



May - 25

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ 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.

NATIONAL

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.

Extending Shift


Centre eyes ordinance to enforce code on occupational safety

KEY CHANGES:

- Work hours to be raised to **12 hours** a day or **72 hours** a week
- Earlier Act prescribed **8 hrs** a day or **48 hrs** a week

HOW WILL IT HELP:

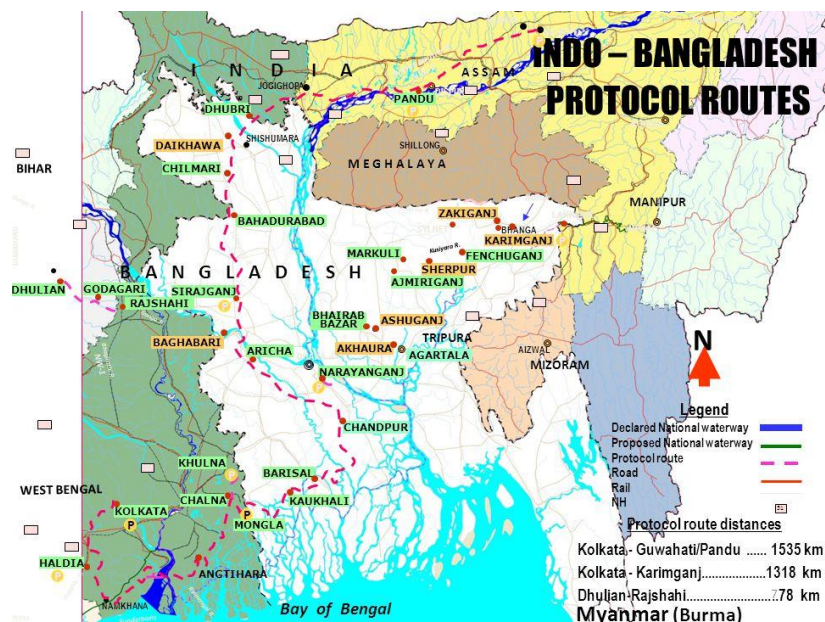
- Will help address labour shortage
- Will help companies adhere to social distancing norms
- Workers will work in extended shifts



INTERNATIONAL

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.



ECONOMY

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

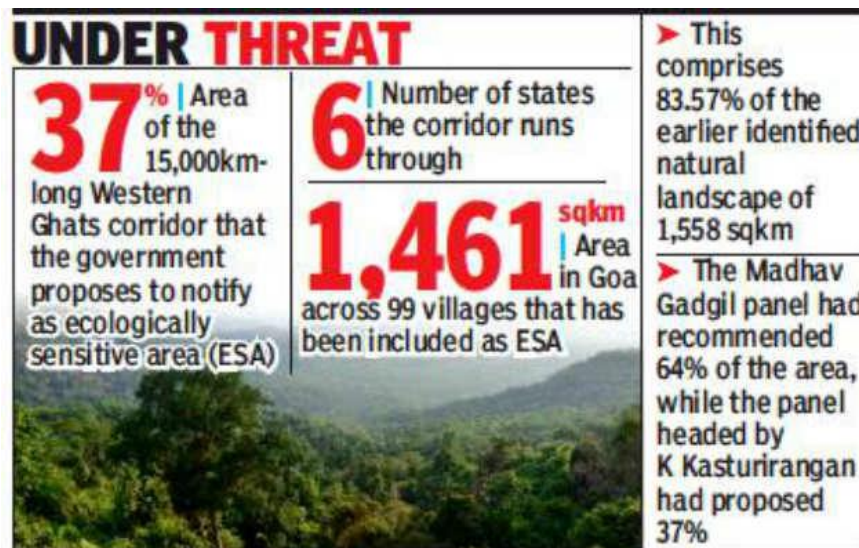
- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana - III, the Coir Geo Textiles are to be used in rural road development.
- ❖ This is to be done by the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency.
- ❖ The coir geotextiles degrades into humus.
- ❖ This enriches the soil.
- ❖ The Phase III of Pradhan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



ENVIRONMENT

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.



STATES

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.

IMPORTANT DAYS

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

