 1975 when Sikkim transitioned to become the 22nd state of the country from being a monarchy earlier.
- ❖ Sikkim is the first fully organic state in the Country.
- ❖ Till date, Sikkim is the only Covid Free State in India.



World Hypertension Day - May 17

- ❖ It is a day designated and initiated by The World Hypertension League (WHL).
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is “Measure Your Blood Pressure, Control It, Live Longer”.
- ❖ It is also known as the 'Silent Killer' as it often does not exhibit any symptoms during its early stages.



World Information Society Day - May 17

- ❖ The day had previously been known as 'World Telecommunication Day' to commemorate the founding of the International Telecommunication Union on 17 May 1865.
- ❖ It was proclaimed an international day by a United Nations General Assembly resolution following the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, the Capital of Tunisia.
- ❖ The theme for this day is “Connect 2030: ICTs for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

World AIDS Vaccine Day - May 18

- ❖ It was observed on May 18, 1998 to commemorate the anniversary of Clinton's speech.
- ❖ Exactly one year ago, on May 18, 1997, the then United States president Bill Clinton had asserted upon the importance of creating a vaccine for the deadly disease.
- ❖ The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) commemorate World AIDS Vaccine Day or HIV Virus Awareness Day.

International Museum Day - May 18

- ❖ It is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).
- ❖ The theme for this year is "Museums for Equality: Diversity and Inclusion."



World Bee Day - May 20

- ❖ It is celebrated by the United Nations.
- ❖ It was officially started in 2018.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Save the Bees.
- ❖ It is celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Slovenian apiculture pioneer Anton Jansa.

World Meteorology Day - May 20

- ❖ The day is the celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on May 20, 1875.
- ❖ The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) was created under that convention.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2020 is Measurements for Global Trade.

World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development - May 21

- ❖ It is a United Nations–sanctioned international holiday for the promotion of diversity issues.
- ❖ This day was created as a result of the destruction of the Buddha statues of Bamiyan in Afghanistan in 2001.

1st International Tea Day - May 21

- ❖ Due to the continued efforts of India, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution on 19 December 2019 designating 21st May as 'International Tea Day'.
- ❖ It was adopted in 2019 by the United Nations food and Agriculture Organization.
- ❖ India is the second largest tea producing country after China.
- ❖ India accounts for 23% of the total tea production of the world.
- ❖ Also India is the world's largest producer and consumer of black tea in the world.

National Anti-Terrorism Day - May 21

- ❖ It is observed on May 21 across India to commemorate the death anniversary of former Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi who was assassinated on this day in 1991.
- ❖ It is also recognized to make people aware of ongoing terrorist activities so that ordinary people can prevent these acts of terrorism.

International Day for Biological Diversity - May 22

- ❖ It was marked on December 29 to celebrate the Day the Convention on Biological Diversity came into effect.
- ❖ It was later shifted to May 22 to commemorate the adoption of convention at Rio Earth Summit 1992.
- ❖ Theme for the year 2020 is "Our solutions are in nature".



22 MAY 2020
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Our solutions are in nature

World Turtle Day - May 23

- ❖ It is celebrated to make people aware of turtle and tortoise and their habitats.
- ❖ Since 2000, The American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit organization, sponsors the celebrations for World Turtle Day.
- ❖ This year is the 20th anniversary of World Turtle Day.

International Day to End Obstetric Fistula - May 23

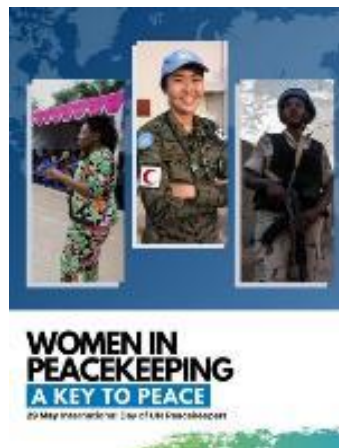
- ❖ The United Nations has observed this day since 2013.
- ❖ Theme 2020: "End gender inequality! End health inequities! End Fistula now!".
- ❖ Obstetric fistula is one of the most serious and tragic injuries that can occur during childbirth.

World Dugong Day - May 28

- ❖ Dugongs are an endangered marine species like sea turtles, seahorses, sea cucumbers and others.
- ❖ They are protected in India under Schedule I of the Wild (Life) Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ There were just 250 dugongs in the Gulf of Mannar in Tamil Nadu, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the Gulf of Kutch in Gujarat according to the 2013 survey report of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).
- ❖ Seagrass in Odisha's Chilika lake is a proper habitat for dugongs.
- ❖ However, there is not extant population in Chilika.

International Day of UN Peacekeepers 2020 - May 29

- ❖ The theme for this year's Day is "Women in Peacekeeping: A Key to Peace".
- ❖ It is to help marking the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.



- ❖ The first UN peacekeeping mission was established on 29th May 1948, when the Security Council authorized the deployment of a small number of UN military observers to the Middle East.
- ❖ Every peacekeeping mission is authorized by the Security Council.
- ❖ UN peacekeepers are often referred to as Blue Berets or Blue Helmets.

Goa Statehood Day - May 30th



- ❖ It was on this day in 1987 Goa became the 25th state of the Indian Union.
- ❖ Before this, Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was a union territory.
- ❖ On 19 December 1961, the Indian Army invaded with Operation Vijay on Portuguese resulting in the annexation of Goa, and of Daman and Diu islands into the Indian union.

World No Tobacco Day - May 31

- ❖ The World Health Organization (WHO) and its global partners celebrate World No Tobacco Day (WNTD).
- ❖ The theme for this day is 2020 “Protecting youth from industry manipulation and preventing them from tobacco and nicotine use”.

