



October - 30

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ R Parthiepan's Oththa Seruppu Size 7 and Lakshmy Ramakrishnan's House Owner have been selected to be honoured with Central government's tag of 'Extraordinary'.
 - These are also set to screen at the International Film Festival, Goa 2020 under the Indian Panorama category.
- ❖ A team of scientists from West Bengal has discovered the first dragonfly fossil in India from Jharkhand's Latehar district.
- ❖ New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern's Labour Party registers another landslide victory in its general elections.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (UP) Governor, Anandiben Patel has launched "Safe City Project" – a women's safety campaign in Lucknow, UP.
 - It is a mission mode initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- ❖ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Kisan Suryoday Yojana in Gujarat.
 - The scheme aims to provide day time power supply for irrigation.

NATIONAL

Indian Tourism Statistics

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism recently released the Indian Tourist Statistics.
- ❖ According to the report, Uttar Pradesh (UP) attracted the highest number of domestic tourists in the country.
- ❖ UP was followed by Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ Taj Mahal and gateway of India where the top spots of domestic tourism.
- ❖ The other states with huge influx of tourists are Kerala, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The top five source countries of tourists were Bangladesh, United States, United Kingdom, Sri Lanka and Canada.
- ❖ In terms of Foreign Tourists visit, Tamilnadu tops the list.
- ❖ Tamilnadu was followed by Maharashtra and UP.



Life Expectancy in India

- ❖ The life expectancy of India has increased from 59.6 years in 1992 to 70.8 years in 2019.
- ❖ Kerala has the highest life expectancy.
- ❖ In Kerala life expectancy has increased to 77.3 years.
- ❖ The life expectancy of Uttar Pradesh was 66.9 years.
- ❖ The top five risk factors of death in India are air pollution, high blood pressure, tobacco use, poor diet and high blood sugar.
- ❖ It was recently published by the Lancet medical report.

Fourth India Energy Forum

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated the India Energy Forum by CERAWeek.
- ❖ The forum is in its fourth year and is hosted by IHS Markit.
- ❖ It provides unique opportunity for the energy industry across the world.
- ❖ The forum speaks about what lies ahead in the world of energy globally and in India.

ECONOMY

PM SVANidhi Scheme

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India by approving the highest number of loans under PM-SVANidhi Scheme in the country.
- ❖ The second place has been acquired by Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ It is then followed by Telangana and Gujarat.
- ❖ It aims at benefitting street vendors in rural, urban and pre-urban areas.

100 new forest fresh organic products

- ❖ The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) launched 100 new forest fresh organic products.
- ❖ These products include
 - Gold and Green Apples from Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
 - Baskets and Boxes from Uttarakhand. They were made from Munj grass
 - Cloves, Seeded Tamarind, Coffee Powder and Eucalyptus oil from Nilgiri tribes



- Masks made by Meena tribes of Rajasthan
- Immunity boosters such as Kadha and Churan made by the Bhul and Gond tribes of Madhya Pradesh
- Range of pulses, jamun powder and Giloy powder made from Gujarat and Maharashtra
- Pickles, red rice, bel juices, from the North East.

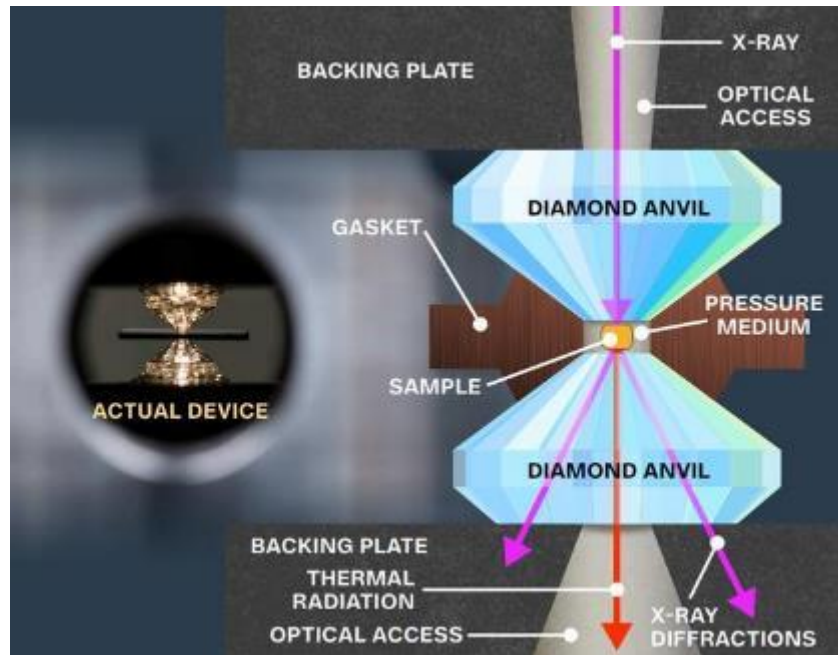
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Trans Fat Elimination

