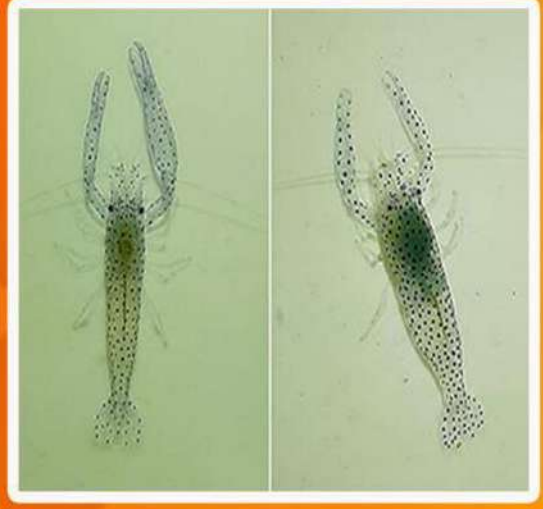


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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Poland's Constitutional Tribunal has ruled that an existing law allowing abortion of malformed fetuses is unconstitutional.
- ❖ India-Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE) was launched by the Atal Innovation Mission in association with CSIRO of Australia.
- ❖ The new Prime Minister of Japan, Yoshihide Suga announced recently that the country will achieve zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- ❖ International Animation Day was observed on October 28.
- ❖ The Vice President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Confederation of Indian Industry's (CII) Green Building Congress 2020.
 - During this event, the CII launched the GreenPro Ecolabel Standard for Steel Rebars.
- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi International Airport of Hyderabad is the first one in India to start paperless e-boarding.
 - This is the first step towards e-boarding facility for international flights.
- ❖ Indian Railways has launched "Meri Saheli" initiative for focused action on security of women across all zones.
 - Its objective is to provide safety and security to lady passengers travelling by trains for their entire journey from starting station to destination station.
- ❖ The state government of Karnataka has proposed a ban on government servants acting in films and television programmes.
- ❖ The Indian Navy test fired the Anti-Ship Missile from INS Kora in Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ Indian Army has launched a messaging app called Secure Application for Internet (SAI).
 - It will provide secure voice, text and video calling services to its soldiers.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force test fired the Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft.
 - It was an air-launched version of the BrahMos.
- ❖ The Status of Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Kamal Nath as a star campaigner for the party WAS revoked by the Election Commission of India.
 - It was issues for "repeated violation of Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and for completely disregarding the advisory issued to him".
- ❖ Typhoon Rolly or Goni has recently hit Philippines.
- ❖ The BCCI announced that Jio will be the title sponsor of the Women's T-20 Challenge.
 - It will be held in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.



- ❖ The Finance Ministry has informed that around Rs. 1,05,155 crore worth of GST revenue has been collected in October 2020.
 - It is an 8-month high figure.
- ❖ Rajasthan government bans sale of firecrackers amid COVID - 19 crisis.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology, Madras has developed “IITM COVID Game” to create awareness about the COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ Pakistan’s Aleem Dar breaks South Africa’s Rudi Koertzen’s record of most ODIs (210) as on-field umpire.
- ❖ India’s first-ever e-resource centre and virtual court for traffic and transport to enable speedy justice for litigants, called ‘Nyay Kaushal’ was established at Nagpur.
- ❖ Legendary violin maestro and Padma Bhushan awardee TN Krishnan passed away in Chennai.
 - He was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1973 and Padma Bhushan in 1992.
- ❖ Twitter introduces ArtHouse in India to help brands optimizing their content.
- ❖ The Army Chief General MM Naravane to visit Nepal to receive the honouring rank of 'General of the Nepal Army'.
- ❖ The first solar energy driven train was launched in Kerala by CM Pinarayi Vijayan.
 - The train is first of its kind in the country.
- ❖ Priyanka Radhakrishnan was appointed as the first-ever Indian-origin minister of New Zealand by the country’s Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.
- ❖ India’s Rutuja Bhosale won the women’s singles title at the ITF women’s tennis tournament.
 - The tournament was held at Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt.
- ❖ National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Chairman Dilip Rath has been unanimously elected to the board of the International Dairy Federation.
- ❖ The Union Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan recently released the report prepared by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) titled “Estimating the Economic Benefits of Investment in Monsoon Mission and High-Performance Computing Facilities”.
- ❖ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved acquisition of General Insurance Business of Bharti AXA General Insurance Company Limited (Bharti AXA) by ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited.
- ❖ The incumbent President of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, has won a third 5-year term in a landslide victory.
- ❖ Kerala became the fifth state after Maharashtra, West Bengal, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh to withdraw the general consent accorded to the CBI.

- ❖ Adani Gas has acquired the city gas distribution (CGD) network in three Geographical Areas (GA) namely Ludhiana, Jalandhar and Kutch (East).
- ❖ Every year on the 5th of November, Roma in Europe celebrate the International Romani Language Day.
 - UNESCO proclaimed this Day in 2015 to promote the preservation of Romani language and culture.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is home to at least 100 of the top 2% scientists in the world, according to a database developed by Stanford University.
 - The Indian Institute of Technology Madras leads the list.
- ❖ The United States has formally left the Paris Climate Agreement signed in 2015.
- ❖ Chacha Chaudhary becomes the Brand Ambassador for Namami Gange Project.
- ❖ Rupsi Airport in Assam has become to operational.
 - It is Assam 7th Airport as well as North East's 14th Airport.
- ❖ The 360-degree video-immersive experience in circular dome and Digital Exhibits on Mahatma Gandhi installed at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, in New Delhi was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ Bangladesh has opened its first Islamic school for transgender Muslims with clerics.
- ❖ The Sector 50 station of the Greater Noida Metro was dedicated to the transgender community.
 - It will now be called the "Rainbow Station" as well as Pride Station.
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has issued a notification on FASTAGs.
 - It is making them mandatory for four wheelers from 1st of January 2021.
- ❖ The storm Eta had made landfall in Guatemala.
 - It is a Central American country.
- ❖ Indian diplomat Vidisha Maitra was elected to the U.N. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).
 - The ACABQ is a subsidiary organ of the United Nations.
- ❖ The Union Minister of Jal Shakti, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the country's first solar-based Integrated Multi-Village Water Supply Project (IMVWSP) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Japan proclaimed officially Crown Fumihito, the Prince Akishino as heir to the throne at the Rikkoshi no rei ceremony in Tokyo.
 - His elder brother Emperor Naruhito became monarch last year.
- ❖ Sudan was removed from the list of State Sponsors of Terrorism.
 - It is a list generated by the United States.



- ❖ The Gujarat High Court became the first to live stream judicial proceedings on YouTube channel.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT), headed by Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel, bans sale and use of firecrackers in National Capital Region and other cities with poor air quality.
- ❖ The State government of Punjab has withdrawn its general consent provided to the Central Bureau of Investigation for investigating cases in the state.
- ❖ India and Australia water centre has been inaugurated in Guwahati in Assam.
- ❖ The US President Joe Biden appointed Dr Vivek Murthy led covid-19 task force.
 - Dr Vivek Murthy is a person of Indian Origin.
- ❖ India attended first BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meet.
 - The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman represented India at the meet.
- ❖ India's longest single-lane motorable suspension bridge has been inaugurated in Tehri-Garhwal district of Uttarakhand.
 - The bridge is 725-metre long and has been built over the Tehri lake.
- ❖ Assam's Tezpur Litchi has been given the geographical indication (GI) tag.
- ❖ World Kindness Day is an international observance on 13 November.
- ❖ The Ministry of Power, Government of India has released an official notification.
 - It mandates all the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOMs) to comply Energy Conservation (EC) Act, 2001.
- ❖ Armenia and Azerbaijan signed a peace deal to end the ongoing conflict on Nagorno-Karabakh Region.
 - The peace deal between the countries was brokered by Russia.
- ❖ The author Ruskin bond has published a book 'How to Be a Writer'.
- ❖ Indian-origin Dr Celine Gounder part of Biden's COVID-19 taskforce.
 - Her father is from Perumalpalyam, Modakurichi near Erode.
- ❖ Indian Army gifted twenty trained horses and mine detection dogs to Bangladesh Army.
- ❖ The Central Government has passed an order bringing online news, films, audio-visual programmes, digital content providers such as Netflix under the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry.
 - Till now, there was no autonomous body to govern the digital content.
- ❖ India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) report on 'Deepening Cooperation in IBSA: Perspectives from Key Sectors' has been launched by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



- ❖ The government has notified Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund (SWF) is the first one in India to be eligible for full income tax exemptions.
- ❖ The second World Health Expo was held in Wuhan, China.
- ❖ A group of Indian researchers from Bangalore's Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) have developed an eco-friendly smart screen from discarded groundnut shells.
- ❖ Puducherry government rolls out free breakfast scheme for school students named after TN's Ex CM Karunanidhi.
- ❖ The World Health Organization announced that it is to set up a traditional medicine centre in India.
- ❖ In a first for India, the Mumbai Metro Rail will lay vibration-absorbing tracks.
 - It will absorb vibrations up to 22 Vibration Decibels (Vdb).
- ❖ India's first Sandalwood Museum is being established at Mysuru, Karnataka.
- ❖ The Bollywood Actor Sonu Sood is all set to pen his autobiography titled 'I Am No Messiah.'
- ❖ The Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has unveiled 'Project Air Care' to combat rising Air Pollution in Gurgaon.
- ❖ The book titled 'A Promised Land', authored by former US President Barack Obama, is set to be released.
- ❖ The National Epilepsy Day is observed on November 17th in India.
 - Epilepsy is a chronic disorder of brain.
- ❖ Every Year the National Journalism Day is celebrated on 17 November in India.
- ❖ Ayodhya's 'Deepotsav' celebrations entered into Guinness World Records.
 - Around 5,84,572 earthen lamps were lit on the banks of river Saryu.
- ❖ The star of Bengali cinema and winner of the Dada Saheb Phalke Award Soumitra Chatterjee recently passed away.
- ❖ The writer Rachna Bisht Rawat recently published her book 'Insomnia: Army Stories'.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ The First Solar Powered Textile mill in Asia is to come up in Parbhani district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The World Bank and DIPAM (Department of Investment and Public Asset Management) signed an agreement.

- Under the agreement, the World Bank is to advise DIPAM on asset monetisation.
- ❖ Japan and Australia are to sign the “Reciprocal Access Agreement” to counter the growing influence of China in the South China sea and in the Pacific Island Nations.
 - This is the first agreement of Japan to allow foreign military presence in its sovereign territory since 1960.
- ❖ The Peruvian President Manuel Merino was forced out of power.
- ❖ Vietnam, the chair of Asean 2020, virtually hosted the 37th Asean Summit
- ❖ Larsen and Toubro delivered the first hardware of Gaganyaan Mission to the Indian Space Research Organization.
- ❖ Hurricane Iota has made landfall in Nicaragua in Central America.
- ❖ The England Cricket team will make their first visit to Pakistan in 2021, for the first time in 16 years.
- ❖ The Forest Rights Act 2006 has been implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.
 - The Act recognises the rights of forest-dwelling communities for the first time in the Union Territory.
- ❖ The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the United States has confirmed that a deadly virus called Chapare can now be transmitted from human to human.
- ❖ Bolivia is currently facing an outbreak of the virus.
- ❖ The US Government announced that the US troops in Afghanistan and Iraq will be reduced.
- ❖ The International Fraud Awareness Week is to be celebrated between 15th to 21st of November.
- ❖ 19 November is celebrated as the World Citizen Day.
- ❖ Moldova has elected the former Prime Minister Maia Sandu as its first-ever female President.
- ❖ The world’s only known White Giraffe was fitted with GPS tracking device in Kenya.
 - The Giraffe is white in colour due to a rare genetic condition called Leucism.
- ❖ Sonu Sood was appointed as State Icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India.
- ❖ The Veteran Journalist and News Agency ANI chairman Prem Prakash released his new book "Reporting India".
- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that the Women’s T20 World Cup has been moved from its current 2022 slot to 2023 at South Africa.

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled two books 'The Republican Ethic Volume III' and 'Loktantra Ke Swar'.
 - They are collections of selected speeches of President Ram Nath Kovind.
- ❖ Delhi Airport becomes first airport in Asia-Pacific region to get Level 4+ carbon accreditation.
- ❖ The Minister of Commerce, Piyush Goyal addressed the Asia Health 2020 summit.
 - The summit was organised by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- ❖ In a first, the Army has accorded project sanction order to OshoCorp Global for development and supply of specialised ammunition for its T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks.
 - This is the first time the Indian Army has made a contract with the private sector.
- ❖ Dr Bish Agrawal, a Founding member of Alto Partners and Founding Chairman of Accord India, has just been awarded the AESC Lifetime Achievement Award 2020.
 - It is the first time this award is given to an Indian as well as an Asian.
- ❖ Adam Yao Liu was declared the winner of Export-Import Bank of India's (India Exim Bank's) BRICS Economic Research Award 2020.
- ❖ The chief minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh unveiled the blueprint for Atma nirbhar Madhya Pradesh by 2023.
 - Madhya Pradesh is the first state to release a roadmap for self-reliance on the strategy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Atma nirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ India's first moss garden was developed in Nainital of Uttarakhand.
 - The garden was developed to conserve the various species of moss and other bryophytes.
- ❖ Odisha's Bhubaneswar becomes the 1st city in the entire country to receive the ISO-9001:2015 certification for effective Faecal Sludge & Septage Management.
- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Steel has launched Seismic Survey campaign of Oil India Limited in the Mahanadi basin of Odisha.
- ❖ The India - Japan Mutual Agreement Procedure won OECD Mutual Agreement Procedure 2019 Award.
- ❖ PM Narendra Modi and Bhutanese PM Lotay Tshering jointly launched RuPay card Phase II that will allow Bhutan citizens to access RuPay network in India.
 - The phase I was launched in August 2019.
- ❖ Mumbai becomes the 1st Indian city with designated infrastructure for women in its urban plan.



- ❖ The Union Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba chaired a meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review the status of impending Cyclone.
- ❖ India has set up Bhabhatron, a radiotherapy machine at Antananarivo, Capital of Madagascar to strengthen the ties with Madagascar.
- ❖ India called for a “New Global Index” for the post-Corona world at the G20 Nations summit held virtually.
- ❖ The First cow hospital of Northeast was inaugurated in Assam's Dibrugarh.
- ❖ The Former and longest-served Chief Minister of Assam Tarun Gogoi (87) passed away.
 - He had served as the Chief Minister of Assam for three terms from 2001 to 2016 on behalf of Indian National Congress.
- ❖ India's current account surplus rose to a record \$19.8 billion in April-June as its trade deficit narrowed sharply.
- ❖ Niti Aayog formed a panel to explore the technological and commercial viability of the Virgin Hyperloop technology.
 - The committee has Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat as its Chairman.
- ❖ Recently, Willow Warbler has been sighted for the first time in the country at Punchakkari, Kerala.
 - It is one of the longest migrating small birds that breed throughout northern and temperate Europe.
- ❖ The Malayalam film Jallikattu has been selected as India's official entry for Oscars in the foreign-language film category.
- ❖ Greg Barclay of New Zealand was appointed as the Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
 - He will be replacing Shashank Manohar of India.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet passed an ordinance against the forced religious conversions in the state.
 - It will also declare marriage being done for the sake of conversion as null and void.
- ❖ Germany is planning to impose a mandatory quota for the number of women working in senior management positions in the country's listed firms.
- ❖ The International Computer Security Day is celebrated annually on November 30.
 - It is designed to raise awareness and to promote best practices in Information Security.

TAMIL NADU

Karpom Eluthuvom Movement

- ❖ The school education department has planned to implement a program called 'Karpom Eluthuvom Movement' (கற்போம் எழுதுவோம்) in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ It aims to imparting basic literacy to the illiterate above the age of 15 years.
- ❖ The program will be implemented by the State Non-School and Adult Education Directorate.
- ❖ The project is to be implemented from November entirely by volunteers.
- ❖ According to the 2011 census, 1.24 crore people above the age of 15 are completely illiterate in Tamil Nadu.

Yaadhum Oore Conference

- ❖ TN Chief Minister Edappadi Palanisamy inaugurated the three-day virtual conference named 'yaadhum oore' (யாதும் ஊரே) conference on 29.10.2020.
- ❖ In this online conference is attended by 10,000 entrepreneurs from 38 countries.
- ❖ Chief Minister introduced the "yaadhum oore" scheme in 2019 to attract foreign investment.

Madurai AIIMS

- ❖ The former ICMR director VM Katoch, who is currently president of JIPMER, has been appointed as the president of the upcoming All India Institute of Medical Sciences project at Thoppur in Madurai.
- ❖ The Union Health Ministry has also appointed TN Dr MGR Medical university VC chancellor Dr Sudha Seshayyan as its member.
- ❖ The oncologist and Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) president Shanmugam Subbiah have been appointed as a member.
- ❖ Three more members –two from Lok Sabha and one from Rajya Sabha -- will be members of the board.

Fossils at Perambalur

- ❖ More than 25 concretions (ammonium sediments) were found in Kunnam (Perambalur).
- ❖ The round-shaped Phosphatic nodules, called Uttatur potatoes, were also available in Kunnam and Karai areas.
- ❖ A fossilised tree and ammonite sediments were also found in Aanaivari stream in the area.
- ❖ The ammonite (ammonoids) was a large and diverse group of marine species
- ❖ It originated around 416 million years ago during the Devonian period.

- ❖ Ammonites survived three mass extinctions.
- ❖ Out of that, the Permian extinction is the most notable one
- ❖ It was a global warming brought on by volcanic activity about 252 million years ago.
- ❖ It killed 96 per cent of the planet's marine species.
- ❖ Some years back, the Archaeological evidence suggests that dinosaurs lived in the Ariyalur area of Tamilnadu 6.5 billion years ago.
- ❖ But the remains of the eggs are rarely found.
- ❖ Earlier Ariyalur and Perambalur were submerged in the sea in present-day Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Fossils in Kunnam might have formed about nine billion years ago when the depth of the sea was about 100 metres in the Turonian-Cenomanian Cretaceous period.

Tamilnadu's new Agriculture Minister

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit allotted the Agriculture portfolio to Higher Education Minister KP Anbalagan.
- ❖ Mr Anbalagan has been re-designated as Minister for Higher Education and Agriculture.
- ❖ Earlier, the former Agriculture Minister R. Duraikannu passed away at 72.
- ❖ Duraikkannu is the third legislator from Tamil Nadu to succumb to Covid-19.
- ❖ The other two are the Kanyakumari Lok Sabha member H. Vasantha Kumar and the state Assembly member J. Anbalagan.

ASER report on Tamilnadu

- ❖ The 15th Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2020 was recently released by the Pratham Education Foundation.
- ❖ Pratham is one of the largest non-governmental organisations in the country which works towards providing quality education to underprivileged children.
- ❖ The study aimed to look at various aspects of school education and its impact under COVID-19.
- ❖ This included school enrolment patterns, household resources available, home support available for learning and access to learning material.
- ❖ According to the survey, nearly 93.7% of the students from government schools in the Tamilnadu State had access to textbooks whereas only 68.1% of private school students had them.
- ❖ Of all the children surveyed, 64.6% of them in Tamilnadu were found to have access to digital learning through smartphones.

Other data

- ❖ West Bengal ranks first in decline of school dropout rate.

- ❖ West Bengal also holds the first position in the country in terms of text books provided to the students with 99.7 per cent coverage.

Motor Vehicle Tax Exemption for Electric Vehicles

- ❖ The State Government of Tamil Nadu recently notified that it will grant 100% motor vehicle tax exemption for Electric Vehicles (EV).
- ❖ The Tamilnadu state also has proposed to establish the EV park in the state.
- ❖ The park will be first of its kind in India.
- ❖ In 2019, the Tamil Nadu Government announced the EV Policy.
- ❖ The Delhi Government, in August 2020, released the Electric Vehicle Policy, 2020.

Mobile Amma canteens

- ❖ The CM of Tamilnadu flagged off mobile Amma canteens on wheels.
- ❖ It will visit parts of Greater Chennai Corporation and cater to the needs of daily-wage labourers and workers on construction sites and other places.



Fertiliser Association of India Golden Jubilee Award 2020

- ❖ A professor of Tamil Nadu Agricultural University (TNAU) Dr K S Subramanian for this award.
- ❖ He got the award for his contribution to the field of nano-fertilisers and its role in improved use while ensuring environmental safety.
- ❖ Subramanian is the founder-head of Department of Nano Science and Technology in 2010.

Thee App

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswami has launched this App.
- ❖ It has been designed for the benefit of the general public to reach out to the Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services.

NATIONAL

Child Care Leave

- ❖ The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) announced that Male employees of the government are also now entitled to Child Care Leave.
- ❖ But it will be available only for those male employees who happen to be “single male parent”.
- ❖ This may include male employees who are widowers or divorcees or even unmarried.

400th birth anniversary of Guru Tej Bahadur

- ❖ The Centre set up a high-level committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to commemorate the 400th birth anniversary of Shri Guru Tegh Bahadur.
- ❖ He was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion.
- ❖ He was born at Amritsar in 1621 and was the youngest son of Guru Hargobind, the sixth Guru.
- ❖ He was publicly killed in 1675 on the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb in Delhi.

Norms for Mandatory Packaging

- ❖ The Union Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved extension of norms for mandatory packaging in jute materials.
- ❖ As per the decision, 100 percent of food grains and 20 percent of sugar will be mandatorily packed in diversified jute bags.

Aarambh 2020

- ❖ The prime minister addressed the probationers of Indian Civil Services at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, through a video conference from Kevadia of Gujarat.
- ❖ This is part of the integrated foundation course 'Aarambh' launched in 2019.
- ❖ Aarambh is an initiative to bring all the probationers of All India Service, Group-A Central Service and Foreign Service together for a Common Foundation Course (CFC) with the vision to break the silos of departments and services from the very beginning of the career of a civil servant.
- ❖ This year, the second edition of Aarambh 2020, is taking place in LBSNAA from October 14 to 31.
- ❖ This year's theme is “Governance in India @100”.



NCLAT

- ❖ The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has extended the term of Justice (retd) Bansi Lal Bhat as the officiating Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).
- ❖ Justice Bansi Lal Bhat was appointed Acting Chairperson after the first Chairperson of NCLAT, Justice SJ Mukhopadhaya demitted the office.
- ❖ The NCLAT was established by the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2013.
- ❖ It hears the appeals against the orders of National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).
- ❖ It is also an appellate tribunal for hearing appeals against the orders passed by NCLT, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India and the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

ISO 17020:2012

- ❖ The National Productivity Council (NPC) has been granted accreditation conforming to ISO 17020:2012.
- ❖ It was given by National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB), Quality Council of India (QCI).
- ❖ It was given for undertaking inspection and audit work in the area of Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.
- ❖ NPC was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India in 1958.

Public Affairs Index 2020

- ❖ It was released by Public Affairs Centre, a non-profit organisation.
- ❖ It was released by the committee headed by a former ISRO chairman Kasturirangan.
- ❖ The Governance of the states was analysed based on three pillars namely growth, equity and sustainability.
- ❖ According to the index, Kerala was the best governed the state in the Larger state category.
- ❖ It was followed by Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.
- ❖ The bottom most ranking was occupied by Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Bihar in the same category.
- ❖ In the small state category Goa topped the list followed by Meghalaya and Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The bottom most states in this category were Manipur, Delhi and Uttarakhand.

- ❖ In the category of Union Territories Chandigarh was the top performing region followed by Puducherry and Lakshadweep.
- ❖ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir were the least performing Union Territories.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX	
BEST	WORST
LARGE STATE CATEGORY	
Kerala	UP
Tamil Nadu	Odisha
Andhra Pradesh	Bihar
SMALL STATE CATEGORY	
Goa	Manipur
Meghalaya	Delhi
Himachal	U'khand
■ Chandigarh the best governed UT, followed by Puducherry and Lakshadweep	
■ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Andaman, J&K least performers	

Bye Bye Corona

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel released a 'sciencetoon' book.
- ❖ It contains comprehensive information on the COVID - 19 pandemic.
- ❖ It was published by Vigyan Prasar of the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ The book has been written by Pradeep Srivastava, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.
- ❖ It is World's 1st Sciencetoon Book on Coronavirus.
- ❖ A 'sciencetoon' is a cartoon communication based on science.

Draft model Act on land titles

- ❖ The NITI Aayog has released the draft model Act and rules for states on land titles.
- ❖ It aims to reduce litigations and ease the land acquisition process for infrastructure projects.
- ❖ State governments will have the power to order for establishment, administration and management of a system of title registration of immovable properties.
- ❖ A party aggrieved with an order of the land dispute resolution officer may file an appeal before the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal within 30 days of passing of such an order.
- ❖ A special bench of High court shall be designated to deal with appeals against the orders passed by the Land Titling Appellate Tribunal.

Backdrop

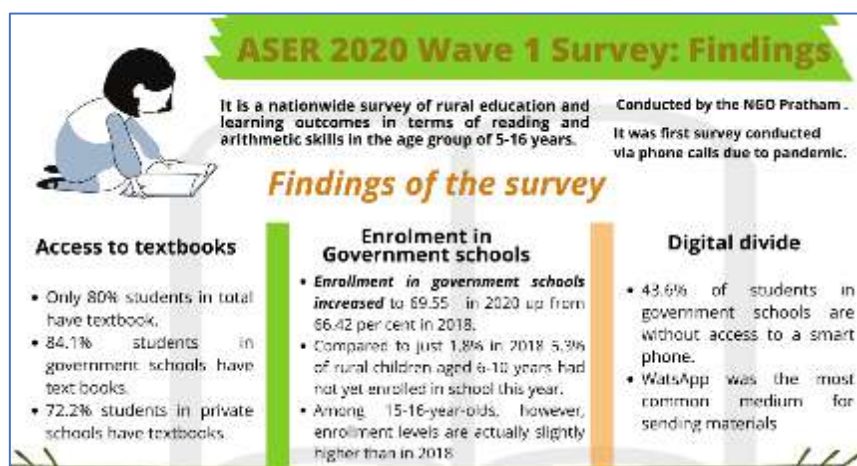
- ❖ The current system of land records was inherited from the Zamindari system of colonial times.
- ❖ Now, the rules to title of land is provided by the Transfer of Property Act, 1882.
- ❖ The primary law that regulates the registration of land related documents is Registration Act, 1908.

ASER report

- ❖ The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) for Rural India was recently released by Pratham Education Foundation.

