

November - 10

TNPSC BITS

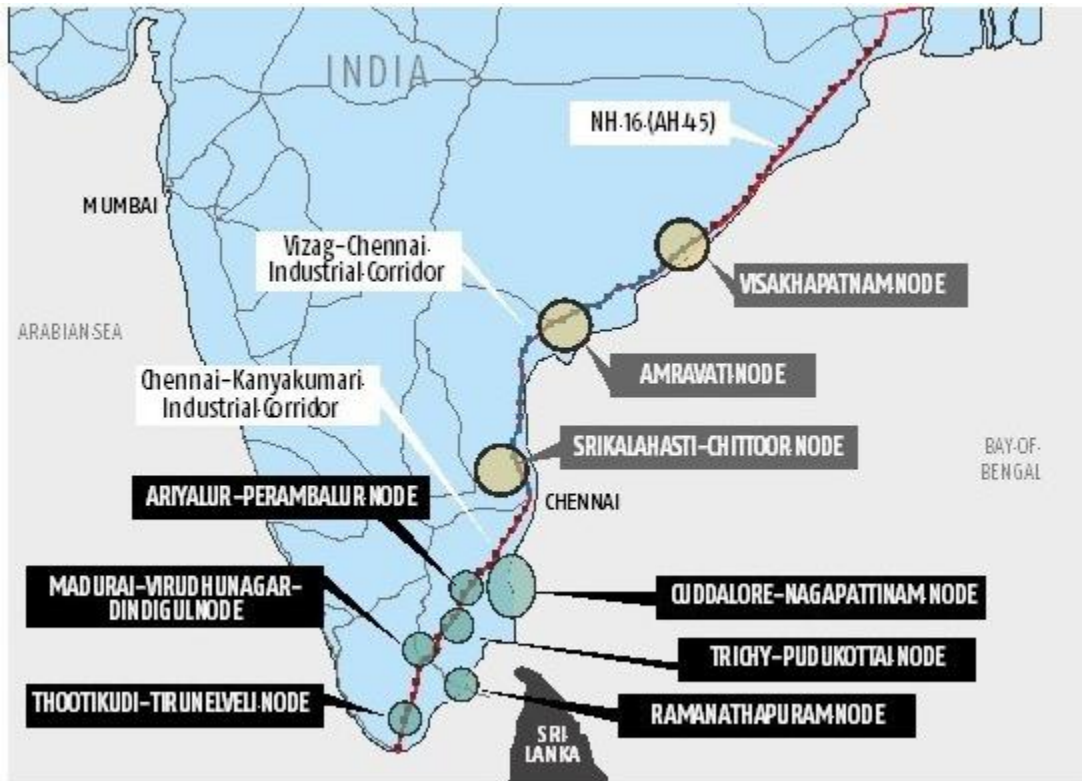
- ❖ The International Yoga and Naturopathy Medical Science Centre is coming up at the Chengalpattu Medical College.
 - It is the first one in India in this category.
- ❖ The government has approved a fund of Rs 25,000 crore as AIF for the reviving of stalled housing projects across the country.
 - Alternative Investment Fund or AIF collects funds from certain investors for investing it in accordance with a defined investment policy for the benefit of its investors.
- ❖ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Mishra as the chairman of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI).
 - LPAI develops, sanitises and manage the facilities for cross-border movement of passengers and goods at designated points along the international borders of India.
- ❖ The 5th International Conference on Road Tech (Sustainable Roads and Highways) was recently held in New Delhi.
 - The Conference Agenda was 'Smart Use of Available Resources for Green and Sustainable Roads'.
- ❖ Gandhinagar becomes first kerosene-free district of Gujarat.
- ❖ The first-ever Ladakh Literature Festival was held recently at the Leh Palace of Ladakh.
- ❖ Six elephants recently died in an accident at the Haew Narok Waterfall in the national park in Thailand.
 - The waterfall is in Khao Yai National Park, where there are about 300 wild elephants.

