

October - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Forbes India Rich List 2019 was released by Forbes India in which Mukesh Ambani held the top spot for the 12th consecutive year.
- ❖ The founder of Microsoft Corporation Bill Gates' new book titled "How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need" will be released on June 2020.
- ❖ The Australian women's cricket team broke the record for most consecutive wins in One Day International (ODI) cricket with their 18th victory by defeating Sri Lanka.
 - They broke their own record of 17 consecutive wins achieved between 1997 and 1999.

NATIONAL

Health System Strengthening Conditionality Report of States 2018 -19

- ❖ Health System Strengthening Conditionality Report of States 2018-19 was released by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW).
- ❖ 14 states and union territories (UTs) were penalised under the National Health Mission (NHM) for their worst performances on various health parameters in 2018-19.
- ❖ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Haryana, Assam, Kerala and Punjab were the top five states/UTs which performed well.
- ❖ 14 states and UTs with Bihar, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Mizoram were the worst performing states.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu topped by 100% screening of 30 plus population followed by Goa (68%) and Daman and Diu (57%).

13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare

- ❖ Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 13th Conference of Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHWF) for 2019 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Objective: To build a consensus on National Health priorities.
- ❖ The conference was conducted on the 4 pillars of health care namely:
 - Universal Health Coverage (UHC),

- Mission mode interventions,
 - Quality and accessible affordable healthcare services and
 - Adequate Infrastructure.
- ❖ A new initiative called ‘Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN)’ for Zero Preventable Maternal and Newborn Deaths, its website and the grievance redressal portal were launched on the occasion.
- ❖ He also released the following reports in the conference:
- National Blindness and Visually Impaired Survey 2019 and
 - First report on the National Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy Survey (2015-2019).



G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance

- ❖ India became a member of Group of 20 (G20) Global Smart Cities Alliance on Technology Governance.
- ❖ It works towards advancing the responsible and ethical use of smart city technologies.
- ❖ The World Economic Forum (WEF), the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation serves as secretariat for the Alliance.

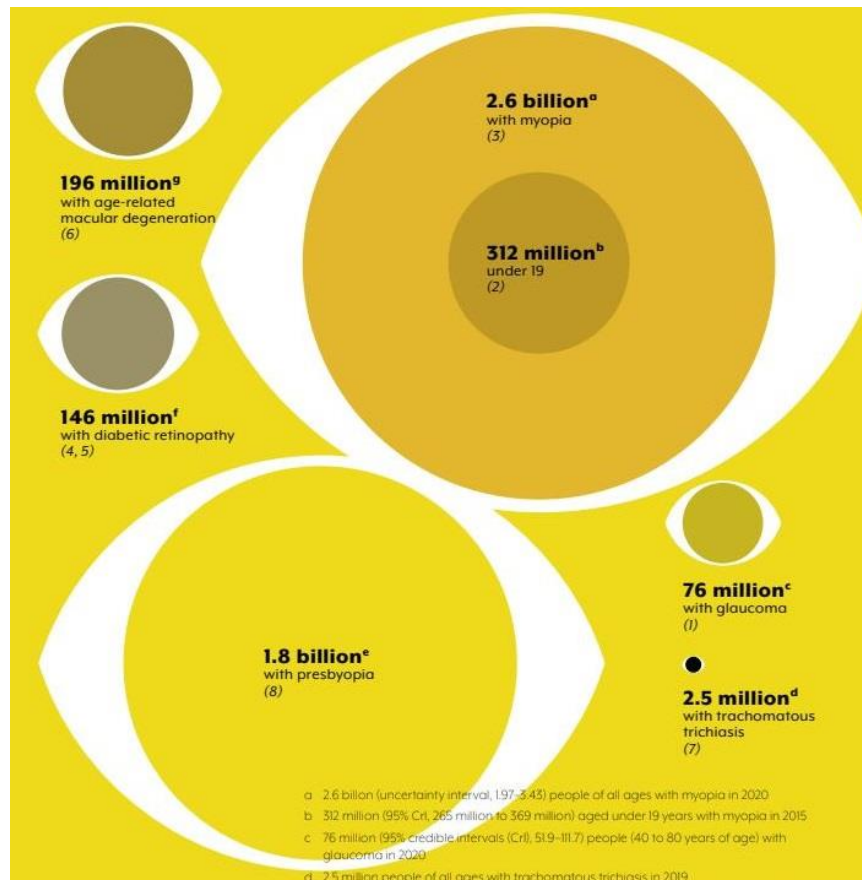
About G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance:

- ❖ It is a league of 16 (after India joined) of the world’s leading city networks and technology governance organisations.
- ❖ It was established in June 2019, in conjunction with the G20 Summit in Osaka, Japan.