Key Findings

- ❖ According to the survey, only one-third of the surveyed children had access to online learning.
- ❖ 3% of rural children were not enrolled in school in 2020.
- ❖ Around one in three children were not involved in learning activity.
- ❖ Only 47.4% of surveyed children had access to smartphones in West Bengal.
- ❖ It was 77.1% in Jammu and Kashmir, 88% in Punjab, 90% in Himachal Pradesh, 82.3% in Haryana.
- ❖ The children in Kerala topped the list with 94.3%.
- ❖ WhatsApp was the most common medium of communication to send learning materials.
- ❖ The first-generation school learners in the country are falling in India.



First Raising Day of Ladakh

- ❖ The Union Territory of Ladakh celebrated it's first raising day on October 31st and thus the Union Territory Foundation Day.
- ❖ The theme for the first-year celebration of Ladakh as a UT is 'One year of Development, Prosperity and Empowerment.'

- ❖ The region was initially a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir
- ❖ It became a Centre-ruled union territory on this day in October 31st of 2019.

Army Aviation Corps (AAC)

- ❖ Army Aviation Corps (AAC) celebrated its 35th Corps Day on November 1.
- ❖ It is the youngest Corps of the Indian Army.
- ❖ The Corps was raised as a separate formation on November 1 in 1986.

Ganga Utsav - 2020

- ❖ It is being organised by the National Mission for Clean Ganga celebrating the 12th anniversary of declaring River Ganges as National river.
- ❖ The event was organised jointly by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The Ganges is the longest river of India.
- ❖ The Ganges originates in Gangotri Glacier as River Bhagirathi.
- ❖ Later it joins the Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand and becomes the Ganges.
- ❖ The river drains in 11 states namely Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana, West Bengal.
- ❖ The Ganges joins River Brahmaputra and flows into the Bay of Bengal as River Padma in Bangladesh.



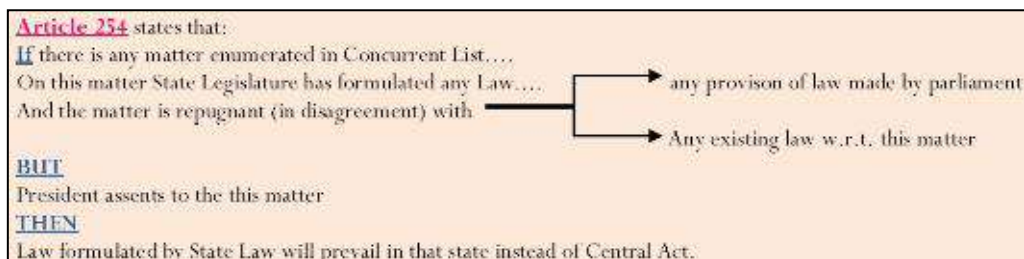
Contempt of Court

- ❖ The Attorney General of India declines consent to initiate contempt case against Andhra CM Jagan Reddy.
- ❖ Last month, CM Jagan Reddy had written to the CJI S.A. Bobde, alleging the Andhra Pradesh HC was being used to 'destabilise and topple my democratically elected government'.
- ❖ Articles 129 and 215 of the Constitution of India empowers the Supreme Court and High Court respectively to punish people for their respective contempt.

- ❖ The Contempt of Courts Act of 1971 also defines the power of the Supreme court and High Court to punish contempt of its subordinate courts.

Rajasthan on Farm Laws

- ❖ Rajasthan passes three Bills to stall the Centre's 3 farm laws.
- ❖ The main subjects of the three central acts are agriculture and market that are essentially state subjects as per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution.
- ❖ But, Entry 33 of the Concurrent List provides Centre and the states powers to control production, supply and distribution of products of any industry, including agriculture.
- ❖ Usually, when a state wants to amend a Central law made under one of the items in the concurrent list, it needs the clearance of the Centre.
- ❖ When a state law contradicts a Central law on the same subject, the law passed by Parliament prevails.
- ❖ Article 254 (2) of the Constitution empowers state governments to pass legislations which negate the Central acts in the matters enumerated under the Concurrent List.
- ❖ A state legislation passed under Article 254 (2) requires the assent of the President of India.
- ❖ Moreover, A state law can include a provision that says that MSP will be applicable to all state agriculture markets.



Fortification of Rice

- ❖ The Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India has been implementing the “Centrally Sponsored Pilot Scheme on Fortification of Rice and its distribution through Public Distribution System”.
- ❖ The scheme is to be implemented for a period of three years between 2019-20 and 2022-23.
- ❖ The scheme was launched to take the country towards nutritional security.
- ❖ According to the World Health Organisation, fortification of rice is done by adding micronutrient powder to the rice.
- ❖ The distribution of fortified rice is already being implemented by five states namely Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu.



Committee to review Television Rating System

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is to set up a committee to review the existing guidelines of Television Rating Agencies.
- ❖ The committee has been formed with four members under the chairmanship of CEO of Prasar Bharti, Sashi Shekar Vempati.
- ❖ The other three members of the committee include
 - Rajkumar Upadhyaya (Executive Director of C-Dot),
 - Dr Shalabh, Professor of Statistics from IIT Kanpur and
 - Professor Pulak Ghosh of Decision Sciences Centre for Public Policy.
- ❖ TRP is Television Rating Point.
- ❖ It is the data that shows how many people are watching a channel.

Global Investor Roundtable Conference

- ❖ PM Narendra Modi chaired this conference.
- ❖ It is being organised by the Ministry of Finance along with the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund.
- ❖ The main focus of discussion at the conference was about the vision of Government of India in becoming a 5 trillion USD economy.

13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020

- ❖ Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri is to inaugurate 13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020.
- ❖ The theme of the '13th Urban Mobility India Conference 2020' conference is 'Emerging Trends in Urban Mobility'.
- ❖ The annual Urban Mobility Indian Conference is a flagship event which is organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India.

- ❖ The genesis of the Urban Mobility Conference is from the National Urban Transport Policy of the Indian government, 2006.

Nurturing Neighbourhoods Challenge

- ❖ The Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched this.
- ❖ It is conducted with the support of the Bernard van Leer Foundation, Netherlands.
- ❖ The technical support for the challenge is provided by WRI India.

COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge

- ❖ It was organized by MyGov in collaboration with UN women organisation in April 2020.
- ❖ Six startups under the leadership of women have won the COVID-19 Shri Shakti Challenge.
- ❖ Its objective is to involve and encourage women-led startups to come up with innovative ideas and solutions that will be able to help in the fight against COVID-19.



Arbitration and Conciliation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2020

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to this ordinance.
- ❖ It was to further amend Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
- ❖ Under the ordinance, all stakeholders will get an opportunity to seek an unconditional stay on enforcement of arbitral awards where the underlying arbitration agreement may be induced by fraud or corruption.

Sagar Kavach exercise

- ❖ A joint coastal security exercise was launched at Paradip Coast in Odisha.
- ❖ It is carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.
- ❖ The exercise is carried out to prevent a repeat of the Mumbai attacks by sea.

Bull Strike exercise

- ❖ India's first and only geographical operational tri-service theater command Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) carried out this joint services exercise.
- ❖ It was held at the Teressa Island, in the Nicobar group of Islands.
- ❖ It involved elements of Indian Army's Parachute Brigade, MARCOS and Special Forces.
- ❖ In a theatre command all the assets of the army, air force and navy in a particular theatre of war are placed under the command of a three-star officer.

Data Maturity Assessment Framework (DMAF)

- ❖ It is launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- ❖ It is a framework to evaluate the data ecosystems of cities.

One Rank One Pension

- ❖ The one rank one pension scheme of armed forces has completed 5 years of successful journey.
- ❖ Currently uniform pension is given to the retiring defence personnel irrespective of their rank and the length of service.
- ❖ This is 50% of their last drawn salary.
- ❖ The Armed personnel who retired on or after June 30, 2014 are covered under the scheme.

New Chief Information Commissioner

- ❖ The President of India Ram Nath Kovind appointed Yashvardhan K Sinha as the new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.
- ❖ He was short-listed for the post by a three-member committee headed by PM Modi.
- ❖ Besides the Prime Minister, the opposition party leader in Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Home Minister Amit Shah were the members of the panel.
- ❖ The post was lying vacant over two months after Bimal Julka completed his term in August, 2020.
- ❖ Later, Uday Mahurkar (Journalist), Heera Lal Samariya (former labour secretary) and Saroj Punhani (former Deputy CAG) were appointed as Information Commissioners by President.
- ❖ The roles and responsibilities of the Chief Information Commissioner are defined by the right to Information Act, 2005.
- ❖ He will hold office for three years as per the Right to Information (Amendment) Act, 2019.

- ❖ Earlier it was five years.
- ❖ Central Information Commission was constituted in 2005 under the 2005 Act.



SC/ST Priests

- ❖ In a historic first, the Kerala government is set to appoint a priest from Scheduled Tribes (ST) category in Travancore Devaswom Board.
- ❖ The Travancore Devaswom Board manages over 1,200 temples in Kerala including Sabarimala Temple.
- ❖ It has decided to appoint priests from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community as a part time priests.

National Water Awards 2019

- ❖ It was presented by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has bagged the first place under the 'Best State' category.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu was followed by Maharashtra and Rajasthan as the best states under the normal category.
- ❖ Vellore and Karur districts were awarded first and second spots respectively under the 'Revival of River' sub-category.
- ❖ The Perambalur district came second in the 'Water Conservation' category.
- ❖ Under the 'Water Conservation' category for South, Sasthavinathur Village Panchayat, Thoothukudi bagged the first place.
- ❖ Madurai Municipal Corporation was awarded the first place in the 'Best Urban Local Body' category.

Atal Innovation Mission-Sirius Programme

- ❖ The Atal Innovation Mission-Sirius Innovation Programme was launched for India and Russia school children.
- ❖ The programme aims to develop technological solutions for both India and Russia.

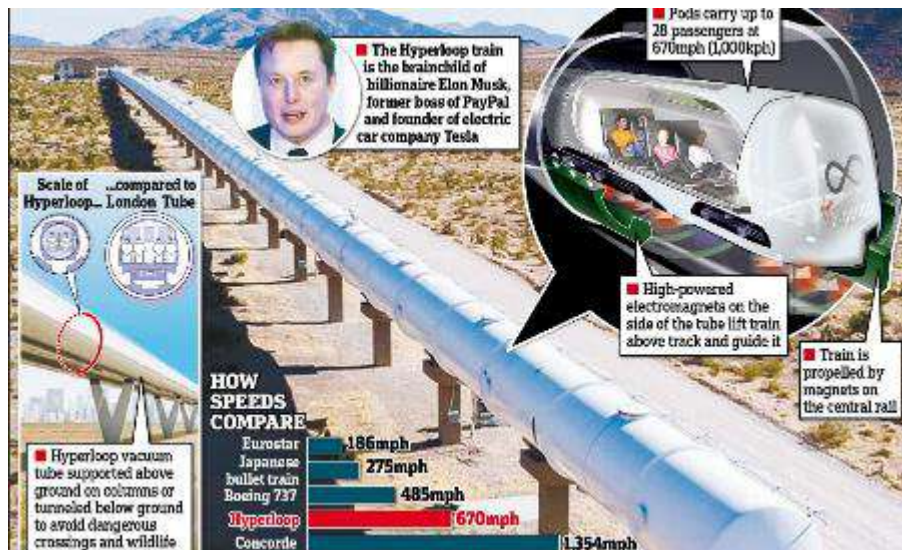
- ❖ SIRIUS is Scientific International Research in Unique Terrestrial Station.
- ❖ It is a series of experiments that investigates flight to the moon.

National Saffron Mission

- ❖ Saffron Production under the National Saffron Mission was so far confined to Kashmir.
- ❖ It was mainly grown in the Pampore region of India.
- ❖ The region is known as “Saffron Bowl of Kashmir”
- ❖ It is now to be implemented in the North East.
- ❖ The Kashmir Saffron received GI Tag in May 2020.

First Hyperloop Passenger ride

- ❖ The Virgin Hyperloop has conducted its first successful passenger ride.
- ❖ The test was conducted in Las Vegas of USA.
- ❖ It plans to connect Mumbai and Pune in 25 minutes.
- ❖ The Hyperloop is a new mode of transport that speeds up to 1000 kilometres per hour.
- ❖ The idea was conceived by Tesla and SpaceX in 2012.



Renaming of Ministry of Shipping

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed the Ministry of Shipping to Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
- ❖ At present, Mansukh L. Mandaviya is the Union Minister of Shipping.

Anti-Satellite Missile System

- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the model of the anti-satellite missile system at the headquarters of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in New Delhi.
- ❖ The countries that possess the Anti-Satellite technologies are India, China, US, Russia.
- ❖ India tested its Anti-Satellite weapon in 2019 under its operation code named “Operation Shakti”.



Migration Policy Index

- ❖ The Mumbai based research non-profit firm ‘India Migration Now’ has recently released “Interstate Migrant Policy Index” (IMPEX).
- ❖ The index measures integration of interstate migrants.
- ❖ According to the index, the states of Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh have been most successful in integrating migrant workers.
- ❖ On the other hand, Delhi has the least Interstate Migrant Policy Index.

India Mobile Congress (IMC)

- ❖ Fourth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) was inaugurated recently.
- ❖ Theme of this congress is “Inclusive Innovation – Smart I Secure I Sustainable”.
- ❖ IMC is jointly organized by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
- ❖ IMC is considered the largest Digital Technology Forum in Asia.

Hunar Haat

- ❖ The Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated ‘Hunar Haat’ at Delhi.
- ❖ The theme of this Hunar Haat is “Vocal for Local”.

- ❖ Hunar Haat is an exhibition of traditional products and handicrafts launched by Ministry of Minority Affairs in 2017.
- ❖ It was launched under Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/ Crafts for Development (USTTAD) scheme.



7th edition of EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2020

- ❖ Azim Premji, the founder and chairman of Wipro, has topped the list of India's philanthropists 2020.
- ❖ He has donated Rs 22 crore per day.
- ❖ HCL'S Shiv Nadar ranked second in the list.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries, came third.



11th Annual Pneumonia and Diarrhoea Progress Report

- ❖ The International Vaccines Access Centre released this.
- ❖ According to the report, India has achieved the global target of 90% coverage of three of five vaccines.
- ❖ These vaccines are DPT Vaccine, Measles vaccine, PCV vaccine, Rotavirus vaccine and Haemophilus Influenzae Type B vaccine.
- ❖ India accounts to 20% of deaths due to pneumonia in the world.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are the estimated to have majority of Pneumonia cases of the country.

Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra

- ❖ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) will be starting 'Bharat Darshan–Dakshin Bharat Yatra'.
- ❖ It will start from Hyderabad and Secunderabad.
- ❖ The theme of this yatra will be 'Show India to Indians'.

National Database of Unorganised sector

- ❖ The National Database of Unorganised Workers will maintain the database of the workers using their 12-digit Aadhaar number.
- ❖ It will be the first-ever national database for Unorganised workers and migrant workers.
- ❖ It will be maintained by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ❖ The aim is to give a proper platform to migrant labourers.
- ❖ It will also make it easy for the government to implement programmes for the unorganised sector.
- ❖ It can also help in keeping a track of workers' movement in situations like COVID-19.
- ❖ Unorganised Workers Social Security Act, 2008 had first mandated that every worker be registered and issued a smart ID card.

India's Longest Road Bridge on River

- ❖ It will be the country's longest road bridge (around 20 KM) to be built over a river.
- ❖ It will be built for the National Highway 127B across the Brahmaputra.
- ❖ The travel distance from Dhubri of Assam to Phulbari of Meghalaya will be cut to 19.2 km from 205 km.
- ❖ L&T is lowest bidder for the construction of this bridge.

Statue of Peace

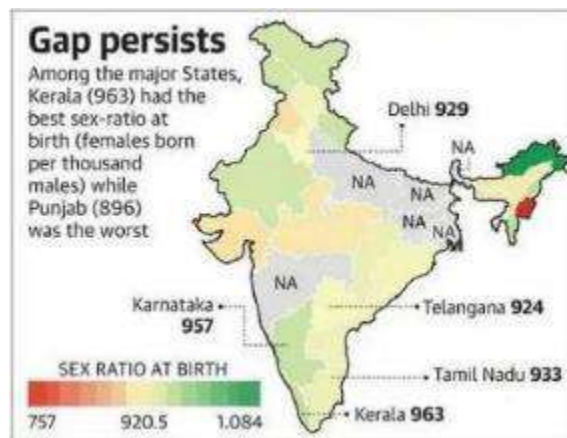
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually unveiled the 'Statue of Peace'.



- ❖ 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.

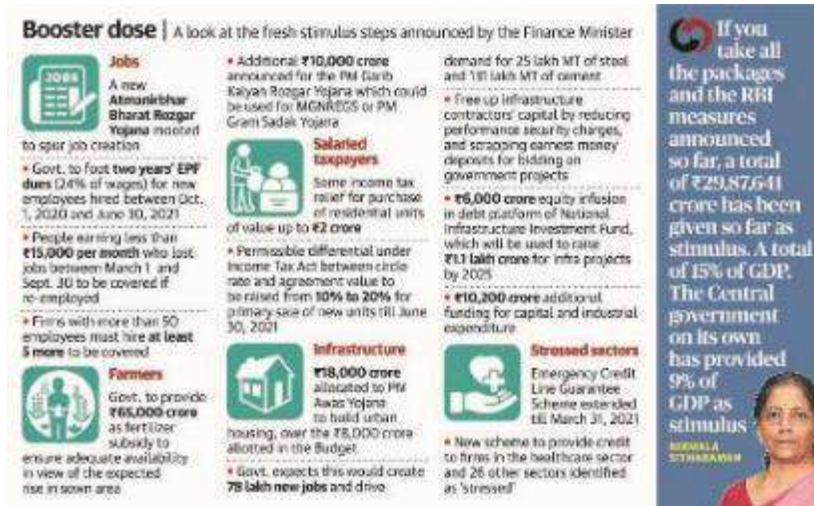


Supreme Court Verdict on Section 167

- ❖ The Supreme Court has held that an accused, irrespective of the merits of the case against him, should be granted “default” or “complusive” 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 initiated to spur job creation

- Govt. to fast-track 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

Farmers
Govt. to provide ₹66,000 crore as fertilizer subsidy to ensure adequate availability in view of the expected rise in sown area

Salaried taxpayers
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

Infrastructure
₹18,000 crore allocated to PFI Awaaz Yojana to build urban housing, over the 78,000 crore allotted in the Budget

- Govt. expects this would create 78 lakh new jobs and drive demand for 25 lakh MT of steel and 180 lakh MT of cement

Stressed sectors
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'

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

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

₹10,000 crore additional funding for capital and industrial expenditure

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

SHRUTI SINGH

Awards in Fisheries sector

- ❖ Assam won four awards in fisheries sector from the National Fisheries Development Board.
- ❖ Assam received the best state award under the category of best hilly and North Eastern State in Fisheries.
- ❖ Odisha bagged the best state in marine state category.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh won the best state award in Inland State category.
- ❖ India produces 13.7 million tonnes of fish annually.
- ❖ Of this, the inland fisheries constitute 65% of the total fish production.

Consent for CBI

- ❖ The Supreme Court has announced that the state government's consent is mandatory for the CBI probe in its jurisdiction.
- ❖ The central government will not be allowed to extend the agency's jurisdiction in the state without its consent.
- ❖ It is in tune with the principle of federalism.
- ❖ The verdict by the Supreme Court has come in the light of eight non BJP states - Kerala, Jharkhand, Bengal, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Punjab, who withdrew general consent for CBI to probe fresh cases in the state's jurisdiction.
- ❖ The Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946 regulates the functioning of CBI.

Lilavati Awards

- ❖ The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated the Lilavati Awards.
- ❖ The award is an initiative of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).
- ❖ It aims to recognise the efforts of AICTE affiliated institutions in treating women.
- ❖ These are to be presented based on the theme of women empowerment.
- ❖ The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati".
- ❖ The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- ❖ Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II of 12th Century.
- ❖ The prize was handed out for the first time at the International Congress of Mathematicians that was held in 2010.

Bengaluru Tech Summit 2020

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated this summit.
- ❖ He stated that it is time for tech-solutions that are "Designed in India but Deployed for the World."
- ❖ The theme of this Summit is "Next is Now".

Study on Radicalization

- ❖ Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has, for the first time, approved a research study on "status of radicalisation in India."
- ❖ The study would attempt to legally define "radicalisation" and suggest amendments to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Inner Line Permit (ILP) – Meghalaya

- ❖ It is a document required by non- natives to visit or stay in a state that is protected under the ILP system.
- ❖ At present, four North eastern states are covered, namely, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland.
- ❖ It is issued by the concerned state government
- ❖ The Inner Line Permit is an extension of the Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation Act 1873.
- ❖ Now Meghalaya also demands the ILP system and the scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres

- ❖ The 50,025 operational Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) are now spread across 678 districts in India.
- ❖ The ministry of health and family welfare further informed that 1.5 lakh AB-HWCs will be established by December 2022.
- ❖ These Centres include 18,536 Primary Health centres, 27,890 Sub Health centres, and 3,599 Urban Primary Health Centres.

Handling of vaccine in India

- ❖ The CEO of Serum Institute of India, Adar Poonawalla announced that the Oxford COVID-19 vaccine is likely to be available by April 2021 for general public.
- ❖ And by 2024, every Indian would get vaccinated against the novel Coronavirus.
- ❖ Initially, the Oxford-Astrazeneca vaccine would be made available around February 2021 for vulnerable & elderly people and healthcare workers.
- ❖ Two Indian airports - Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport and GMR Hyderabad airport's cargo are set to play a pivotal role in the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines across the country.
- ❖ The GMR Hyderabad airport's cargo boasts of India's first Pharma Zone with GDP-certified temperature-controlled facility for handling temperature-sensitive cargo.
- ❖ The SpiceJet airlines are also reportedly fully prepared to handle the COVID-19 vaccine.

Progress towards regional measles elimination – 2000 to 2019

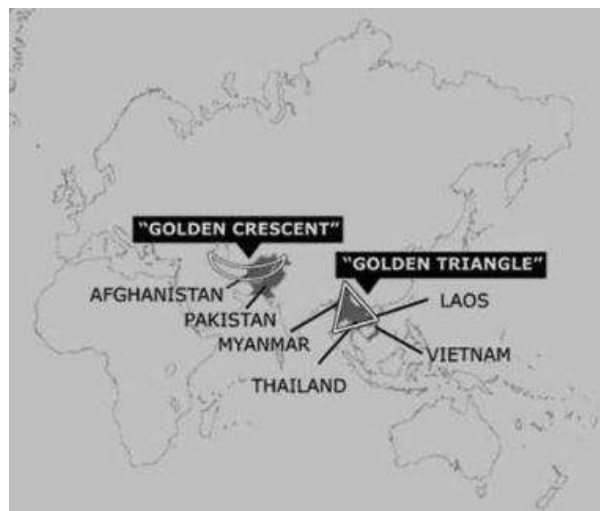
- ❖ It is a report released by the World Health Organisation and the US's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- ❖ According to the report, among WHO regions, Africa followed by Europe had the highest numbers of cases and deaths.
- ❖ Uganda records 100% increase in measles deaths.
- ❖ India among 6 countries with highest tally of infants who didn't get measles vaccine.
- ❖ India is accounting for nearly half of the world's total along with the remaining five countries.
- ❖ The other countries are Nigeria, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan, and Philippines.

Safai mitra Suraksha Challenge

- ❖ It was launched by the Ministry of Urban Affairs for ensuring that no person needs to enter septic or sewer tanks.
- ❖ The challenge aims to ensure that no life of septic tank or sewer cleaner is lost during cleaning.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice will be amending the law Prohibition of Employment of Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act for making machine cleaning mandatory.
- ❖ It is also proposed to replace the word manhole with machine hole in an official usage.
- ❖ State governments took a pledge of mechanising all septic and sewer tanks cleaning operations by April 31, 2021.
- ❖ In 1993, the employment of manual scavengers was prohibited in India.

Operation Calypso

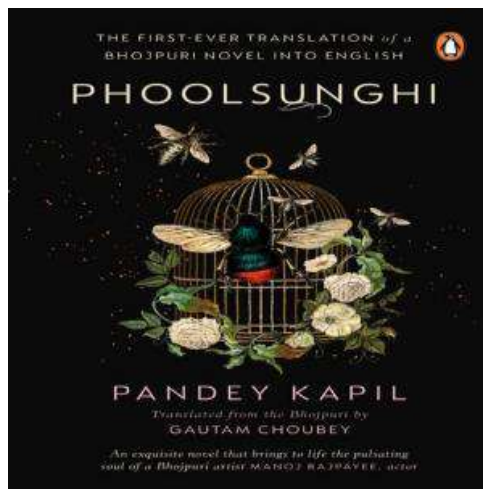
- ❖ The Directorate of Revenue intelligence (DRI) recently launched this operation.
- ❖ Under this, transnational drug racket was busted and 504 grams of cocaine was seized at Mumbai.
- ❖ The Directorate is run by the officers of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- ❖ Drug trafficking is high in India.
- ❖ Because India is located in the middle of two major opium production regions of the world.
- ❖ They are Golden Triangle and Golden Crescent.
- ❖ The Golden Triangle represents the region of Laos, Myanmar and Thailand.
- ❖ The Golden Crescent comprises of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan.



International version of UMANG App

- ❖ The Union Information Technology Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the International version of the UMANG application.
- ❖ It was launched in UK, US, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, UAE, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand.
- ❖ UMANG is Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- ❖ It was launched under the Digital India initiative of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ It mainly helps to avail several government services.

Phoolsunghi novel

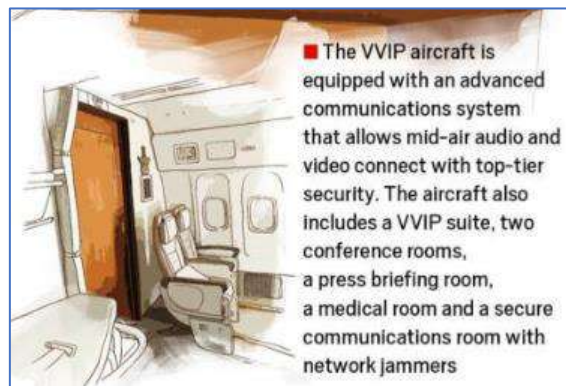


- ❖ The historical novel Phoolsunghi was written by the Bhojpuri writer Pandey Kapi.
- ❖ It will be the first ever Bhojpuri novel translated in English.
- ❖ It is translated by academic-writer Gautam Choubey.
- ❖ Bhojpuri is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in northern-eastern India and the Terai region of Nepal.
- ❖ It is chiefly spoken in western Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Bhojpuri is a descendant of Magadhi Prakrit.
- ❖ Along with the Rajasthani, both are not included into the 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution.

