

TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS - OCTOBER 2020

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TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has roped Amitabh Bachchan for the customer awareness campaign.
 - The campaign aims to prevent innocent account holders from being duped by fraudsters.
- ❖ The World Vegetarian Day is observed annually around the planet on October 1.
- ❖ Kerala Tourism's 'Human by Nature Print Campaign' bagged the Prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Grand Title Winner 2020 for Marketing.
- ❖ Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries, ranked at the top on the IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List for the ninth consecutive year.
- ❖ Senior IAS Officer Dr P. D. Vaghela has been appointed as the Chairperson of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for three years.
- ❖ Shekhar Kapur has been appointed the President of Pune-based Film and Television Institute of India Society.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 'A bouquet of flowers', a book written by author Dr Krishna Saksena.
 - She was the first woman to get a PhD from Lucknow in the year 1955.
- ❖ International Air Transport Association (IATA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) as the first non-government partner to strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations (UN) Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CT Travel Programme).
- ❖ The Indian National Team goalkeeper Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, and Sanju Yadav are the winners of the 2019-20 AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year Award, and the 2019-20 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year Award respectively.
- ❖ NITI Aayog and Netherlands have signed an SOI (Statement of Intent) to support the decarbonisation and energy transition agenda for accommodating cleaner and more energy.
- ❖ Australia's wicket-keeper bat Alyssa Healy broke MS Dhoni's record of having most dismissals as a wicket-keeper in Twenty20 Internationals (T20Is).
- ❖ The International Coffee Day is observed on October 1 to promote and celebrate coffee as a beverage from 2015.
- ❖ The birthday of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (October - 02), believer of non-violence and ahimsa, is observed as the International Day of Nonviolence by the United Nations.
- ❖ The World Smile Day is celebrated on the first Friday in October each year since 1999.
 - This year, it is observed on October 02.

- ❖ The World Animal Day is celebrated on 4 October every year to raise awareness about improving the welfare standards of the animals around the world.
- ❖ Kuwait's Crown Prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah became the new ruling emir.
- ❖ India celebrates Ganga River Dolphin Day every year on October 5 as the Ganga river dolphins were declared the National Aquatic Animal in 2010.
- ❖ The first ever World Postcard Day was celebrated on October 1, 2020.
 - This year is its 150th anniversary.
- ❖ The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) has presented the lifetime achievement award to Ratan Tata for his pioneering role in the Business Relations of India-USA and for his lifetime achievement in Global Leadership.
- ❖ The Puducherry airport has become the first airport of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) which is entirely solar-powered.
- ❖ Iqbal Singh Chahal, Municipal Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai was honoured with Global 'Covid Crusader Award-2020.
- ❖ Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi, Manish Sisodia has launched the coffee-table book titled "Babu – The Unforgettable".
- ❖ India's 16-year-old Visnu Shivaraj Pandian has won the 10m air rifle event at the fifth edition of the International Online Shooting Championship.
- ❖ The term of Madhabi Puri Buch as a full Time Member at Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has been extended by 6 months.
 - She is the first woman full Time Member of SEBI and also the first from the private sector to be appointed as a board member in SEBI.
- ❖ Union Railway Minister Piyush Goyal renamed the Naugarh railway station to Siddharthnagar railway station.
 - It is situated at Siddharthnagar district in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The government appointed senior banker Dinesh Kumar Khara as chairman of the State Bank of India.
 - He is replacing Rajnish Kumar.
- ❖ The Centre appointed RBI's senior-most Executive Director M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor.
 - He succeeds N.S. Vishwanathan.
- ❖ Amazon India has partnered with 'Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation' (IRCTC), to provide its customers with the facility to book reserved train tickets on Amazon.
- ❖ Young Indian player Nihal Sarin emerged winner in the Chess.com's 2020 Junior Speed Online Chess Championship, beating Russia's world junior Alexey Sarana.
- ❖ All India Football Federation, the apex body for the sport of football in India has launched their new brand moto 'Indian Football. Forward Together'.

- ❖ Polish professional footballer, Robert Lewandowski has been named UEFA Men's Player of the Year for 2019-20.
- ❖ World Anaesthesiologists Day or World Anaesthesia Day observed on October 16 to commemorate the first successful demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia on 16 October 1846.
- ❖ Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog chairman Vallabhbhai Kathiria unveiled a “chip” named ‘Gausatva Kavach’.
 - It is made of cow dung and it has been claimed that it reduces radiation from mobile.
- ❖ India's Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) surpassed Accenture for the first time in a year to become the World's most valuable information technology company.
- ❖ Nilesh Shah, managing director of Kotak Mutual Fund, has been re-elected as chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India.
- ❖ Ravi Shankar Prasad, the Union Law Minister, virtually hosted the 7th Justice Minister's meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
- ❖ On the occasion of 75th Anniversary of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Prime Minister of India released a commemorative coin of Rs 75.
- ❖ The Government of India has constituted a panel under the cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba to streamline telecom spectrum allocation.
 - The panel has been constituted with secretaries of railways, defence, home, telecom, department of space and Information and Broadcasting.
- ❖ World trauma day was observed on October 17 to highlight the increasing rate of accidents and injuries causing death and disability across the world.
 - Trauma means "any injury caused to the body".
- ❖ Senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor authored a book titled 'The Battle of Belonging’.
- ❖ India has contributed one million dollars to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees.
- ❖ The Centre has extended the services of Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary K. Shanmugam for another three months till January 31, 2021.
- ❖ Malayalam poet and 2019’s Jnanpith winner Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri passed away recently.
 - He was honoured with Padmashri in 2017.
- ❖ The International Day of the Air Traffic Controller celebrated October 20th to marks the anniversary of International Federation of Air Traffic Controllers’ Associations, which was founded in 1961.
- ❖ Bhanu Athaiya, costume designer and India’s first Oscar winner passed away recently.
 - In 1983, she won the Oscar Award for Best Costume Design for her work in the 1982 movie ‘Gandhi’.

- ❖ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a nine-member panel, headed by P Umesh to examine the need for a standard cyber liability insurance product.
- ❖ NITI Aayog has announced the establishment of a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Centre with Amazon Web Services (AWS).
 - This aims to address societal challenges through digital innovation, which is first of its kind in India.
- ❖ Elavenil Valarivan of India won gold and Shahu Tushar Mane bagged silver at the 2020-Sheikh Russel International Air Rifle Championship organised by Bangladesh Shooting Sport Federation.
- ❖ Nokia Oyj has been chosen by NASA to build the first ever cellular network on the moon which will result in the first LTE/4G communications system in space.
- ❖ The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is to launch its first ever Start-up Forum ahead of the SCO trade ministers meeting.
- ❖ The Commerce and Industry Ministry informed that India received its highest-ever Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in April-August 2020, the first five months of the financial year.
- ❖ The opening batsman of Delhi Capitals (DC), Shikhar Dhawan became the first player to score consecutive centuries in the history of Indian Premier League - IPL.
- ❖ The Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched CuRED (CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs).
- ❖ The Financial Action Task Force voted for Pakistan to remain under “grey list” of the organisation.
- ❖ The NITI Aayog recently constituted a 14-member panel to reform the urban planning education system.
 - The panel is to be headed by Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- ❖ India Meteorological Department commissioned the Flash Flood Guidance Services in South Asia.
 - The service is first of its kind for the South Asian region.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu State government is to implement the smart blackboard scheme in more than 80,000 Government schools.
 - It aims to use audio visual teaching material that can be integrated along with digital classrooms.
- ❖ The centre for science and environment (CSE) submitted a report titled “meeting emission norms working paper on penalty and incentive mechanism for coal-based power plants”.
- ❖ Singapore will be the First Country to attach Facial Verification in National Identification Database.

- ❖ Joginder War Memorial on 1962 Sino-India War was inaugurated at Bum La in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ Surat has become the only city in the country to have the longest BRTS (Bus Rapid Transit System) network of 108 km.
- ❖ The Union Minister for Science & Technology announced that the 6th edition of India International Science Festival (IISF) 2020 will be held from 22nd to 25th December, 2020 at virtual platform.
- ❖ The Principality of Andorra joined the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s 190th Member.
 - It is a microstate situated between France and Spain.
- ❖ Mark Carney (Governor of the Bank of England) has won the Governor of the year at the 7th Central bank of the year award 2020.
 - Bank of Ghana has won the Central bank of the year award 2020.
- ❖ In 1972, the United Nations General Assembly decided to institute a World Development Information Day coinciding with United Nations Day on October 24.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ A direct port entry facility was launched at the V O Chidambarnar port in Tuticorin by Union minister of state for shipping and minister of state for Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya.
- ❖ Chhattisgarh Assembly passes Bill to negate the Centre's recently-notified agriculture legislations.
- ❖ The Vice President of India launched virtual festival of 'Parampara Series 2020 - National Festival of Music and Dance'.
 - It is organized by Natya Tarangini in partnership with the United Nations.

