

November - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Five day-long “International Conference on Soil and Water Resources Management for Climate Smart Agriculture and Global Food and Livelihood Security” at the National Agricultural Science Centre Complex in New Delhi.
 - The conference is being organized jointly by the Soil Conservation Society of India.
- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) tested its efficiency and preparedness during the Regional Level Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise 2019 (ReSAREX- 19) conducted off the Goa coast.
 - ICG participation: 5 ships of ICG, 2 Chetak helicopters were used for the workshop.

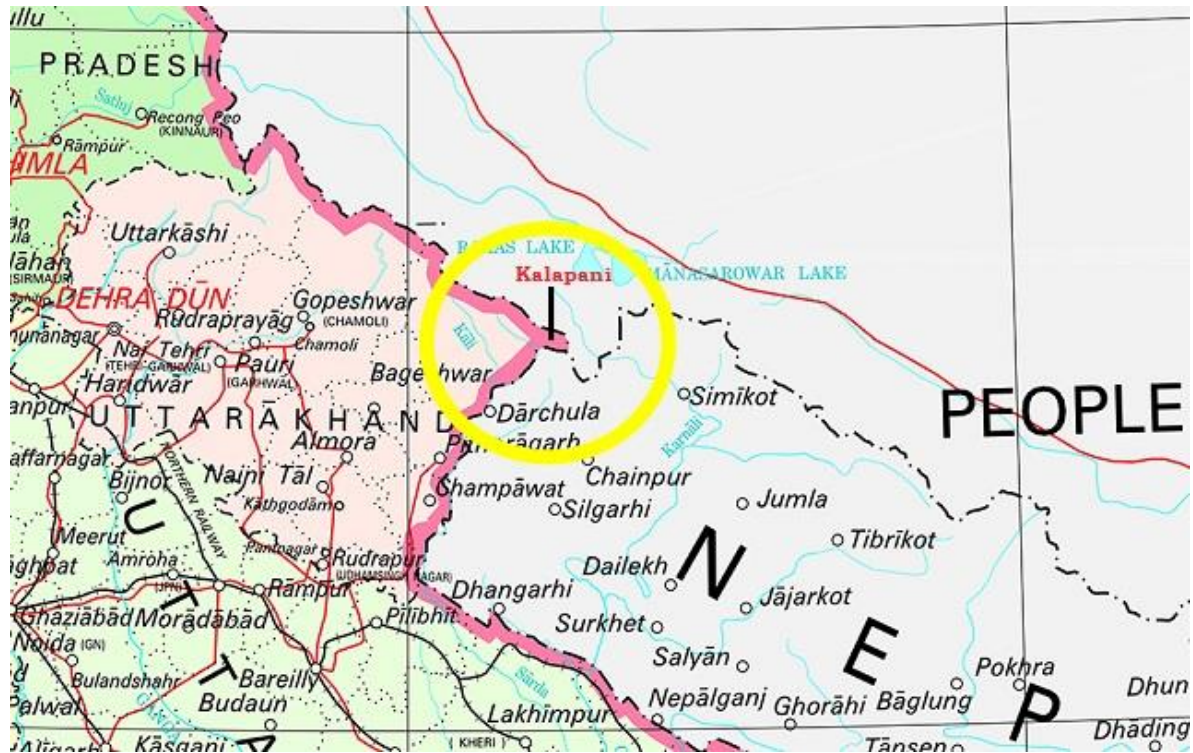
NATIONAL

Kalapani territory

- ❖ In the recently released political map of India, after the bifurcation of the state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), the Kalapani territory became the bone of contention between India and Nepal.
- ❖ In the latest political map of India, India reiterated its claims on the region that Nepal considers its own territory in Darchula district.
- ❖ According to India, the historic Kalapani region forms part of the state of Uttarakhand.

About Kalapani

- ❖ Kalapani is a valley that is administered by India as a part of the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is situated on the Kailash Mansarovar route.
- ❖ The Kali River in the Kalapani region demarcates the border between India and Nepal.
- ❖ The Treaty of Sugauli signed by the Kingdom of Nepal and British India (after Anglo-Nepalese War) in 1816 located the Kali River as Nepal's western boundary with India.



Exercise Samudra Shakthi

- ❖ India and Indonesia have carried out the bilateral maritime exercise “Samudra Shakti” in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The joint exercises focussed on surface warfare exercises, air defence exercises, weapon firing drills, helicopter operations, and boarding operations.
- ❖ Garuda Shakti is the joint military exercise between India and Indonesia.

Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019

- ❖ The ministry of steel has issued a Steel Scrap Recycling Policy 2019.
- ❖ Used or reused steel in the form of scrap is the secondary raw material for the Indian steel industry.
- ❖ The current supply of scrap is 25 million tonnes from domestic unorganized scrap industry and 7 million tonnes from import of scrap.
- ❖ The National Steel Policy 2017 aims to develop a globally competitive steel industry by creating 300 million tonnes per annum steel production capacity by 2030.