TAMIL NADU

Chennai-Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor

- ❖ Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$451-million loan to strengthen power connectivity between the southern and northern parts of the Chennai - Kanyakumari Industrial Corridor (CKIC) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The East Coast Economic Corridor (ECEC) is India's first coastal economic corridor covering 2500 km of India's coastline, to be developed with the help of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

- ❖ CKIC is the second phase of ECEC.
- ❖ CKIC and its infrastructure plan will be aligned with Vision 2023 of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Sagarmala initiative.



Chennai Air Pollution

- ❖ The particulate matter 2.5 in the air over Chennai recently hovered above 100 $\mu\text{m}/\text{m}^3$.
- ❖ The Realtime monitoring station of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has consistently recorded AQI (Air Quality Index) over 300 at Chennai.
- ❖ As per National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), AQI between 51-100 is considered satisfactory.

Thozhi Scheme

- ❖ The Chennai city police have assigned 70 policewomen to provide counselling to victims in sexual assault cases (POCSO cases), under a scheme called Thozhi.
- ❖ There are 35 all-woman police stations in Chennai, and each police station will have two policewomen assigned for the Thozhi scheme.

- ❖ They will keep track of the POCSO case victims, apart from giving them counselling and all possible assistance to them.
- ❖ They will be provided pink saris embedded with Nirbhaya logo as a mark of safety.



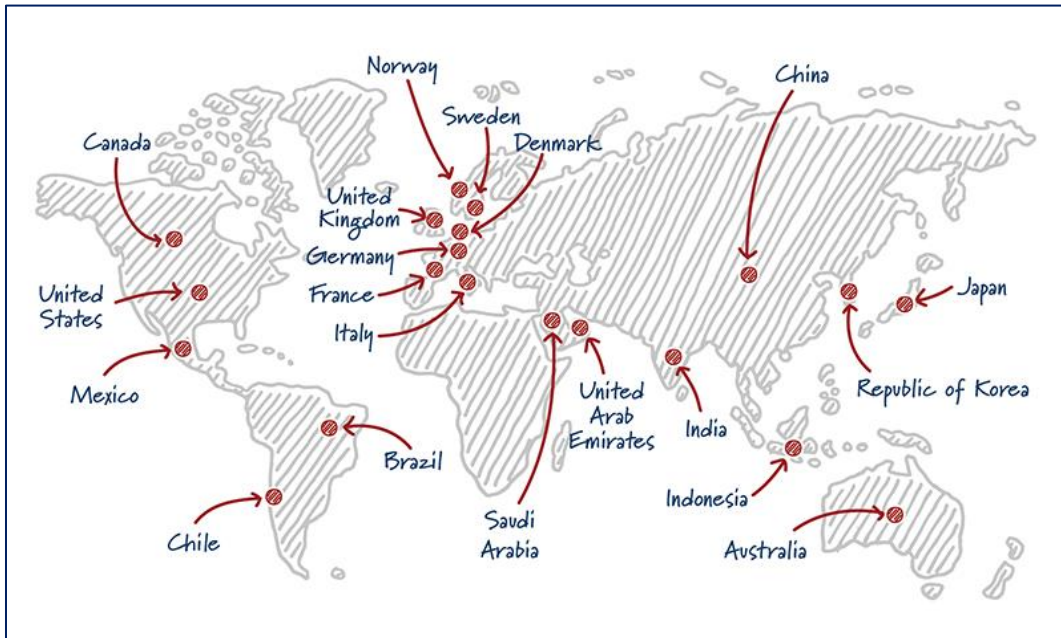
NATIONAL

Mission Innovation (MI)

- ❖ The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Health and Family Welfare, Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Mission Innovation (MI) Face to Face meeting of Innovation Challenges (IC) at Delhi.
- ❖ The objective of the meeting is to take stock of the deliverables by MI and its plans until 2020.
- ❖ Another major objective is to identify major gap areas in Clean Energy Innovation and how to address these beyond 2020 to make MI more impactful.
- ❖ India plans to increase renewable energy capacity to much beyond 175 GW by 2022.