- ❖ The President of India has promulgated an ordinance to constitute an air quality commission for Air Quality Management in the National Capital Region and the areas adjoining it.
- ❖ The Puducherry government has proposed to provide an internal reservation of 10 percent MBBS seats to students of government schools in the Union territory.
- ❖ En Thozhi Scheme was initiated by the Railway Protection Force at the Chennai Division of Southern Railway Zone for women who are travelling alone in the Express Trains.
- ❖ Bangladesh Government launched the 'no mask, no service' policy to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

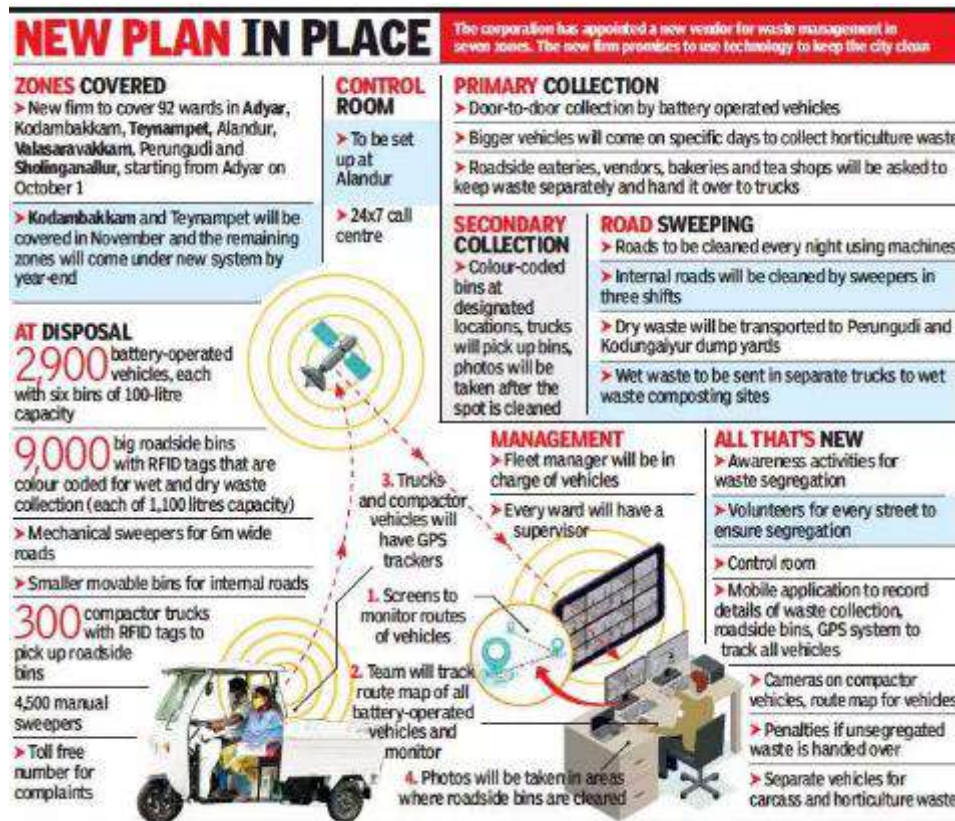
TAMIL NADU

One Nation, One Ration Card scheme launch

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched the 'One Nation, One Ration Card' scheme in 32 districts of Tamil Nadu on October 01.
- ❖ It will be implemented in Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Thanjavur, Thoothukudi, Tiruvannamalai and Virudhunagar districts from October 16.
- ❖ Under this scheme, families having Priority Household (PHH) ration cards and Antodaya Anna Yojana (PHH-AAY) ration cards from Tamil Nadu can receive their monthly entitlements through biometric authentication under the National Food Security Act, 2013 while migrating to other States.
- ❖ Also, Families migrating to Tamil Nadu from other States with these cards can receive their entitlements at the Central-issue price at the shops near their residence after biometric authentication.
- ❖ The elderly and those with illnesses, who cannot go to receive their monthly entitlements, can nominate a person to receive them.

Chennai Solid waste management

- ❖ Tamil Nadu CM inaugurated new solid waste management of the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC).
- ❖ The new solid waste management system will be carried out by a Spain-India joint venture, Urbaser SA and Sumeet Facilities Limited.
- ❖ It will collect and dispose of waste for eight years.
- ❖ It will be paid based on 34 key performance indicators under primary collection, secondary collection and transport, street sweeping and collection, compliance, complaint redressal and IEC (information, education, and communication).



India's first advanced manufacturing hub

- ❖ The World Economic Forum and Guidance will jointly establish AMHUB in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ AMHUB is Advanced Manufacturing hub and is first of its kind in the country.
- ❖ AMHUB is one of the 19 platforms designed by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ Guidance is the nodal investment promotion agency of the state of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ AMHUB will help the state in the sectors of solar energy, electronics, electric mobility and textiles.
- ❖ It will help boost production sector of Tamil Nadu by identifying regional opportunities brought by Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- ❖ The 4th Industrial Revolution opportunities are Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Cloud Computing, etc.

UN Global Compact award

- ❖ Kalaiyaran is the first Indian to be have been conferred with this award.
- ❖ Kalaiyaran is also an ambassador of arts in the Tamil Nadu government.
- ❖ He was the founder of 'Graamiya Pudhalvan' (rural scion) in Coimbatore.
- ❖ UN honoured such artists marking its 75th anniversary.

Executive Route under Article 162

- ❖ In a rare move, the Tamil Nadu government issued an executive order that is a Government Order (G.O).
- ❖ It is granting 7.5% horizontal reservation for NEET-qualified students of State government schools in undergraduate medical admissions.
- ❖ The above horizontal reservation shall be provided in each category of vertical reservation followed in the State of Tamil Nadu within the 69% reservation from the academic year 2020-2021.
- ❖ The students who have studied from 6th to 12th standard in State government schools will get benefits.
- ❖ Though the Bill on the quota was pending before Governor Banwarilal Purohit for assent.
- ❖ The Bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly on September 15.
- ❖ However, the Governor has given his assent to that bill after the G.O has been issued by the State Government.
- ❖ The State government noted that under Article 162, executive power is coextensive with legislative power, pending a decision of the Governor.
- ❖ The State Government said in the G.O. that the Government quota was not violative of Articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution.
- ❖ The quota initiative was based on the recommendations of a committee, headed by retired Madras high court Justice Kalaiyarasan.

NATIONAL

Limit for use of SDRF funds by states

- ❖ The Prime Minister announced that the limit of use of SDRF (State Disaster Response Fund) is being increased from 35 % to 50% for seven States.
- ❖ They are Tamil nadu, Punjab, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ This will help the states in covid-19 related infrastructure.
- ❖ More than 63% of active cases of covid -19 are concentrated in these seven States.

State Disaster Response Fund

- ❖ It was constituted under Disaster Management Act, 2005 based on the recommendations made by the 13th Finance Commission.
- ❖ The Government of India contribute 75% of allocation of SDRF to the states on annual basis.
- ❖ The contribution is 90 % in the case of Special Category States.

- ❖ This will be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India every year.

Cable Stayed Bridge

- ❖ The new 'Cable Stayed Bridge' constructed across the Durgam Cheruvu Lake is inaugurated recently at Hyderabad.
- ❖ This bridge owed as the World's longest span concrete deck extradosed cable stayed bridge.
- ❖ The bridge is 426-metre-long with a total of 52 stay cables.



Happiness report of India

- ❖ It is the first all India Happiness Report covering all 36 states and Union Territories measuring happiness across the country.
- ❖ In the happiness rankings of states and union territories, Mizoram, Punjab, Andaman and Nicobar Islands are the top three.
- ❖ Among the big states, Punjab, Gujarat, and Telangana are among the top three states.
- ❖ Whereas, among smaller states, Mizoram, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh are the top three states in happiness rankings.
- ❖ Among union territories, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, and Lakshadweep are the top three union territories.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu in the 29th rank in the list while Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Uttarakhand ranked at the bottom.

Six projects under Namami Gange Mission

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated six mega projects under Namami Gange Mission through video conference.
- ❖ The projects are:

- Construction of 68 million litres per day (MLD) Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)
 - Upgradation of 27 MLD at Jagjeetpur, Haridwar
 - Construction of 68 MLD Jagjeetpur Project
 - Inauguration of 26 MLD in Rishikesh
 - Construction of 18 MLD STP at Darai, Haridwar
 - Inauguration of 5 MLD STP at Chirpani.
 - Also, two STP at Badrinath.
- ❖ He also launched a book “Rowing Down the Ganges” that was co-published by National Mission for Clean Ganga and Wildlife Institute of India.

e-copy of driving license and RC for verification

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways amended the new provision under Section 139 of Central Motor Vehicles Act, 1989.
- ❖ It allows vehicle owners across the country to use electronic versions of their driving licence and registration certificate.
- ❖ As per the amended provision, the citizen can produce the transport related documents such as registration, insurance, fitness and permit, the driving licence, certificate for pollution under check and any other relevant documents, if required, in physical or electronic form.

Best before date display for sweet

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has released guidelines on sale of loose sweets.

Highlights

- ❖ In case of non-packaged/ loose sweets, the container/tray holding sweets at the outlet for sale should display the ‘Best Before Date’ of the product mandatorily with effect from October 1, 2020.
- ❖ The food business operators (FBOs) might also display the date of manufacturing. It is not mandatory however.
- ❖ The FBOs shall decide and display the ‘Best Before Date’ of sweets depending on the nature of the products and the local conditions.