Air India one - B777 aircraft

- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind made the first official visit through Air India One-B777 from Delhi to Tirupati.
- ❖ Air India One is the VVIP aircraft of India.

- ❖ The aircraft is to be used by the president, vice president and prime minister of India.
- ❖ This has a longer range than that of the B747-400 aircraft deployed for similar VVIP operations.
- ❖ It is to be operated by the Indian Air Force air headquarters communication Squadron that is based at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
- ❖ It is equipped with missile defence systems.
- ❖ This defence system installed brings Air India One on par with USA's Air Force One.
- ❖ The three aircrafts to carry the top three officials of India have been named as Rajdoot, Rajhans and Rajkamal.



Sustainable Development Goals Investor Map for India

- ❖ The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and Invest India has launched this.
- ❖ It lays out 18 Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs) in six SDG enabling sectors.
- ❖ They are education, healthcare, agriculture and allied activities, financial services, renewable energy & alternatives and sustainable environment.



All India Presiding Officers' Conference

- ❖ The President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurates 80th All India Presiding Officers' Conference in Kevadia, Gujarat.
- ❖ The two-day conference has been organized by Lok Sabha to celebrate Constitution Day on November 26.
- ❖ The theme of the conference is Harmonious Coordination of Legislative, Executive, and Judiciary - Key to Vibrant Democracy.
- ❖ The Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is the Chairperson of this conference.
- ❖ The year, 2020, is also being celebrated as the centenary year of the Presiding officer's Conference.
- ❖ The All India Presiding Officers Conference began in 1921.



INTERNATIONAL

Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial cooperation (BECA)

FOUNDATIONAL AGREEMENTS		
Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Provide logistic support, refuelling & berthing facilities for each other's warships & aircraft on barter/equal-value exchange basis ➤ Will not involve stationing of US troops on Indian soil. Nor will India extend support if US goes to war with "a friendly country" ➤ Good for US forces re-balancing to Asia Pacific. Indian forces rarely operate far away from their shores but access to Djibouti & Diego Garcia could be useful 	Communication Interoperability & Security Memorandum Agreement (CISMOA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Technology enabler to help transfer high-tech avionics, encrypted communication & electronic systems to India ➤ US says CISMOA will boost 'interoperability' as well as ensure secrecy of its C4ISR (command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) systems ➤ But fears that US will be able to track & snoop on Indian warships/aircraft equipped with such systems 	
	Basic Exchange & Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ US says BECA will help India with advanced satellite & topographical data for long-range navigation & missile-targeting ➤ But India, which has its own satellite imaging capabilities, unwilling for American digital sensors to be positioned on its soil 	

- ❖ India and the U.S. signed the last foundational agreement BECA during the third 2+2 ministerial dialogue.
- ❖ This agreement would facilitate exchange of geospatial information between India and United States for both military and civilian use.
- ❖ Earlier both have signed LEMOA in 2016 and COMCASA in 2018.

Amy Coney Barrett – Associate Justice of US Supreme Court

- ❖ The US Senate voted to confirm the conservative jurist Amy Coney Barrett.
- ❖ She is the President Donald Trump's SC nominee judge as the newest justice of the United States Supreme Court.
- ❖ She will replace the vacant of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.
- ❖ Ginsburg was the first Jewish woman and the second woman to serve on the US Supreme Court.
- ❖ It has given a 6-3 majority to the conservatives on the US Supreme Court.
- ❖ There are currently nine justices on the Supreme Court.
- ❖ In the USA, each justice has lifetime tenure, meaning they remain on the Court until they resign, retire, die, or are removed from office.



6th BRICS Parliamentary Forum

- ❖ Indian Parliamentary delegation under the leadership of Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla attended the sixth BRICS Parliamentary Forum.
- ❖ It was chaired by the Chairman of State Duma of the Federal Assembly of Russia.
- ❖ Theme is 'BRICS Partnership in the interest of Global Stability, Innovative Growth and General Safety: Parliamentary dimension'.

24th edition of Malabar Exercise 2020

- ❖ Australia will join the India-led Malabar 2020 naval exercise.
- ❖ The exercise will be a first for the so-called "Quad".
- ❖ The Pacific cooperation 'Quad' is between Japan, India, Australia and the U.S.

- ❖ India has hosted the Malabar series with the U.S. Navy since 1992.
- ❖ In 2015 Japan joined into this as an annual participant.
- ❖ The Past non-permanent participant was Singapore.
- ❖ This annual exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam in the Philippine Sea in 2018, off the coast the Japan in 2019.
- ❖ This year, it is expected to be held in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.

India-Central Asia Dialogue

- ❖ Recently, India virtually hosted the second meeting of the India-Central Asia Dialogue.
- ❖ An additional USD 1 billion Line of Credit has been given by India for the Central Asian countries.
- ❖ The first meeting of the dialogue was held in Samarkand, the Republic of Uzbekistan in January 2019.
- ❖ It is a ministerial-level dialogue between India and the Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ All five nations became independent states after the collapse of the USSR in 1991, post-Cold war.
- ❖ All the countries participating in the dialogue, except for Turkmenistan, are also members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.



Singapore International Arbitration Centre

- ❖ It is a not-for-profit international arbitration organisation based in Singapore.
- ❖ It administers arbitrations under its own rules of arbitration and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Arbitration Rules.
- ❖ Recently, it has given its verdict in Amazon's favour, puts Future-Reliance deal on hold.
- ❖ India was the top user of its arbitration seat with 485 cases being referred to SIAC.
- ❖ India now has its own international arbitration centre in Mumbai.

‘Reading between the Lines: What the World Really Thinks of Teachers’ – report

- ❖ It was released by the UK-based Varkey Foundation.
- ❖ India was sixth in the list to valuing its teaching workforce among 35 countries.
- ❖ China, Ghana, Singapore, Canada, and Malaysia are ahead of India in the list.
- ❖ India's expenditure on education of government spending is 14 per cent.

Referendum in Chile

- ❖ In a referendum held recently, People of Chile have voted overwhelmingly in favour of rewriting the country's nearly four-decade-old constitution
- ❖ The Chilean people also voted to elect an assembly of 155 members to draw up the new constitution.
- ❖ The existing system was established during the rule of dictator Pinochet without any popular inputs in 1980.

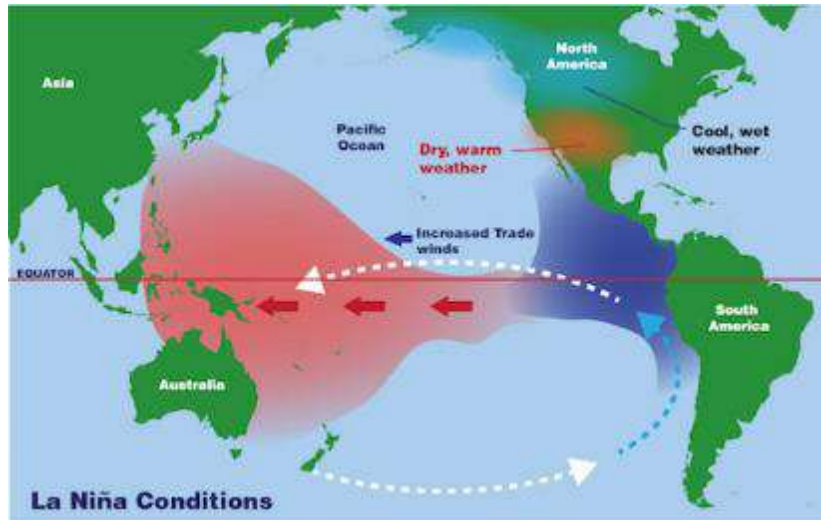
Migration and Development Brief 33 - report

- ❖ It is published by the World Bank.
- ❖ For the first time in recent history, the stock of international migrants is likely to decline in 2020.
- ❖ It is because new migration has slowed and return migration has increased.
- ❖ Remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are projected to fall by 7 percent.
- ❖ The top 5 countries in 2020 to receive foreign remittances are expected to be India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.

Global Seasonal update

- ❖ The Global Seasonal Climate Update is prepared and released by World Meteorological Organization (WMO).
- ❖ There are now 13 WMO Global Producing Centres of Long Range Forecasts.
- ❖ According to WMO, La Niña weather phenomenon is back in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean after nearly a decade's absence.
- ❖ La Niña could last into 2021 and the La Niña of 2020 is expected to be moderate to strong.
- ❖ La Niña means the large-scale cooling of ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It has the opposite impacts on weather and climate as El Niño, which is the warm phase of the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

- ❖ In India, La Niña means the country will receive more rainfall than normal, leading to floods.



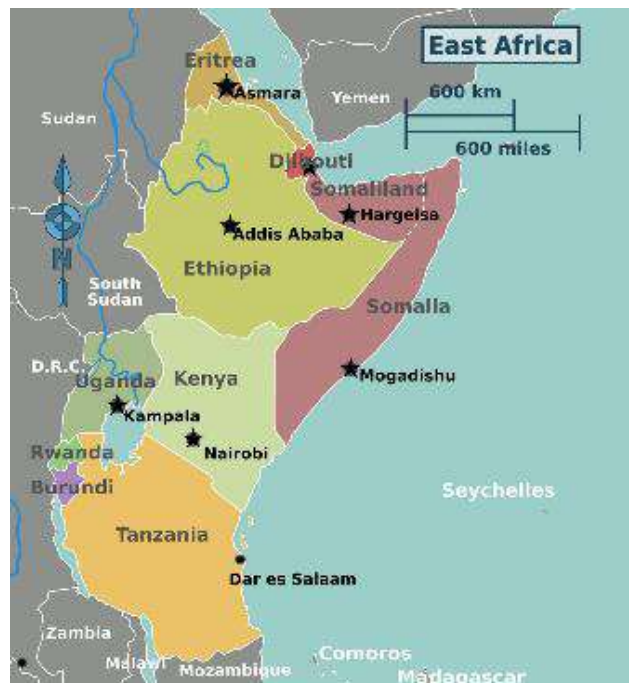
Gilgit-Baltistan

- ❖ Pakistan is planning to accord provincial status to the “Gilgit-Baltistan”.
- ❖ India slammed Pakistan’s attempt to convert Gilgit-Baltistan as the fifth province of the country
- ❖ India has clarified that the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, include the area of Gilgit-Baltistan.
- ❖ It shares a geographical boundary with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, and India considers it as part of the UT of Ladakh.
- ❖ It borders China in the North, Afghanistan in the west and Kashmir in the south east.
- ❖ China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through this region.



Mission Sagar-II

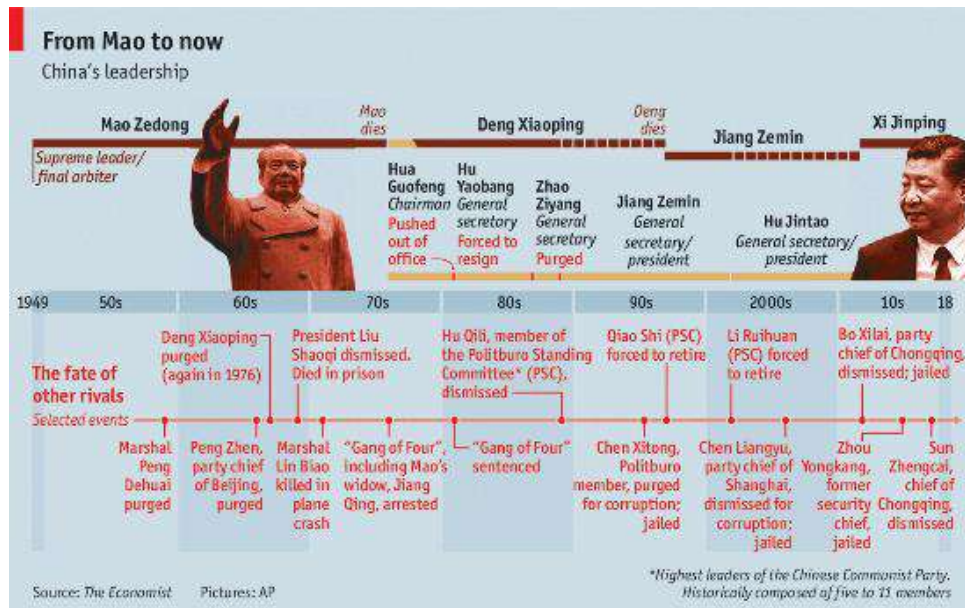
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship Airavat entered Port Sudan as part of Mission Sagar Phase II.
- ❖ Under Mission Sagar, India is currently providing assistance to its friendly foreign countries to help them overcome COVID-19 pandemic and natural calamities.
- ❖ In phase II of Mission Sagar, INS Ship Airavat will deliver food aid to Sudan, Djibouti, South Sudan and Eritrea.
- ❖ This phase is being implemented in close coordination with the Ministries of External Affairs and Ministry of Defence.
- ❖ Under the first phase of Mission Sagar, India reached out to countries such as Seychelles, Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius and Maldives.
- ❖ During this phase, India provided free food aid and medicines.
- ❖ In Phase I of the mission, INS Kesari was deployed.
- ❖ SAGAR is Security and Growth for All in the Region.
- ❖ It was launched in 2015 under strategic vision of Indian Ocean Region.



Xi Jinping – China

- ❖ The plenary session of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) adopted proposals for the formulation of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025).
- ❖ It aims for National Economic and Social Development and the Long-Range Objectives Through the Year 2035.
- ❖ The party also hints at the continuation of President Xi Jinping in power for the next 15 years up to 2035.

- ❖ A constitutional amendment in 1982 has removed the two five-year term limits for the President.
- ❖ Earlier, a constitutional bar was introduced by Deng Xiaoping in 1982.
- ❖ It prevented China's president from serving more than two terms.
- ❖ His second term as the president is due to end in 2022.
- ❖ He is holding the posts of party General Secretary, head of the military besides the Presidency.



Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU)

- ❖ Duarte Pacheco, Portugal MP, was elected as new President of Inter Parliamentary Union.
- ❖ The previous president was Mexican MP Gabriela Cuevas Barron.
- ❖ The President of IPU is the political head of the organization.
- ❖ IPU is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ It is a global organization of national parliaments.
- ❖ IPU was founded in 1889 as the first multilateral political organization in the world.



- ❖ The Slogan of IPU is “For Democracy, For Everyone”.
- ❖ India was represented by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

India sponsored UN resolution

- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly, UNGA's First Committee adopted the two India sponsored Nuclear disarmament resolutions.
- ❖ These resolutions are ‘Convention on Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons’ and ‘Reducing Nuclear Danger’.
- ❖ The first committee of the UN General Assembly deals with the issue of disarmament.
- ❖ It works in close cooperation with the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament and UN Disarmament Commission.
- ❖ The resolution on the Convention on Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons was tabled by India since 1982.

CARAT: Joint Naval Exercise

- ❖ Bangladesh and United States held a joint Naval Exercise CARAT.
- ❖ CARAT is Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training.
- ❖ The exercise was held at Chittagong.
- ❖ It is a series of annual bilateral military exercise
- ❖ It is conducted by the US Pacific fleet with countries such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Singapore and Thailand.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19, the exercise was held virtually.

Likelihood of Future Pandemics Report

- ❖ Recently IPBES has released a report on future pandemics.
- ❖ COVID-19 is at least the sixth pandemic to have taken place in the last century since the Great Influenza Pandemic of 1918.
- ❖ Three of the pandemics were caused by influenza viruses, one by HIV followed by SARS and COVID-19.
- ❖ Almost all the pandemics so far, have been zoonoses.
- ❖ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem (IPBES) is an intergovernmental organization established to improve the interface between science and policy on issues of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- ❖ In 2012, IPBES was established by the United Nations.
- ❖ But it functions independently.
- ❖ Its headquarters is at Bonn, Germany.

Special features in US Election 2020

- ❖ Sarah McBride from the Democratic party is to become the first transgender state senator in the US.
- ❖ She won her race in Delaware.
- ❖ She beat Republican candidate Steve Washington.
- ❖ Vermont's Taylor Small was elected to the House of Representatives, while Stephanie Byers made history in Kansas as the first trans person of colour to ever be elected to a state legislature.
- ❖ In Oklahoma, Mauree Turner became the first ever non-binary candidate to win a seat in a state legislature.
- ❖ All the four Indian-American Democratic lawmakers — Dr Ami Bera, Pramila Jayapal, Ro Khanna and Raja Krishnamoorthi — have been re-elected to the US House of Representatives.



Foreign workers freedom – Saudi Arabia

- ❖ Saudi Arabia will allow foreign workers the right to change jobs by transferring their sponsorship from one employer to another, leave and re-enter the country and secure final exit visas without the consent of their employer.
- ❖ These reforms will abolish the restrictions tying migrant workers to their employers.

Qatar's first national election

- ❖ The ruler of Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani announced that a vote to review the policy of the country will be held.
- ❖ This is the first of its kind in the region.
- ❖ Laws in Qatar can be overruled by a simple decree.

India on BMI Index

- ❖ A review of BMI of various countries was recently published in the medical journal The Lancet.
- ❖ The study has ranked India at the 196th spot with respect to BMI.

- ❖ India's 19-year-old boys and girls have a BMI of 20.1.
- ❖ India ranks third and fifth from the bottom respectively among countries where 19-year-old girls and boys have a low body mass index.
- ❖ As BMI is a function of height, the corollary is that Indian teens are also among the shortest in the world.
- ❖ BMI is measured as the weight in kg divided by the square of the height in metres.
- ❖ The normal BMI ranges between 20 and 25.

LOWER BMI, SHORTER INDIANS									
10 countries with lowest BMI in 2019 for boys (19-year-olds) Ethiopia (19.2), Niger (19.8), DR Congo (19.9), Senegal (20.1), India (20.1), Timor-Leste (20.3), Bangladesh (20.4), Central African Republic (20.5), Nepal (20.5), Chad (20.6)					10 countries with lowest BMI in 2019 for girls (19) Timor-Leste (19.6), Romania (19.9), India (20.1), Vietnam (20.4), Madagascar (20.4), Sri Lanka (20.6), Cambodia (20.6), Myanmar (20.6), Bangladesh (20.6), Japan (20.6) Normal BMI: 20 to 25				
Country	Mean height (cm)	Rank height	Mean BMI (kg/m ²)	Rank BMI	Country	Mean height (cm)	Rank height	Mean BMI (kg/m ²)	Rank BMI
MALES					FEMALES				
UK	178.2	39	23.5	60	UK	163.9	49	23.8	50
USA	176.9	47	25.4	16	USA	163.3	58	25.4	19
China	175.7	65	23	88	China	163.5	54	22.2	119
India	166.5	180	20.1	196	India	155.2	182	20.1	198
France	178.6	34	22.5	113	France	164.5	45	21.7	151

1st India Nordic Baltic Conclave

- ❖ The countries agreed to work together for a greener, smarter, digital and innovation-led future.
- ❖ The countries such as Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Iceland are the Nordic countries.
- ❖ The Baltic States are Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.
- ❖ Latvia is geopolitically important to India.
- ❖ Latvia is linked by an ancient route called "The Amber Way".
- ❖ It is called the Amber Way as the route was earlier used to transport amber from the coastal regions of Baltic Sea and North Sea to the Mediterranean Sea.
- ❖ In 2018, the first Summit of India and Nordic was held in Sweden.

India-Italy Bilateral Summit

- ❖ PM Modi held a virtual bilateral summit with his Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte.
- ❖ The leaders are to sign 15 pacts in the field of energy, trade, ship building and culture.
- ❖ The summit is to explore possibilities of Italian investments in India especially in defence.

- ❖ The 2020-24 Action plan was framed during the summit.
- ❖ The four pillars of the action plan were
 - coordination in multilateral forums,
 - political dialogue at bilateral trade,
 - partnership in science and technology and
 - cultural cooperation.

US Elections 2020

- ❖ The USA 59th Quadrennial Presidential Election was held on November 3, 2020.
- ❖ Joe Biden wins US Presidency with 290 electoral votes.
- ❖ He will be the 46th President of USA.
- ❖ He will be administered by the Chief Justice of Supreme Court.
- ❖ He is to assume office on January 20, 2021.
- ❖ Joe Biden from the Democratic Party won by beating Donald Trump from the Republic party.
- ❖ The election results make Trump the first one term president since 1990.
- ❖ Joe Biden (78) will become the oldest president of the USA.
- ❖ Joe Biden served as the 47th vice president of the USA from 2009 to 2017.
- ❖ Obama and Biden were first elected in 2008 and then re-elected in 2012.
- ❖ Kamala Harris from the Democratic party beat Mike Pence from the Republic Party for the post of Vice President of USA.
- ❖ She will become the first woman, first Indian American and first Black woman to become Vice President of the USA.
- ❖ Her mother is an Indian American born at Thulasenthirapuram village near Mannarkudi in Tamilnadu.



Process

- ❖ The US constitution doesn't allow for one president to hold office for more than two terms.

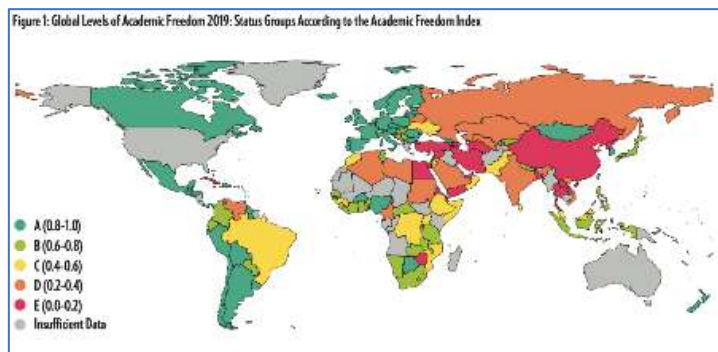
- ❖ It is an indirect election in which citizens of the United States who are registered to vote in one of the fifty U.S. states or in Washington, D.C.
- ❖ They cast ballots not directly for those offices, but instead for members of the Electoral College.
- ❖ These electors then cast direct votes, known as electoral votes, for president, and for vice president.
- ❖ The candidate, who receives an absolute majority of electoral votes (at least 270 out of 538), is then elected to that office.
- ❖ In the US, the responsibility of conducting the elections falls on the secretary of the state.
- ❖ The secretary in some states are appointed by the Governor and in others is directly elected by the people.
- ❖ Most of the States in the US allow electronic methods.
- ❖ However, paper ballots are the norm across the country.
- ❖ All the three elections in the US, that is, for the federal, local and state are directly organised by the ruling governments of the individual state.
- ❖ Before counting, there is a stage called Processing.
- ❖ Processing involves verifying documentation, checking signatures and scanning ballots.
- ❖ Later comes the counting of votes.
- ❖ The US President and Vice President are not elected directly by the people.
- ❖ Instead, they are chosen by “electors” through a process called the “Electoral College”.
- ❖ A candidate should be
 - A natural-born citizen of the USA.
 - A resident of the USA for 14 years.
 - At least 35 years old.
 - The election for the President of USA is held once in four years.
 - A person cannot run for US President election more than two times.

US electoral college system

- ❖ The USA uses the electoral college system to elect its President.
- ❖ Under the US electoral college system, each state is given a number of votes
- ❖ Each state gets a certain number of electors based on its population
- ❖ Each elector casts one electoral vote in the general election.
- ❖ Overall, a total of 538 electoral college votes are up for grabs.
- ❖ So, a candidate needs to hit 270 to win.

Academic Freedom Index

- ❖ It has been published by Global Public Policy Institute as a part of a global time-series dataset (1900-2019).
- ❖ It compares levels of academic freedom worldwide and enhances the understanding of its curtailments.
- ❖ India has scored considerably low with a score of 0.352.
- ❖ Top Performers of the Index are Uruguay and Portugal.
- ❖ They are followed by Latvia and Germany.
- ❖ The index did not report data for 35 countries - including the United States and Australia.



Food Coalition

- ❖ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations has launched a Food Coalition.
- ❖ It was proposed by Italy.
- ❖ The alliance aims to increase resilience of agricultural food systems and ensure global food access.

Reforms in UAE

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced a major relaxation in the country's Islamic personal laws.
- ❖ It is loosening alcohol restrictions such as alcohol consumption, sales and possession for those aged 21 and above.
- ❖ It is also allowing cohabitation of unmarried couples and criminalising honour killings.
- ❖ UAE is to host the World Expo in Dubai from October 2021- March 2022.

Tigray region

- ❖ Ethiopia's administration has ordered to counter the violent attack in the country's northern Tigray region.

- ❖ The Tigray Region is the northernmost of the of Ethiopia.



Special Anthology on Mahatma Gandhi

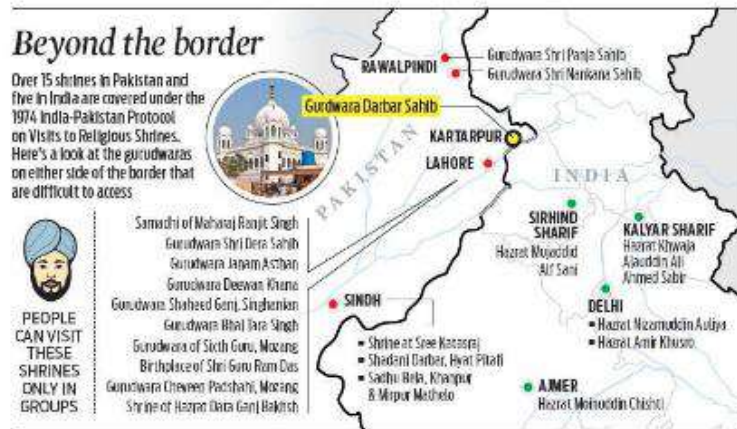
- ❖ Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari has released a special pictorial anthology on Mahatma Gandhi to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ This anthology is written in the Nepali language.

20th Summit of SCO Council of Heads of State

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed this summit through video conferencing.
- ❖ The summit is chaired by the Russian President Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ The ongoing SCO summit is being attended by the Heads of States of all 8 SCO Member States - Russia, India, China, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The Heads of States of 4 observer states of SCO- Iran, Afghanistan, Mongolia and Belarus are also participating in the summit.
- ❖ It is the third meeting that India is participating in as a full member of the SCO.
- ❖ India had become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in 2017.
- ❖ The present SCO Summit has ended with the adoption of the Moscow Declaration.

Kartarpur Corridor

- ❖ The Pakistan Gurudwara body, PSGPC (Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Parbandhak Committee) is to celebrate the first anniversary of the inauguration of Kartarpur Corridor.
- ❖ The Corridor connects Dera Baba Nanak in India with Gurudwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan.