About

- ❖ Prime Minister coined the name Mission Innovation (MI).
- ❖ It was launched on 30 November 2015 by 20 countries during COP-21 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference.
- ❖ MI currently comprises of 24 member countries and the European Commission.



- ❖ The member countries have committed to double Government funding on clean energy research and development over five years.
- ❖ The mission will accelerate research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) in technology areas that would fight against climate change.

National Panchayat Awards 2019

- ❖ Out of the 2.5 lakh panchayats in the country 240 panchayats were conferred the National Panchayat Awards 2019 by Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Minister for Panchayati Raj in New Delhi.
- ❖ The Minister also launched a Spatial Planning Application called 'Gram Manchitra' which is a Geo Spatial based decision support system for the panchayats.
- ❖ The Centre conferred the 'e-Panchayat Puraskar award' on Tamil Nadu for being the top performing State in facilitating the use of Informational and Communication Technology tools (ICT) in third-tier cities.

INTERNATIONAL

Danakil Depression

- ❖ The scientists have found a place on earth Dallol geothermal springs in Ethiopia's Danakil Depression, which has water but absolutely no life.

- ❖ The Dallol landscape is replete with a number of hyper acidic - hypersaline lakes which give off vibrant hues of greens, yellows and shades of other colours.
- ❖ This hellish, salty water world is generally considered the hottest inhabited place on the planet.

Danakil Depression

- ❖ The Danakil Depression is the northern part of the Afar Triangle or Afar Depression in Ethiopia
- ❖ The Danakil Depression lies at the triple junction of three tectonic plates and has a complex geological history.
- ❖ It has developed as a result of Africa and Asia moving apart, causing rifting and volcanic activity.
- ❖ The Danakil Depression is the hottest place on Earth in terms of year-round average temperatures.
- ❖ It is also one of the lowest places on the planet, and without rain for most of the year.
- ❖ The area is often referred to as the cradle of humanity.



Programme for International Student Assessment - PISA 2021

- ❖ India is preparing teachers and students of the participating schools in accordance with PISA test standards.
- ❖ PISA is meant to assess key knowledge and skills of 15-year-old students in mathematics, science and reading.
- ❖ It covers all forms of schooling including public, private and private aided.



- ❖ OCED introduced the PISA test in 2000, and has since conducted it every three years.
- ❖ India has participated in PISA test only once in 2009.
- ❖ After an abysmal performance, India stayed away from the test in 2012 and 2015.
- ❖ The Union Human Resources Development Ministry has signed an agreement with OECD for India's Participation in PISA 2021.

ECONOMY

Liquidity coverage ratio norms for NBFC

- ❖ Liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) norms for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) will take effect on 1 December 2020.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is extending its previous deadline date of 1 April of 2020.
- ❖ NBFCs with assets of ₹10,000 crore and above will have to maintain a minimum of 50% of LCR as high quality liquid assets (HQLA).
- ❖ Those with assets of ₹5000-10,000 crore will have to maintain 30% LCR.
- ❖ In both cases, LCR will be progressively increased to 100% by December 2024.

Atal Pension Yojana

- ❖ The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has crossed 1.9 crore subscriber mark.
- ❖ It is a flagship pension scheme of the government to cover the workers in the unorganized sector and are not covered under any social security scheme.
- ❖ Among public sector banks, State Bank of India contributed with nearly 11.5 lakh additions.
- ❖ Under private sector bank category, HDFC Bank was the top contributor in terms of number of enrolments.
- ❖ The PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority) has envisioned to expand the subscribers base under APY by targeting 2.25 crore people by March 2020.

Moody's - 'negative' from 'stable'.

- ❖ Moody's Investors Service, the investor-focused arm of ratings agency Moody's, has downgraded its outlook on India to 'negative' from 'stable'.
- ❖ The agency, however, has retained India's credit rating at Baa2.

- ❖ Moody's Investors Service, often referred to as Moody's, is the bond credit rating business of Moody's Corporation.
- ❖ It is an American business and financial services company.