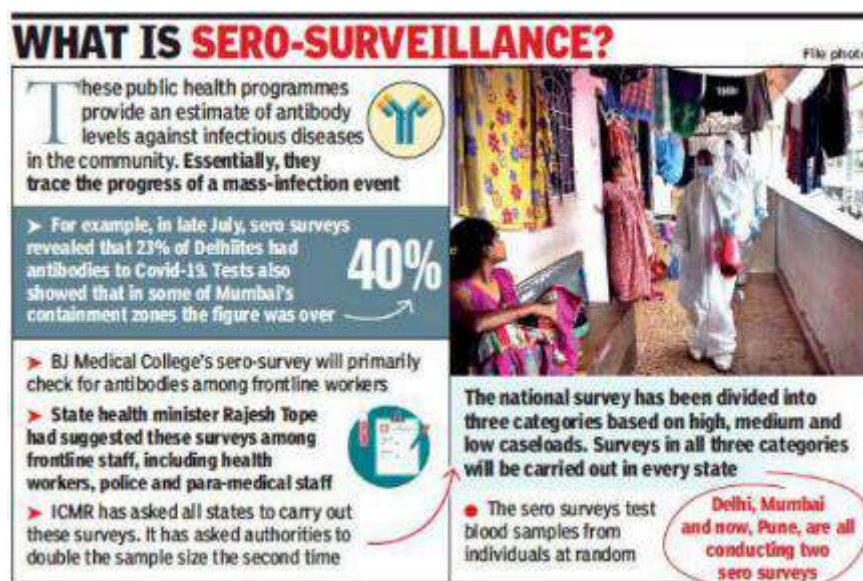
Second national sero-survey

- ❖ The second national sero-survey have been released by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- ❖ They are conducted by drawing blood samples and checking for a specific class of antibodies called IgG that appear within two weeks of an infection.

- ❖ Because, it is yet unclear how long antibodies detectably persist in the body, their presence only indicates past exposure to — and not presence of — the virus.

Highlights

- ❖ Around 7% of India's adult population may have been exposed to the novel coronavirus till the last fortnight of August.
- ❖ During the first survey, it emerged that there were 82-130 infections for every confirmed COVID-19 positive case that now dropped to 26-32 infections.
- ❖ The country wide prevalence of the virus was similar to that seen in the United States, which was around 9.3%.
- ❖ Brazil and Spain had a prevalence of 2.8% and 4.6%.



WHAT IS SERO-SURVEILLANCE?

These public health programmes provide an estimate of antibody levels against infectious diseases in the community. Essentially, they trace the progress of a mass-infection event

➤ For example, in late July, sero surveys revealed that 23% of Delhiites had antibodies to Covid-19. Tests also showed that in some of Mumbai's containment zones the figure was over **40%**

➤ BJ Medical College's sero-survey will primarily check for antibodies among frontline workers

➤ State health minister Rajesh Tope had suggested these surveys among frontline staff, including health workers, police and para-medical staff

➤ ICMR has asked all states to carry out these surveys. It has asked authorities to double the sample size the second time

The national survey has been divided into three categories based on high, medium and low caseloads. Surveys in all three categories will be carried out in every state

● The sero surveys test blood samples from individuals at random

Delhi, Mumbai and now, Pune, are all conducting sero surveys

SAATHI app

- ❖ The Ministry of Tourism launched the SAATHI application for the hospitality industry.
- ❖ It aims to assist the hospitality industry in continuing to operate safely and instill confidence among staff, employees and guests about the safety of the hotels and units.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the tourism ministry with the Quality Council of India.

Ban on the blending of mustard oil

- ❖ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned the blending of mustard oil with any other cooking oil with effect from October 1, 2020.
- ❖ Previously, as per the FSSAI regulations, blending of two edible oils is permitted.

- ❖ It provided the proportion by weight of any edible vegetable oil used in the blending process is not less than 20 per cent.



Additional branches of NIA

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned the three additional branches of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Chennai, Imphal, and Ranchi.
- ❖ It will strengthen NIA's capability in the investigation of the terrorism-related cases as well as other National Security matters.
- ❖ Presently, there are 9 branches of National Investigation Agency (NIA).
- ❖ They are located at – Guwahati, Jammu, Mumbai, Kolkata, Kochi, Hyderabad, Raipur, Lucknow and Chandigarh.

National Investigation Agency

- ❖ It is a central agency which has been established by the Indian Government to combat and deal with terrorist activities in India.
- ❖ It came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act 2008 by the Indian Parliament on December 31, 2008.
- ❖ It was passed after the deadly 26/11 terror attack in Mumbai.
- ❖ NIA is empowered to deal with the terror-related crimes across states without any special permission from the state governments.

Babri Masjid Demolition Verdict

- ❖ All 32 accused in the Babri Masjid Demolition Case on December 6, 1992 have been acquitted.
- ❖ The CBI judge Surendra Kumar Yadav pronounced the verdict.
- ❖ The 2000-page judgement has set free all accused in the 28-year-old Babri Masjid Demolition Case at a special CBI court in Lucknow.
- ❖ Seventeen accused had passed away during the course of the trial.
- ❖ The accused were facing charges under IPC Sections including 153 A (promoting enmity between different groups), 153 B and 505 (spreading false rumours) and section 147 for rioting.



300th Advanced Light Helicopter

- ❖ The Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has rolled out the 300th Dhruv multi-utility advanced light helicopter.
- ❖ The military variant of Dhruv is flown by the Indian Air Force, Indian Army, Indian Navy, and the Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ The major variants of Dhruv are classified as Dhruv Mk-I, Mk-II, Mk-III & Mk-IV.



SAMVEDNA initiative

- ❖ SAMVEDNA (Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) is a Toll-Free Tele counselling service.
- ❖ The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a toll-free tele-counselling helpline number for children affected during COVID-19 for providing counselling and psycho-social support.
- ❖ The toll-free tele-counselling helpline number is 1800-121-2830.
- ❖ The tele-counselling support will cater to children all over India in various regional languages also.



Operation My Saheli

- ❖ The South Eastern Railways (SER) has launched the project, “Operation my Saheli”.
- ❖ It aims to enhance the security of women passengers in the train throughout the entire journey from the originating point to their destinations.
- ❖ The pilot version of the project “Operation my Saheli” has been introduced in 3 trains Since 18th September 2020:
 - Howrah-Yesvantpur Durgam Special,
 - Howrah- Ahmedabad Special and
 - Howrah-Mumbai Special.
- ❖ It is executed under the Framework of “Nirbhaya Fund” and no additional expenditure is provided by the Head of Railways.



Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission

- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched the ‘Ambedkar Social Innovation and Incubation Mission (ASIIM)’.
- ❖ It will be implemented by the Venture Capital Fund for Schedule Castes (VCF-SCs).

- ❖ Objectives:
 - To promote entrepreneurship among the SC Youth with special preference to Divyangs.
 - To support (1,000) innovative ideas till 2024 through a synergetic work with the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) set up by the Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ Under this, 1,000 SC youth would be identified in the next 4 years with start-up ideas through the Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in various higher educational institutions.



Restoration of degraded & deforested land

- ❖ The 14th Conference of Parties (COP14) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in 2019 at Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ India aims to restore 26 million hectares of degraded and deforested land, and achieve land-degradation neutrality by 2030.

First plane for the exclusive use of VVIPs

- ❖ The country's first-ever VVIP plane, a Boeing 777-300 ER, landed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport of Delhi.
- ❖ The two Boeing aircrafts, purchased for the President, Vice President and the Prime Minister of India, are called Air India One.



- ❖ It is equipped with an advanced and secured communication system that allows availing audio and video communication functions mid-air without any worries of hacking or being taped.

Tribes India E-Marketplace

- ❖ The Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda launched India's largest handicraft and organic products marketplace - Tribes India E-Marketplace (market.tribesindia.com).
- ❖ It will help them to market their products directly and give them the immediate benefits of online trade.
- ❖ It is also a major leap towards the digitisation of tribal commerce.

PM Svanidhi Scheme

- ❖ The Centre joins Hands with Swiggy to take Street Food Vendors Online.
- ❖ Under this Scheme, the move will give street vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses.
- ❖ To begin with, it will run a pilot program by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities namely — Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.

First ever two organic spices seed parks

- ❖ Gujarat will get two organic spices seed parks in Banaskantha and Patan districts.
- ❖ It aims to promote organic seed value chain of fennel and cumin respectively.
- ❖ It will be supported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

“Purified Antisera” treatment

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research along with Hyderabad based Firm Biological E has developed “Purified Antisera”.
- ❖ The antiserum has been obtained from animals.
- ❖ This is to be used as a prophylaxis and treatment for COVID-19.
- ❖ The new therapy works just like that of plasma therapy.
- ❖ But here the plasma is obtained from animals.
- ❖ Antiserum is blood-based serum that holds antibodies against viruses.
- ❖ In this new therapy, the serum is raised from horses that have recovered from viral infection and found to hold antibodies against the virus in their system.
- ❖ The antibodies from horses are called “Equine Antisera”.