INTERNATIONAL

First world report on vision

- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) has launched its first report on vision.
- ❖ According to the report, nearly 2.2 billion people live with vision impairment or blindness globally.
- ❖ In that over one billion cases could have been prevented or have yet to be addressed.
- ❖ It aims to address these challenges and galvanize action.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Plastic-eating bacteria

- ❖ A team of researchers at Shiv Nadar University in Greater Noida, have discovered two 'plastic-eating' bacteria.
- ❖ These bacterial strains namely *Exiguobacterium sibiricum* strain DR11 and *Exiguobacterium undae* strain DR14.



- ❖ The strains have the great potential to decompose polystyrene, which is a key component in Single-Use Plastic (SUP) items such as disposable cups, cutlery, toys, packaging materials etc

First Satellite Servicing Spacecraft

- ❖ The first satellite-servicing spacecraft named “MEV-1” (Mission Extension Vehicle-1) was launched on the Russian Proton rocket that took off from Russia’s launching site for spacecraft in Kazakhstan.
- ❖ It was developed by Northrop Grumman, US in partnership with NASA partnership called Collaborations for Commercial Space Capabilities.
- ❖ The MEV functions in tracking down and connecting to any satellite in space that’s running low on fuel and replenish its supply.
- ❖ So, it aims to extend the life of commercial satellites that are currently in a geostationary orbit around Earth.

ICON space weather satellite

- ❖ NASA successfully launched Ionospheric Connection Explorer (ICON) space weather satellite from Florida, United States.
- ❖ Ionospheric is the layer of the earth’s atmosphere that contains a high concentration of ions and free electrons and is able to reflect radio waves.
- ❖ It will study the dynamic zone in an atmosphere where terrestrial weather from below meets space weather from above for 2 years.
- ❖ Previously in 2018, NASA had launched a satellite named Gold which is studying the upper atmosphere.

ENVIRONMENT

Mobile app & website for Environment Protection in Government Colonies

- ❖ Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Housing & Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri launched a new mobile app named “mHariyali” and website “Environment Protection in Government Colonies” in New Delhi.
- ❖ It encourages people to plant trees and for Green drives.
- ❖ It provides for automatic geotagging of plants, is user-friendly and works on any android mobile phone.
- ❖ Both app & website are developed by National Informatics Centre (NIC)-Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

- ❖ The public can upload any information related to their actions on environment protection which will be displayed on the website www.epgc.gov.in.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Health Council Award 2019

- ❖ Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), presented the Health Council Award 2019 to people who have contributed in the health sector.
- ❖ The summit aims at improving the health of Indian diaspora people across the world.
- ❖ Among other awardees, 3 Indian Americans were awarded the Health Council Award.

Name	Awarded category
Rahul Shukla	Manufacturing of the latest medical equipment.
Hitesh Bhatt	Healthcare technology category.
H R Shah	Promoting health awareness among the Indian diaspora.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Sight Day - October 10

- ❖ The World Sight Day (WSD) is observed annually on every second Thursday of October.
- ❖ This year, the world sight day was observed on October 10, 2019.
- ❖ Originally initiated by the “SightFirstCampaign” of Lions Club International Foundation in the year 2000, this day aims to raise awareness on blindness and vision impairment.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2019 is “Vision First”.



World Mental Health Day - October 10

- ❖ The World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed annually on the 10th of October.
- ❖ It aims to raise awareness on mental health issues and the efforts needed to support mental health.
- ❖ It is organized by the World Federation for Mental Health with the World Health Organisation's support, the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and United for Global Mental Health (United-GMH).
- ❖ The theme for 2019 is "suicide prevention".



MISCELLANEOUS

2019 Henley Passport Index rank

- ❖ The latest 2019 Henley Passport Index ranking was released.
- ❖ In the report, India is currently ranked at 86th place in 2019, which is five place down from its previous rank of 81 in 2018.

- ❖ Japan and Singapore both hold the most powerful passport by ranking 1st in the list.
- ❖ The study was conducted by Henley & Partners.

Rank	Country
1	Japan and Singapore
2	South Korea, Germany and Finland
3	Denmark, Italy and Luxembourg
4	France, Spain and Sweden
5	Austria, Netherlands and Portugal
82	India