Maharatna Status

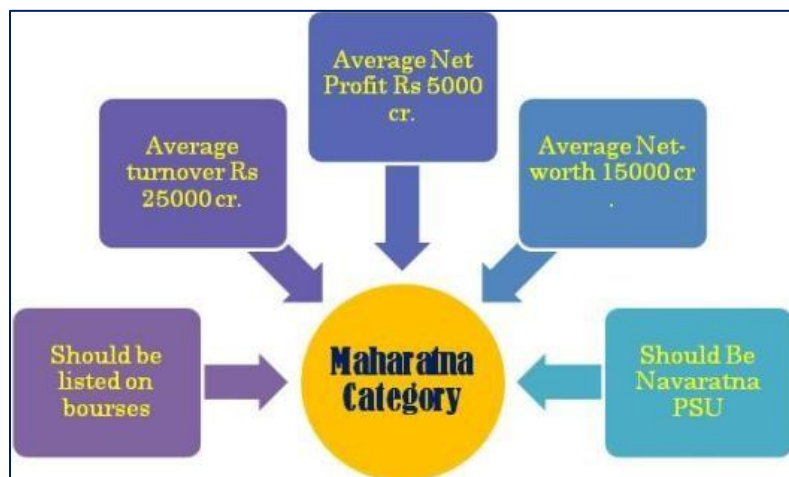
- ❖ The union Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises accorded 'Maharatna' status to state-owned Hindustan Petroleum and Power Grid Corporation.
- ❖ Power Grid Corporation of India Limited is India's largest electric power transmission utility firm.
- ❖ As of 23 October 2019, there are 10 Maharatnas, 14 Navratnas and 73 Miniratnas.

Benefits

- ❖ Being awarded since 2010, the Status will give them greater operational and financial autonomy.
- ❖ It will impart enhanced powers to their boards to take financial decisions.
- ❖ The Government raises a company's investment ceiling from Rs. 1,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crores.
- ❖ The Maharatna firms can now decide on investments of up to 15 per cent of their net worth in a project.

Eligibility

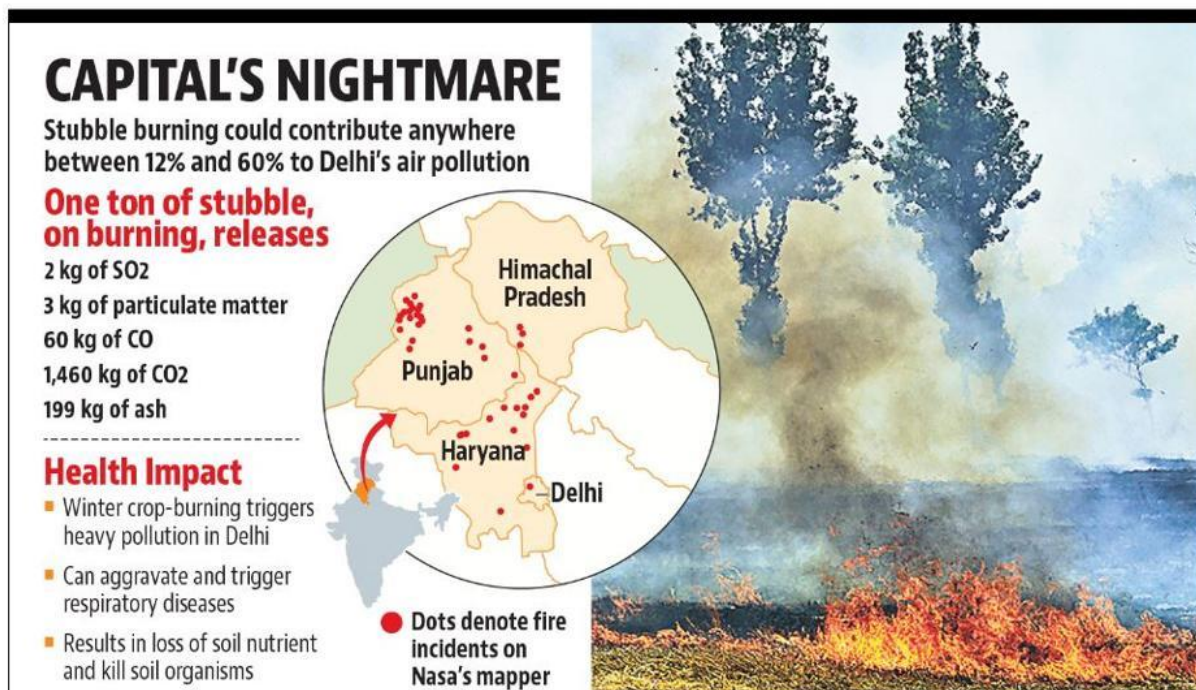
- ❖ Three years with an average annual net profit of over Rs. 2500 crore, OR
- ❖ Average annual Net worth of Rs. 10,000 crore for 3 years, OR
- ❖ Average annual Turnover of Rs. 20,000 crore for 3 years (against Rs 25,000 crore prescribed earlier).