Atal Tunnel

- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh's Rohtang.
- ❖ It connects Solang Valley near Manali to Sissu in Lahaul and Spiti district.
- ❖ It is the 9.02-km tunnel.
- ❖ It is the longest highway tunnel in the world above the height of 3,000 metres.
- ❖ The tunnel, built by the Border Roads Organisation, reduces the distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km.
- ❖ The Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee took the decision to construct Atal Tunnel on June 3, 2000.
- ❖ The foundation stone for the tunnel was laid on May 26, 2002.



VAIBHAV Summit 2020

- ❖ Prime Minister inaugurated a virtual summit of overseas and resident Indian Researchers and Academicians namely "Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Summit 2020.
- ❖ It aims to bring Indian origin experts in academic institutes and R&D organizations across the World on a single platform to debate upon collaboration mechanisms to strengthen academic and S&T base in India for global development.

SUNIDHI Initiative

- ❖ The Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) launched the information technology (IT) project Superior New-generation Information and Data Handling Initiative (SUNIDHI).
- ❖ It aims to digitise its entire provident fund and pension related activities.
- ❖ CMPFO is a statutory body under the coal ministry which administers different schemes of provident fund, pension and deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers.

Decade of Healthy Ageing

- ❖ The Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare launched Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030) in India on International Day for Older Persons (1st October).
- ❖ It is an opportunity to bring together governments, civil society etc. for ten years of concerted action to improve the lives of older people.
- ❖ As per Census 2011, the total population of Senior Citizens (people aged 60 years and above) is 10.38 crore.
- ❖ The share of senior citizens in the total population as per Census 2011 is 8.57%.

First International Webinar on Textiles traditions

- ❖ The Prime Minister addressed an international webinar on textile traditions.
- ❖ The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Uttar Pradesh Institute of Design organized the webinar.
- ❖ The theme of the webinar is "Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions."

Famous textiles in Regions	
Andhra Pradesh	Kalamkari
Assam	Muga Silk
Kashmir	Pashmina
Punjab	Phulakri
Gujarat	Patolas
Banaras	Silk Saris
Madhya Pradesh	Chanderi fabric
Odisha	Sambalpuri Fabric

RAISE summit

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated a mega virtual summit on Artificial Intelligence RAISE 2020 - 'Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020'.
- ❖ This mega virtual summit will be organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and NITI Aayog.
- ❖ Previously, the 'Responsible AI for Youth' Program was launched in April 2020.



India's first animal bridges

- ❖ The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will house India's first animal bridges or animal overpasses to leave the wildlife section undisturbed.
- ❖ A section of Ranthambore Wildlife Corridor comes up on the proposed expressway connecting Mukundra and Ranthambhore Wildlife Sanctuaries in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The expressway will connect India's National Capital (New Delhi) with its Commercial Capital (Mumbai).
- ❖ The expressway will have 5 animal overpasses with a combined length of more than 2.5 km.
- ❖ The animals will get a passage at every 500-metre interval.
- ❖ It will also have a boundary wall of 8 metres with a sound barrier of 3-4 metres in the corridor.



Namaste Digital by google

- ❖ Google is going to launch a new television show called Hello Digital (Namaste Digital) in conjunction with Doordarshan.
- ❖ It aims to help small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) navigate the challenging economic environment.
- ❖ The show will explain the importance of digitization to businesses.
- ❖ They will also give necessary information about the Internet.

Make Small Strong' campaign

- ❖ Google India has launched 'Make Small Strong' campaign in India to support small and local businesses in the country.
- ❖ It is meant to rally support from the citizens for small businesses.
- ❖ The citizens can help small businesses by buying locally, leaving reviews and ratings and by promoting their favourite retailers on social media.

India PV edge 2020

- ❖ NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Invest India organized a global symposium virtually, 'India PV EDGE 2020'.
- ❖ It aims to catalyse cutting-edge Photovoltaic manufacturing in India.
- ❖ The symposium includes sessions on 'Modules and Production Equipment' and 'Supply Chain' among others.



First ever Brand & Logo for Indian Cotton

- ❖ Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Irani has launched the first-ever Brand and Logo for Indian Cotton on Second World Cotton Day.
- ❖ Now India's premium cotton would be known as 'Kasturi Cotton' in the world cotton trade.
- ❖ The Kasturi Cotton brand will represent Whiteness, Brightness, Softness, Purity, Luster, Uniqueness and Indianness.

- ❖ India is the second-largest cotton producer and the largest consumer of cotton in the world.



Offshore Patrol Vessel – Vigraha

- ❖ The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), 'Vigraha' was formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, near Chennai.
- ❖ It is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the L&T by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- ❖ It was the first time a private sector shipyard has undertaken the design and construction of offshore patrol vessel class of ships.



Gyan Circle Ventures

- ❖ The Union Minister for Education Ramesh Pokhriyal has inaugurated the Gyan Circle Ventures.
- ❖ It is a MeitY (Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology) funded Technology Business Incubator (TBI) developed by the Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Andhra Pradesh.
- ❖ These incubators would hold the institutions' entrepreneurial spirit by utilizing its intellectual capital.
- ❖ It would also encourage the young minds to engage in using emerging technologies including the Artificial Intelligence (AI), Block-chain, Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), Cyber Security, Internet of Things (IoT) and Robotics.

Sagar Kavach Coastal Security Exercise

- ❖ The Indian Navy conducted a two-day coastal security exercise called “Sagar Kavach”.
- ❖ The exercise was conducted by Indian Navy along with Indian Coastal Guard.
- ❖ It is a half-yearly exercise to check coastal security mechanism and validate Standard Operating Procedure.

Matla Abhiyan Exercise

- ❖ The Matla Abhiyan Exercise is a five-day coastal security exercise that was conducted by the Indian Navy in Matla river.
- ❖ Two Indian boats undertook the patrol in the Sunderban Delta during the exercise.
- ❖ The sailors interacted with the local fishermen spreading awareness about the coastal security, marine police stations.
- ❖ The river forms a wide estuary in and around the Sundarbans.



Property cards under ‘SVAMITVA’ Scheme

- ❖ The Prime Minister launched the physical distribution of property cards under the SVAMITVA scheme.
- ❖ SVAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas.
- ❖ It will pave the way for using the property as a financial asset by the villagers in order to take loans or for other financial benefits.
- ❖ It will also help in reducing disputes over land property.

‘SVAMITVA’ Scheme

- ❖ The SVAMITVA scheme is a central sector scheme of the Panchayati Raj Ministry.
- ❖ It was launched by Prime Minister on National Panchayati Raj Day, April 24, 2020.
- ❖ It aims at providing the ‘records of the rights’ to the household owners in villages in the rural areas and issue property cards.

Blue Flag certification for 8 beaches

- ❖ Eight Indian beaches have received the 'coveted' Blue Flag certification by the NGO the Foundation for Environmental Education.
- ❖ The Shivrajpur Beach in Dwarka, Gujarat; the Ghoghla Beach in Diu; the Kasarkod and Padubidri beaches in Karnataka; the Kappad Beach in Kerala; the Rushikonda Beach in Andhra Pradesh; the Golden Beach in Odisha and the Radhanagar Beach in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are now 'Blue Flag' certified.



Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan

- ❖ Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog begins nationwide campaign to celebrate “Kamdhenu Deepawali Abhiyan”.
- ❖ It aims to Promoting extensive use of cow-dung/ Panchgavya products this Diwali Festival.
- ❖ It also aims reaching 11 crore families to ignite 33crore Diyas made of cow-dung during this year’s Deepawali festival.

Rastriya Kamdhenu Aayog

- ❖ Constituted in 2019, the Aayog is a high-powered permanent apex advisory body.
- ❖ It comes under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- ❖ It will function as an integral part of Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

India Energy Modeling Forum

- ❖ NITI Aayog announced the Governing Structure of India Energy Modelling Forum (IEMF).
- ❖ The governing structure of IEMF will consist of an inter-ministerial and a steering committee.
- ❖ The inter-ministerial committee will review modelling activities and provide directions towards new areas of research.
- ❖ The steering committee will shortlist policy issues.
- ❖ The Prayas group of Maharashtra has been selected as the first convenor of the steering committee.
- ❖ It is jointly launched by NITI Aayog and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the US-India Strategic Energy Partnership.
- ❖ The forum would include knowledge partners, data agencies and concerned government ministries.

National authority for recycling of ships

- ❖ The Central government has notified the directorate general of shipping as the National authority for recycling of ships.
- ❖ The notification was issued under the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.
- ❖ It will be an apex body authorized to administer, supervise and monitor all activities relating to ship recycling in the country.
- ❖ It will also be the final authority for the various approvals required by the ship-recycling yard owners and state governments.
- ❖ India is the largest ship-breaking player in the world.
- ❖ India is recycling around 70 lakh gross tonnages every year, followed by Bangladesh, Pakistan and China.
- ❖ With the enactment of Ship Recycling Act 2019, India has complied with Hong Kong Convention for Ship Recycling.

Convention on Ship Recycling

- ❖ International Maritime Organization (IMO) adopted the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships in 2009.
- ❖ But the Convention is yet to come into force because it has not been ratified by 15 nations.

Non-Ac Coaches Upgradation

- ❖ The Indian Railways has decided to upgrade the non-air-conditioned (AC) sleeper coaches to AC ones for high-speed trains.
- ❖ Railways will phase out sleeper coaches on mail and express trains that will run at 130 kmph or above on its tracks.
- ❖ Such trains with more than 130 KMPH speed will have only AC coaches as it plans to upgrade the network.

