

October - 12

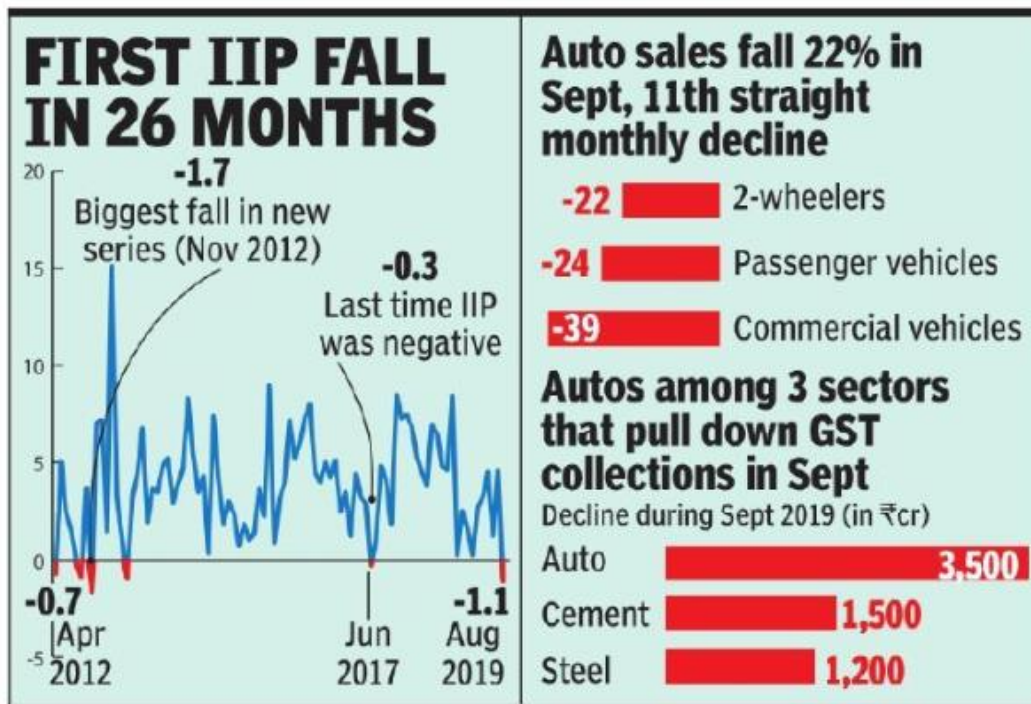
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) scheme the Union Government has given approval for 6 new medical colleges with 150 seats each in Tamilnadu. The Union government will bear 60% of expenditures.
 - This would take the number of Government medical colleges in Tamilnadu to 30.
- ❖ The world's largest 3D printer has created the world's largest 3D-printed boat. University of Maine in USA created this 25-foot, 5,000-pound boat and its seaworthiness was proved.
- ❖ Breaking gender stereotypes and ensuring equality to the transgender community, the Kerala government has decided to bear the training costs of 20-year-old Adam Harry to help him become the country's first transgender airline pilot.
 - Adam already possess a Private Pilot license and was disowned by his family for being a transman.
- ❖ Santosh Londhe, (adopted name Sridevi) Mumbai University's first "recognised" transgender student has graduated with a double major in psychology and sociology.
 - The university had introduced a "third column for gender" four years ago and then Sridevi had registered.
- ❖ Chandrayaan-2 orbiter's Solar X-ray Monitor (XSM) has detected detect a series of solar flares and thus demonstrated the craft's ability to ultimately test for the presence of minerals on the Moon.
- ❖ The Indian Ambassador to the Netherlands, Venu Rajamony, released his book titled "India and the Netherlands, Past, Present and Future" at Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam.
 - The King of the Netherlands, Willem-Alexander, received the first copy in the presence of the Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. The Royal Couple is expected to visit India in October.
- ❖ The Pakistani-origin British finance minister Sajid Javid has instructed Royal Mint to issue a commemorative coin to mark the 150th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has rejected the merger proposal between Lakshmi Vilas Bank and mortgage lender Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited.

NATIONAL

Falling Industrial Output

- ❖ The country's industrial output slumped the most in nearly seven years and contracted for the first time in over two years.
- ❖ The slump was led by a sharp decline in the crucial manufacturing, capital goods and consumer durables sectors.
- ❖ India's industrial output contracted by 1.1 percent month-on-month (MoM) in August, according to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data released by the central statistical organisation (CSO) on October 11.
- ❖ Industrial output or factory output, is the closest approximation for measuring economic activity in the country's business landscape.
- ❖ The current base year for IIP is 2011-2012.



1st International Cooperative Fair @ New Delhi

- ❖ The 1st ever 'India International Cooperatives Trade Fair' has been inaugurated in New Delhi.
- ❖ The 3-day Fair is a major platform to promote export of products of cooperatives which will lead to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.



- ❖ Organisations from 35 countries and more than 150 Indian cooperatives are participating in the Fair.
- ❖ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar also launched 'Yuva Sahakar', a Cooperative Enterprise Support and Innovation Scheme 2019.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Gaganyaan Training @ Russia – Citizen Familiarisation @ VSSC

- ❖ India's first 'Gaganyaan' human space flight mission is slated to take off in 2022.
- ❖ The Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S. Somnath has informed that the training for its crew, drawn from among experienced Indian Air Force pilots, has already commenced in Russia.
- ❖ The short duration Gaganyaan mission will be undertaken at the low earth orbit (LEO) within 300-400 km from Earth.
- ❖ VSSC also invited 400 senior citizens around India as part of the World Space Week -2019 and citizen familiarisation programme.