- ❖ The Union Health Ministry aims to make India Trans Fat free by 2022
- ❖ Trans fat is a food toxic present in partially hydrogenated vegetable oils, baked and fried foods.
- ❖ It is also a major contributor to the rise in non-communicable diseases in the country.
- ❖ Trans Fat is a risk factor for cardiovascular diseases (CVD)
- ❖ In this regard, FSSAI's 'Eat Right India movement' aims to promote healthy and safe food for everyone in an environmentally sustainable way.

First room-temperature superconductor

- ❖ Scientists have reported the discovery of the first room-temperature superconductor, after more than a century of waiting.
- ❖ The superconductor was formed by squeezing carbon, hydrogen and sulphur between the tips of two diamonds and hitting the material with laser light to induce chemical reactions.
- ❖ At a pressure about 2.6 million times that of Earth's atmosphere, and temperatures below about 15° C, the electrical resistance vanished.
- ❖ However, the new material's superconducting superpowers appear only at extremely high pressures, limiting its practical usefulness.
- ❖ Superconductors transmit electricity without resistance, allowing current to flow without any energy loss.
- ❖ When superconductivity was discovered in 1911, it was found only at temperatures close to absolute zero (-273.15° C).



Water on Moon

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA of USA has found the presence of water on the sun lit surface of the Moon.
- ❖ It was found by the spacecraft SOFIA.
- ❖ Sofia is Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy.
- ❖ Sofia is a joint project of Germany and United States.
- ❖ The spacecraft detected water in clavius crater.
- ❖ It is located in the southern hemisphere of the Moon.
- ❖ Earlier, ISRO Chandrayaan 1 confirmed the presence of water in the shadowed places of moon.





ENVIRONMENT

Skinks of India

- ❖ Recently, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) brought a study on skinks (a kind of lizard), titled Skinks of India.
- ❖ Skinks are non-venomous, highly alert, agile and fast moving and actively forage for a variety of insects and small invertebrates.
- ❖ It reveals that India is home to 62 species of skinks.
- ❖ India is home to less than 4% of the skinks across the globe.
- ❖ 62 species of skinks are found in India and about 57% of them (33 species) are endemic.
- ❖ The Western Ghats are home to 24 species of which 18 are endemic to the region.
- ❖ The Deccan Peninsular region is home to 19 species of which 13 are endemic.
- ❖ India is home to 16 genera of skinks, four of which are endemic.
- ❖ The four genera of skinks are:
 - Sepsophis: Sepsophis punctatus is endemic to the northern part of Eastern Ghats
 - Barkudia: They are limbless skinks found in the hills and coastal plains of the eastern coast.
 - Barkudia insularis is believed to be found only in the Barkud Island in Chilka lake in Odisha.
 - Barkudia melanosticta is endemic to Visakhapatnam.
 - Kaestlea: They are also known as blue-tailed ground skinks and are endemic to the Western Ghats.
 - Ristella: They are also known as Cat skinks and endemic to the southern part of Western Ghats.

Asan Conservation Reserve

- ❖ It has become Uttarakhand's first Ramsar site, making it a 'Wetland of International Importance'.
- ❖ The Reserve is located on the banks of Yamuna river near Dehradun district in Garhwal region of Uttarakhand.



National Action Plan for Vulture Conservation – 2020/2025

- ❖ The National Action Plan for Vulture Conservation, 2020-25 was recently approved by National Board for Wild life.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh, Tripura, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu will get a vulture conservation and breeding centre each
- ❖ The new plan automatically removes veterinary use of a drug if it is found to be toxic to vultures.
- ❖ The main reason the vultures are getting wiped out in India is due to the drug diclofenac.
- ❖ Under the plan, every state will host at least one vulture safe zone to conserve the remnant population of vultures in the state.
- ❖ A coordinated Nation-wide vulture counting is to be conducted by the Bombay Natural History Society, Forest Department, non-profit organisations, Research Institute, etc.
- ❖ There must be Conservation breeding of red-Headed vultures and Egyptian vultures.
- ❖ There must be an establishment of four rescue centres, in Pinjore (Haryana), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam) and Hyderabad (Telangana).
- ❖ There are 9 species of vultures in India.
- ❖ These 9 species and their IUCN status are as follows
 - Oriental white backed vulture - critically endangered
 - Slender billed vulture - critically endangered
 - Long billed vulture - critically endangered
 - Egyptian vulture - endangered
 - Red headed vulture - critically endangered
 - Indian Griffon vulture - least concerned
 - Himalayan Griffon vulture - near threatened
 - Cinereous vulture - near threatened
 - Bearded vulture - near threatened

Himalayan brown bears

- ❖ A recent study on the Himalayan brown bear has predicted a significant reduction in suitable habitat and biological corridors.
- ❖ It is also known as Himalayan red bear, isabelline bear or Dzu-The.