Saral Jeevan Bima

- ❖ It is unveiled by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI).
- ❖ This is a standard individual term life insurance product.
- ❖ This will help customers make an informed choice and reduce mis-selling.
- ❖ The minimum sum assured is kept at Rs 5 lakh while the maximum cover can be for Rs 25 lakh.
- ❖ Anyone between 18 and 65 years of age can buy the plan.
- ❖ For the first-time buyers of life insurance, the plan will be a boon since the product is the same regardless of the insurance company offering it.

Aadhaar for birth and death registration

- ❖ The Registrar General of India clarified that Aadhaar is not mandatory for birth, death registration.
- ❖ It also stated that if Aadhaar is provided voluntarily, it must not be printed on any document or stored in any database of births and deaths in full form.
- ❖ Also, Aadhaar cannot be made mandatory for openings of a bank account and for getting mobile connections, for school admission.
- ❖ It is mandatory for linking of Aadhaar and PAN, for filing of Income Tax Return.
- ❖ Private companies cannot ask for Aadhaar.

Longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia

- ❖ 14.15 Km long Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir will be the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia.
- ❖ It will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar valley and Leh (Ladakh plateau) on National Highway (NH)-1.
- ❖ The project will be implemented by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL).

STARS project

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved implementation of the World Bank-aided STARS project.
- ❖ The project seeks to support the states in implementing, developing, evaluating and improving interventions with direct linkages to improve quality of education.
- ❖ STARS stands for Strengthening Teaching-Learning and Results for States.
- ❖ The project will cover six states- Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala.

“KAPILA” Program

- ❖ ‘KAPILA’ Kalam Program was launched by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ on 89th birth anniversary celebration of former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam.
- ❖ KAPILA stands for Kalam Program for Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.
- ❖ Under this Program, students pursuing education in higher educational institutions will get information about the correct system of the application process for patenting their invention and they will be aware of their rights.

Committee to prevent stubble burning

- ❖ The Supreme Court has appointed Justice Madan B Lokur, as a one-man monitoring committee, to prevent stubble burning in the states of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The stubble burning causes the rising levels of pollution in the national capital and its adjoining regions.
- ❖ The new committee will monitor the stubble burning and take preventive steps.

2nd phase of Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the second phase of “Thalassemia Bal Sewa Yojna” for the underprivileged Thalassemic patients.
- ❖ It aims to provide a one-time cure opportunity for Haemoglobinopathies like Thalassaemia and Sickle Cell Disease for patients who have a matched family donor.

Thalassemia

- ❖ It is a genetic blood disorder that causes the body to have less haemoglobin than normal.
- ❖ Haemoglobin enables red blood cells to carry oxygen.
- ❖ Thalassemia can cause anaemia, leading to fatigue.

Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act

- ❖ The Supreme Court Terming the 2005 law on protection of women from domestic violence as a "milestone".
- ❖ It said such offences against them is "rampant" in this country and face "violence in some form or the other on almost every day".
- ❖ This Act aims to provide for more effective protection of the rights of Women guaranteed under the Constitution.
- ❖ It safeguards the women who are victims of violence of any kind occurring within the family and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- ❖ It is the first significant attempt in India to recognise domestic abuse as a punishable offence.
- ❖ It extends its provisions to those in live-in relationships, and to provide for emergency relief for the victims, in addition to legal recourse.

Special Kisan Rail 'Nagpur- New Delhi

- ❖ The Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari today flagged off a Special Kisan Rail 'Nagpur-Adarsh Nagar New Delhi' from Nagpur.
- ❖ This train will carry the first consignment of 205 tonnes of oranges from citrus producing districts in Vidarbha of Maharashtra.



Kilo Class Submarine to Myanmar Navy

- ❖ India will soon be transferring one of its kilo-class submarines, INS Sindhuvir to the Myanmar Navy.
- ❖ This will be a significant move, as it will be the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy.
- ❖ This move is in accordance with India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

kilo-class submarine

- ❖ A kilo class submarine is a class of diesel-electric attack submarines designed and built in the Soviet Union for the Soviet Navy.

- ❖ The first kilo-class submarine was brought into service in the Soviet Navy in 1980.
- ❖ India has 10 original Kilo-class submarines, designated as Sindhughosh class.

Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network

- ❖ The Government of India has started to identify private facilities and government facilities to create a hub to store COVID-19 vaccines.
- ❖ India is under the plan of rolling out multiple vaccines for COVID-19.
- ❖ The Government of India is to use the Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network (EVIN) to store the vaccine.
- ❖ eVIN is currently being used for immunization programme in India.
- ❖ eVIN will conduct real-time tracking of vaccine.
- ❖ The eVIN is now used to monitor supply chain of COVID-19 response material.
- ❖ The network is implemented by the National Health Mission in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme.

Buldhana Pattern

- ❖ Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that Maharashtra's 'Buldhana Pattern' of water conservation' has won national recognition.
- ❖ The NITI Aayog is in the process of formulating National Policy on water conservation based on it.
- ❖ It is based on the synchronization of national highway construction and water conservation.
- ❖ It was achieved for the first time in Buldana district of drought-prone Vidarbha region, by using soil from the water bodies and rivers.
- ❖ This consequently leads to the increase in capacity of water storage across the water-bodies in Buldana district and it came to be known as 'Buldana Pattern'.

Increase of elections Campaign expenditure

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Law and Justice increased the Lok Sabha, Assembly elections Campaign expenditure limit by 10 percent.
- ❖ With the current hike, all states that had a Rs 20 lakh expenditure limit will see an upward revision to Rs 22 lakh.
- ❖ States that had Rs 28 lakh expenditure limit will now see an increase of up to Rs 30.8 lakh.
- ❖ The expenditure limit for bigger states in parliamentary elections was Rs 70 lakh.

- ❖ It has now been raised to Rs 77 lakh.
- ❖ In smaller states, the cap has been raised from Rs 54 lakh to Rs 59 lakh.

Water Attache from Israel

- ❖ Israel Embassy will have a separate 'Water Attache' from January.
- ❖ It will provide its best practices and technologies for advancements in India's water management and agriculture sectors.
- ❖ Israel will also allot an honorary Consul in the North-East with the aim to increase its presence and collaboration in that region.

Maharashtra withdraws 'general consent' to CBI

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has withdrawn "general consent" given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases in the state.
- ❖ The CBI is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946.
- ❖ It makes consent of a state government mandatory for conducting investigation in that state.

Life in Miniature project

- ❖ It is a collaborative project between the National Museum, New Delhi, Ministry of Culture, and Google Arts & Culture.
- ❖ Several hundred miniature paintings from the National Museum, New Delhi can be viewed online through this.

Election Expenditure Committee

- ❖ The Election Commission has constituted a committee to examine issues concerning campaign expenditure limits for a candidate in the view of an increase in the number of electors and a rise in the Cost Inflation Index.
- ❖ The committee will comprise two members- former IRS and DG (Investigation) Harish Kumar and Secretary-General and DG (Expenditure) Umesh Sinha.

Ayushman Sahakar

- ❖ It is a scheme to assist cooperatives play an important role in creation of healthcare infrastructure in the country.
- ❖ It was launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), an autonomous development finance institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

Heeng Cultivation

- ❖ Scientists at CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource, Palampur (IHBT), are on a mission to grow heeng in the Indian Himalayas.
- ❖ The first sapling has been planted in Himachal Pradesh's Kwaring village in Lahaul valley recently.
- ❖ Asafoetida or Heeng is endemic to Iran and Afghanistan.
- ❖ Heeng is not cultivated in India.
- ❖ Heeng is currently imported from Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Iran.
- ❖ It is very popular in India and is used in cooking.

"Affordability of nutritious diets in rural India"

- ❖ It is a study authored by International Food Policy Research Institute economist Kalyani Raghunathan and others.
- ❖ The study calculated that a day's meals would cost ₹45 (or ₹51 for an adult man).
- ❖ As per this study, three out of four rural Indians cannot afford a nutritious diet.

First Batch of Women Pilots

- ❖ The Indian Navy operationalised the first batch of women pilots on Dornier Aircraft at Kochi.
- ❖ This was done by the Southern Naval Command of Indian Navy.
- ❖ The three women pilots are Lieutenant Divya Sharma, Lieutenant Shivangi and Lieutenant Shubhangi Swaroop.
- ❖ In September 2020, for the first time in Indian history, women officers were selected to join as observers in the Helicopter stream of Indian Navy.
- ❖ They were awarded "wings" after graduating as "Observers" in INS Garuda, Kochi.

E-Dharti Geo Portal

- ❖ The Union of Housing and Urban affairs minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched this portal.
- ❖ The portal will integrate map and lease plans in the Management Information System.
- ❖ It will make the system Geographic Information System enabled.

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.

Suspension of Delhi University Vice Chancellor

- ❖ Yogesh Tyagi, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi has been suspended on President Ram Nath Kovind's orders.
- ❖ President also allowed the inquiry against the vice chancellor who was accused of "misconduct" and "dereliction of duty" by the education ministry.
- ❖ Yogesh Tyagi was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of University of Delhi on March 10, 2016.