ENVIRONMENT

Annual Ganges Dolphin Census

- ❖ WWF (India) and members of Uttar Pradesh forest department (UPFD) have launched the annual census of Gangetic Dolphin as part of the 'My Ganga, My Dolphin' campaign.
- ❖ Officials from Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary and Narora Ramsar site within the upper Ganga stretch also joined the survey team.
- ❖ The census is part of an annual dolphin mapping exercise that first began in 2015.
- ❖ 33 dolphins were spotted in 2018, including three calves.
- ❖ The Ganges river dolphin has been recognized by the government of India as its National Aquatic Animal.
- ❖ It is also the official animal of the Guwahati city.

Regions covered

- ❖ Usually carried out along the Ganges from Bijnor barrage to Narora barrage, covering five districts inside Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.

Additional regions covered in 2019

- ❖ Starts from Bijnor, Uttrakhand and covers a 255km-stretch till the Ramsar site at Narora barrage.

Technique

- ❖ The census will be done with the help of dolphin expert Gill Braulik, using tandem boat survey method.
- ❖ It comprises of two boats, each with some observers and one data recorder.

STATES

Uttarakhand Mobile Chariots – Wildlife Week

- ❖ The Uttarakhand forest department has launched mobile chariots to spread awareness on tackling human-animal conflict.
- ❖ The chariots were launched on October 1 and also in connection with Wildlife Awareness Week.
- ❖ They will travel across the state to sensitise people on the conflict and how to prevent loss of lives.
- ❖ Locals will be shown films and have sessions about wildlife to raise awareness.
- ❖ Leopard attacks are frequent in Pithorgarh, Champawat, Pauri and Almora districts of the state.





Kanyashree University @ West Bengal

- ❖ The West Bengal government has taken the initiative to set up a Kanyashree University and Kanyashree colleges across the state under Kanyashree Scheme.
- ❖ CM Mamata Banerjee had laid the foundation stone of the new university at Krishna nagar in Nadia district in January.
- ❖ Kanyashree university would be only for women.
- ❖ The main objective of the scheme is to ensure that girls study in schools and colleges and delay their marriages until the age of 18 years.

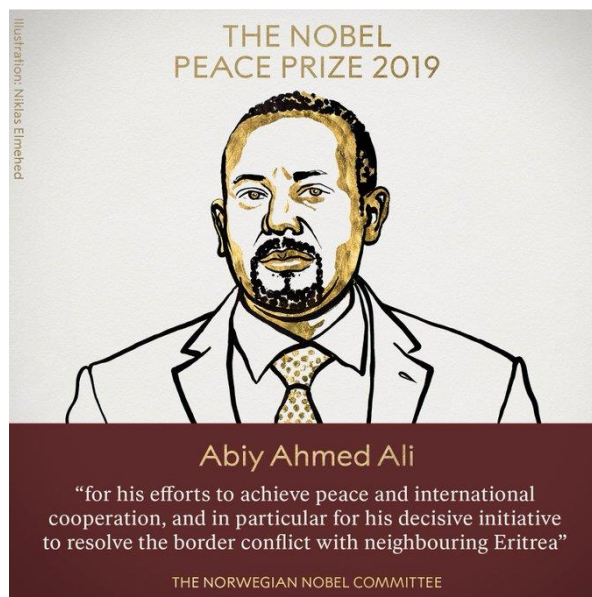
About

- ❖ West Bengal government had started the Kanyashree scheme in 2013.
- ❖ It had earlier won the UN award in 2017 for Public Service.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Nobel Peace Prize 2019

- ❖ Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has won the Nobel Peace Prize 2019.
- ❖ He was awarded for his efforts to achieve peace and international cooperation and resolving the long-running conflict with neighbouring country Eritrea.
- ❖ Ethiopia and Eritrea were long-time foes who fought a border war from 1998 to 2000. The hostility continued for years.
- ❖ On July 9, 2018, following a historic meeting in Eritrea's capital Asmara, Abiy Ahmed and Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki formally ended the 20-year-old conflict.



Kadri Gopalnath passed away

- ❖ Padma Shri awardee and noted saxophonist Kadri Gopalnath has passed away.
- ❖ Kadri Gopalnath is celebrated for popularising the saxophone, a jazz instrument, in Carnatic music.
- ❖ He is among the few Carnatic musicians to have performed at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall in London.

Highest civilian award of Comoros to Vice President

- ❖ Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has received the Order of Green Crescent, the highest civilian award of Comoros, an African island nation.
- ❖ It was presented to him by Comoros President Azali Assamouni in Moroni.
- ❖ Moroni is the capital city of the Comoros archipelago off Africa's east coast.
- ❖ This is his second international honour since Naidu became Vice-President in 2017.
- ❖ In March this year, United Nations Peace University, Costa Rica, conferred an honorary doctorate on him for his contribution to sustainable development as minister of urban development and rule of law.
- ❖ The Vice President is on an official tour of the Sierra Leone and Comoros.