Sheikh Khalifa - Bahrain

- ❖ The Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Khalifa passed away (84).
- ❖ He was the world's longest-serving Prime Minister.
- ❖ He took over the post of Bahrain's Prime Minister since its independence in 1971.



PIWTT route

- ❖ India has received the first commercial shipment from Bangladesh through water route.
- ❖ The shipment was received Assam's Karimganj on the Protocol for Inland Water Trade and Transit (PIWTT) route.



Internal Market Bill of UK

- ❖ It aims to make trade arrangements for all four countries of UK - England, Scotland, and Wales and Northern Ireland after the Brexit transition period ends on December 31, 2020.
- ❖ United Kingdom voted to leave European Union in a referendum in 2016.
- ❖ UK left the European Union on February 1, 2020.

Myanmar Election Results

- ❖ Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party is set to return for a second term.
- ❖ However, Suu Kyi is prohibited from becoming the President because her late husband and children are foreign citizens.

17th India-ASEAN summit

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi cochaired India-ASEAN summit along with the Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- ❖ During the summit, PM announced that India is to contribute 1 million USD to COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund.
- ❖ ASEAN-India Plan of Action for 2021-2025 was also adopted during this summit.
- ❖ ASEAN is to become the world largest single market by 2030.
- ❖ ASEAN is the fourth largest trading partner of India.

15th East Asia Summit

- ❖ The summit adopted Ha Noi Declaration.
- ❖ It stressed upon the effective implementation of Manila Plan of Action to advance the Phnom Penh Declaration (2018-2022).
- ❖ The summit was chaired by Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Phuc in his capacity as chair of the ASEAN.



- ❖ India expressed concerns over eroding trust in the South China Sea region.
- ❖ China claims sovereignty of all the South China Sea.
- ❖ The East Asia Summit is a premier forum in the Asia-Pacific region dealing with issues relating to security and defence.

Operation Thunder

- ❖ The INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization conducted Operation Thunder, 2020 in 103 countries.
- ❖ The operation was conducted against environmental crimes.
- ❖ According to INTERPOL, wildlife and forestry crime is the fourth largest illegal trade in the world.
- ❖ Under the Operation Thunder, the India Customs intercepted an 18-tonnes of red sandalwood that was destined to United Arab Emirates.

RCEP : 15 agreement

- ❖ China and fourteen other countries signed a deal to set up the world largest trading bloc.
- ❖ These 15 countries account to 30% of world population and 30% of global GDP.
- ❖ The deal is the world largest Free Trade Agreement.
- ❖ This is the first time China and Japan reached a bilateral tariff reduction arrangement.
- ❖ Also, it is for the first time China, South Korea and Japan have come together in a single free trade agreement.



- ❖ The agreement will lower the tariffs further.
- ❖ Also, it is less comprehensive than the Trans-Pacific trade deal.
- ❖ Unlike the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the European Union Trade deal, it does not set standards on labour and environment.
- ❖ CPTPP was signed between Canada, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Vietnam, Singapore, Peru, New Zealand, Malaysia, Chile, Brunei in 2018 at Chile.
- ❖ India in 2019 opted out of the agreement mainly due to concerns of dumping manufactured goods from China.

G20 historic debt Deal

- ❖ G20 strikes historic debt pact to help poor Covid-hit countries
- ❖ It is the first time the G20 agreed on a common approach for restructuring government debt
- ❖ It is because the Covid crisis leaves poorer nations at risk of default.
- ❖ The USA would be monitoring its implementation.
- ❖ China accounted for 63% of overall debt owed to G20 countries in 2019.
- ❖ Zambia is on the brink of becoming Africa's first COVID-era sovereign default.
- ❖ The scheme borrows heavily from rules established by Paris Club group.

Paris Club group

- ❖ It was established in 1956.
- ❖ It is an informal grouping that meets on monthly basis at Paris.
- ❖ It is to find workable solutions to payment problems faced by debtor nations.
- ❖ It has 19 member countries.
- ❖ Most of them are Scandinavian countries, European countries, USA and UK.

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.

Tristan da Cunha



- ❖ It was recently declared the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ It is an UK Overseas Territory.
- ❖ It is located at 6,000 miles from London in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- ❖ It is inhabited by less than 300 humans.
- ❖ The waters around the island are having the rich biodiversity in the world.
- ❖ The island will become largest no-take zone in the Atlantic Ocean after joining Blue Belt programme of UK.

Puerto Rico

- ❖ For the third time in ten years, the United States territory of Puerto Rico has voted in favour of statehood.
- ❖ It demands to be treated at par with the other 50 states of USA.
- ❖ Puerto Ricans also cannot vote in US Presidential Elections.
- ❖ It is a Spanish-speaking island located in the Caribbean Sea.
- ❖ It was discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1493.
- ❖ In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted US citizenship, but the island itself was never made a full state.
- ❖ It continues to remain a “US territory”, along with Guam, North Mariana Islands, American Samoa, and the US Virgin Islands.
- ❖ Similarly, Washington, D.C. has also been insisting to become the 51st state of USA.
- ❖ Washington D.C. was created in 1776 on the idea that the national capital should not be a part of any state.

12th BRICS Summit

- ❖ It is hosted by Russia.
- ❖ The theme of this summit “Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.
- ❖ The meeting was to be held at St Peterburg in July 2020.

Malabar exercise

- ❖ The second phase of Malabar Exercise is to be held between November 17, 2020 and November 20, 2020 in the Northern Arabian Sea.
- ❖ The first phase of Malabar exercise was held between November 3, 2020 and November 6, 2020 in Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The Navies of India, Japan, Australia and US are to participate in the second phase of Malabar Exercise.
- ❖ The exercise is important because the four countries together form the QUAD grouping.
- ❖ This is the first time in the decade that the four countries are participating in such a large war-gaming naval exercise.

Team Halo

- ❖ The UN launched “Team Halo” in collaboration with “The Vaccine Confidence Project” at the University of London.
- ❖ The initiative aims to counter the misinformation around Covid-19 vaccines.

G20 Global smart Cities Alliance

- ❖ World Economic Forum (WEF) selected four Indian cities to pioneer a roadmap for smart cities.
- ❖ These are to be developed by the G20 Global smart Cities Alliance.
- ❖ These cities are Indore, Bengaluru, Faridabad and Hyderabad.

Golden Card Visa

- ❖ The United Arab Emirates (UAE) recently approved the issuance of Golden Card Visa.
- ❖ The visa is being provided for professionals, physicians, engineers and PhD holders from certain universities.
- ❖ Earlier, UAE offered only renewable visas to the foreigners that are tied to their employment.

APEC summit

- ❖ The members of Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) held a ministerial meeting virtually under the chair of Malaysia.
- ❖ The Bogor Goals of APEC is one of its flagship initiatives and the deadline set for the Goals was 2020.
- ❖ India had requested for membership in APEC.
- ❖ APEC has decided not to allow India as India does not border Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The other 21 members of APEC members border Pacific Ocean.

USA and Paris Agreement

- ❖ President-elect Joe Biden has publicly stated that the United States would seek to rejoin the Paris Agreement.
- ❖ The 2015 Paris Agreement seeks to keep the rise in global temperatures to within 2°C compared to pre-industrial times.
- ❖ The US still is the second largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, after China.

Bloomberg New Economy Forum

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered an address at the third Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum.
- ❖ It was established in 2018 by Michael Bloomberg.

Global Strategy to Accelerate the Elimination of Cervical Cancer

- ❖ During the 73rd World Health Assembly, on November 17, 2020, the World Health Organization released this report.
- ❖ It aims to reduce more than 40% of new cases by 2050.
- ❖ For the first time, the WHO commits to eliminate cervical cancer globally.
- ❖ Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer among women in the world.
- ❖ India accounts to one-fourth of world cervical cancer deaths.

World's Best Cities 2021



- ❖ It was released by Resonance Consultancy Ltd of Canada.
- ❖ India has only one representative on the list.
- ❖ Delhi is ranked 62 on the list.
- ❖ London is at the top of the list for the 6th consecutive year.
- ❖ It is followed by New York, Paris, Moscow and Tokyo.

Vishnu Temple in Pakistan

- ❖ Recently a Hindu temple, believed to have been constructed 1,300 years ago, has been discovered by Pakistani and Italian archaeological experts.
- ❖ The discovery was made during an excavation at Barikot Ghundai, a mountain in northwest Pakistan's Swat district.
- ❖ The temple discovered is of Lord Vishnu, which was built by the Hindus during the Hindu Shahi period (850-1026 CE).

Parliament-in-Exile for Tibet

- ❖ The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile (TPiE) has its headquarters in Dharamsala, in the Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Tibetans living in exile and settled across India and other parts of the globe shall be electing their next Parliament-in-Exile in May 2021.
- ❖ However, it is not recognised officially by any country, including India.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit

- ❖ The Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals was adopted during the summit.
- ❖ After the virtual summit the APEC leaders issued the Kuala Lumpur Declaration.
- ❖ The 2020 summit was hosted by Malaysia.
- ❖ The official theme of the APEC Malaysia 2020 is "Optimising Human Potential Towards a Resilient Future of Shared Prosperity: Pivot. Prioritise. Progress".
- ❖ APEC is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.
- ❖ APEC started in 1989 with headquarters at Singapore.



15th G-20 Leaders' Summit

- ❖ This will be the second G20 leaders meeting in 2020.
- ❖ The summit's chair is King Salman bin Abdul aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ The theme is Realising the Opportunities of the 21st Century for All.
- ❖ India will be a part of the G20 troika along with Saudi Arabia and Italy.
- ❖ It is a three-member country committee.
- ❖ It is made up of the current, immediate past and next host countries
- ❖ Italy will take over the G20 presidency on December 1, 2020.
- ❖ The 2021 summit is planned to be held in Italy at Rome.
- ❖ Indonesia is to host the summit in 2022.
- ❖ India is to host the summit in 2023 at Delhi.

India and Thailand Corpat

- ❖ The 30th Indo-Thai CORPAT was held between Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy at the Andaman Sea.
- ❖ CORPAT builds up interoperability between the participating navies.
- ❖ Under SAGAR, the Indian Navy has been assisting countries in the Indian Ocean Region for the surveillance and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief.
- ❖ Thailand is one of the beneficiaries of these initiatives.
- ❖ India and Thailand are holding annual bilateral exercise MAITREE since 2006.
- ❖ SITMEX is India-Thailand Maritime Exercise.

Global Bribery Risk 2020

- ❖ It was released by TRACE international.
- ❖ It is the world leading anti-bribery standard setting organisation.
- ❖ India ranked 77 in the global list.



- ❖ North Korea, Turkmenistan, South Sudan, Venezuela and Eritrea were at highest risks.
- ❖ Denmark, Norway, Finland, Sweden and New Zealand present the lowest.

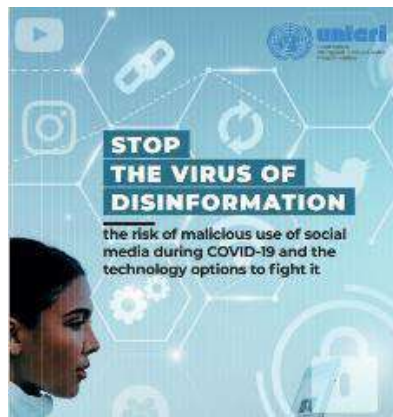
India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit

- ❖ India and Luxembourg held the first standalone summit in two decades.
- ❖ Luxembourg is the third largest source of Foreign Portfolios after US and Mauritius.
- ❖ Luxembourg is the second richest country in the world.
- ❖ Luxembourg is one of three major Tax Havens of the European Union.
- ❖ The other two are Ireland and Netherlands.
- ❖ Tax Haven is a country where taxes are levied at very low rates.



UNICRI report

- ❖ The report is titled "Stop the virus of disinformation: the malicious use of social media by terrorist, violent extremist and criminal groups during the COVID-19 pandemic".
- ❖ It was released by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI).
- ❖ It said that criminals and violent extremists are exploiting the pandemic to build their support networks, undermine trust in government and even weaponize the virus.
- ❖ The Groups associated with al-Qaeda and ISIS is exploiting the COVID-19 pandemic to spread conspiracy theories.
- ❖ For example, ISIL and Al-Qaeda claimed that the virus is God's wrath upon the West.



Geospatial Practices for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific 2020

- ❖ It is a report released by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).
- ❖ The report said that India has been making significant progress in responding to the demands of today's cities
- ❖ It cites the role played by 'BHUVAN'.
- ❖ BHUVAN is the national geo-portal developed and hosted by ISRO.
- ❖ ISRO customised the Geo-portal and developed 'Bhuvan - COVID-19' at a national level to track the pandemic and update the public on the current situation.

Rohingya crisis

- ❖ The United Nations has adopted a resolution tabled by the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) and the European Union (EU) that calls for urgent resolution of the Rohingya crisis.
- ❖ The resolution calls for specific action on the part of Myanmar to address the root cause of the Rohingya crisis including granting them citizenship rights and ensuring safe and sustainable return to their homes.
- ❖ The resolution further expressed appreciation for the Bangladesh government for its humanitarian act of sheltering the displaced Rohingyas.

IPU external auditor

- ❖ Comptroller & Auditor General of India Girish Chandra Murmu has been elected as the External Auditor of Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Geneva for three years.
- ❖ He will take charge of this position from Supreme Audit Institution of Switzerland.
- ❖ The IPU is a global inter-parliamentary institution established by France and UK in 1889.

Averting a lost Covid generation

- ❖ The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has released this report.
- ❖ It is the first UNICEF report to comprehensively outline the dire and growing consequences for children from covid.

Arria Formula

- ❖ India has called for an "immediate comprehensive ceasefire" in Afghanistan at a recent UNSC meeting.
- ❖ It was convened under the Arria Formula.
- ❖ It is informally convened at the request of a UNSC member.

Treaty of Open Skies

- ❖ The United States has formally withdrawn itself from this Treaty.
- ❖ As per the USA, Russia continues to violate its obligations under the treaty
- ❖ Under the treaty, all participating countries can observe one another's militaries through aerial surveillance.
- ❖ The treaty allows the participating nations to fly over the entire territory of the party state.
- ❖ Under this, no territory can be declared off-limits by the host nation.
- ❖ The treaty was signed by 35 nations.
- ❖ It was negotiated in 1992 and signed on 2002.

One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

- ❖ Recently UN has launched this global group consisting 20-member group countries.
- ❖ It was in the wake of rising antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
- ❖ It is a collaborative effort of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ It is co-chaired by the prime ministers of Barbados and Bangladesh.

Global Center for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP)

- ❖ India and the USA have extended their Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on the Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) by 10 years.
- ❖ The GCNEP is a research and development institute in Haryana under the aegis of the Department of Atomic Energy.

- ❖ It aims to strengthen India's cooperation with the international community.
- ❖ It was originally signed on November 2010.
- ❖ The extension of the MoU was agreed during the 3rd US-India 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue held in New Delhi.
- ❖ 2+2 is a dialogue mechanism between two countries' defence and external affairs ministries.
- ❖ India has established the 2+2 dialogue with Japan and the USA.
- ❖ The USA and India signed the landmark Indo-US nuclear cooperation agreement in 2008.

2020 Afghanistan Conference



- ❖ India and Afghanistan concluded the agreement to construct the Shahtoot dam
- ❖ India has also announced the Phase-IV of the High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan.
- ❖ It was announced during the 2020 Afghanistan Conference organized in Geneva.
- ❖ The conference was co-hosted by UN, the Government of Afghanistan, and the Government of Finland.
- ❖ India already completed the construction of 218 km road from Delaram to Zaranj (on Iranian border).
- ❖ It provides alternate connectivity for Afghanistan through Iran.
- ❖ It also helped to construct India-Afghanistan friendship dam, and the Afghan Parliament building.

ECONOMY

PFMS at District Level

- ❖ The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has become the first UT in the country to operationalize Public Financial Management System (PFMS) at the district level.
- ❖ PFMS is a web-based online software application developed and implemented by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India.
- ❖ PFMS started during 2009 with the objective of tracking funds released under all Plan schemes of Government of India and real time reporting of expenditure at all levels of Programme implementation.

METLDEX

- ❖ The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) of India launched Base Metals Index 'METLDEX'.
- ❖ It is India's first real time Base Metal Futures Index.



- ❖ Till now, the domestic metal prices were pivoted to the London Metal Exchange (LME) prices.
- ❖ METLDEX is based on the five base metals - zinc, copper, nickel, lead and aluminium.
- ❖ METLDEX is the short form of Metal Index.
- ❖ MCX is the country's leading commodity bourse.

National Program and Project Management Policy Framework (NPPMF)

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Quality Council of India launched the NPPMF.
- ❖ It is envisaged to bring radical reforms in the way infrastructure projects are executed in India.

Electricity Access in India and Benchmarking Distribution Utilities

- ❖ Niti Aayog released this report.
- ❖ The report says that 92% of customers received electricity infrastructure within 50 metres of their premises.
- ❖ India on an average is receiving 17 hours of electricity per day.

- ❖ Nearly 85% of customers reported to have a metered electricity connection.
- ❖ The households connected to the electricity grid has increased from 59.4% to 100% in the country.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh performed far below than the other utilities.

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & Phase III

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved this project.
- ❖ These two phases are to be implemented with financial assistance from the World Bank and AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank).
- ❖ The project aims to rehabilitate 736 dams in India.
- ❖ The project is being implemented by the Central Dam Safety Organization of Central Water Commission.
- ❖ India ranks third after China and USA in number of large dams.
- ❖ There are 5,264 large dams in India and 437 are under construction.

The 2020 World's Safest Banks

- ❖ The New York-based trade publication Global Finance has announced its 29th annual ranking of the World's Safest Banks.
- ❖ DBS Bank has been named the 'Safest Bank in Asia' for the 12th consecutive year.
- ❖ Also, DBS Bank is ranked at 4th position as the safest commercial bank in the world.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Singapore.
- ❖ World's Safest Banks 2020: KfW, Germany (Rank1), Zuercher Kantonal bank, Switzerland (Rank2) and BNG Bank, Netherland (Rank3).
- ❖ State Bank of India is the safest bank in India.

Rank	Company Name	Country	Fitch	Moody's	S&P	Total Score
1	KfW	Germany	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30
2	Zuercher Kantonalbank	Switzerland	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30
3	BNG Bank	Netherlands	AAA	Aaa	AAA	30

Doing Business in India Report 2020

- ❖ It was released by the UK India Business Council.
- ❖ It is being published for the sixth time since 2015.
- ❖ India's score of doing business has improved from 2.74 in 2019 22.9 to in 2020.
- ❖ According to the report, for the third consecutive Year Maharashtra emerged as the state with maximum incremental improvement.
- ❖ It was followed by Karnataka, Delhi, Gujarat and Tamilnadu.

Industrial Relations Code 2020

- ❖ The Ministry of Labour recently notified the draft rules for the Industrial Relations Code, 2020.
- ❖ The rules are to be implemented by April, 2021.
- ❖ The rules are to supersede
 - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1949
 - Industrial Tribunal (Central Procedure) Rules, 1954
 - Industrial Employment (Standing Order) Central Rules, 1946 and
 - Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957.
- ❖ Under the new Rules, the establishments with more than 300 workers will have to seek Government Approval to lay 15 days in prior to the lay off.
- ❖ Earlier, the limit was 100 employees.
- ❖ Also, the closure of establishments should be done after seeking 60 or 90 days prior approval from the Government.
- ❖ It also prescribes subscription charges to the trade unions.

WhatsApp Pay

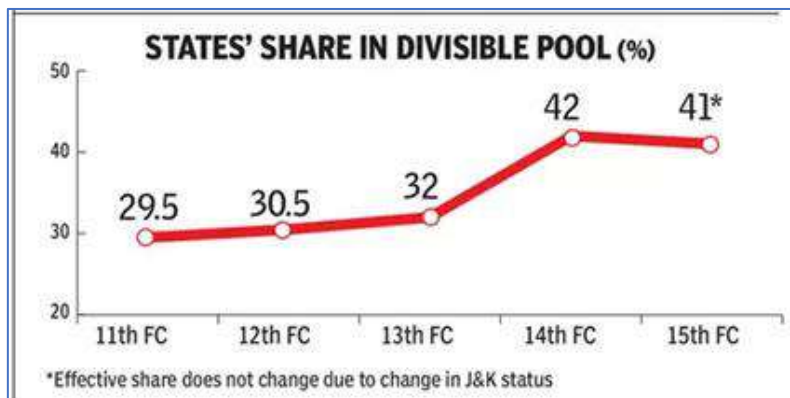
- ❖ The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has allowed Facebook-owned messaging platform WhatsApp to start its payments service in the country in a 'graded' manner.
- ❖ WhatsApp has partnered with five banks namely ICICI Bank, Indian Bank, Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, State Bank of India.
- ❖ Apart from these five banks, Jio Payment Bank has also been included.
- ❖ Unified Payments Interface or UPI is an immediate real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NCPI).
- ❖ It was introduced in April 2016 as a pilot project.
- ❖ It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Fifteenth Finance Commission report

- ❖ It is headed by N K Singh.
- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission was required to submit two reports.
- ❖ The first report consisted recommendations for the financial year 2020-21.
- ❖ It has submitted its second report the President of India for the period of 2021/2026.
- ❖ It will be available in the public domain once it is tabled in the Parliament by the government along with an action taken report on its recommendations.

Key Recommendations

- ❖ The states shall get 41% of central tax revenues.
- ❖ 4.3 lakh crores for the local governments
- ❖ Rs 1 lakh grant to health care
- ❖ Rs 2.9 lakh crores of revenue deficit grants to 17 states.
- ❖ Earlier, the fourteenth Finance Commission had recommended 42%.
- ❖ The states are asked to keep aside at least 8% of their budget for building health care capacities.
- ❖ It recommended to set up Modernisation of Defence and Internal Security Fund.
- ❖ The fund is to add up to Rs 2.4 lakh crores by 2021-26.
- ❖ Of this, Rs 1.5 lakh crore is to be directly transferred to Consolidated Fund of India.



- ❖ The 15th Finance Commission used the following criteria while determining the share of states:
 - 45% for the income distance,
 - 15% for the population in 2011,
 - 15% for the area,
 - 10% for forest and ecology,
 - 12.5% for demographic performance,
 - 2.5% for tax effort.

Criteria	14 th Finance Commission Weightage (2015-20)	15 th Finance Commission Weightage (2021-26)
Income Distance	50.0	45.0
Population - 1971	17.5	17.5
Population - 2011	10.0	15.0
Area	15.0	15.0
Forest Cover	7.5	7.5
Forest & Ecology	7.5	10.0
Demographic	7.5	12.5
Performance	7.5	7.5
Tax Effort	7.5	2.5
Total	100.00	100.00

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have received the largest devolutions for 2020-21.
- ❖ Karnataka and Kerala saw the largest decreases in the share.
- ❖ The Terms of Reference of the Finance Commission require it to recommend grants-in-aid to the States. These grants include
 - revenue deficit grants
 - grants to local bodies
 - disaster management grants.

First Tranche of Coal Mine Auction

- ❖ The first tranche of the auction is to generate revenue of Rs 7,000 crores.
- ❖ The auctioned mines are located in the states of Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Recently India launched the auction process of 41 blocks of commercial mining in June 2020.
- ❖ India is the second largest importer of coal.
- ❖ India has the fifth largest coal reserves in the world.

National Common Mobility Debit Card

- ❖ Karnataka Bank Ltd. has launched the National Common Mobility Debit (NCMC) card.

Karnataka Bank launches National Common Mobility Debit card

Karnataka Bank Ltd has launched National Common Mobility Debit Card.

Aims: Users can make payments without inserting the card at PoS terminals. Payments can be made at toll plazas, metro transits, parking lots, retail outlets and smart cities with the help of this card. The card's wallet supports small-ticket size offline payments through the value stored in the card.



Note: About Karnataka Bank

- Headquarters: Mangalore
- CEO: Mahabaleshwara M. S
- Tagline : "Your Family Bank Across India".

- ❖ It is the first-ever contactless debit-cum-prepaid Rupay Card of the bank.
- ❖ It is an inter-operable transport card.
- ❖ This debit card has been launched in-line with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs' vision.

MSME Job Generation

- ❖ The report was released by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ Maharashtra has been ranked first on the list of states that have generated most jobs in the MSME (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) sector.
- ❖ The other top four states after the Maharashtra are Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has secured a place ahead of Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Telangana in the list of top 10 states.
- ❖ The ambitious scheme of One District One Product (ODOP) under MSME in UP has emerged as a game changer in the times of the pandemic.

PM-KUSUM Scheme

- ❖ The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has planned to expand the target of PM-KUSUM.
- ❖ The new target of the scheme has been enhanced to achieve solar capacity of 30.8 GW (from 25.7 GW) by 2022.
- ❖ The scheme was launched to help farmers install solar pumps and other renewable power plants.

Atma Nirbhar Bharat Rozgar Yojana

- ❖ It is the fourth economic stimulus package Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ It is being launched to incentivize creation of new employment opportunities during COVID-19 recovery phase.
- ❖ It will benefit employees in EPFO registered establishments who were on monthly wages less than Rs 15,000.

Mission COVID Suraksha

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced Mission COVID Suraksha.
- ❖ Under the mission, the Government of India has allocated Rs 900 crores to the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines in India.
- ❖ The funds allocated do not cover the cost and distribution of the vaccines.
- ❖ Currently three vaccines are in trial in India.

- ❖ They are COVAXIN, COVISHIELD and the ZyCov-D vaccine.
- ❖ COVAXIN is being developed by Indian Council of Medical Research and Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ COVISHIELD is being developed by Oxford University and Serum Institute of Technology.
- ❖ ZyCov-D is being developed by Zydus Cadila.
- ❖ The Russian Vaccine Sputnik V is also under trials in the country.

India in historic recession

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India published 'nowcast,' first of its kind.
- ❖ It is an estimate based on high-frequency data.
- ❖ India has entered a technical recession in the first half of 2020-21 for the first time in its history
- ❖ According to RBI, India's economy declined for a second straight quarter (July to September).
- ❖ Gross domestic product contracted 8.6 per cent in the quarter ended September.
- ❖ The economy had slumped about 24 per cent in April to June.
- ❖ The term Recession refers to a significant decline in general economic activity.
- ❖ It is recognized as two consecutive quarters of economic decline, as reflected by GDP.

Reserve Bank Innovation Hub

- ❖ The former Co-Chairman of Infosys Kris Gopalakrishnan has been appointed as the first Chairperson of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH).
- ❖ The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub will be creating an ecosystem that will focus on promoting access to financial services and products.

