

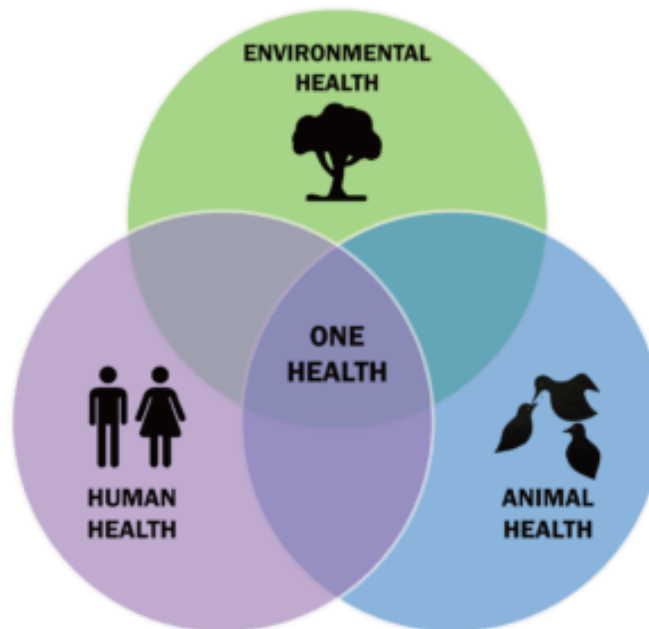
October - 18

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Haryana government has banned the participation of its employees in politics and elections.
- ❖ Australia has announced that it will build a 20-kilogram semi-autonomous lunar rover for NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).
 - This rover is to help NASA find oxygen on Moon.

NATIONAL

One Health Consortium



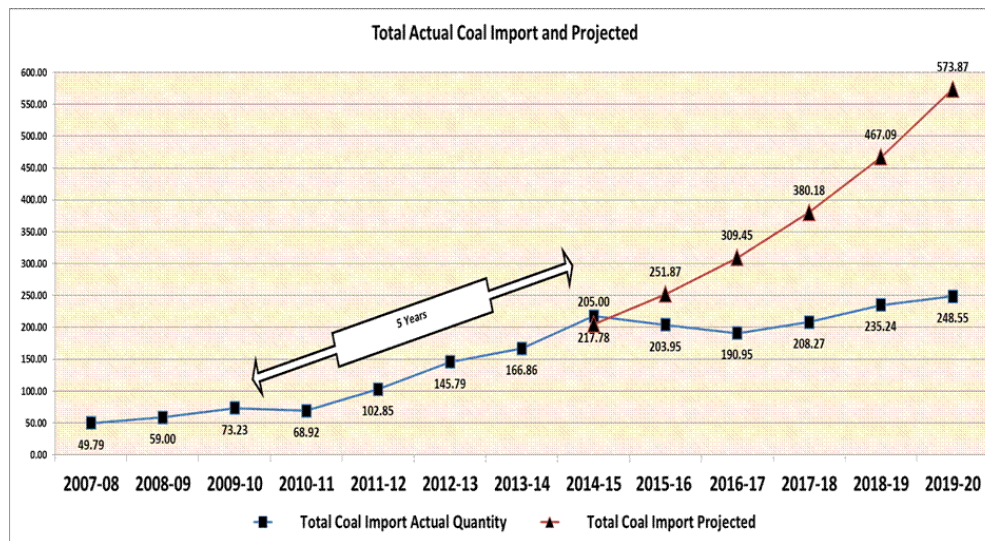
- ❖ The Department of Biotechnology has launched a 'One Health' consortium.
- ❖ This is the First 'One Health' project of the DBT.
- ❖ One Health Consortium has been empowered to carry out surveillance of important viral, bacterial, & parasitic infections of zoonotic and transboundary pathogens in India.
- ❖ This project will also look into the use of existing diagnostic tests and the development of additional methodologies to conduct surveillance and understand the spread of emerging diseases.



Plastic Waste Recycling Targets

- ❖ The Union environment ministry has released a draft notification to regulate the extended producer responsibility (EPR) under the “Plastic Waste Management Rules 2016”.
- ❖ The draft provides that, quantity of waste will have to be managed by producers, brand owners and importers, who are generate plastic packaging waste across India.

Coal production



- ❖ The Central Government is boosting its per day coal production from 1.94 million to 2 million tonnes within a week.
- ❖ This is to meet the rampant demand for coal by states, power companies, and railways.
- ❖ The Use of local coal up to a 10 per cent blend of imported coal has been granted to permitted power generators to increase coal stocks.

World's Best Employers 2021

- ❖ Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries has topped the Indian corporates in the World's Best Employers 2021 rankings published by Forbes.
- ❖ Globally, Reliance is placed at 52nd position among 750 global corporates.
- ❖ The South Korean giant Samsung Electronics has topped the overall ranking as World's Best Employers 2021.
- ❖ The World's Best Employers 2021 has been prepared by Forbes in partnership with market research company Statista.



TOP 10 INDIAN FIRMS IN THE RANKING

COMPANY	RANKING
Reliance Industries	52
ICICI Bank	65
HDFC Bank	77
HCL Technologies	90
SBI	119
Larsen & Toubro	127
Bajaj	215
Axis Bank	254
Indian Bank	314
ONGC	404

Source: Forbes

Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal

- ❖ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerna Sthal was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Prerna Sthal was inaugurated to commemorate the 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam as well as to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- ❖ The NSTL products like Varunastra, Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) and Maareech decoy are also being displayed on the occasion at NSTL.
- ❖ The NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory working under the Defence Research & Development Organisation.