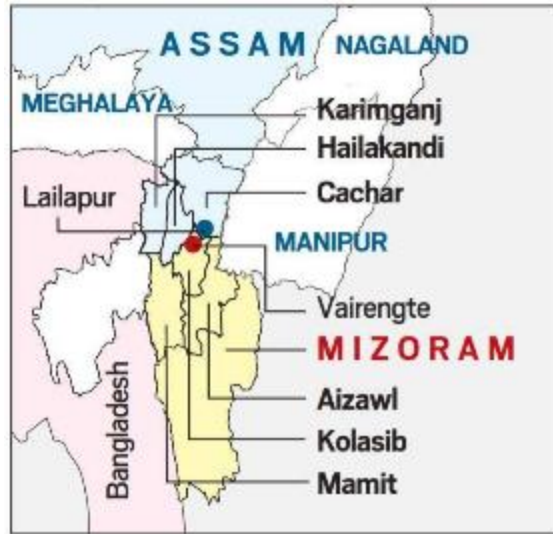
- ❖ It is the largest carnivore in the highlands of Himalayas.
- ❖ It is found in some of the protected areas of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir.



STATES

Assam-Mizoram Border Dispute

- ❖ Recently there was a clash between the residents of Lailapur village in Cachar district of Assam and the locals of Kolasib district of Mizoram.
- ❖ Three Assam districts, namely, Cachar, Hailakandi and Karimganj share their border with three Mizoram districts including Kolasib, Mamit and Aizawl.
- ❖ The border issue between Assam and Mizoram dates back to 1875 notification (Inner Line Regulation) which separated Lushai Hills (then Mizoram) from the plains of Cachar (Assam) and to 1933 when a boundary between Lushai Hills and Cachar was demarcated.



Mount Girnar

- ❖ A 2.3-km-long ropeway project was recently launched by PM Modi on Mount Girnar in Junagadh city in Gujarat.
- ❖ The ropeway project is being touted as the longest temple ropeway in Asia.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

New President of Seychelles

- ❖ India born Wavel Ramkalawan was elected as the President of Seychelles.
- ❖ His grandfather was from Bihar, India.

- ❖ Seychelles is an archipelago in the Indian Ocean.



SPORTS

Lewis Hamilton's Record

- ❖ The Six-times world champion Lewis Hamilton became the most successful Formula One driver.
- ❖ The British racing driver Lewis Hamilton overtakes Germany's Michael Schumacher with record 92nd Formula 1 win.
- ❖ The Mercedes driver had overtaken the Ferrari driver Michael Schumacher's record in the Portuguese Grand Prix.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Polio Day - October 24

- ❖ The theme for World Polio Day 2020 is 'Stories of Progress: Past and Present' and in some places is 'A win against polio is a win for global health'.
- ❖ It was established by Rotary International to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk.
- ❖ He led the first team to develop a vaccine against poliomyelitis.
- ❖ In the year 1988, The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) was launched by collaborations between the Rotary International and the World Health organisation.
- ❖ Polio largely affects children under the age of five.
- ❖ The poliovirus has three strains (type 1, type 2 and type 3).
- ❖ Both type 2 and type 3 strains have officially been declared as globally eradicated.

- ❖ Only 3 countries in the world have reported the transmission of polio.
- ❖ They are Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria.
- ❖ India received polio free certification from the WHO in 2014.

73rd Anniversary of Accession – October 26

- ❖ The people of Jammu and Kashmir celebrated the 73rd Anniversary of Accession of J&K with the Indian Union.
- ❖ The day marks the Red-Letter Day in Indian history when Maharaja Hari Singh, the then ruler of Jammu & Kashmir signed the instrument of accession with the Union of India.
- ❖ The day was observed as a public holiday this year for the first time since Independence.



World Disarmament Week

- ❖ It is celebrated from October 24 to 30 on the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.
- ❖ It seeks to promote awareness and better understanding of disarmament issues and their cross-cutting importance.

Vigilance Awareness Week – 2020

- ❖ The Vigilance Awareness Week is to be held between October 27, 2020 and November 2, 2020.



- ❖ The week is celebrated to affirm the commitment towards promotion of probity and integrity in public life through citizen participation.
- ❖ This year's theme is Satarak Bharat, Samridh Bharat.
- ❖ It means Vigilant India, Prosperous India.