Lakshmi Vilas Bank

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India recently imposed a moratorium on Lakshmi Vilas Bank of India for a period of thirty days.
- ❖ It is a Chennai based bank.
- ❖ The Lakshmi Vilas Bank is to be amalgamated with the DBS Bank of Singapore.
- ❖ The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act was passed in September 2020.
- ❖ Accordingly, the RBI can take revival plans without imposing moratorium.

Private sector banks reforms

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had constituted an Internal Working Group (IWG) to review the extant ownership guidelines and corporate structure for private sector banks in India.
- ❖ It was headed by Prasanna Kumar Mohanty, Director, Central Board of RBI.

Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises scheme (PM-FME)

- ❖ The Minister of Food Processing Industries Narendra Singh Tomar launched the Capacity building Component of the PM-FME scheme.
- ❖ The scheme was launched under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Ministry of Food Processing.
- ❖ It is a centrally sponsored scheme.
- ❖ The scheme is to be implemented over a period of five years between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- ❖ Also, it will help India achieve its goal of doubling farmers income by 2022.
- ❖ India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world after China.
- ❖ India has twenty different Agro-Climatic regions.
- ❖ The Agro-Climatic regions are defined based on rainfall, soil types, temperature and water availability.

Project Kirana

- ❖ Mastercard and United States Agency for International Development launched "Project Kirana".
- ❖ The project will work to increase revenue, digital payments and expand financial inclusion for the women entrepreneurs.
- ❖ It is a two-year programme to be rolled out in selected cities such as Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh is the most populous states of India.
- ❖ Also, the state has the largest number of MSME in India.
- ❖ USAID is United States Agency for International Development.
- ❖ It is an independent agency that is responsible to administer foreign aid and development assistance.

Micro-irrigation projects

- ❖ The Union Agriculture Ministry has given the nod for subsidised loans worth Rs 3,971.31 crore for implementing these projects.

- ❖ These loans are being offered under Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) created with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementing these projects.
- ❖ The maximum amount of loan has been approved for Tamil Nadu.

Sahakar Pragya

- ❖ The Government has launched this with an aim to help primary cooperative societies play bigger roles in Atma Nirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ It is an innovative capacity building initiative for the farmers associated with such entities in the country.
- ❖ Under this, the farmers in primary cooperatives in rural areas of the country would be trained by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).

National Infrastructure Investment Fund

- ❖ The Union Cabinet approved Rs 6,000 crores of capital infusion into the National Infrastructure Investment Fund.
- ❖ This is a part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.
- ❖ The move will leverage to create financial pipeline of Rs 1 lakh crore.
- ❖ The Fund was set up by Government of India in February 2015.
- ❖ The main objective of creating the fund was to increase the investment in Greenfield and brownfield projects.
- ❖ It includes social and economic Infrastructure Projects.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IndiGen Programme 2019

- ❖ The Council of scientific and Industrial Research began the IndiGen Programme in 2019.
- ❖ The programme was launched to fill the gap of genome sequences from different populations in India.
- ❖ The programme successfully completed genome Sequencing of 1029 self-declared healthy Indian who were drawn from different regions of the country.
- ❖ The programme will find solutions that are applicable in preventive and predictive medicated measures.
- ❖ This will enable genetic epidemiology.

- ❖ Under this, a study was conducted by the Council of scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Centre for cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) and the institute of genomics and integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).
- ❖ As per this study, 32% genetic variants are unique in Indian sequences as compared to that of global genomes.
- ❖ This is because India is rich in Genetic diversity and also in population density.
- ❖ The first country to launch a genome programme in the world was the United Kingdom.

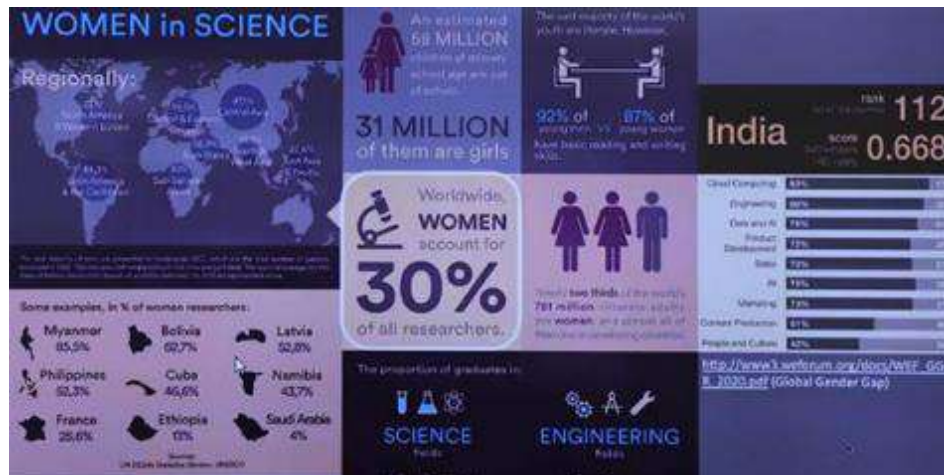


Hydrogen Generation Technology

- ❖ The IISc and the Indian Oil Corporation Research and Development Centre signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop biomass gasification-based Hydrogen Generation Technology.
- ❖ It is to produce Fuel Cell Grade Hydrogen at an affordable price.
- ❖ The technology is to be demonstrated at the Indian Oil Research and Development Centre at Faridabad.

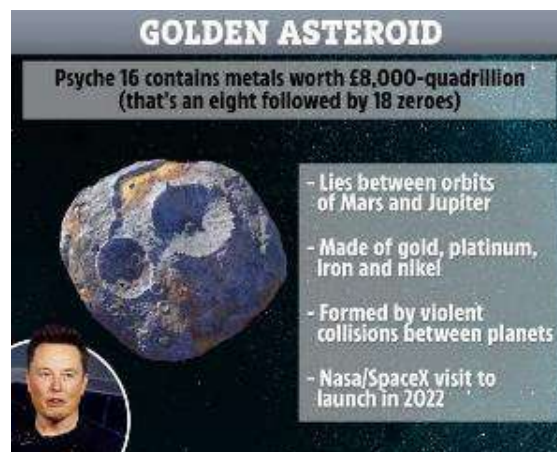
SERB-POWER initiative

- ❖ The Minister of Science and Technology Dr Harsh Vardhan launched this initiative.
- ❖ The scheme mitigates gender disparity in science and engineering research funding programmes in Indian academic Institutions and Research and Development Laboratories.
- ❖ The scheme was exclusively designed for women scientist.
- ❖ SERB is Science and Engineering Research Board.
- ❖ It is a statutory body operating under Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ POWER is Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research.



16 Psyche

- ❖ A recent study has found that this asteroid could be made entirely of metal.
- ❖ Images from NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has shown that the surface may mostly comprise iron and nickel, similar to the Earth's core.
- ❖ It is also made of rare metals such as gold, cobalt, platinum, rhenium and iridium.
- ❖ It is an asteroid which orbits between Mars and Jupiter in the Asteroid belt.
- ❖ It was named after the ancient Greek goddess of the soul, Psyche.



Indian Coast Guard Ship C-452

- ❖ It is to be commissioned in the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It is designed and built by L&T indigenously in India.
- ❖ Earlier, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had commissioned the ICGS Sachet and two other interceptor boats namely C-451 and C-450 in Goa.
- ❖ Indian Coast Guard was established in 1978 under the Coast Guard Act, 1978.
- ❖ It operates under the Ministry of Defence.



Pinaka rocket system

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired advanced version of the Pinaka rocket system.
- ❖ The rocket was flight tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha.
- ❖ Pinaka rockets are named after the bow of Lord Shiva.
- ❖ They are part of the multi-barrel rocket launcher systems which are already in the Indian Army.



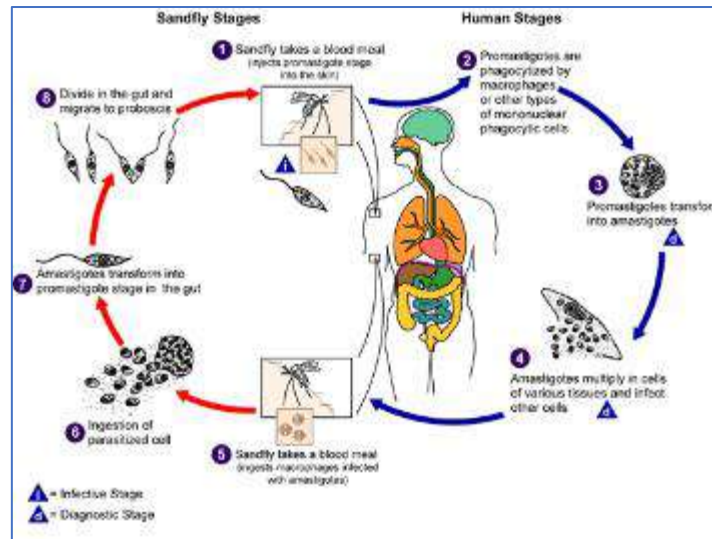
13 satellites in a single rocket

- ❖ China launched 13 satellites in a single rocket successfully.
- ❖ Of these 13 satellites, 10 were from Argentina.
- ❖ This is the biggest launch of foreign satellites by the country.
- ❖ The satellites were launched on the Long March 6 carrier rocket.

Leishmania donovani

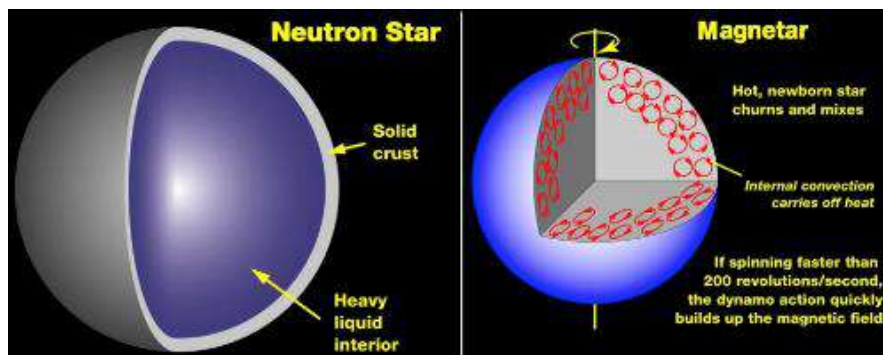
- ❖ CSIR-CDRI scientist won an award for his work on defining the survival tactics of *Leishmania donovani*.
- ❖ *Leishmania donovani* is a protozoan parasite that infects macrophages.

- ❖ It is a causative agent of visceral leishmaniasis (Kala-Azar).



Fast Radio Bursts

- ❖ According to recent observations, Intense pulses of radio waves have now been found in the Milky Way.
- ❖ They are known as fast radio bursts (FRB).
- ❖ They have been frequently detected in other galaxies
- ❖ The latest studies reported that two radio telescopes, one in the United States and the other in Canada detected FRB.
- ❖ It was named FRB 200428.
- ❖ Many theories have also suggested that FRBs are caused by neutron stars.
- ❖ The neutron stars are the corpses of stars which died in explosions called supernovas.
- ❖ Recent study identifies FRBs are in fact generated by a rare type of neutron star known as a 'magnetar'.
- ❖ They came from a magnetar known as SGR 1935+2154, located about 30,000 light-years from the earth.
- ❖ It lies in the centre of the Milky Way, in the constellation Vulpecula.
- ❖ Magnetars are the most powerful magnets in the cosmos.



All-weather Earth Observation Satellite

- ❖ ISRO launched an all-weather Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-01 using PSLV-C49 rocket.
- ❖ The launched Earth Observation Satellite is a Radar Imaging Satellite.
- ❖ It is the third of the three-spacecraft constellation.
- ❖ The other two are RISAT-2B and RISAT-2BR1.
- ❖ These two satellites were launched in 2019.
- ❖ These three satellites in the constellation are to provide all weather round the clock service with high-resolution images.
- ❖ As the satellite uses radar imaging, it is unaffected by clouds, fog or lack of sunlight.
- ❖ All the three satellites use X-band radars to monitor urban landscape, forest land and imaging agricultural land.



Malaria outbreak forecast

- ❖ The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) announced that it will start providing Malaria outbreak forecast from next monsoon.
- ❖ The department conducted its first study in the city of Nagpur.
- ❖ According to the world Malaria report India accounts to 85% of global Malaria burden.
- ❖ Also, the National Health portal reports that the majority of malarial cases are from the central and Eastern part of the countries.
- ❖ This is mainly because these States have dense forests, tribal areas and hilly regions.

- ❖ The states include Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and the North Eastern states such as Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Vaccine

- ❖ Malaria vaccine is known as RTS, S.
- ❖ It was branded as Mosquirix and approved by the European medicine's agency in 2015.
- ❖ The vaccine is not registered in India.
- ❖ Malawi is a first country chosen to roll out the vaccine.

Habitable Exoplanets

- ❖ Recent data from Kepler Spacecraft shows a large number of habitable Exoplanets.
- ❖ An exoplanet or extrasolar planet is a planet outside the Solar System.
- ❖ The Kepler Mission was launched in 2009.
- ❖ It was NASA's first planet-hunting mission.
- ❖ Kepler is succeeded by NASA's Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite.
- ❖ TESS was launched in April 2018.
- ❖ TESS is the new planet hunter for NASA.

EOS – 01

- ❖ It was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ It was launched as the primary satellite along with nine international customer satellites on board the PSLV-C49.
- ❖ The launch of EOS-01 was PSLV's 51st mission (PSLV-C49).
- ❖ EOS-01 was initially named RISAT-2BR2.
- ❖ ISRO is moving to a new naming system for its earth observation satellites.
- ❖ Henceforth all the earth observation satellites would be called EOS-series.
- ❖ The Cartosat series of satellites were meant to provide data for land topography and mapping.
- ❖ The Oceansat satellites were meant for observations over sea.
- ❖ The launch of EOS-01 was the 76th launch vehicle mission from Sriharikota space centre.
- ❖ ISRO sent communication satellite GSAT-30 in January 2020.
- ❖ It was sent from French Guiana using an Ariane rocket.



Minks as source corona

- ❖ Denmark has decided to kill every mink in the country to stop the spread of mutated coronavirus to humans.
- ❖ The new mutated variation of the virus has resulted into the less ability to produce antibodies in Humans.
- ❖ This could reduce the potential effectiveness of a vaccine.
- ❖ Denmark is one of the largest producers of fur in the world.

Fire Detection and Suppression System

- ❖ The DRDO has developed fire detection and suppression system for passenger buses.
- ❖ The technology can detect fire in buses in less than 30 seconds.
- ❖ Also, it can extinguish the fire in 60 Seconds.
- ❖ The technology was developed by the Delhi based Centre for fire explosive and environment safety of DRDO.

Thirty Meter Telescope Project

- ❖ The Indian Astronomers have collaborated with 2020 Physics Nobel Laureate Prof Andrea Ghez on the "Thirty Meter Telescope Project".
- ❖ The telescope is being installed at Hawaii of USA.
- ❖ It is an international partnership project between India, China, Japan, California and Canada.

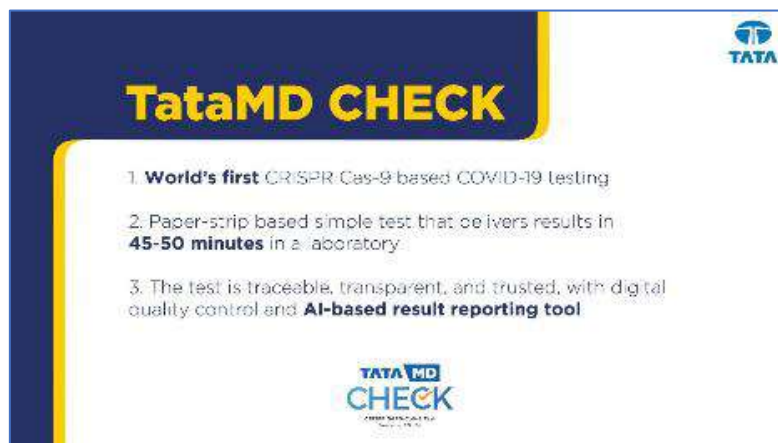
- ❖ It is designed for Ultra Violet to mid infra-red observations.

Earth Surface Mass

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration recently announced that the Earth Mass has deviated in August 2020 as compared to that of 2004-09.
- ❖ The changes were mainly because changes in amount of water, ice and snow.
- ❖ According to NASA, the sea level increase may be due to the change in earth mass.
- ❖ The change in earth mass is mainly caused due to land movement relative to sea.
- ❖ The changes in land movement was more in snow and ice-covered regions.
- ❖ These changes were calculated by GRACE Mission.
- ❖ It was a joint mission by NASA and Germany.

TataMD CHECK

- ❖ Tata Medical and Diagnostics Ltd (TataMD) launched this new Diagnostic testing tool for covid-19.
- ❖ It is the world's first CRISPR Cas-9 based diagnostic tool.
- ❖ It was developed in partnership with the Council of scientific and Industrial Research Institute of genomics and integrative Biology.
- ❖ It is also powered by FELUDA.



BNT162b2

- ❖ It is a mRNA-based Coronavirus vaccine candidate.
- ❖ It has been found to be more than 90% effective in preventing the infection of COVID-19.
- ❖ It is manufactured jointly by Pfizer (US-based pharma company) and BioNTech (German Biotech Company).

World's first 6G satellite

- ❖ China has successfully launched "the world's first 6G satellite" into space.
- ❖ It went into orbit from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in the Shanxi Province.
- ❖ This was the 351st rocket of China's Long March series.
- ❖ The 6G technology is expected to be over 100 times faster than 5G.
- ❖ It will test the technology of terahertz waves in space.
- ❖ The Terahertz waves are high-frequency radiation.
- ❖ It allows data to travel at 50 gigabits a second.



Vagir submarine

- ❖ The Indian Navy launched the fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai.
- ❖ Vagir has been named after Sand Fish.
- ❖ It is a part of six Kalvari class submarines.
- ❖ These submarines were designed by French Navy.
- ❖ It is being built in India under Project-75 of Indian Navy.
- ❖ The INS Vagsheer is the 6th one.
- ❖ It is still under construction.



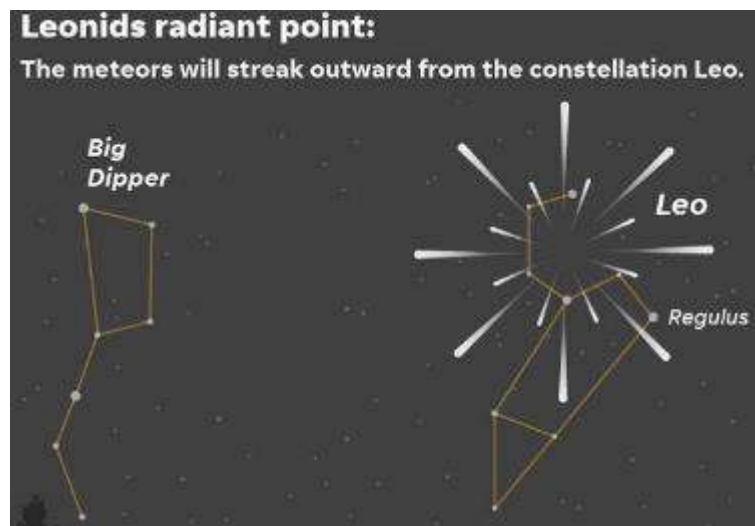
SpaceX and NASA

- ❖ NASA has officially certified SpaceX's Crew Dragon capsule and the Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ It is making it the first spacecraft certification provided by the space agency.
- ❖ This means SpaceX can now operate regular flights to the space station.

Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles (QRSAM)

- ❖ India test fired all-weather Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air-Missiles at the Chandipur Test Fire Range in Odisha.
- ❖ It is capable of striking aerial target at a height of 15 km.

Leonid Meteor Showers



- ❖ The Leonid Meteor Showers reached their peak in India between November 17, 2020 and November 18, 2020.
- ❖ For the year 2020, these showers are active between November 6 and November 30.
- ❖ The Leonids emerge from the comet Tempel-Tuttle.
- ❖ The comet takes 33 years to complete one revolution around the sun.
- ❖ Leonids originate from the constellation Leo.
- ❖ The Leonid meteor showers are bright and are travelling at the speed of 71 km per second.

Mission Crew 1

- ❖ It is the first operational mission under the Commercial Crew Programme of NASA.
- ❖ SpaceX launched four astronauts into the space under Mission Crew 1.

- ❖ The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket, which is reusable, was used to launch the spacecraft.
- ❖ The crew named the spacecraft as “Resilience”.
- ❖ The Crew Dragon capsule becomes the first spacecraft to be certified by NASA after 40 years.

nCOP2 Vaccine

- ❖ The World Health Organisation has added this vaccine to its Emergency Use Listings.
- ❖ It was developed by Bio Farma of Indonesia.
- ❖ It has been developed to treat derived polio virus strain.
- ❖ It is the novel oral polio vaccine type 2.
- ❖ The new Emergency Use Listing mechanism was developed by the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ It was in response to the Ebola virus outbreak that occurred between 2014 and 2016.
- ❖ The Vaccine of Bio Farma is the first vaccine to be approved under the list.

Param Siddhi



- ❖ It has secured rank 63 in TOP 500 most powerful non-distributed computer system list in the world.
- ❖ In a non-distributed computer system, all the components are in a single location.
- ❖ In case of Param Siddhi, all of its components are located in Pune.
- ❖ It is a high-performance computing-artificial intelligence (HPC-AI) super computer.
- ❖ It was established at C-DAC under the National Supercomputing Mission.
- ❖ It was jointly developed by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Department of Science and Technology.

- ❖ The supercomputer has a speed of 5.267 petaflops.
- ❖ The National Supercomputing Mission was announced in 2015.
- ❖ India is currently implementing third phase of National Supercomputing Mission.
- ❖ The main aim of the mission is to install 70 supercomputers in the country in three phases.
- ❖ The first supercomputer of India was installed in IIT-BHU, Varanasi.
- ❖ It was named “Param Shivay”.

HIV Prevention Model of India

- ❖ It is centred on the concept of ‘Social Contracting’.
- ❖ National AIDS Control Programme was launched in 1992 in India.
- ❖ Currently, India is implementing National Strategic Plan (2017-24) that aims to eradicate AIDS by 2030.
- ❖ As of 2018, India was home to third largest population of AIDS patients.

Gaganyaan

- ❖ ISRO is to launch first crewless Gaganyaan flight by end of 2021.
- ❖ ISRO will also eventually launch a second crewless flight in 2022 before launching humans to space.

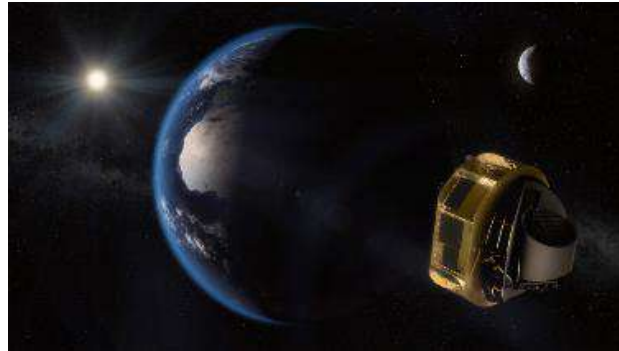


P-8I

- ❖ The Indian Navy receives ninth P-8I surveillance aircraft from Boeing of USA at the Naval Airbase of Goa.
- ❖ The Indian Navy was the first and largest international customer for the P-8 aircraft
- ❖ P-8I is a variant of Boeing's P-8A Poseidon aircraft.
- ❖ It has been developed as a replacement to the US Navy's aging P-3 fleet.

Ariel Space Mission

- ❖ The European Space Agency (ESA) has formally adopted Ariel.
- ❖ Ariel means Atmospheric Remote-sensing Infrared Exoplanet Large-survey.
- ❖ It will be launched in 2029.
- ❖ It will perform a large-scale survey of over a thousand exoplanets over a period of four years.



Phase III trial for COVAXIN

- ❖ Bharat Biotech announced the start of the third phase of clinical trials for COVAXIN.
- ❖ It will be the largest clinical trial conducted for the vaccine of Coronavirus in India.
- ❖ It is also approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- ❖ It will be conducted in partnership with ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research).
- ❖ COVAXIN is India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine.
- ❖ It has been developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with the National Institute of Virology (NIV) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ It is developed and manufactured in the BSL-3 (Bio-Safety Level 3) biocontainment facility of Bharat Biotech.
- ❖ It is manufactured in a Vero cell manufacturing platform.

mRNA

- ❖ The Moderna biotech firm of United States is developing COVID-19 vaccine using messenger RNA or mRNA.
- ❖ It is to be noted that mRNA has not been approved for any disease so far.
- ❖ Both Moderna and Pfizer companies use mRNA technology in their vaccines.
- ❖ This is the first time the technology is being used in generating a vaccine.
- ❖ The mRNA sequence has been coded with spike protein of COVID-19 virus.

World-Wide Radio Navigation System

- ❖ The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World-Wide Radio Navigation System by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) for its operation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ This will enable the vessels to use IRNSS to obtain position information similar to GLONASS and GPS.
- ❖ The navigation system up to 1,500 km in the Indian Ocean waters can now replace GPS.
- ❖ The operational name of IRNSS is NavIC.
- ❖ It has eight constellations in its orbit.
- ❖ However, IRNSS is only a regional navigational system and not a global navigational system.
- ❖ India has now become the fourth country in the world to have independent regional satellite navigation system after US, Russia and China.
- ❖ The IMO is an organization of the United Nations.

New version of Brahmos

- ❖ India test fired the new land-attack version Brahmos at Andaman Islands.
- ❖ It is a surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile.
- ❖ The range of the missile has been extended to 400 km from the original 290 km.
- ❖ The speed has been maintained at 2.8 Mach or almost three times the speed of sound.
- ❖ Brahmos-II is currently under development with a speed of Mach 7-8.
- ❖ After India became a member of Missile Technology Control Regime in 2016, Russia is to jointly build a new version of Brahmos missile that has a range of 800 km.
- ❖ The name of Brahmos missile was coined from the two rivers Brahmaputra of India and Moskva of Russia.
- ❖ It is the fastest anti-ship cruise missile in the world.
- ❖ The missile can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft and from land platforms.

Varunastra

- ❖ The Varunastra was handed over to the Indian Navy by its manufacturer Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) located in Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ Varunastra is the first heavy weight torpedo of India.
- ❖ It is an underwater weapon with an explosive warhead.
- ❖ It is the first ever torpedo indigenously designed and developed in India.