Upper limit of legal abortions

- ❖ The central government increased the upper limit of legal abortion to 24 weeks from earlier 20 weeks.
- ❖ This is for special categories of women.
- ❖ The centre notified the new rules under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Rules, 2021.

- ❖ The 24-week upper limit of legal abortions is in line with the advancements in medical technology that allows removal of foetus at a relatively advanced stage of pregnancy.

Why 20-Week Window Isn't Enough	What Other Countries Do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Most fetal abnormalities are detected only after 19th week. By the time parents decide to abort, it is too late➤ Many places in India don't have advanced ultrasound and antenatal care, due to which some abnormalities are detected late	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Many European countries, including France, UK and Italy, and even Nepal, allow abortion after 20 weeks if fetal abnormalities are discovered➤ 23 countries, including Canada, Germany and Vietnam, allow abortion at any time if the request is based on social or medical reasons



INTERNATIONAL

Joint Sea 2021 naval exercise

- ❖ China and Russia are holding Joint naval drills called the “Joint Sea 2021 naval exercise” in the Sea of Japan.
- ❖ It highlights the latest sign of growing political and military alignment between Russia and China.
- ❖ The drill started in Russia’s Peter the Great Gulf in the Sea of Japan.

EY Index

- ❖ India has retained the third position in the 58th Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI).
- ❖ The index was released by the consultancy firm Ernst & Young (EY).
- ❖ According to the report, the US, mainland China and India continue to retain the top three rankings.
- ❖ Indonesia is a new entrant to the RECAI.
- ❖ The 2021 RECAI ranks the world’s top 40 global markets (nations) on the attractiveness of their renewable energy investment and deployment opportunities.



THE TOP 10

1. United States of America
2. China
3. India
4. Chile
5. Germany
6. Brazil
7. Mexico
8. France
9. Canada
10. Australia

Source: EY

Kunming Biodiversity Fund

UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

NEW DATES

11 - 15 October 2021
VIRTUAL

25 April - 8 May 2022
IN PERSON

2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE
COP 15 - CP/MOP10-NP/MOP4
Ecological Civilization—Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth
KUNMING · CHINA

The poster features a central circular emblem with a bird, a panda, and a fish, surrounded by floral patterns. The background is teal with a faint world map.



www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15

#COP15

- ❖ China pledged to inject \$233 million into a new fund called the “Kunming Biodiversity Fund” recently.
- ❖ It is for the protection of biodiversity in developing countries.
- ❖ This decision was taken during a key UN conservation summit, even though major donors disagreed on it.

- ❖ China pledged as it is the world's biggest polluter and seeks to play a prominent role internationally in biodiversity conservation.
- ❖ This summit seeks to establish a new accord, setting targets for 2030 and 2050.

STATES

Ropeway services - Varanasi

- ❖ Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh will become the first city in India to use ropeway services in public transportation.
- ❖ Overall, Varanasi will be the third city in the world after Bolivia and Mexico City to use ropeway in public transportation.
- ❖ The project will be executed on a public-private partnership model.
- ❖ The cost of the project will be divided between the Centre and the state government at 80:20.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

C K Prahlad award

- ❖ Indian American Microsoft CEO, Satya Nadella has won the prestigious C K Prahlad award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership for the year 2021.
- ❖ Apart from Nadella, Microsoft's President and Vice-Chair Brad Smith, Chief financial officer Amy Hood and chief environment officer Lucas Joppa have shared the award for Global Business Sustainability Leadership.
- ❖ The four top Microsoft leaders have received the Award for their collaborative leadership to transform Microsoft into a carbon negative company by 2030 and remove all its historical emissions by 2050.



Prani Mitra 2021

- ❖ S. Chinny Krishna has been conferred with the prestigious 'Prani Mitra' award for 2021 by the Animal Welfare Board of India.
- ❖ He is the co-founder of Blue Cross of India.
- ❖ This is awarded for his lifetime service to animals.
- ❖ Prani Mitra is the country's highest award for animal welfare.

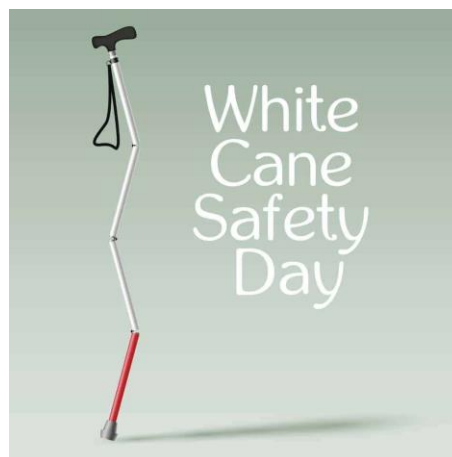
Vegan leather initiative

- ❖ PETA India has decided to confer on Meghalaya Environment Minister James P K Sangma the Progressive Business Concept Award.
- ❖ This is for his plans to produce 'vegan leather' in the north eastern state.
- ❖ Sangma had recently announced that the Meghalaya government plans to produce leather using pineapples.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World White Cane Day – 15 October

- ❖ It is observed in order to celebrate the achievements of people, who won against their physical limitations in sight and still achieving success,
- ❖ The white cane is the most easily recognized symbol of a visually impaired person around the globe.





Global Hand washing Day – 15 October

- ❖ The Global Hand washing Day was observed across the world in order to raise awareness and develop better understanding on the importance of hand hygiene in keeping people safe and healthy.
- ❖ Theme of the year 2021 is “Our Future is at Hand - Let’s Move Forward Together.”