Land at Jammu and Kashmir

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs notifies the new rules that allow any Indian citizen to buy land except agricultural land in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ Under the notification, for the first time the spouse of a J&K domicile shall also be deemed as a domicile.
- ❖ Earlier, spouses of Permanent Resident Card holders were considered at par but were not considered domiciles.
- ❖ Children of central government officials posted for over ten years in Jammu and Kashmir will also continue to be considered domiciles.
- ❖ After the J&K's special status under Article 370 of the Constitution was withdrawn on 5 August 2019, the reorganisation Act bifurcated the erstwhile state into two union territories - J&K and Ladakh.
- ❖ The Non-tribal people and outsiders can't buy any land under Sixth Schedule areas.
- ❖ The Sixth Schedule consists of provisions for the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram under Article 244 of the Indian Constitution.

ESI in Arunachal Pradesh

- ❖ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry has extended the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme for the first time to Arunachal Pradesh, with effect from 1 November 2020.
- ❖ All factories located in Papum Pare of Arunachal Pradesh employing 10 or more persons shall become eligible for coverage under the ESI Act 1948.
- ❖ All employees with wages up to ₹21,000 a month and ₹25,000 for persons with disabilities will be eligible for the scheme.

Evidence of dairy production



- ❖ For the first time it has been proved scientifically that dairy production was in place in the Indus Valley civilization in 2500 BCE.
- ❖ It is the earliest known evidence of dairy production.
- ❖ The results were based on molecular chemical analysis of residue in shards of pottery found at the archaeological site of Kotada Bhadli located in Gujarat.
- ❖ 2020 marks 100 years of discovery of Indus Valley Civilisation.

INTERNATIONAL

Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity

- ❖ The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change represented India at the Ministerial Roundtable Dialogue on Biodiversity that was held virtually.
- ❖ The dialogue was hosted by China.
- ❖ The dialogue was conducted on Biodiversity Beyond 2020: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth.
- ❖ The 15th conference of parties to the convention on Biological Diversity is to be held at Kunming, China in 2021.

United Nations Summit on Biodiversity

- ❖ The United Nations Summit on Biodiversity was convened on September 30.
- ❖ This year the summit held under the theme: Urgent Action on biodiversity for Sustainable Development.

SCO Foreign ministers meeting

- ❖ Shanghai Cooperation Organization's Foreign ministers meeting held in the Russian capital Moscow.
- ❖ It is the third SCO foreign ministers meeting that India is attending as a full member of the eight-nation bloc.
- ❖ The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the Presidents of Russia, China, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India and Pakistan were admitted as observers of the grouping in 2005.
- ❖ Both the countries were admitted as full members of the bloc in 2017.



Global Gender Response tracker

- ❖ The COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker was co-created by the United Nations (UN) Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ It analysed countries under the three categories of addressing gender-based violence, supporting unpaid care, and strengthening women's economic security.
- ❖ As per the report, only 1 in 8 countries have measures in place to shield women and girls from COVID-19 pandemic effects.
- ❖ 71% across 135 countries have focused on tackling gender-based violence.
- ❖ Europe is leading the response when it comes to addressing gender-based violence and accounted for nearly 32% of all violence measures put into place.
- ❖ The North American continent had the largest number of measures aimed at supporting women's economic security, followed by Africa.
- ❖ Europe is ahead in implementing unpaid care assistance and accounted for 49% of all unpaid care measures on the tracker.

International Energy Security Conference 2020

- ❖ The International Energy Security Conference 2020 was recently organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council (GCTC).
- ❖ It is a registered non-profit International Think Tank initiated by public spirited individuals to awaken further issues of national interest and global conscience about terrorism.

Bans on cattle slaughter

- ❖ Sri Lankan government has approved the proposal to ban cattle slaughter in the island nation.
- ❖ However, it decided to import beef for the benefit of those who consume it.

UNGA's 75th assembly

- ❖ The 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held on 15-30 September 2020 virtually.
- ❖ It was hosted by the United States of America (USA) from New York and under the Presidency of Volkan Bozkir of Turkey.
- ❖ The theme of the session was "The future we want, the United Nations we need, reaffirming our collective commitment to multilateralism – confronting the COVID-19 through effective multilateral action".
- ❖ During the session, a special event was organized on September 21, 2020 marking the 75th anniversary of UN.
- ❖ The event was held under the theme "The Future We Want, the UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism".
- ❖ A "Declaration on the Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations" was adopted at the high-level meeting for strengthening mechanism to combat terrorism, reformed multilateralism, inclusive development and better preparedness to deal with challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.



Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict

- ❖ The Territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has re-erupted with heavy clashes.
- ❖ Armenia and Azerbaijan are part of Transcaucasia or South Caucasia.
- ❖ They have been locked in a territorial dispute over Nagorno Karabakh region for almost four decades.
- ❖ Nagorno-Karabakh region has 95% of the population as ethnically Armenian.
- ❖ It is controlled by them but it is internationally recognised as part of Azerbaijan.
- ❖ The dispute first started in 1988 and over the years it has caused massive human rights violations, a severe refugee crisis.
- ❖ Following this, a provisional ceasefire agreement called the Bishkek Protocol was signed in 1994 by the representatives of Armenia, unrecognized Nagorno-Karabakh Republic but not effective.
- ❖ The Bishkek Protocol was signed on May 5, 1994 in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ Though Nagorno-Karabakh region is internationally recognised as a part of Azerbaijan, it remains disputed because it is controlled by ethnic Armenians.



Bongosagar and CORPAT Naval Exercises

- ❖ The second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar commenced in Northern Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ In the exercise Bongosagar, ships from both the navies participated in surface warfare drills, seamanship evolutions and helicopter operations.
- ❖ First edition of the Bongosagar exercise was held in 2019.
- ❖ This edition of Exercise has great significance as it is being conducted during Mujib Barsho, the 100th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
- ❖ IN – BN Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) began in 2018.
- ❖ Both units carried out joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line.

25th anniversary of Fourth World Conference on Women

- ❖ In 2020, the global community will mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).
- ❖ The Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace was the name given for a conference convened by the United Nations during September 1995 in Beijing, China.
- ❖ At this conference, governments from around the world agreed on a comprehensive plan to achieve global legal equality, known as the Beijing Platform for Action.
- ❖ First World Conference on Women was held in 1975 at Mexico City and followed by Copenhagen and Nairobi.



New Caledonia referendum

- ❖ The French territory of New Caledonia voted against independence from France in a referendum held recently.
- ❖ The referendum was a part of a decolonisation plan agreed in 1998, known as the Noumea Accord.
- ❖ New Caledonia is an archipelago and special collectivity of France located in the southwest Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The indigenous Kanaks represent around 39% of the population, while European settlers (known as Caldoches) make up about 27%.
- ❖ New Caledonia has deep divisions between its indigenous Kanak population and Europeans, with indigenous Kanaks favouring independence and Europeans being against it.

History

- ❖ New Caledonia was discovered in 1774 by the British navigator James Cook.
- ❖ It was annexed by France in 1853.
- ❖ In 1946, New Caledonia became an overseas territory.
- ❖ By 1953, French citizenship had been granted to all New Caledonians, regardless of ethnicity.



India+5 for COVID 19 Vaccine Testing

- ❖ The Global Initiative of Coalition of Epidemic Preparedness for Innovation, CEPI has identified six labs.
- ❖ The labs from 6 countries such as Britain, Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Bangladesh and India.
- ❖ The THSTI lab of India has been recognised under the global network of CEPI.
- ❖ THSTI is Translational Health Science and Technology Institute.
- ❖ It is an autonomous institute of Department of Biotechnology.

CEPI

- ❖ It is headquartered in Norway.

- ❖ It is a foundation that takes donations to finance research projects developing vaccines against Emerging Infectious Diseases.
- ❖ CEPI focuses on “Blueprint Priority Diseases” of WHO.

Sittwe port in Myanmar

- ❖ India and Myanmar are working towards the operationalization of the Sittwe port in the Rakhine state of Myanmar in the first quarter of 2021.
- ❖ The port is part of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project which is being viewed as India’s gateway to Southeast Asia.
- ❖ It is a deep-water port constructed by India in 2016 at Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State.
- ❖ The port will connect India’s landlocked north-eastern region with the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram.



One day Prime Minister

- ❖ Aava Murto, a 16-year-old girl, ceremoniously assumed the post of Finnish prime minister for one day for the "Girls Takeover" program.
- ❖ It is part of the U.N. International Day of the Girl to raise more awareness of gender equality.
- ❖ Sanna Marin is the current Finland Prime Minister and she is also one of the world's youngest government leaders.

Pakistan to remain in 'grey list'

- ❖ The global terror financing watchdog FATF decided to keep Pakistan in the "Grey List".
- ❖ It is justified that Pakistan has failed to check flow of money to terror groups like the LeT and the JeM.
- ❖ The decision was taken at the Financial Action Task Force's third and final plenary held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ The plenary was held under the Chinese Presidency of Xiangmin Liu.
- ❖ The Asia Pacific Group of FATF has also retained the country on its 'Enhanced Follow-up' list.