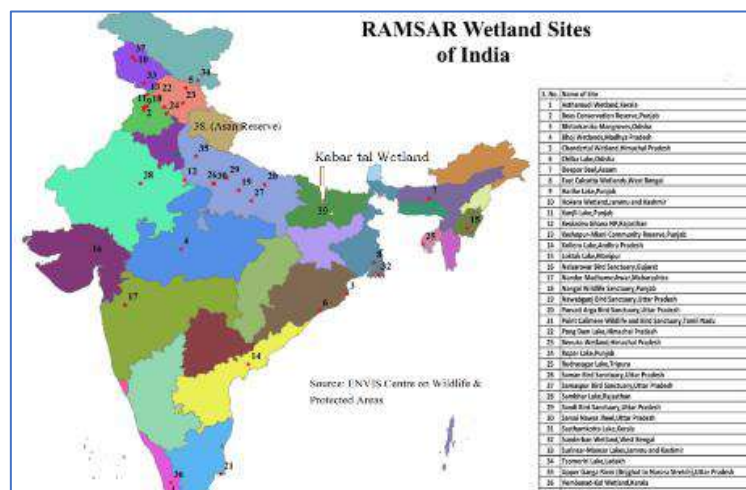
- ❖ It is an Indian advanced heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo.
- ❖ It is an anti-submarine torpedo and is electrically-propelled.
- ❖ The weapon has a range of 40 kilo meters, can travel at a speed of up to 70 kilo meters per hour.
- ❖ It can carry a warhead weighing 250 kg.
- ❖ It was developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of the Défense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) located in Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ According to the Indian Défense Industry, it is the only torpedo in the world to have a GPS-based locating aid.



ENVIRONMENT

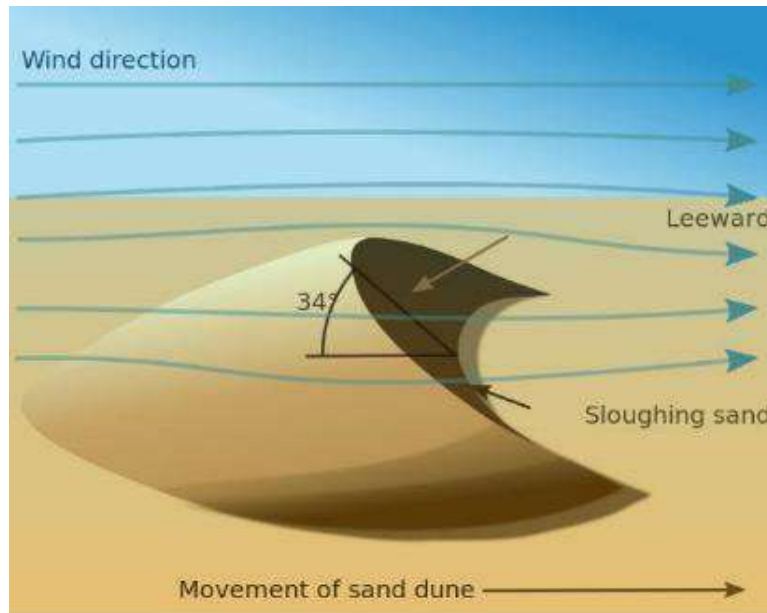
Two New Ramsar Sites

- ❖ Recently, Kabar tal Wetland (Bihar) and Asan Conservation Reserve (Uttarakhand) have been designated as Ramsar sites.
- ❖ With 2 more inclusions, the total number of Ramsar sites in India is 39, the highest in South Asia.
- ❖ Those wetlands are of international importance are declared as Ramsar sites.



Sand Dune Park in India

- ❖ Goa is set to be home to the country's first sand dune park with the support from the World Bank.
- ❖ Sand dunes are geological deposits formed by the action of wind.
- ❖ These geomorphic features act as nature's first line of defence from the forces of the ocean.



Project Lion

- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India, along with the Gujarat Forest Department, had created a Project Lion proposal.
- ❖ Under the proposal six new sites has identified for possible lion relocation in the future include
 - Madhav National Park, Madhya Pradesh
 - Sitamata Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
 - Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan
 - Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh
 - Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajasthan
 - Jessore-Balaram Ambaji WLS and adjoining landscape, Gujarat.
- ❖ Project Lion was launched on 15th August, 2020 for the conservation of the Asiatic Lion.
- ❖ It's last remaining wild population is in Gujarat's Asiatic Lion Landscape.

Sardar Zoological Park

- ❖ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Arogya Van, Sardar Patel Zoological Park, Ekta Mall, and the Children Nutrition Park in Kevadia, Narmada District in Gujarat.
- ❖ Sardar Patel Zoological Park is also popularly known as Jungle Safari.

Yellow Dust

- ❖ Recently North Korean authorities have urged citizens to remain indoors to avoid contact with a mysterious cloud of 'yellow dust' blowing from China.
- ❖ Yellow dust is actually sand from deserts in China and Mongolia.

Green firecrackers at New Delhi

- ❖ This Diwali, which falls on November 14, is likely to be India's first green Diwali.
- ❖ Only 'green' firecrackers can be manufactured, sold and used in the national capital of India.
- ❖ These firecrackers are 30 per cent less polluting compared to ordinary ones.
- ❖ The chemical Barium Nitrate is responsible for heavy smoke and emissions.
- ❖ Green crackers also don't contain banned chemicals such as lithium, arsenic, and lead.
- ❖ They are called Safe Water Releaser (SWAS), Safe Thermite Cracker (STAR) and Safe Minimal Aluminium (SAFAL) crackers.

Toxic nature		
Conventional firecrackers contain chemicals which produce effects like bright lighting and colours. However, these chemicals can have adverse effects on human health and the environment		
Initial ingredient	Use in crackers	Health hazards
Charcoal, potassium nitrate and sulphur	Black powder which is the primary fuel in the cracker	The dust released is hazardous when inhaled; different compounds formed can be carcinogenic
Strontium and lithium	Colouring agent (Red)	Strontium can replace calcium in the body which can be toxic; Lithium releases harmful fumes
Barium	Colouring agent (Orange)	Fumes can cause respiratory and other health issues
Nitrates, chlorates/perchlorates	Oxidising agents	The compounds can hamper the growth of small children; they remain airborne for days and can be poisonous



- ❖ Green crackers release water vapour and don't allow the dust particles to rise.
- ❖ The smoke mainly comes from emissions of Sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x)

- ❖ The Nagpur-based CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-NEERI) formulated these crackers.

New Biosphere Reserves

- ❖ The International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB-ICC) programme added 25 new sites in 18 countries to the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR).
- ❖ Now the total numbers are 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries around the globe.
- ❖ Andorra (Ordino), Cabo Verde (Fogo and Maio), Comoros (Mwali), Luxemburg (Minett), Trinidad and Tobago (North-East Tobago) join the MAB Network this year with the designation of their first sites.
- ❖ Four Member States requested to withdraw 11 sites from the Network.
- ❖ They are
 - Australia - Uluru Ayers Rock-Mount Olga, Croajingalong, Riverland (formerly Bookmark), Kosciuszko, and Unnamed (Mamungari)
 - Bulgaria - Ali Botouch, Douпки-Djindjiritza, Mantaritza and Parangalitsa
 - Democratic Republic of the Congo – Lufira
 - Mexico - Islas del Golfo de California
- ❖ The biosphere reserves come under IUCN Category V Protected areas.
- ❖ Biosphere reserve aims to protect larger areas of natural habitat than a typical national park or animal sanctuary.

About MAB

- ❖ MAB is an intergovernmental scientific programme.
- ❖ It was launched in 1971 by the UNESCO headquartered at Paris.
- ❖ The MAB - ICC has a rotating elected membership of 34 UNESCO Member States.
- ❖ The Current chair is Nigeria.

New shrimp species

- ❖ The Scientists associated with the National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources have identified four species of shrimps hitherto not found in Indian waters.
- ❖ It was found at the coral reefs in the Agatti Island of Lakshadweep group of islands.
- ❖ The two species were named as *Periclimenella agatti* and *Urocaridella arabianesis* after the Agatti island and the Arabian Sea respectively.



Panna Biosphere Reserve

- ❖ UNESCO allots India's Panna Tiger Reserve the 'Biosphere Reserve' status.
- ❖ Panna is now UNESCO's 12th Biosphere reserve in India.
- ❖ It brought its tiger population back from zero to 54 in ten years.
- ❖ In 2009, the entire tiger population had been eliminated by poaching.
- ❖ Two female tigers were relocated there from Bandhavgarh National Park and Kanha National Park in March 2009.
- ❖ Panna was designated a biosphere reserve by India in 2011.
- ❖ It is the third in Madhya Pradesh after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak.

Name	States/ UT	Year
Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka	2000
Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve	Tamil Nadu	2001
Sundarbans Biosphere Reserve	West Bengal	2001
Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve	Uttarakhand	2004
Nokrek Biosphere Reserve	Meghalaya	2009
Pachmarhi Biosphere Reserve	Madhya Pradesh	2009
Simlipal Biosphere Reserve	Odisha	2009
Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2013
Achanakmar-Amarkantak Biosphere Reserve	Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh	2012
Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve	Kerala and Tamil Nadu	2016
Khangchendzonga National Park	Sikkim	2018

Recent issue

- ❖ The Government of India along with Government of Madhya Pradesh and Government of Uttar Pradesh have planned to link the Ken River with Betwa River along this reserve.
- ❖ This is the country's first river interlinking project.
- ❖ This involves construction of 283 km long Daudhan Dam.
- ❖ It provides water access to the drought prone region of Bundelkhand.
- ❖ Panna is characterized by forests and marshy vegetation.
- ❖ It spans 576 kilo meters in Panna and Chhatarpur districts of Madhya Pradesh

- ❖ It is a critical tiger habitat area and hosts the Panna Tiger Reserve.
- ❖ It also hosts the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Khajuraho Group of Monuments.
- ❖ It was declared in 1993 as the twenty second Tiger reserve of India and the fifth in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ 12 of the 18 biosphere reserves in India are a part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves.



Mansar Lake Development Plan

- ❖ Union government has recently inaugurated the Mansar Lake Development Plan in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Surinsar Lake and Mansar Lake are considered to be twin lakes.
- ❖ Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.
- ❖ It is located in Jammu.
- ❖ It is a freshwater lake as well as a natural lake.



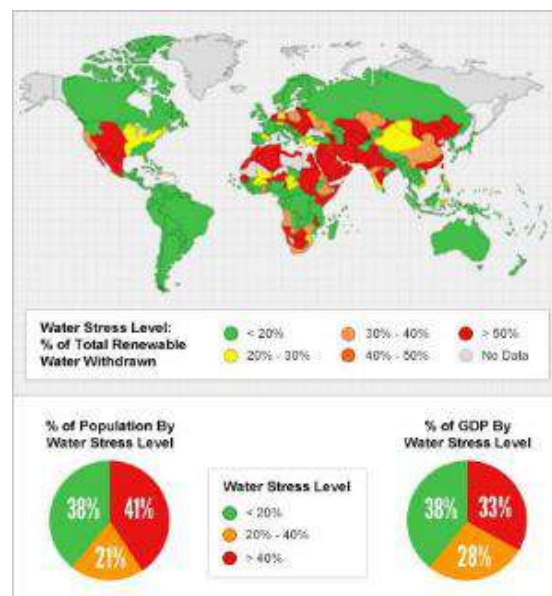
Spike in ammonia levels in Yamuna

- ❖ Ammonia levels in the Yamuna river had reached nearly 3 parts per million (ppm)
- ❖ It was almost six times above the acceptable limit of 0.5ppm, as per the Bureau of Indian Standards.
- ❖ Ammonia is a colourless gas.
- ❖ It consists of hydrogen and nitrogen.
- ❖ It is used as an industrial chemical in the production of fertilisers, plastics, synthetic fibres, dyes and other products.
- ❖ Ammonia occurs naturally in the environment from the breakdown of organic waste matter.



‘Severe Water Risk’ by 2050

- ❖ A hundred cities worldwide, including 30 in India, face the risk of ‘severe water scarcity’ by 2050.
- ❖ It was according to a recent report by the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



- ❖ More than half of the identified cities are from China and India.
- ❖ Indian Cities such as: Jaipur, Indore, Thane, Srinagar, Rajkot, Bengaluru etc.
- ❖ Currently, the global population at the risk of high-water risk is 17%.

India CEO Forum on Climate Change

- ❖ The Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar chaired this.
- ❖ Javadekar also underlined India's ambitious target of achieving the production of 450 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2030.
- ❖ India's per capita carbon emission is very low/
- ❖ The country has contributed very less in comparison to developed nations.
- ❖ India has announced Nationally Determined Contribution under Paris Agreement for reducing the carbon emission.
- ❖ India will be reducing its emission intensity by 35%.
- ❖ It will have 100 GW Solar Power and 175 GW renewable energy by 2022.

Katakey Panel

- ❖ On May 27, 2020, a major oil fire broke out at Baghjan oil well of Oil India Limited.
- ❖ The fire couldn't be put off till date.
- ❖ A Snubbing Unit from Canada is being brought to put off the fire.
- ❖ The Katakey Panel was set up by National Green Tribunal to provide a report about the accident.

Commission for Air Quality Management

- ❖ The Former Chief Secretary of Delhi M.M. Kuty was appointed Chairperson of the Commission for Air Quality Management in National Capital Region and Adjoining Areas (CAQM).
- ❖ The CAQM will address air pollution in Delhi, Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and U.P.
- ❖ The CAQM was formed after dissolving several pollution-monitoring bodies.
- ❖ It includes most prominently the 22-year-old Environmental Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA).
- ❖ The EPCA addressed air pollution in the Delhi National Capital Region.

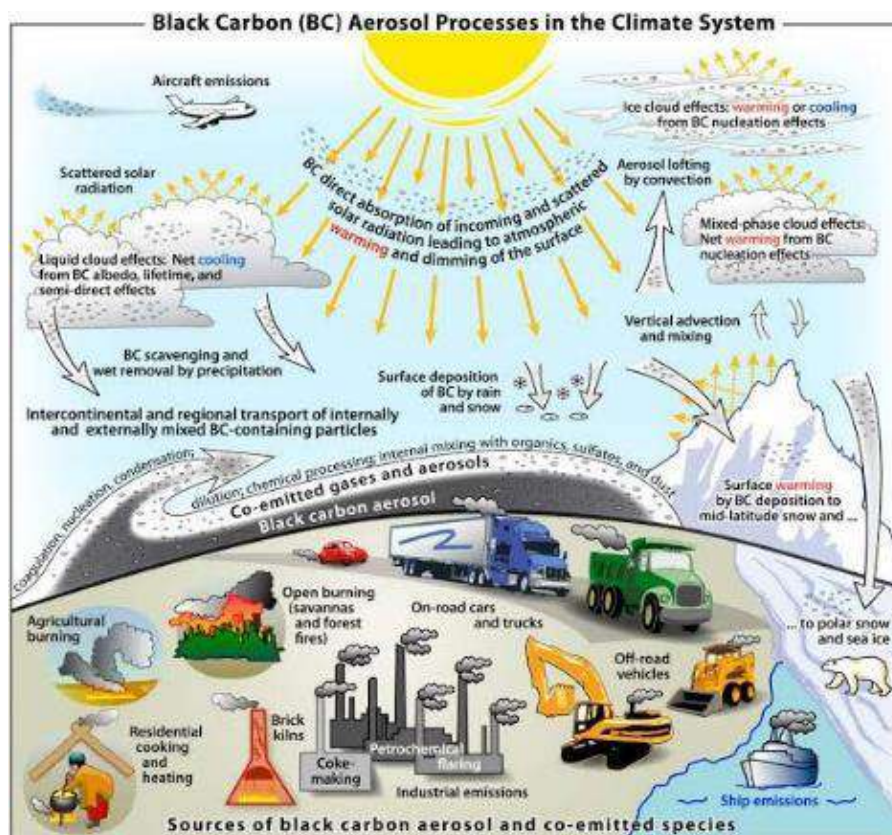
Kottoor Elephant Rehabilitation Centre

- ❖ The Elephant Rehabilitation Centre at Kottoor is located at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

- ❖ It is set to become the largest care and cure centre for elephants in the world.
- ❖ This project will also include the construction of various reservoirs and check dams at the Neyyar Dam.

Tarballs in Himalayas

- ❖ A study has found Tarballs found in the Himalaya-Tibetan Plateau.
- ❖ Tarballs are small light-absorbing, carbonaceous particles formed due to burning of biomass or fossil fuels that deposit on snow and ice.
- ❖ They hasten glacial melt.
- ❖ They are formed from brown carbon, emitted during the burning of fossil fuels.
- ❖ Tarballs were emitted from biomass burning in the Indo-Gangetic Plain.



Great Barrier Reef

- ❖ The scientists from the Schmidt Ocean Institute have discovered a massive detached coral reef in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.
- ❖ It is the first to be discovered in 120 years.
- ❖ The reef is taller than the Empire State Building of the United States.
- ❖ Detached reefs are the reefs that are bedded to the ocean floor but are not a part of the main body of the Great Barrier Reef.
- ❖ With the newly discovered detached reef, there are totally eight detached reef.



Cyclone free October in 2020

- ❖ October to December period is among the favourable months for the development of cyclones in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ This year October passed without witnessing a cyclonic storm.
- ❖ Ocean disturbances enter the Bay of Bengal from the South China sea side and head towards the Indian coast.
- ❖ This year there was no system which intensified to form a cyclone.
- ❖ Also, there is the weak La Nina conditions along the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ There was also the influence of Madden Julian Oscillation (MJO).
- ❖ MJO is kind of an eastward-moving cyclic weather event along the tropics.
- ❖ It influences rainfall, winds, sea surface temperatures and cloud cover.
- ❖ About 80 cyclones are formed around the world annually.
- ❖ Out of which five are formed in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea
- ❖ Both together are known as the North Indian Ocean.
- ❖ Cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are bi-modal in nature.
- ❖ They occur during two seasons— April to June (pre-monsoon) and October to December (post-monsoon).

High Biodiversity in 49% of Ganges

- ❖ The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) recently released a survey on the Ganges river.
- ❖ According to the survey, 49% of the river is high on biodiversity.
- ❖ The study was conducted by the WII on behalf of National Mission for Clean Ganga undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ 10% of high biodiversity areas are Rajaji National Park in Uttarakhand, Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary in Bihar, Hastinapur wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ The Gangetic Dolphins and Otters in the river have increased in numbers.
- ❖ This indicates that the pollution level in the river has decreased and the river is in healthy state.

International Bird Festival - 2021

- ❖ The International bird festival will be organized in Gorakhpur in the Uttara Pradesh in the month of February of 2021.
- ❖ It will attract international tourists at Ramgarhtal Lake for bird watching.

Amur Falcons

- ❖ The State Government of Manipur has issued order that hunting, sale of Amur Falcons and rearing are banned in the state.
- ❖ They are protected under the “Indian Wildlife Protection Act, 1972”.
- ❖ Amur Falcons are long distance migratory birds.
- ❖ They arrive in Manipur and Nagaland for roosting.
- ❖ They are Siberian birds that reach the North East for about two months at the onset of winter.
- ❖ After winter, they leave for South Africa.
- ❖ Doyang Lake in Nagaland is also a stop over to the birds.
- ❖ Thus, Nagaland is known as the “Falcon Capital of the world”.



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.



First convergence project of India

- ❖ The first convergence project of India to generate Green Energy for agriculture and rural areas is to be set up in Goa.
- ❖ The project is to focus on energy solutions that are evolved based on the concepts that combine climate change, renewable energy and Artificial Intelligence.
- ❖ The main objective of the project is to connect sectors such as LED lights, solar energy and energy storage in order to provide solutions that will enable decarbonisation.
- ❖ Convergence projects are those projects where physical, social, institutional and economic infrastructure are integrated.
- ❖ India has set a target of installing 40 GW of roof top solar energy by 2022.

- ❖ India has set an ambitious target of achieving 450 GW of renewable energy by 2022.
- ❖ 36.17% of installed electricity generation in India is from renewable sources.
- ❖ The Intended Nationally Determined Contributions target of India is to achieve 40% of total electricity generation from non-fossil fuels by 2030.

Deemed Forests

- ❖ The State Government of Karnataka will soon declassify 6.64 lakh hectares out of 9.94 lakh hectares from the deemed forests category in the state.
- ❖ The States in India have full liberty in defining the deemed forest.
- ❖ Deemed Forests are land tracts that appear to be forest but have not been notified as forest in historical records or government records.
- ❖ The deemed forests comprise 1% of forest land in India.
- ❖ According to Forest Conservation Act, 1980, the preservation of forest areas is continuously monitored by the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ In 1996, the Supreme Court in the Godavarman case ordered the states to identify and classify deemed forests.

Meghalaya's Glowing Mushrooms

- ❖ A mushroom documentation project in the forests of Northeast India has discovered a bioluminescent or light-emitting variety of mushroom.
- ❖ The new species was first sighted near a stream in Meghalaya's Mawlynnong in East Khasi Hills district and later at Krang Shuri in West Jaintia Hills district.
- ❖ It is now one among the 97 known species of bioluminescent fungi in the world.



- ❖ The colour of the light emitted by the organism depends on its chemical properties.
- ❖ In the case of fungi, the luminescence comes from the enzyme, luciferase.

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

- ❖ The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve of the Uttar Pradesh bagged the first international award TX2.
- ❖ It was awarded for doubling its number of tigers in four years.
- ❖ The target set was to double the numbers in ten years.
- ❖ It was chosen based on the Tiger Census conducted by the National Tiger Conservation Authority in 2018.
- ❖ The partners are Global Tiger Forum, United Nations Development Programme, Conservation Tiger Standards and Lion's Share.
- ❖ No other country from the tiger range countries could success in doubling the big cat population within a span of ten years.
- ❖ There are thirteen tiger range countries where the tigers still roam around freely.
- ❖ The tiger range countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, China, Russia, Malaysia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam and Nepal.

Cyclone Nivar

- ❖ Cyclone Nivar made a late-night landfall near Puducherry.
- ❖ The tropical storm has weakened from a "very severe cyclonic storm" to a "severe cyclonic storm".
- ❖ Nivar was given the name by Iran.
- ❖ Nivar is the third name after Nisarga (by Bangladesh) and Gati (by India).
- ❖ It is to be used from the new list of names for North Indian Ocean Cyclones, released in 2020.
- ❖ It has 169 names of cyclones, a compilation of 13 suggestions each from 13 countries.
- ❖ Amphan, proposed by Thailand, was the last name in the 2004 series.

New List of Names for Tropical Cyclone over North Indian Ocean													
Place	List 1	List 2	List 3	List 4	List 5	List 6	List 7	List 8	List 9	List 10	List 11	List 12	List 13
Bangladesh	Nisarga	Biparjoy	Ambo	Upokul	Banshan	Rajani	Nahath	Umri	Maghola	Saminon	Pratikul	Sarobar	Mahanisha
India	Gati	Taj	Muraru	Kag	Myam	Jhar	Prabaho	Near	Prabharjan	Ghami	Ambrut	Jaloshi	Vago
Iran	Nivar	Hamoon	Akvan	Sepand	Booran	Anahita	Azar	Paayan	Ansham	Hengame	Savas	Tahamran	Toofan
Maldives	Burwi	Mithil	Roari	Od	Kenbu	Endheer	Biyau	Sunawa	Kurangi	Kurekhi	Narangu	Thandi	Folano
Myanmar	Tauktas	Michaung	Ngamonn	Kyartit	Sapakyne	Wetvun	Medhout	Elyue	Phiku	Yinkauing	Linyone	Eyeeikan	Boulphot
Oman	Yasir	Kemal	Sali	Naseem	Mum	Sadeem	Dima	Manjur	Rusam	Wafad	Al-Jaz	Sabab	Road
Pakistan	Guib	Asna	Sahab	Afshan	Manahil	Shugana	Farwar	Zannata	Sansar	Badban	Sorab	Guhar	Waseq
Qatar	Shabeen	Dana	Lulu	Mouj	Suhail	Sadat	Reem	Rayhan	Anbar	Oud	Bahar	Seel	Fanar
Saudi Arabia	Jawad	Fengal	Ghazeer	Asl	Sidrah	Mareed	Fold	Kaseer	Nakheel	Habab	Aloneq	Akeem	Wabli
Sri Lanka	Asani	Shakthi	Olgun	Gagana	Venamah	Garjana	Neelba	Ninnada	Viduli	Ogha	Saktha	Rivi	Rudru
Thailand	Sitrang	Montha	Thanyet	Bulan	Phutala	Alyara	Taming	Kralan	Mahana	Mahingao	Phraewo	Azul	Thana
United Arab Emirates	Mandous	Seriyar	Afzar	Mahmoud	Qufal	Daamari	Deem	Gangar	Khubla	Dagi	Athmad	Boom	Saffar
Yemen	Mocha	Dhawah	Dikam	Sira	Bakhar	Shayal	Nowf	Bahaf	Brom	Shugra	Farak	Darakh	Samrah

STATES

Dharani Portal

- ❖ The Telangana government launched the Dharani portal.
- ❖ It is a first of its kind in the country for storing digitised land records and registration of properties.
- ❖ Telangana was the first State in the country to use Information Technology in its Revenue Department.



Streamlining records

FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND PORTAL BEING CONCEIVED AS PART OF WIDE RANGING REFORMS IN REVENUE ADMINISTRATION.

Chief Minister to launch the portal at Muduchintalapalli in Medak-Malkajgiri district

Beneficiaries to get their documents the same day.

Slot booking mandatory for the parties.

Dharani to work with seven dedicated servers.

Disaster recovery site being set up outside the State for data safety.

Unlike in the past, registration process and mutation of documents to be completed within 10 minutes.

Control room and dedicated staff at the State-level to look into technical issues.

₹ 57 crore @ ₹ 10 lakh to each mandal released for maintenance of the portal.

Registrations to continue in spite of absence of tahsildars, naib tahsildars being trained to operate the system.

More reforms in the offing in Revenue administration in future, says Chief Secretary

First State to fix MSP for vegetables

- ❖ Kerala became the first Indian state to fix Minimum Support Price for sixteen agriculture items.
- ❖ It consists of vegetables, fruits and tubers.
- ❖ The Base Price will be 20% more than production cost of vegetables.
- ❖ There is also a condition to revise the MSP price on a regular basis.
- ❖ Local self-government bodies will correlate the procurement and circulation of vegetables.



Kevadia Tourism Circuit

- ❖ PM Modi recently inaugurated some tourism projects around the Statue of Unity (SoU), now called the 'Kevadia Tourism Circuit'.
- ❖ Kevadia is a village in the tribal Narmada district in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is home to the Sardar Sarovar Dam reservoir on the Narmada river.
- ❖ Prime Minister also inaugurated the world's first-ever technology-driven nutrition park for children at Kevadia in Gujarat.