ENVIRONMENT

Report on Stubble Burning

- ❖ The ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) Creams Laboratory bulletin stated that there has been reduction of 12% in incidents of Stubble Burning as compared to the same period in 2018.
- ❖ There were burning events in the three states Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana as on October 2019.
- ❖ The report says that the reduction is mainly due to the launch of Central Scheme “Promotional of Agricultural Mechanization of In-Situ Management of Crop Residue in Punjab, UP and Haryana and NCT of Delhi”.
- ❖ New Delhi is worst affected due to stubble burning in the three states.
- ❖ The Stubble burning smoke reaching Delhi is greatly influenced by the Western Disturbances.
- ❖ Recently, the Chennai-based M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) established a Rice BioPark at Nay Pyi Taw of Myanmar, funded by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, which was inaugurated by the President of India.
- ❖ The Rice Biopark showed how stubble can be utilized to make products including paper, cardboard and animal feed.



MS Swaminathan's solution

- ❖ Blaming the farmers would offer no solution.
- ❖ Instead, setting up of rice bio parks could generate employment and cattle feed.
- ❖ There are many economic uses of rice straw.
- ❖ In South India, stubble is not burnt as there's economic value as animal feed.

Nelloptodes gretae

- ❖ Nelloptodes gretae, a species of beetle, was named after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, the 16-year-old Swedish environmental campaigner.
- ❖ It was named by Scientists at the Natural History Museum in London.
- ❖ Nelloptodes gretae was first found in Kenya in the 1960s.
- ❖ It was later donated to the Natural History Museum in London in 1978.



Bio Bricks

- ❖ Researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad (IIT-H) and KIIT School of Architecture, Bhubaneswar, have developed bio-bricks from agricultural waste.
- ❖ Bio-bricks can not only manage agricultural waste, which often ends up being burnt, but also provide affordable building materials.
- ❖ Over 22 per cent of India's total annual carbon-dioxide emissions is due to the construction sector.



STATES

Exhibition on Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day

- ❖ Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on 29 October.
- ❖ There was an exhibition opened in this regard.
- ❖ It is observed to commemorate destruction brought by Super Cyclone 1999 and to prepare ourselves for future disasters.
- ❖ Theme of Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day for year 2019 was 'Empowering Community for Disaster Resilience'.