Vice-Chair of GLP

- ❖ India has been designated the 'Vice-Chair' of Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) Working Group of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).
- ❖ GLP is a quality system, which has been evolved by OECD to ensure that safety data generated on various chemicals like industrial chemicals, pharmaceuticals agrochemicals, cosmetic products, food/ feed additives, and medical devices, etc.
- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology established the National GLP Compliance Monitoring Authority (NGCMA) on April 24, 2002.

Third assembly of the ISA

- ❖ The third assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) was held virtually recently.
- ❖ In that assembly India and France were re-elected as President and Co-President.
- ❖ Visvesvaraya award was conferred to Japan for the Asia Pacific region and the Netherlands for Europe and other region.
- ❖ It recognizes the countries with maximum floating solar capacity in each of the four regions of ISA.
- ❖ Kalpana Chawla awards recognises the outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers working in the field of solar energy.
- ❖ The Diwakar award recognizes organisations & institutions that have been working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have maximised the use of solar energy in the host country.

Sanction on Russia and Belarus

- ❖ The European Union agreed to impose sanctions on Russia for poisoning the opposition leader Alexei Navalny.
- ❖ Imposition of sanction was initiated by France and Germany.
- ❖ Navalny was an anti-corruption investigator in Russia.
- ❖ He was the major political opponent of Vladimir Putin, the Russian president.
- ❖ The organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirm that Navalny has become a victim of the novichok nerve agent.

- ❖ Novichok nerve agent disrupt the mechanism by which nerves transfer messages to organs.

World War II bomb 'Tallboy'

- ❖ A massive World War II bomb exploded underwater in Poland during a delicate operation by the Polish Navy.
- ❖ It is the five-tonne bomb nicknamed “Tallboy”, also known as an “earthquake bomb”.
- ❖ It was dropped by the British Royal Air Force in an attack on a Nazi warship in 1945.
- ❖ This bomb was discovered in 2019 close to the port city of Swinoujscie, former part of Nazi Germany in the northwest of Poland.



Second COVID-19 Vaccine by Russia

- ❖ The Russian Authorities have approved a new COVID-19 vaccine called “EpicVacCorona”.
- ❖ It is a peptide-based vaccine.
- ❖ Sputnik V was the first vaccine developed by Russia.
- ❖ Currently three COVID-19 vaccines are under trial in India.
- ❖ They are COVAXIN, ZyCoV D and the Oxford University Vaccines.

Ordinance on capital punishment for rape cases

- ❖ Bangladesh proclaimed an ordinance approving the death penalty for rapists, amid nationwide protests after a series of recent sexual assaults in the country.
- ❖ This is an ordinance on Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.
- ❖ From now on the “death penalty” instead of “lifetime rigorous imprisonment” would be the maximum punishment for rape.

Seats on the UN Human Rights Council

- ❖ Recently election held for 15 members seat of the 47-member UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC).
- ❖ Pakistan along with China, Russia and Cuba won seats on the UNHRC.
- ❖ Pakistan is currently serving on the UNHRC since January 1, 2018.
- ❖ With its re-election, the country will continue as a member for another three-year term commencing on January 1, 2021.
- ❖ Since the HRC's establishment in 2006, this is the fifth time that Pakistan has been elected to the agency.

Campaign against encrypted social media messages

- ❖ India and seven other countries have decided to back a UK-led campaign against the end-to-end encryption of the social media messages.
- ❖ The campaign is against the end-to-end encryption of messages by social media giants such as Facebook.
- ❖ The United Kingdom and India have been joined by Canada, United States, New Zealand, Japan, and Australia.
- ❖ This move marks an expansion of the 'five eyes' group of nations which is a global alliance on the intelligence issues, to include Japan and India.
- ❖ End-to-end encryption is a system of communication where only the communicating users can read the messages.
- ❖ It prevents potential intruders including telecom providers, Internet providers and the provider of communication service.

Framework for Regulatory Sandbox

- ❖ The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has introduced a Framework for Regulatory Sandbox.
- ❖ The Regulatory Sandbox shall operate within the IFSC located at GIFT City.
- ❖ The objective of the sandbox is to foster responsible innovation in financial services, promote efficiency and bring benefit to consumers.

G20 Y20 summit

- ❖ The three-day virtual Summit of the Youth 20 (Y20) engagement group of the G20 held recently.
- ❖ The participants explored a different key theme that has been a focus of Y20 delegates throughout the year, and that complements the work of the G20.
- ❖ The daily themes were Youth Empowerment (Thursday 15 October), Future Fit (Friday 16 October) and Global Citizenship (Saturday 17 October).

- ❖ Olympic Gold winner Usain Bolt took part in a video Q&A with young people from around the world.

18th meeting of SCO's Prosecutors General

- ❖ The 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of SCO was held via video conference.
- ❖ India was represented by the Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.
- ❖ During the meeting, all the prosecutors agreed to strengthen cooperation in preventing and combating corruption, mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.
- ❖ India will host the SCO Prosecutors General Meeting in 2021.

20th Amendment of Sri Lanka

- ❖ 20th Amendment to Sri Lanka's Constitution was recently passed.
- ❖ It envisages expansive powers and greater immunity for the Executive President.
- ❖ The Amendment rolls back Sri Lanka's 19th Amendment.
- ❖ The new legislation in turn reduces the Prime Minister's role to a ceremonial one.

The Anti-Corruption Working Group

- ❖ Saudi Arabia is hosting the first-ever Ministerial Meeting of the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) virtually.
- ❖ The G20 Summit is formally known as the "Summit on Financial Markets and the World Economy".
- ❖ It is an annual meeting of leaders from the countries with the largest and fastest-growing economies.
- ❖ Together, the G20 members represent 85 % of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population.



India and ILO

- ❖ India has assumed the chairmanship of International Labour Organization (ILO) after 35 years.
- ❖ India is one of the founding members of ILO.
- ❖ It was created in 1919 under Treaty of Versailles and became a specialized agency in 1946.

SLINEX 20

- ❖ The 8th edition of the annual Indian Navy (IN) and Sri Lankan Navy (SLN) bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-20 held at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- ❖ The previous edition of SLINEX was conducted off in Vishakhapatnam, India in September 2019.
- ❖ It is in agreement with India's 'neighbourhood first' policy and PM Modi's vision of 'Security and Growth for all the Region'- SAGAR.

Sudan and Israel



- ❖ Sudan became the third country to join the UAE and Bahrain in recognizing Israel.
- ❖ The United States recently brokered pacts between Israel with UAE and Bahrain.
- ❖ After UAE, Bahrain became the fourth country to sign a peace deal with Israel.
- ❖ Egypt was the first country to recognize Israel.
- ❖ Following Egypt, Jordan recognized Israel.

The Future of Jobs Report 2020

- ❖ The world economic forum recently released the third edition of this report.
- ❖ The automation and new division of labour between the Machines and humans will be the major reason for disruption of jobs in the next five years.

44th OECD International Migration Outlook report

- ❖ India has acquired the second rank in terms of the number of migrants going to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and acquiring the citizenship of those countries.
- ❖ China retained its top spot.
- ❖ The data was released by the OECD in its 2020 edition of the annual International Migration Outlook report.
- ❖ Romania emerged as the third-largest exporter of human capital to these countries.

The Cost of a Food Plate 2020

- ❖ World Food Programme (WFP) of the United Nations has published a list comparing the price of a plate of food around the world on the occasion of World Food Day.
- ❖ South Sudan is on the top of that list where a shopper would have to spend more for food.
- ❖ India stands at 28th position as per the percentage of money.
- ❖ On an average an Indian spends 3.5% of his/ her daily income for a plate of food as compared to 0.6% by a New Yorker.



UN Report on Gender Gap in Labor Market

- ❖ The report titled "World's Women: Trends and Statistics" was released by the UN-DESA.
- ❖ According to this report, Gender equality across the world remains a far-fetched goal and no country has achieved it so far.
- ❖ The report provided a reality-check on the global status of women 25 years since the world adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995.
- ❖ The gender gap in the labour market has remained as it was since 1995.

- ❖ The largest gender gap in labour force participation was observed in the prime working age (25-54).
- ❖ In India, the ratio of female-to-male labour force participation rate was 29.80 in 2019 as against the desired ratio of 50 per cent.

‘Global Estimate of Children in Monetary Poverty: An Update’

- ❖ World Bank Group and UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) recently published this report.
- ❖ The analysis estimated one in six children or 356 million children globally were living in extreme poverty before the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa is having a limited social safety net.
- ❖ South Asia accounts for nearly one-fifth of the children who struggle to survive.

Global Wealth Report 2020

- ❖ Recently, Credit Suisse has released the Global Wealth Report 2020.
- ❖ As per this, the average wealth of Indian adults rose marginally at the end of June 2020.
- ❖ However, the Wealth inequality remains quite high in India.
- ❖ Household wealth in India is dominated by property and other real assets.

Asia Power Index 2020

- ❖ India has been ranked at 4th position in the Asia Power Index 2020.
- ❖ The United States has retained its position as the most powerful country.
- ❖ It is followed by China and Japan at second and third spot respectively.
- ❖ It was released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute.