10% quota at Kerala

- ❖ Kerala Public Service Commission (PSC) will implement 10% reservation quota in government jobs for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- ❖ It should not affect the 50% reservation being provided to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes.
- ❖ This is in line with the 103rd amendment of the Constitution.

Luhri Stage-I Hydro Power Project

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved 210 MW Luhri Stage-I Hydro Electric Project.
- ❖ It is situated in Shimla and Kullu districts of Himachal Pradesh on Sutlej river.

Go Electric Campaign - Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ The "Go Electric" campaign was launched by Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) in coordination with the Andhra Pradesh State Energy Conservation Mission.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Government is to set up 400 Electric Vehicle charging vehicles all over the state to promote the usage of electric vehicles.
- ❖ This is to be achieved in coordination with the "Go Electric" campaign of BEE.
- ❖ The main of the step is to attract investment in the EV sector by setting up charging stations and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Tourist Facilitation Centre

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Tourism inaugurated the "Tourist Facilitation Centre" at Guruvayur, Kerala.
- ❖ The centre was constructed under the PRASAD Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.
- ❖ The PRASAD scheme aims at infrastructure development such as last mile connectivity, entry points, eco-friendly modes of transport, interpretation centres, ATM/Money exchanges, and other basic tourism facilities.

Reservation in Private Sector

- ❖ The Haryana Government passed a bill to provide 75% reservation to local candidates in private-sector jobs.
- ❖ The reservation will be applicable in private companies that pay less than Rs 50,000 per month.
- ❖ The bill, however, contravenes Article 14 and 19 of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ They provide equality before the law and the right to practice any profession anywhere in India.
- ❖ Hence, it needs the assent of President Ram Nath Kovind before it becomes law.

Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax ferry service

- ❖ It will work as a Gateway to South Gujarat and Saurashtra region.
- ❖ It will reduce the distance between Ghogha and Hazira from 370 Kilometres to 90 Kilometres.



Right to Recall

- ❖ Haryana clears a Bill on right to recall the panchayat member if they fail to perform.
- ❖ This will be followed by a secret ballot, in which their recall will require two-third members voting against them.
- ❖ The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2020 was passed in the state Assembly.
- ❖ The amendment is aimed at increasing their accountability to the voters.
- ❖ It gives women 50% reservation in these rural bodies.
- ❖ It provides 8% reservation to the “more disadvantaged” among the Backward Classes.

Bihar Election Results 2020

- ❖ The Election commission of India announced election results for the state of Bihar.
- ❖ The National Democratic Alliance has won absolute majority winning 125 seats.
- ❖ According to the Election commission of India, BJP won 72 seats, the Janata Dal (United) won 42 and the Rastriya Janata Dal had won 75 seats.
- ❖ Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD emerged as the single-largest party in Bihar.

Secha samadhan - Odisha

- ❖ The Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched 'Secha Samadhan'.
- ❖ This mobile application aims to address the irrigation problems faced by farmers.

Sarna Code

- ❖ Jharkhand Assembly passes resolution on Sarna Code for tribals.
- ❖ It seeks the inclusion of Sarna as a separate religion in the 2021 Census.
- ❖ Sarna followers are worshippers of nature.
- ❖ They do not consider themselves as Hindus.
- ❖ They have been fighting for a separate religious identity for decades.

Kerala Fibre Optic Network Project

- ❖ Kerala aims to provide free Internet for poor families, public offices by December.
- ❖ The project seeks to fulfil the government's aim of making internet access a 'citizen's right'.

Cow Cabinet

- ❖ The Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the State Government is to constitute 'Cow Cabinet'.
- ❖ It will work to conserve and promote cow cattle in the state.
- ❖ The states such as Assam, Kerala, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and West Bengal have no restrictions on cow slaughter.
- ❖ However, some states allow slaughtering of bulls and bullocks.
- ❖ They are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Goa, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar.

Vijayanagara District

- ❖ Karnataka is to carve out a new district called Vijayanagara from the Bellari district to ease administration.
- ❖ It is named after the Vijayanagara empire that ruled from this region.
- ❖ Located on the banks of the Tungabhadra River, it includes the Group of Monuments at Hampi.
- ❖ Hampi has been designated as a UNESCO world heritage site.

India-International Cherry Blossom Festival

- ❖ Every year this festival is hosted by Meghalaya.
- ❖ It is the only Cherry festival being conducted in India.
- ❖ This year the festival has been cancelled due to covid-19.

Abhayam app

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has launched this App.
- ❖ It helps women and children travelling in taxis and autorickshaws to raise an alarm in case of any emergency.



Kerala Police Act 2011

- ❖ The Kerala government decided to put on hold the new Ordinance.
- ❖ It amends the Kerala Police Act 2011 to insert a new Section 118A.
- ❖ Section 118A proposes three years of imprisonment and a fine of up to Rs 10,000 for making abusive content in online platform.

Haveri railway station

- ❖ It was renamed by the Karnataka state government after freedom fighter Mahadeva Mailar.
- ❖ Already the Hubballi railway station of Karnataka was renamed as Sri Siddharoodha Swami Railway Station – Hubballi.

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs under the Government of India had no objection to changing the name.
- ❖ The Government of Karnataka is to issue gazette notification on the spelling of the new name accordingly in Devanagari (Hindi), Roman (English) and the regional language.

HISTORY AND LANDMARKS

Stations	Proposed names
Haveri Railway Station	Mailara Mahadeva
Gadag Junction	Gadag-Betgeri
Gangavathi Railway Station	Kishkinda
Belagavi Railway Station	Belavadi Mallamma



FOR THE WARRIOR: The railway station in Bengaluru has been named after Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna. Rayanna was a warrior in the Kittur and was the Shet-sanadi (sainik) of the kingdom of Kittur ruled by Rani Chennamma and fought the British till his death

Proposals must be sent to Union home ministry'

“Any proposal on the renaming of stations must originate from the state government and sent to the Union home ministry, which will then take a call on it after discussions with the ministry of science and technology. This is to ensure clarity on spellings in English and Hindi. Once the proposal gets the necessary approval, the state government will be asked to issue a gazette notification. We are not aware of any proposal for renaming other railway stations.

Suresh Angadi | MINISTER OF STATE FOR RAILWAYS

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Third India International Film Festival of Boston

- ❖ Late actor Om Puri was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award in this festival.
- ❖ The Malayalam film Kaanthi won the Best Feature Film Award.
- ❖ The Best Actor Male was won by Victor Bannerjee.
- ❖ The Best Actor Female went to Shylaja Ambu.



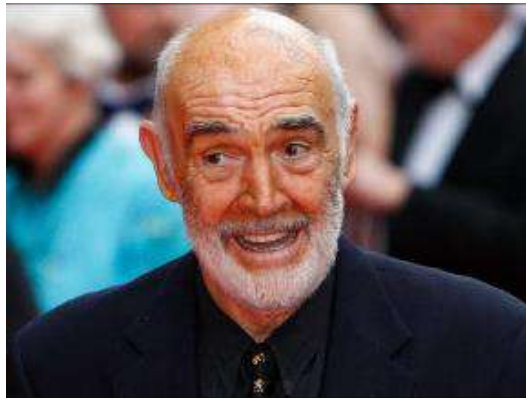
Keshubhai Patel (1928-2020)

- ❖ Keshubhai Patel (92), the BJP's first chief minister in Gujarat, passed away.
- ❖ He was Gujarat's CM from March 1995 to October 1995 and from March 1998 to October 2001.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi succeeded him as Gujarat chief minister in October 2001.



Sean Connery

- ❖ Sean Connery, a Scottish actor, has passed away.
- ❖ He was very famous for his portrayal of James Bond as British agent 007.
- ❖ He was the first person to act in such a role.
- ❖ The character was created by novelist Ian Fleming.



28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram

- ❖ Writer Paul Zacharia has been selected for the 28th Ezhuthachan Puraskaram
- ❖ The award is named after Thunchaththu Ezhuthachan, the father of the Malayalam language.
- ❖ It is the highest literary honour of the Kerala government.
- ❖ Instituted in 1993, it is given by the Kerala Sahitya Akademi.

Emmett Leahy award

- ❖ The Emmett Leahy award for 2020 was conferred on Dinesh Katre from the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune.
- ❖ Katre is the first Indian to bag this award.
- ❖ Established in the US in 1967, this international award recognises contributions of persons in the field of records and information management.



Till We Win - Book

- ❖ It is a new book by AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria.
- ❖ It has been co-written by two other doctors Chandrakant Lahariya and Gagandeep Kang.
- ❖ It will give a definitive account of India's fight against Covid-19 and how to deal with the pandemic in the days to come.



14th Asian Film Awards 2020

- ❖ Oscar Best Picture winner "Parasite" was the biggest winner at the 14th Asian Film Awards in Busan, South Korea.
- ❖ Indian Movie Gully Boy has received the award for the Best Original Score at 14th Asian Film Awards.
- ❖ It has been directed by Zoya Akhtar.



Honorary General of Nepal Army

- ❖ The Chief of Army Staff General, MM Naravane was conferred the honorary rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Bidya Devi Bhandari.
- ❖ He was honoured at a special ceremony at the President's official residence 'Shital Niwas' in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- ❖ Commander-in-Chief General KM Cariappa was the first Indian Army Chief to be decorated with the title in 1950.
- ❖ In January last year, Chief of Nepali Army, General Purna Chandra Thapa, was also made the honorary General of the Indian Army.



President of Hockey India

- ❖ Manipur's Gyanendro becomes 1st president of Hockey India from Northeast.
- ❖ He replaced Mushtaque Ahmad.
- ❖ Hockey India is recognized by the Government of India as the sole body responsible towards promoting Hockey in India.



Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (GYTI)

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Science & Technology announced Gandhian Young Technological Awards in two categories.
- ❖ SITARE GYTI - Students Innovations for Advancement of Research Explorations - Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SITARE-GYTI) under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ SRISTI GYTI - Sustainable Technological Innovations-Gandhian Young Technological Innovation (SRISTI-GYTI) given by SRISTI.

World Travel Mart London Award

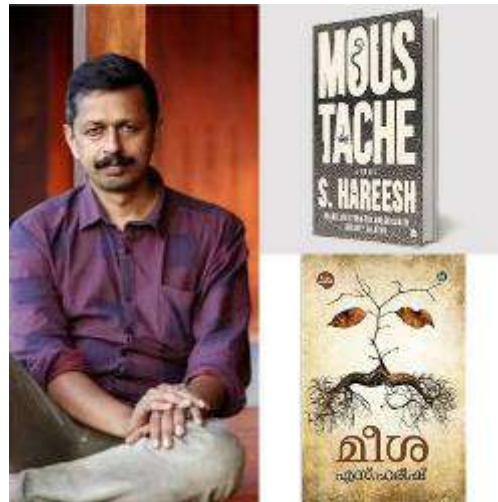
- ❖ The World Travel Mart London bestowed Kerala Tourism with the coveted 'Highly Commended' Award.
- ❖ Kerala Tourism was recognised for its remarkable activities for promoting Responsible Tourism (RT).



JCB Prize for Literature

- ❖ The book titled 'Moustache' written by the Malayalam writer, S. Hareesh won this prize.
- ❖ It is an Indian literary award established in 2018.
- ❖ It is funded by the English construction manufacturing group JCB.

- ❖ It has been called "India's most valuable literature prize".
- ❖ It is awarded annually with 25 lakh INR.



Dr Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020

- ❖ The National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) has selected the Principal Scientist of CSIR-CDRI of Lucknow, Dr Satish Mishra for “Dr.Tulsi Das Chugh Award 2020”.
- ❖ He is awarded for his research work on Malaria parasite’s life cycle.

TATA Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award for 2020

- ❖ Ruskin Bond will be presented with this award for the year 2020.
- ❖ It is Mumbai’s largest international literary festival.
- ❖ Ruskin Bond is an Indian author of British descent.
- ❖ He lives at Mussoorie of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Child Education has recognised his role in the growth of children's literature in India.



International Children's Peace Prize 2020

- ❖ Sadat Rahman of Bangladesh was awarded this prize for this year.
- ❖ The prize is an initiative of Marc Dullaert, the founder of the Kids Rights Foundation.
- ❖ It is an international children's aid and advocacy organisation based in the Netherlands.
- ❖ The prize was launched during the 2005 World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates at Rome of Italy.
- ❖ Since then, the prize has been presented every year by a Nobel Peace Laureate.



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.

John Thomas Goslin Pereira (97)

- ❖ He was the Navy Veteran of India.
- ❖ He recently passed away.
- ❖ He was one of our last surviving officers who served during the World War II.
- ❖ He is best remembered for the missile attack on Karachi in the 1971 war against Pakistan.

Edinburgh Medal

- ❖ Sunita Narain, director-general of a think tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), has won this year's Edinburgh Medal 2020.

- ❖ Edinburgh medal is instituted by the City of Edinburgh Council, the capital of Scotland.
- ❖ Narain has also been named the 'national climate leader' from India for 2019 in the first National Climate Leader Awards published in the Global Spotlight Report.
- ❖ It is an award given each year to women and men who have made significant contributions to science and technology.



Booker Prize 2020

- ❖ It is the current award of the annual prize for literature covering UK, Irish, American and Commonwealth authors.
- ❖ The prize is awarded to novels written in English and published in Ireland or UK.
- ❖ The British writer Douglas Stuart wins the UK Booker Prize for his debut novel Shuggie Bain.
- ❖ The UK Booker Prize 2019 was conferred jointly to Margaret Atwood for 'The Testaments' and Bernardine Evaristo for 'Girl, Woman, Other'.
- ❖ It was formerly known as "Booker-McConnell Prize" (1969-2001) and Man Booker Prize (2002-2019).
- ❖ In 1997, Arundati Roy of India won the Booker Prize for her Novel "The God of Small Things".
- ❖ For a book, translated into English and published in the United Kingdom or Ireland, the International Booker Prize is awarded.
- ❖ The 2020 winner of International Booker Prize is Marieke Lucas Rijnveld for the book "The Discomfort of Evening" in the Dutch language.
- ❖ It was translated into English by Michele Hutchison.



Vatayan lifetime achievement award

- ❖ Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal will be conferred with the Vatayan Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ The award is being conferred to the union education minister for his poetry and other literary works.
- ❖ The minister has earlier been conferred with several awards in the field of literature and administration including:
 - The Sahitya Gaurav Samman by Former President A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,
 - Sahitya Bharati Award by the former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee,
 - Bharat Gaurav Samman,
 - Outstanding Achievement Award by Global Organization of Person of Indian Origin by Mauritius
 - Awarded in Ukraine in the area of environmental protection,
 - Good Governance Award by Dubai Government,
 - "Himal Gaurav Samman" by Nepal.



International Emmy Awards 2020

- ❖ The web series 'Delhi Crime' wins Best Drama Series.
- ❖ It is the first Indian programme to win an International Emmy.
- ❖ It is an award bestowed by the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS).



- ❖ It is given for recognising the best television programs initially produced and aired outside the United States.

Maradona (60) – passed away

- ❖ He was an Argentine professional football player.
- ❖ Maradona played in four FIFA World Cups (1982, 1986, 1990, 1994).
- ❖ In the 1986 World Cup, played at Mexico, he captained Argentina and beat West Germany in the finals.
- ❖ He was one of the two joint winners of the FIFA Player of the 20th Century award.
- ❖ Diego Maradona and Pelé (Brazil) were joint winners of that award.



SPORTS

Shane Watson retirement

- ❖ The Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) Australian import Shane Watson announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- ❖ He was in the National Team of Australia which won the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007 and 2015.



- ❖ In IPL, Watson has represented Rajasthan Royals (RR), Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and CSK.

Rafael Nadal wins his 1,000th title

- ❖ Rafael Nadal recorded his 1,000th tour-level match win on November 4, 2020 defeating Feliciano Lopez in the Rolex Paris Masters.
- ❖ With this, the Spaniard has become the fourth player to reach the milestone in the Open Era, joining Jimmy Connors (1,274-283), Roger Federer (1,242-271) and Ivan Lendl (1,068-242).



MOST TOUR LEVEL WINS IN MEN'S TENNIS		
	Matches	Wins
Jimmy Connors	1557	1274
Roger Federer	1513	1242
Ivan Lendl	1310	1068
Rafael Nadal	1201	1000
Guillermo Vilas	1248	951

IPL 2020 Winner

- ❖ The 2020 Indian Premier League is branded as Dream11 Indian Premier League 2020.
- ❖ It was the thirteenth season of the IPL.
- ❖ It was played in the United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ The final match was played between Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals at Dubai.
- ❖ The defending champions Mumbai Indians retained the title.
- ❖ This was the fifth IPL title for the Mumbai Indians.
- ❖ This was the first IPL final appearance for the Delhi Capitals.

List of Awards

Fair play award: Mumbai Indians	
Orange Cap: K. L. Rahul of Kings XI.	
Purple Cap: Kagiso Rabada of Delhi Capitals.	
Emerging player of the season: Devdutt Padikkal of Royal Challengers Bangalore	
Most Valuable Player: Josha Archer of Rajasthan Royals.	
Game-changer of the season: KL Rahul	
Super striker of the season: Kieron Pollard of Mumbai Indians	
Most sixes award: Ishan Kishan of Mumbai Indians	
Power player of the season: Trent Boult of Mumbai Indians.	

MUMBAI INDIANS' FIVE IPL TITLES

Year	Opponent	Venue	Winning margin
2013	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata	23 runs
2015	Chennai Super Kings	Kolkata	41 runs
2017	Rising Pune Supergiants	Hyderabad	1 run
2019	Chennai Super Kings	Hyderabad	1 run
2020	Delhi Capitals	Dubai	5 wkts

ITTF Women's World Cup title

- ❖ China's Chen Meng has been crowned as the winner of the first-ever ITTF Women's World Cup title.
- ❖ She defeated another Chinese female player Sun Yingsha held at Weihai, China.

- ❖ Established in 1926, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) is a federation that governs for all national-level table tennis associations.



Women's World Cup

- ❖ The International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) cancelled the U-17 Women's World Cup 2021,
- ❖ It was set to be hosted by India.
- ❖ India will now host the U-17 Women's World Cup 2022.
- ❖ The FIFA has also cancelled Women's U-20 World Cup 2021.
- ❖ It was scheduled to be held in Costa Rica.
- ❖ Now Costa Rica has been approved to host FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup in 2022.

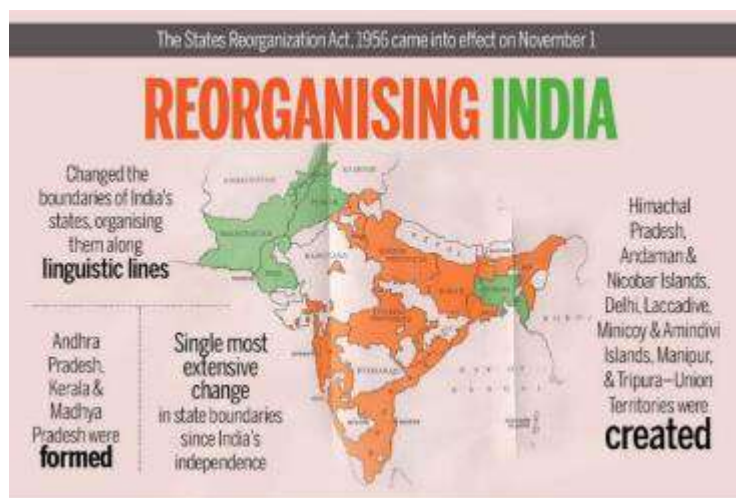
Minimum Age for International Cricket

- ❖ The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board announced a minimum age policy for International cricket.
- ❖ Now, a player has to be at least 15 years old to be a part of the men's and women's cricket team or the under -19 International cricket team.
- ❖ Pakistan's Hasan Raza is the youngest cricketer ever to play international cricket.
- ❖ Sachin Tendulkar was also the youngest Indian to play Test cricket for India.
- ❖ He made his Test debut on 15 November 1989 against Pakistan in Karachi at the age of sixteen.

IMPORTANT DAYS

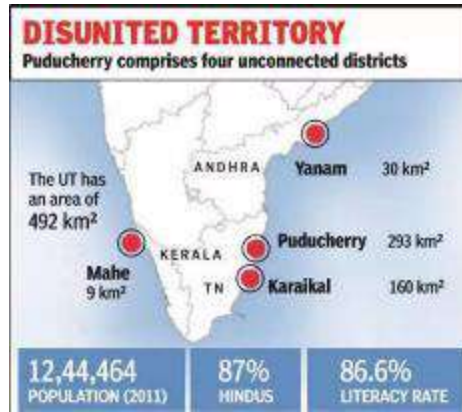
Tamil Nadu Day/ State Formation Day – November 01

- ❖ Tamil Nadu observed its second formation day - 'Tamil Nadu Day' on November 1 this year.
- ❖ The Madras State was formed on November 1, 1956 from the erstwhile Madras Presidency as per States Reorganisation Act -1956.
- ❖ The Madras State was eventually renamed Tamil Nadu in 1969.
- ❖ Orissa (now Odisha) was the first state to be formed on linguistic basis in 1936.
- ❖ Later, in 1953, Andhra Pradesh was formed on linguistic basis.



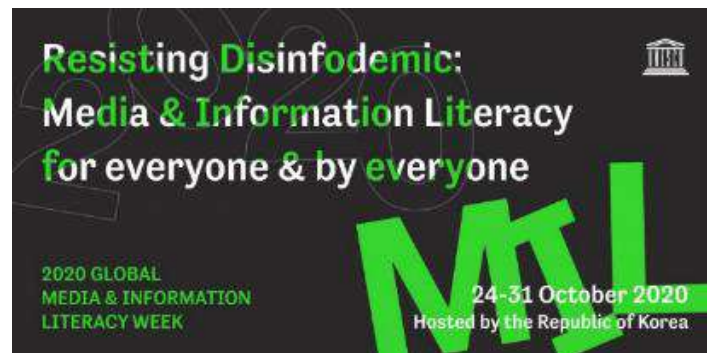
Puducherry Liberation Day – November 01

- ❖ The Union Territory of Puducherry won freedom from the foreign yoke only after seven more years of struggle after India became free on August 15, 1947.
- ❖ The merger itself was democratically decided through a referendum conducted by the French administration.
- ❖ On 18 October, 1954, the municipal councillors and the members of the Assembly representatives gave their verdict in favour of merger with India.
- ❖ Later, an agreement for the transfer of the four (Pondicherry, Karikal, Mahe and Yanam) remaining French settlements to India was signed on October 21, 1954.
- ❖ It was coming into effect on November 1, 1954.
- ❖ In 2014, The Puducherry govt declared that November 1 would be celebrated as Liberation Day of Puducherry.



10th Global Media and Information Literacy (MIL) Week – October 24 to 31

- ❖ Through this Week, UNESCO and WHO are joining forces to tackle disinformation and misinformation.
- ❖ It was led by UNESCO and hosted by the Republic of Korea,
- ❖ It was held under the theme “Resisting Disinfodemic: Media and Information Literacy for everyone and, by everyone”.



World Vegan Day – November 01

- ❖ The day marks the founding day of the Vegan Society in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ World Vegan Day came to be observed officially in 1979.
- ❖ It is observed to motivate people to follow a vegan lifestyle, which is beneficial for animal welfare and the environment.
- ❖ The people who are vegetarians but do not consume dairy products such as milk, cheese, paneer, etc. are called vegans.

International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists – November 02

- ❖ This year the Theme is: Protect Journalists, Protect the Truth.
- ❖ The date of November 2nd was chosen to mark the commemorate of the assassination of French journalists in Mali in 2013.

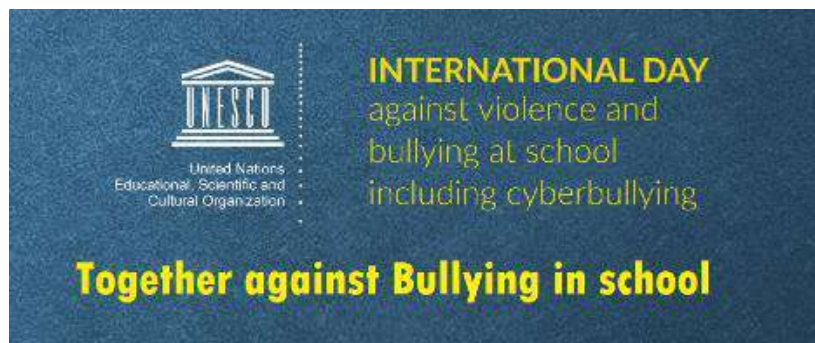


World Tsunami Awareness Day – November 05

- ❖ It is started by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2015.
- ❖ The term 'Tsunami' is a Japanese term which means "harbour wave".
- ❖ In the past 100 years, 58 tsunami incidents have claimed more than 2.6 lac lives, or an average of 4,600 per disaster.
- ❖ The theme of the world tsunami awareness day 2020 was "Sendai Seven Campaign".

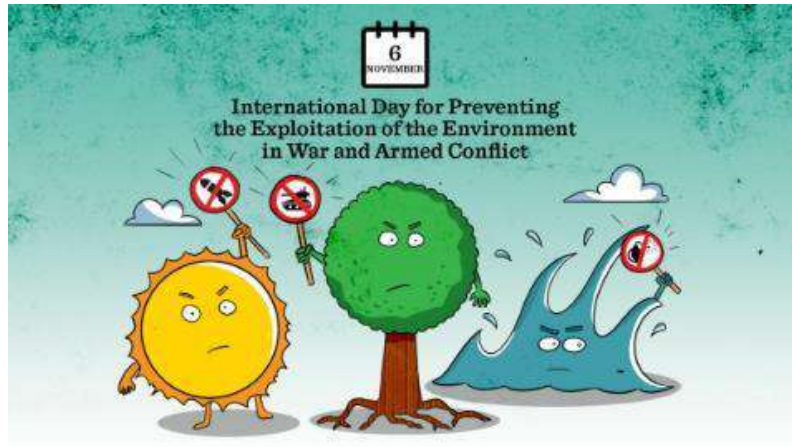
International Day Against Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyberbullying - November 05

- ❖ In 2019, UNESCO Member States declared the first Thursday of November as the International Day Against Violence and Bullying at School Including Cyberbullying.
- ❖ The theme of this first observance is "Together against Bullying in school".



International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict – November 06

- ❖ According to the United Nations 1% increase in global temperature leads to 4.5% of civil war.
- ❖ In 2007, the conflict in Sudan Darfur region was declared the first Climate Change Conflict.



