

November - 19

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Janata Dal (United) president Nitish Kumar sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Bihar for the seventh term as well as for the fourth consecutive term.
 - It will have two new Deputy Chief Ministers - Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi.

NATIONAL

Statue of Peace

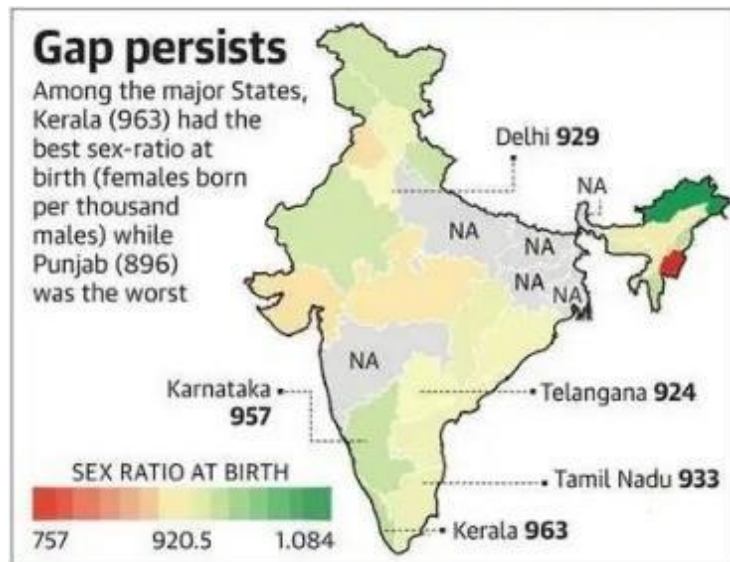
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled the ‘Statue of Peace’.
- ❖ It is to mark the 151st birth anniversary celebrations of a Jain saint - Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj (1870-1954).
- ❖ It has been installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura in Pali, Rajasthan.



2018 report on “Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System”

- ❖ It was published recently by the Registrar General of India under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

- ❖ It throws light on Sex Ratios of various states in the country.
- ❖ Sex ratio at birth is the number of females born per 1,000 males.
- ❖ State with best Sex Ratio is Arunachal Pradesh (1084).
- ❖ Arunachal Pradesh is followed by Nagaland (965) Mizoram (964), Kerala (963) and Karnataka (957).
- ❖ Worst state is Manipur (757).
- ❖ The level of registration of births has increased to 89.3% in 2018 from 81.3% in 2009.



Supreme Court Verdict on Section 167

- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that an accused, irrespective of the merits of the case against him, should be granted “default” or “compulsive” bail if the investigating agency does not complete the probe within a prescribed time limit.
- ❖ Under Section 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, an accused can be detained in custody for a maximum of 90 days for a crime punishable with death, life imprisonment or a sentence of over 10 years.
- ❖ It is 60 days of detention if the probe relates to any other offence.
- ❖ An accused has an “indefeasible right” to default bail under Section 167(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure if the probe agency failed to complete the investigation on time.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0

- ❖ The Government has announced a fresh set of relief and stimulus measures for the economy worth ₹1.19 lakh crore.
- ❖ This is being called as “Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan 3.0.”

Booster dose | A look at the fresh stimulus steps announced by the Finance Minister

Jobs

A new **Atmanirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana** mooted to spur job creation

- Govt. to foot **two years' EPF dues** (24% of wages) for new employees hired between Oct. 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021
- People earning less than **₹15,000 per month** who lost jobs between March 1 and Sept. 30 to be covered if re-employed
- Firms with more than 50 employees must hire at least **5 more** to be covered

Additional ₹10,000 crore announced for the PM Garib Kalyan Rozgar Yojana which could be used for MGNREGS or PM Gram Sadak Yojana

Additional demand for 25 lakh MT of steel and 131 lakh MT of cement

- Free up infrastructure contractors' capital by reducing performance security charges, and scrapping earnest money deposits for bidding on government projects
- ₹6,000 crore** equity infusion in debt platform of National Infrastructure Investment Fund, which will be used to raise **₹1.1 lakh crore** for infra projects by 2025
- ₹10,200 crore** additional funding for capital and industrial expenditure

Some income tax relief for purchase of residential units of value up to **₹2 crore**

- Permissible differential under Income Tax Act between circle rate and agreement value to be raised from **10% to 20%** for primary sale of new units till June 30, 2021


₹18,000 crore allocated to PM Awas Yojana to build urban housing, over the **₹8,000 crore** allotted in the Budget

- Govt. expects this would create **78 lakh new jobs** and drive

Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme extended till March 31, 2021

- New scheme to provide credit to firms in the healthcare sector and 26 other sectors identified as 'stressed'