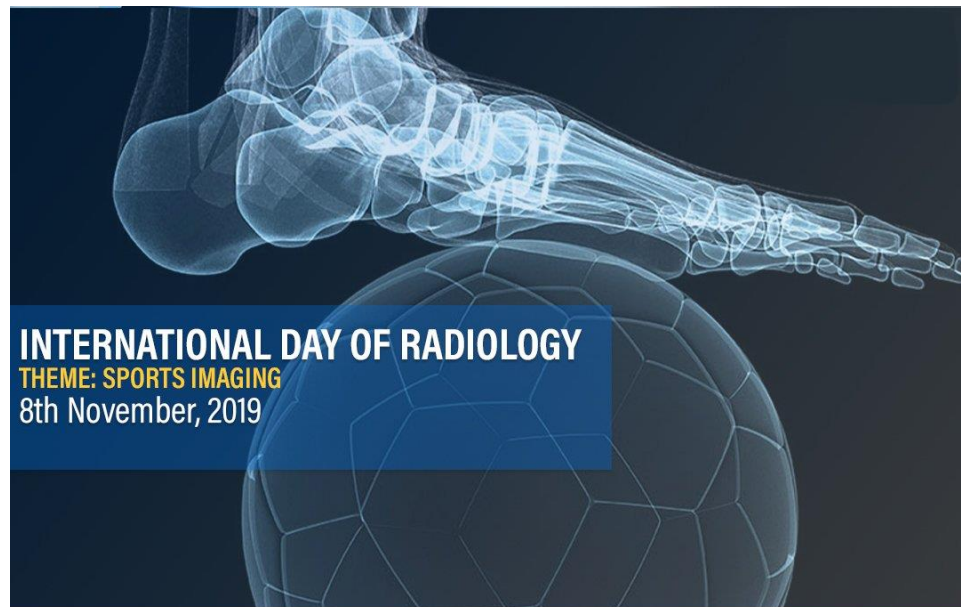
'Odisha Mo Parivar' initiative

- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister Biju Janata Dal (BJD) supremo Naveen Patnaik launched 'Odisha-Mo Parivar' (Odisha My Family), a social service initiative of the party.
- ❖ It is aimed at encouraging environment protection, blood donation and the welfare of Odias in distress.
- ❖ It will also come to the rescue of Odias stranded in foreign countries.
- ❖ The initiative is a tribute to late Biju Patnaik (former Chief minister of Odisha).

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Radiology – November 8

- ❖ It was established in 2012 to celebrate the changing role in modern healthcare of medical imaging.
- ❖ It is organised by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT).
- ❖ International Day of Radiology (IDOR) celebration is a week-long celebration as National Radiologic Technology Week from 3 November to 9 November 2019.
- ❖ The 8th of November is also the anniversary of the discovery of X-rays by Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen in 1895.
- ❖ 2019 theme is Sports Imaging.



World Radiography Day – November 8

- ❖ World Radiography Day is observed on 8 November since 2007, to mark the date of the discovery of Roentgen's discovery of X-radiation.
- ❖ In fact, International Radiology Day is also followed by the World Radiography Day.
- ❖ The European Society of Radiology (ESR) in 2011 resolved that there should be a celebration regarding radiology annually to mark the discovery of X-Radiation done by Roentgen on 8 November, 1895.



- ❖ Together ESR and the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) and the American College of Radiology (ACR) decided to observe the International Day of Radiology on 8 November and the first time it was celebrated in 2012.

Tamil Lexicography Day – November 8

- ❖ In a first, Tamil Nadu celebrated its first Tamil Lexicography Day on November 8.
- ❖ It marks the birth anniversary of Italian missionary Constantine Joseph Beschi, also known as Veeramamunivar.
- ❖ He was responsible for bringing out the first Tamil dictionary Chaturakarati (சதுரகராதி).
- ❖ Earlier, scholars used to document words that were in usage.
- ❖ Those collections were called 'Nigandu'.

About Veeramamunivar

- ❖ Veeramamunivar came to Tamil Nadu in 1710.
- ❖ He translated and explained in Latin the "Thirukkural".
- ❖ He also translated into European languages several other important Tamil literary works such as Devaaram (ஊர்வலம்), Thiruppugazh (திருப்புகழ்), Nannool (நன்னூல்) and Aaththichoodi (அத்திச்சூடி).
- ❖ His biggest poetical work is the Thembavani.
- ❖ He also wrote a prabandham (a minor literature) called Kaavalur Kalambagam (காவலுர் கலம்பகம்), a grammatical treatise called Thonnool (தண்ணூல்), a guide book for catechists with the title Vedhiyar Ozukkam (வேதியர் ஒழுகம்), and Paramarthaguruvin Kadhai (பரமர்த்தகுருவின் கதைய்) - The Adventures of Guru Paramartha).