Infant Protection Day – November 07

- ❖ The day aims to celebrate the day to spread awareness about the safety of infants and protect their lives by taking proper care of infants.
- ❖ Theme of this year: Protecting, promoting, and developing infants.
- ❖ According to the findings of The United Nations' Child Mortality Report in India, 721,000 infant deaths were reported in 2018, which means an average of 1,975 deaths per day.

Top 10 countries with the highest number (thousands) of new born deaths- 2019	Number of newborn deaths (thousands)
India	522
Nigeria	270
Pakistan	248
Ethiopia	99
The Democratic Republic of the Congo	97
China	64
Indonesia	60
Bangladesh	56
Afghanistan	43
United Republic of Tanzania	43

National Cancer Awareness Day – November 07

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness on cancer, its symptoms and treatment from 2014.
- ❖ According to the WHO, cancer is the second leading cause of death globally.
- ❖ In 2018, approximately 18 million cases were there globally, of which, 1.5 million were in India alone.
- ❖ In 2018, there were around 0.8 million cancer deaths in India against 9.5 million globally.
- ❖ The day coincides with the birth anniversary of Marie Curie.

National Legal Services Day – November 09

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness for ensuring the reasonable fair and justice procedure for all citizens.
- ❖ It commemorates The Legal Services Authorities (NALSA) Act 1987 of the Indian Parliament which came into effect on 9th November 1995.
- ❖ NALSA was constituted to provide free Legal Services to the weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ They were to organize Lok Adalats for amicable settlement of disputes.
- ❖ The Chief Justice of India serves as the Patron-in-Chief NALSA.
- ❖ The second senior most Judge of Supreme Court of India serves as the Executive Chairman of the Authority.



World Freedom Day – November 09

- ❖ World Freedom Day has been created in commemoration of the fall of the Berlin Wall.
- ❖ The Berlin Wall constructed in Berlin in 1961 during the Cold War divided the city into two parts.
- ❖ The Soviet Union controlled the East Germany.
- ❖ The French, British, and American occupied the sectors of West Germany.
- ❖ On this day in 1989, thousands of Germans pulled down the Berlin Wall, marking the end of the Cold War.

World Science Day for Peace and Development (WSDPD) – November 10

- ❖ The day highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues.
- ❖ It was initially proposed in 1999 at the World's Scientific Conference in Budapest, Hungary.
- ❖ In 2001, UNESCO made the official proclamation for WSDPD.

- ❖ The first-ever World Science Day for Peace and Development was held on November 10th, 2002.
- ❖ Theme of the year is “Science for and with Society”.

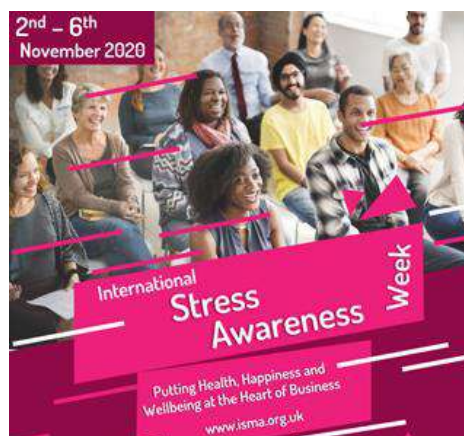


Uttarakhand Day - November 9

- ❖ It is known as the “Land of Gods” or “Dev Bhumi”.
- ❖ It was named ‘Uttaranchal’ during its foundation in 2000.
- ❖ Later, it was renamed to Uttarakhand in 2007.



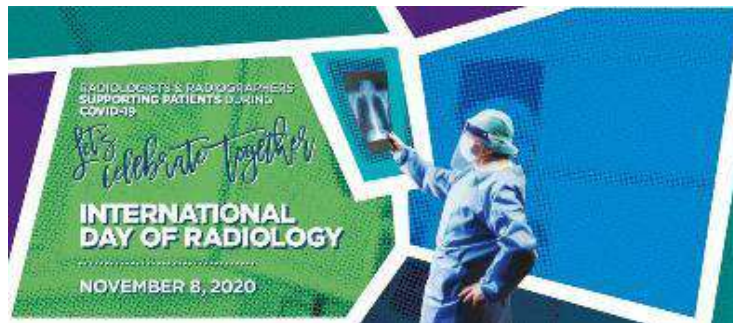
International Stress Awareness Week - November 2 to 6



- ❖ It was created in 2018 to raise awareness about stress prevention, following the establishment of Stress Awareness Day in 1998.
- ❖ This year, the day was observed on November 4th.

World Radiology Day – November 08

- ❖ The date marks the anniversary of the discovery of x-radiation by Wilhelm Roentgen in 1895.
- ❖ This day raises awareness about radiology.
- ❖ The International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists have celebrated 8 November as World Radiography Day since 2007.



World Immunization Day – November 10

- ❖ It is celebrated to create awareness among people about the significance of getting vaccinations for vaccine-preventable diseases on a timely basis.
- ❖ India has one of the largest Universal Immunization Programs (UIP) in terms of the number of covered beneficiaries, vaccines used, human resources participant and geographical spread.
- ❖ World Immunization Week was observed between April 24th and April 30th.

National Education Day – November 11

- ❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of India's First Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
- ❖ Maulana Abul Kalam Azad served the country from 1947 to 1958 as the first minister of Education in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.
- ❖ As the first Education Minister of a free India, he was responsible for setting up of the Central Institute of Education in Delhi.
- ❖ Later this came to be known as the Department of Education under the University of Delhi.
- ❖ He was also responsible for setting up of University Grants Commission in 1953 and emphasized the setting up of Indian Institute of Science or IISc Bangalore.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE DAY	
<p>► National Education Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first education minister of independent India</p>	<p>education in India. November 11 every year, from 2008 onwards, will be celebrated as the National Education Day, without declaring it a holiday</p>
<p>► On September 11, 2008, the MHRD had announced, that it would commemorate his birthday by recalling his contribution to the cause of</p>	<p>► Educational institutions are needed to hold seminars, symposia, elocution competitions, workshops and rallies with banner cards and slogans</p>

World Quality Day – November 12

- ❖ World Quality Day is celebrated annually on the second Thursday in November.
- ❖ The theme of this year's celebration is "Creating customer value".



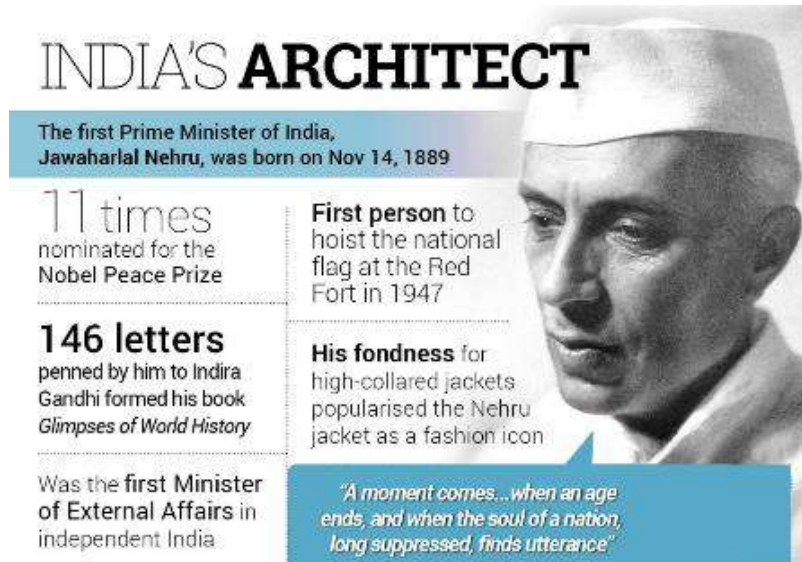
National Ayurveda Day – November 13

- ❖ The Ayurveda Day is being observed every year from 2016, on the day of Dhanwantri Jayanti.
- ❖ 'Ayurveda for Covid-19' is to be the main theme of 5th Ayurveda Day.
- ❖ The Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (abbreviated as AYUSH) is celebrating this.
- ❖ According to Hindu mythology, Dhanwantri is the god of medicine.



National Children's Day - November 14

- ❖ It is celebrated across India to increase awareness of the rights, care and education of children.
- ❖ It is celebrated in tribute to India's First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- ❖ He was born on this day in 1889.
- ❖ The first ever Children's day was celebrated in 1954.
- ❖ The idea of universal Children's Day was suggested by V.K. Krishna Menon.
- ❖ At first, it was celebrated universally in the month of October.
- ❖ After 1959, November 20th was chosen as Children's day.
- ❖ It marked the anniversary day when the Declaration of the Child Rights was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly.
- ❖ In 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child was also signed on the same date.



World Diabetes Day – November 14

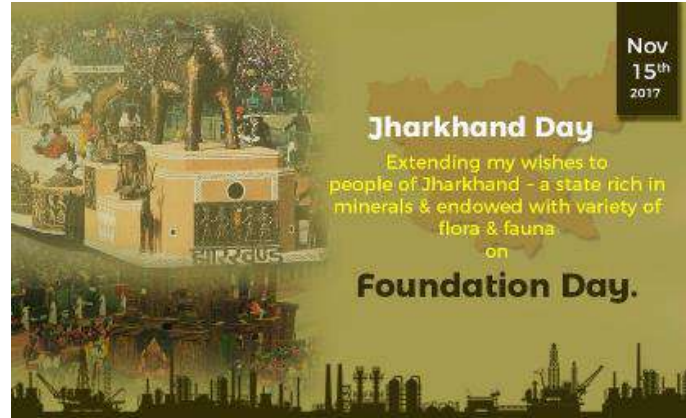
- ❖ It was created in 1991 by International Diabetes Federation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- ❖ It became an official United Nations Day in 2006.
- ❖ It marks the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, who co-discovered insulin along with Charles Best in 1922.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is The Nurse and Diabetes.
- ❖ The blue circle has been adapted by the IDF to spread the awareness of this dreaded disease.
- ❖ On this Day, the WHO announced 'the Global Diabetes Compact'.

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims – November 15

- ❖ On 26 October 2005, the United Nations endorsed it as a global day to be observed every third Sunday in November each year.
- ❖ It was started by the British road crash victim charity, Road Peace, in 1993.
- ❖ India is the second largest country in the world after China to lose a greater number of lives in road accidents.
- ❖ In India, Good Samaritan law was passed to provide legal protection to bystanders who assist accident victims.
- ❖ This law was included in the Motor Vehicle Act 2019.
- ❖ 30 March 2020 was first celebrated as Good Samaritan Law Day in India by Thozhan, an NGO based in Chennai.

Jharkhand Day – November 15

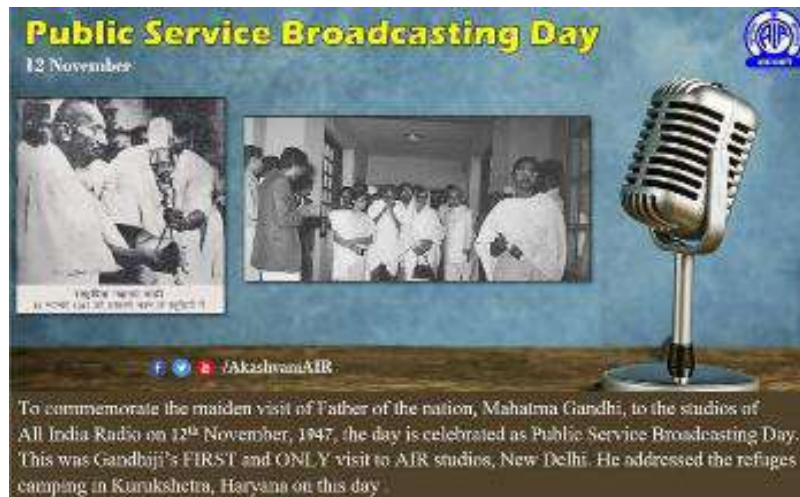
- ❖ Jharkhand was founded by the Bihar Reorganisation Act on 15 November 2000 as the 28th State of India.
- ❖ The Chota Nagpur region was separated from Bihar to form Jharkhand state.
- ❖ Chota Nagpur Plateau is a source of various rivers including Koel, Damodar, Brahmani, Kharkai, and Subarnarekha.
- ❖ Jharkhand is also known as 'The land of forest' or 'Bushland'.



- ❖ 15 November is also observed as the birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- ❖ He was an Indian tribal freedom fighter belonged to the Munda tribe.

Public Service Broadcasting Day – November 12

- ❖ It is celebrated every year as the remembrance of the first and only visit of Mahatma Gandhi to the studio of All India Radio, Delhi in 1947.
- ❖ All India Radio is a public sector broadcaster of the country established in the year 1936.



International Day for Tolerance – November 16

- ❖ It is an annual observance day declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.
- ❖ In 1995, to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, UNESCO created a prize for the promotion of tolerance and non-violence.
- ❖ It is known as the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence.
- ❖ 'Centre Résolution Conflicts' in Democratic Republic of Congo will be the winner of the 2020 Edition.

National Press Day – November 16

- ❖ It is celebrated every year on November 16 to commemorate the establishment of the Press Council of India which was formed in 1966.
- ❖ The Press Council of India acts as a moral watchdog for media.
- ❖ It is a statutory and quasi-judicial institution.

International Students Day – November 17

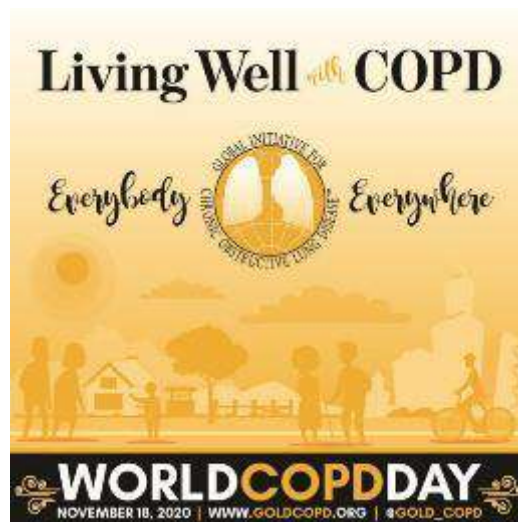
- ❖ On November 17, 1939, the Nazi troops of Germany executed nine student leaders and sent over 1200 students to concentration camps in Czechoslovakia.
- ❖ Since 1941, students from all parts of the world started celebrating November 17 as the International Students Day.
- ❖ Nowadays, November 17 marks a celebration of multiculturalism of international students.
- ❖ It is also a part of the International Students Week.

International Day of Islamic Art – November 18

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of past and contemporary artistic expressions of Islam, and the contribution of culture through Islamic Art to civilization.
- ❖ It was proclaimed at the 40th session of the UNESCO General Conference in 2019.
- ❖ It was proposed by Bahrain.

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.

Antimicrobial Awareness Week

- ❖ The World Health Organization is to celebrate this Week between November 18, 2020 and November 24, 2020.
- ❖ It is to be celebrated under the theme of United to Preserve antimicrobials.
- ❖ The Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) occurs when parasites, fungi, virus and bacteria no longer respond to medicines.
- ❖ The main issue in India is that the antibiotics enter the food system through livestock.
- ❖ This is more common in dairy and livestock.
- ❖ The antibiotics in India are under the purview of Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).



National Integration Day - November 19

- ❖ It is celebrated as the birth anniversary of the first woman Prime Minister of the India, Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ She was born at 19th of November in the year 1917 in Allahabad.

World Toilet Day – November 19

- ❖ It aims to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.
- ❖ This year it focuses on theme of 'sustainable sanitation and climate change'.
- ❖ It is observed with an aim to end defecation and to create public awareness.



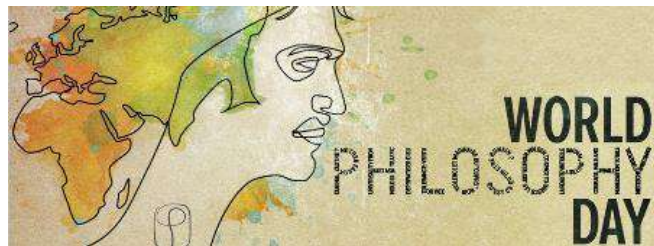
- ❖ The UN General Assembly declared World Toilet Day an official UN day in 2013.
- ❖ UN-Water is the official convener of World Toilet Day.

International Men's Day – November 19

- ❖ Better health for men and boys is the theme for 2020.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in 1992 by Thomas Oaster.

World Philosophy Day - November 19

- ❖ It was introduced in 2002 by UNESCO.
- ❖ In 2005, it became the official UN World Philosophy Day.
- ❖ It would be celebrated every third Thursday of November.
- ❖ Philosophy has its origins in Greek.



National Naturopathy Day – November 18

- ❖ The day was declared by the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy) in 2018.
- ❖ It was on this day in 1945 when Mahatma Gandhi became lifetime Chairman of the All India Nature Cure Foundation Trust.
- ❖ The National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN), Pune released a book on Naturopathy Day titled as 'Gandhi the Healer'.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Nurturing Vitality through Naturopathy".
- ❖ Gandhi himself was a proponent of this practice.
- ❖ He wrote a book called Nature Cure.
- ❖ He helped set up Nisargopachar Ashram, a naturopathy centre, at Urulikanchan near Pune.

World Children's Day – November 20

- ❖ It was first established in 1954.
- ❖ It is an important date as it is the date in 1959 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child or known as the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

- ❖ It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Investing in our future means investing in our children".



Transgender Day of Remembrance – November 20

- ❖ It is a day to draw attention to the continued violence endured by transgender people.
- ❖ It was founded in 1999 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a transgender woman.



Africa Industrialization Day – November 20

- ❖ It was established in 1989 by the UN General Assembly within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000).
- ❖ It is a symbol of geological portrayal of the mainland, including the island of Madagascar.
- ❖ The 2020 theme is "Inclusive and sustainable industrialisation in the AfCFTA and COVID-19 era".
- ❖ On 21 March 2018 in Kigali, Rwanda, the Agreement establishing an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was signed,
- ❖ It is to create a single African market for goods and services and the world's largest free trade area by number of countries.



National Newborn Week - November 15/21

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare celebrated this week.
- ❖ Theme of this week is 'Quality, Equity, Dignity for every new born at every health facility and everywhere'.
- ❖ The main objective is to create awareness about the importance of new born child survival and development.
- ❖ The first 28 days are considered crucial for child survival.
- ❖ India has set a goal of reducing the under-five mortality to 20 per 1000 live births by 2035.

World Television Day – November 21

- ❖ In December 1996 the United Nations proclaimed this day.
- ❖ It is commemorating the date on which the first World Television Forum was held in 1996.
- ❖ There are already three United Nations days encompassing similar subjects:
 - World Press Freedom Day;
 - World Telecommunication and Information Society Day; and
 - World Development Information Day.
- ❖ In 1927, Philo Taylor Farnsworth invented the world's first electronic television.

Women's Entrepreneurship Day – November 19

- ❖ It aims to celebrate, recognise and appreciate all women entrepreneurs around the world.
- ❖ It was first observed in 2013.
- ❖ Women's Entrepreneurship Day Organization (WEDO)/#ChooseWOMEN was founded in 2013 as a non-governmental, non-racial, non-gender, and non-political volunteer non-profit organization.
- ❖ It was founded and implemented by the recipient of Ellis Island Medal of Honor award - Wendy Diamond.

World Fisheries day - November 21

- ❖ It helps in highlighting the critical importance to human lives, of water and the lives it sustains, both in and out of water.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Social Responsibility in the fisheries value chain.
- ❖ For the first time in India, the Department of Fisheries operating under the Ministry of Fisheries is celebrating World Fisheries Day.
- ❖ India is the second-largest producer and 4th largest exporter of fish in the world.
- ❖ The fisheries and aquaculture production contribute around 1% to India's GDP and over 5% to the agricultural GDP.
- ❖ The Government of India had launched the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Rs 20,050 crores.
- ❖ The programme aims to achieve 22 million tonnes of fish production by 2024-25.



Quami Ekta Week – National Integration Week

- ❖ It is also known as the Communal Unity Week in India.
- ❖ It is celebrated from the 19th November to the 25th November.
- ❖ The main theme of this week is 'Secularism, Anti Communalism and Non-Violence'.
- ❖ The National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH), an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Home Affairs, organises Communal Harmony Campaign along with the Quami Ekta Week and observes the Communal Harmony Flag Day on 25 November.
 - On the 19th of November, there is an Integration Day of the Nation.
 - On the 20th of November, there is a Minority of Welfare Day.
 - On the 21st of November, there is a Harmony Linguistic Day.
 - On the 22nd of November, there are Sections of the Weaker Day.
 - On the 23rd of November, there is a Unity of the Cultural Day.
 - On the 24th of November, there is a Women's Day.
 - On the 25th of November, there is a Day of Conservation.

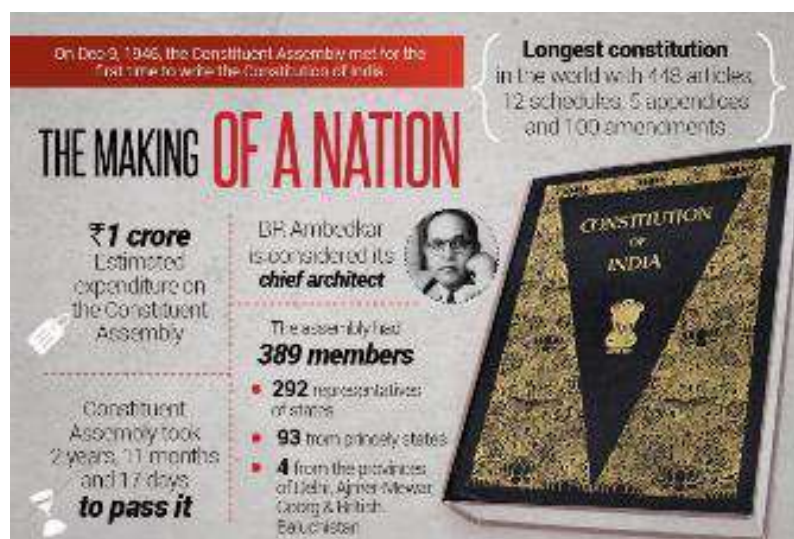
World Olive Tree Day – November 26

- ❖ Both UNESCO and the International Olive Council, have chosen November 26 to be World's Olive Tree Day.
- ❖ The annual celebration of World Olive Tree Day will help to protect this ancient plant and preserve its long-standing value.



Law Day/ Constitution Day - November 26

- ❖ The Constitution Day is also known as the 'Samvidhan Divas'.
- ❖ It is celebrated every year to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1949.
- ❖ On 26th November 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.
- ❖ It came into effect from 26th January 1950.
- ❖ Since 2015, it is being celebrated.
- ❖ 2015 was the 125th birth anniversary of Ambedkar.
- ❖ The Constitution of India is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country in the world.



National Milk Day - November 26

- ❖ In India National Milk Day is observed every year on 26 November to commemorate the birthday of Dr. Verghese Kurien.
- ❖ He is known as the father of India's White Revolution.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to promote benefits related to milk and milk industry and to create awareness among people about importance of milk and milk products.
- ❖ The first National Milk Day was celebrated on 26 November 2014.
- ❖ However, the World milk day is observed every year across the world on 1 June by the United Nations.



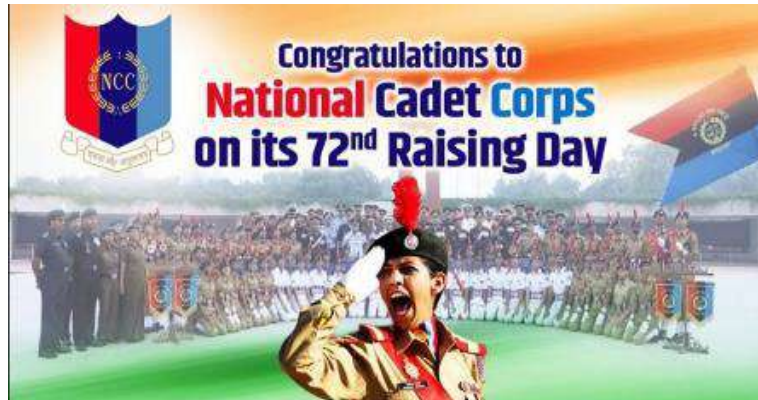
Awas Diwas and Awas Week – November 20

- ❖ It was decided to celebrate 20th November every year as “Awaas Diwas”.
- ❖ It aims to commemorate the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin (PMAY-G).
- ❖ It aims to provide “Housing for All” by 2022.

72nd Raising Day

- ❖ The National Cadet Corps (NCC) celebrated its 72nd Raising Day on 22 November.
- ❖ It is the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world.
- ❖ It is the youth wing of Armed Forces with its headquarters at New Delhi.
- ❖ It is a voluntary organisation which recruits cadets from high schools, higher secondary, colleges and universities all over India.
- ❖ It is a Tri-Services Organisation, comprising the Army, Navy and Air Wing.
- ❖ It was formed by the National Cadet Corps Act of 1948.

- ❖ It can be traced back to the 'University Corps', which was created under the Indian Defence Act 1917.



- ❖ A scheme for expansion of National Cadet Corps coverage, in Border and Coastal regions of the country was announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August 2020.

World Heritage Week – November 19-25

- ❖ It is observed annually by the UNESCO.
- ❖ It is to make people aware of the rich heritage and also strive for its preservation.
- ❖ There are 38 world heritage UNESCO sites in India.
- ❖ It includes 30 cultural sites, 7 natural sites and one mixed site.

Aviation Awareness Week – November 23-27

- ❖ The Airport Authority of India launched Aviation Awareness Week.
- ❖ It is being celebrated to raise awareness on aviation safety.
- ❖ It will also stress on the long-term objective of zero fatality by 2030.

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People – November 29

- ❖ This day is to recall that the Palestinian public have not yet accomplished certain natural rights, including public autonomy and power.
- ❖ On that day in 1947, the General Assembly adopted resolution 181 (II).
- ❖ It came to be known as the Partition Resolution.
- ❖ That resolution provided for the establishment in Palestine of a "Jewish State" and an "Arab State", with Jerusalem as a corpus separatum under a special international regime.
- ❖ Of the two States to be created under this resolution, only one, Israel, has so far come into being.



Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare – November 30

- ❖ The Day aims to tribute to the victims of chemical warfare.
- ❖ Also, it aims to reaffirm the commitment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.
- ❖ It is officially recognised by the United Nations and has been celebrated since 2005.
- ❖ The “Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction” entered into force on 29 April 1997.