If you take all the packages and the RBI measures announced so far, a total of ₹29,87,641 crore has been given so far as stimulus. A total of 15% of GDP. The Central government on its own has provided 9% of GDP as stimulus



NIRMALA SITHARAMAN

INTERNATIONAL

3rd Integrated Check Post (ICP)

- ❖ India and Nepal jointly launched the construction of the integrated check post (ICP) at Nepalgunj to streamline and boost cross-border trade.
- ❖ This will be the third ICP on the India-Nepal border.
- ❖ Similar facilities at Birgunj and Biratnagar were operationalised in April 2018 and January 2020.
- ❖ The Indian government will also take up the construction of a fourth ICP at Bhairahawa in Nepal.
- ❖ India has also built ICPs on the borders with neighbours such as Bangladesh and Pakistan.

ENVIRONMENT

Lonar and Sur sarovar lake

- ❖ The Lonar Lake in Maharashtra and Sur Sarovar lake of Agra in Uttar Pradesh have been added to the Ramsar sites.

- ❖ The Lonar lake is the only crater lake in the country.
- ❖ The crater sits inside the Deccan Traps of the Deccan Plateau.
- ❖ Two small streams called Penganga and Purna drain into Lonar lake.
- ❖ The Lonar lake is usually green in colour due to the presence of Cyanobacteria.
- ❖ The lake in June 2020 turned pink.
- ❖ This was due to the presence of salt loving bacteria called haloarchaea or halophilic archaea.
- ❖ These bacteria are associated with high salinity.
- ❖ The pink colour of the lake was not permanent.
- ❖ The Sur Sarovar lake is also called the Keetham lake.
- ❖ The Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 at Iran by the UNESCO.
- ❖ With this inclusion of two wetlands, the total sites in India is 41.
- ❖ It is the highest in the South Asia region.

New Tree Frog species at Andaman

- ❖ The scientists from the Zoological Survey of India have discovered a genus of tree frog found in the Andaman Islands and the northeast.
- ❖ The *Rohanixalus vittatus* (Striped Bubble-nest frog) is reported from the Andaman Islands.
- ❖ It is named after Sri Lankan taxonomist Rohan Pethiyagoda.
- ❖ This is the first time a tree frog species has been found in the Andaman Islands.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

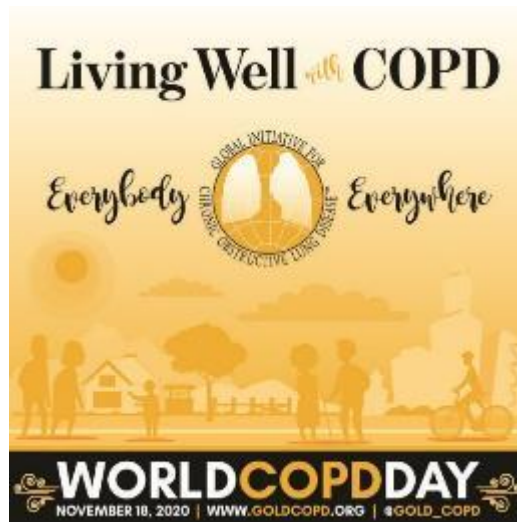
2020 UN Population Award

- ❖ Gyalyum Sangay Choden Wangchuck, the Queen Mother of Bhutan, was announced as the individual laureate for the 2020 United Nations Population Award.
- ❖ HelpAge India was announced as the award's institutional laureate.
- ❖ HelpAge India has been working for the disadvantaged elderly people in India for nearly four decades.
- ❖ This Award was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981.
- ❖ It recognizes contributions in the fields of population and reproductive health.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease Day (COPD) – November 18

- ❖ It is organized by the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD).
- ❖ The 2020 theme will be "Living Well with COPD - Everybody, Everywhere".
- ❖ According to World Health Organization, COPD will be the third leading cause of death worldwide by 2030.
- ❖ Smoking is the leading cause of COPD (both active and passive smoking).



National Bird Day – November 12

- ❖ It is the birth anniversary of ornithologist Salim Ali.
- ❖ He born at Bombay in 1896.
- ❖ He is referred the "Birdman of India".
- ❖ He was the first Indian to conduct systematic bird surveys across India.
- ❖ He wrote several books that popularized ornithology in India.
- ❖ “The Handbook of the Birds of India and Pakistan” has been considered his famous book.
- ❖ He became a key figure behind the creation of Bombay Natural History Society and the Bharatpur bird sanctuary (Keoladeo National Park) in Rajasthan.
- ❖ In 2016, the Himalayan forest thrush - found commonly in the eastern part of the mountain range - was named *Zoothera salimalii*.
- ❖ Maharashtra celebrates November 5 to 12 as Bird Week of the State.