Features



- ❖ This will reduce dependency on imports and decongest the Indian cities from End of Life Vehicles (ELVs).
- ❖ The policy envisages to promote the establishment of metal scrapping centres in India.
- ❖ Focus on the Environment
 - The Policy will work on the Principles of 6Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Recover, Redesign and Remanufacture.
 - It aims to reduce Green House Gas (GHG) emissions.
 - It also aims to create a mechanism for treating waste streams and residues produced from dismantling and shredding facilities in compliance with Hazardous & Other Wastes (Management & Transboundary Movement) Rules, 2016 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC).

INTERNATIONAL

CARAT - 2019: US-Bangladesh Navy exercise

- ❖ The biggest US - Bangladesh Navy exercise dubbed as ‘Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) – 2019’ is being held in Chattogram (or Chittagong City) in Bangladesh.
- ❖ The CARAT is a yearly exercise conducted between the navies of Bangladesh and United States in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The first edition of exercise was held in 2011.

IORA Council of Ministers meeting

- ❖ Minister of State in the External Affairs Ministry V. Muraleedharan attended the 19th Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meeting at Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ The theme is “Promoting a Shared Destiny and Path to Prosperity in the Indian Ocean.”
- ❖ During this ministerial meeting, the United Arab Emirates will take over from South Africa as IORA Chairman, for a two-year period running to 2021.

About IORA

- ❖ The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an international organisation consisting of 22 coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.
- ❖ The organisation was first established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in Mauritius on March 1995 and formally launched on March 1997.



- ❖ Headquarter: Mauritius.

ECONOMY

Financial Stability and Development Council

- ❖ The 21st Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held recently.
- ❖ It focusses on financial literacy and financial inclusion.
- ❖ FSDC was established in 2010 with Union Finance Minister as its Chairman.
- ❖ Its members include
 - The heads of financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA, and IRDA)
 - Finance Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs
 - Secretary, Department of Financial Services
 - Chief Economic Adviser
 - Chairman of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board
- ❖ FSDC sub-committee is chaired by the Governor of RBI.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DRDO's Igniter Complex @ Pune

- ❖ The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Igniter Complex inaugurated at High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) in Pune.

About HEMRL and the ignition phenomenon

- ❖ HEMRL is a premier laboratory of DRDO.
- ❖ It primarily engages in developing Rocket and Gun Propellants, Pyrotechnic Devices, High Explosive Systems and synthesis of high energy molecules.
- ❖ Ignition system for Agni, Prithvi, Akash, Nag, Pinaka, Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM), etc. have been designed and developed in HEMRL.

STATES

Lightning Strikes in India

- ❖ As per the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there were 9 lakh lightning strikes between April 1 and July 31 this year.



- ❖ This is the first time the weather monitoring body has released the data on total lightning strikes across the country.
- ❖ The data for the months of April till July was compiled by IMD's Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROSPC).
- ❖ The report was prepared as part of a three-year study period under Lightning Resilient India campaign.

Findings

- ❖ Odisha recorded the highest number of lightning strikes in the country, while Jammu and Kashmir recorded the least number of strikes.
- ❖ Most number of deaths due to lightning strikes were reported from Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The highest intensity lightning strikes were observed in Chhotanagpur plateau in East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand.
- ❖ The area also received the maximum number of strikes for a district.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

RBS India - Earth Heroes Awards

- ❖ RBS India, the innovation and operations hub of Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) announced the winners of RBS Earth Heroes Awards (REHA), who have played significant role in combating climate change.
- ❖ The year 2019 is the 9th edition of REHA.
- ❖ The theme for 2019 awards was 'Climate Change'.

RBS Earth Heroes Awards (REHA)2019 Winners

- Bholu Abrar Khan of Bharatpur (Rajasthan): Green Warrior,
- Dimbeshwar Das of Assam: Green Warrior,
- Ela Foundation (Pune): Earth Guardian,
- Aishwarya Maheshwari (Uttar Pradesh): Save the Species,
- Sathish (Tamil Nadu): Save the Species,
- Jalal Ud Din Baba (Jammu & Kashmir): Inspire,
- Pramila Bisoyi (Odisha): Lifetime Achievement.

3 books on teachings of Guru Nanak ji

- ❖ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and Food Processing Industries minister Harsimrat kaur launched National Book Trust's 3 prestigious books on Guru Nanak Dev ji.

- ❖ The following books were launched to commemorate the 550th year of Guru Nanak Dev ji.
 - Guru Nanak Bani,
 - Nanak Bani &
 - Sakhian Guru Nanak Dev,
- ❖ The books were launched to spread the message of Guru Nanak Dev Ji writings among readers of Indian sub-continent.