Human Mobility, Shared Opportunities

- ❖ It was released by the United Nations Development Report.
- ❖ It was a review of the report called '2009 Human Development Report and the Way Ahead'.
- ❖ It covers the reality of migration and how it intersects with human development today.
- ❖ In the last 10 years, human mobility has risen up the agenda.
- ❖ It was driven by huge movements of people caused by the Venezuelan, Northern Nigeria, Myanmar and Syrian situations, among others.

Sakharov Prize 2020

- ❖ The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to the Belarus opposition movement and its leader, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya.
- ❖ It was given for their challenge to President Alexander Lukashenko's long, hard-line reign.
- ❖ Mr. Lukashenko won his sixth term in office in a presidential election widely seen as rigged.
- ❖ Sakharov Prize honours individuals and groups of people who have dedicated their lives to the defence of human rights and freedom of thought.

Feni Bridge

- ❖ The Feni bridge is 1.8 km long joining Sabrum of Tripura in India with Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- ❖ The bridge is to be built over Feni river.
- ❖ After completion, the bridge will be the only land link between India's eastern states and its western states other than Assam.
- ❖ The Foundation stone for this bridge was laid by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in June 2015.
- ❖ The Feni River originates in South Tripura district.
- ❖ It flows through Sabrum town and then enters Bangladesh.



Samsung Chairman Lee Kun-Hee

- ❖ Samsung Electronics chairman Lee Kun-hee (78) recently passed away.
- ❖ Lee inherited the chairmanship of the Samsung group in 1987.
- ❖ His father is Lee Byung-chul who founded the Samsung in 1938.
- ❖ Now Samsung is the world's largest producer of smartphones, televisions and memory chips.
- ❖ The firm's overall turnover today is equivalent to a fifth of South Korea's GDP.
- ❖ South Korea is the World 12th Largest Economy.



UN Global Climate Action Award

- ❖ The Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) wins UN Global Climate Action Award for combating climate change through the promotion of solar energy.
- ❖ The GHE is an Indian corporation that strengthens technology and tourism.
- ❖ It supports the remote group of villages to gain solar energy.



75th Anniversary of UN Commemorative Stamp

- ❖ The Department of Posts (DOP), Ministry of Communications released a commemorative postage stamp on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations Organisations.
- ❖ The Department of Posts has previously released similar such commemorative postage stamps on the UN's 9th, 40th, and 50th Anniversaries in 1954, 1985, and 1995 respectively.



World's Best Employer 2020

- ❖ The National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) is on the top on the list of Indian PSUs under the 'World's Best Employer 2020', published by Forbes.
- ❖ In May 2010, NTPC was conferred Maharatna status by the Union Government of India.
- ❖ It is the largest power company in India founded in 1975.

UN Treaty of banning Nuclear Weapons

- ❖ Around 50 countries have ratified the UN Treaty to ban Nuclear Weapons.
- ❖ UN officials said the 50th ratification from Honduras had been received
- ❖ This has triggered the treaty into force.
- ❖ The Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is the first multilateral binding instrument of nuclear disarmament.
- ❖ It bans the use, development, production, testing, stationing, stockpiling and threat of use of such weapons.
- ❖ It was adopted by the 193 member UN General Assembly in July 2017 with the approval of 122 countries.
- ❖ The major nuclear powers such as Russia, United States, Britain, France and China opposed the treaty.
- ❖ India along with Pakistan, North Korea and Israel abstained from voting for the treaty.

ECONOMY

India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App

- ❖ HDFC Bank launched India's first Warehouse Commodity Finance App.
- ❖ This app will enable customers in managing the loan against pledge of commodities online without any physical intervention or visits to Bank branch.
- ❖ This in turn will enhance efficiencies for the Agri value chain.

Positive pay system for cheque

- ❖ RBI gave its approval to "Positive Pay System" for Cheque Truncation System from 01st January, 2021.
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India is going to launch Positive Pay System for Cheque Truncation System (CTS).

- ❖ This Positive Pay System will be developed by The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

Positive pay system

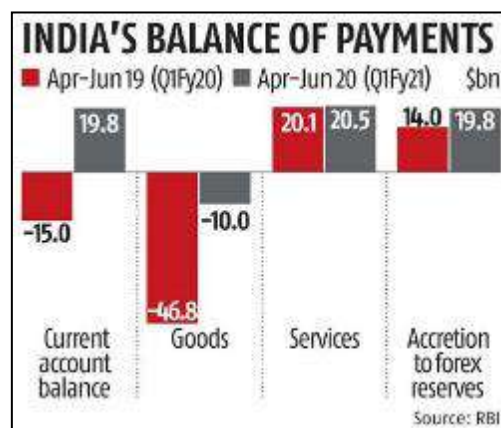
- ❖ The issuer of the cheque will be required to submit electronically, via SMS, mobile application, Net banking or ATM certain information of that cheque like date, name of the beneficiary, payee, amount to the drawee bank.
- ❖ These details will be cross-checked before the cheque is presented for payment.

Contactless debit card-based payment

- ❖ IDFC First Bank will launch “SafePay” a contactless debit card-based payment facility.
- ❖ This payment facility will allow contactless payments by simply waving one’s smartphone against a Near Field Communication (NFC) - enabled POS terminal.

Current account surplus of India

- ❖ India’s current account balance recorded a surplus of \$19.8 billion (3.9 per cent of GDP) in the first quarter of 2020-21 (FY21).
- ❖ This contrasts with a deficit of \$15 billion (2.1 per cent of GDP) in April-June 2019.
- ❖ The surplus in April-June 2020 comes on top of a surplus of \$0.6 billion (0.1 per cent of GDP) in the preceding quarter.



Monetary Policy Committee Members

- ❖ The Government of India appointed economists Jayant R Varma, Shashank Bhide and Ashima Goyal as members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- ❖ The current MPC was set up by the Government of India in 2016 following the finalisation of Monetary Policy Framework Agreement.
- ❖ The framework introduced inflation targeting.

- ❖ The MPC frames monetary policies for the country using monetary tools such as bank rate, repo rate, reverse repo rate, cash reserve ratio.
- ❖ These tools are called monetary policy instruments.

42nd GST council meet

- ❖ The GST Council was unable to come to a consensus on the compensation borrowing options as no final decision was taken at the 42nd meet.
- ❖ GST Council is a Constitutional body under Article 279A, providing recommendations to Union and State Government on GST related issues.
- ❖ The Council is chaired by Union Finance Minister and other members are Union State Minister of Revenue or Finance and Ministers in-charge of Finance or Taxation of all States.
- ❖ Its recommendations are binding and all decisions are taken by 75% majority of members.

Key recommendations

- ❖ GST Compensation Cess levy has been extended beyond 2022.
- ❖ Taxpayers with turnover more than Rs 5 crores will have to provide Harmonised System Nomenclature (HSN) Code from April 2021.

India's First Financial Control Center

- ❖ Chqbook.com launched India's First Financial Control Centre.
- ❖ It is a new mobile platform to boost small business owners.
- ❖ It will give solution to manage everyday financial needs and to access financial products.
- ❖ Chqbook.com is India's first neobank for small business owners offering world-class financial services through its five pillars of current account, khata, lending, insurance, and rewards.

Special Festival Loan

- ❖ The union government announced a one-time Rs 10,000 interest-free festival advance to all its officers and employees.
- ❖ It is the part of plans to increase consumer spending to spur demand in the economy.
- ❖ This Rs 10,000 advance will come as a pre-paid Rupay card, which can be availed and spent by March 31, 2021.
- ❖ This would be used at point of sale machine and money cannot be withdrawn from ATMs.

World Economic Outlook 2020

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund has recently launched the World Economic Outlook 2020.
- ❖ The report has been titled “A Long and Difficult Ascent”.
- ❖ It is launched twice a year, once in June and then in October.

Highlights

- ❖ The report has projected that India’s economy will contract by 10.3 percentage in 2020.
- ❖ This growth will be the slowest among the BRICS countries.
- ❖ India is set to slip below Bangladesh in terms of per capita GDP in 2020.
- ❖ Bangladesh is going to overtake India as its per capita GDP in dollar terms is likely to expand 4 percent in 2020 to \$1,888.
- ❖ Where India's per capita GDP is expected to slump 10.5 percent to \$1,877 in 2020.
- ❖ India would be the third poorest nation in South Asia, with only Pakistan and Nepal reporting lower per capita GDP.
- ❖ All other South Asian nations including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Sri Lanka would outpace India.

New CPI-IW Series

- ❖ The Labour Bureau of Ministry of Labour and Employment has revised the base year of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) from 2001 to 2016.
- ❖ This was revised to reflect the changing consumption pattern, giving more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.
- ❖ It is used for measuring inflation in retail prices.
- ❖ It is also used to regulate the dearness allowance (DA) of government staff and industrial workers, as well as to revise minimum wages in scheduled employments.

Open Market Operations

- ❖ The RBI announced open market operations (OMO) purchase of State Development Loans (SDLs) for the first time in the History.
- ❖ It was labelled as a "special case" with an aim to improve liquidity and facilitate efficient pricing.
- ❖ The purchase amount will be 10,000 crores.
- ❖ The OMOs will be conducted for a basket of SDLs comprising securities issued by states.

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 Nilgri 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

20 years of Himalayan Chandra Telescope

- ❖ The Himalayan Chandra Telescope is located at the Indian Astronomical Observatory (IAO) in Hanle near Leh in Ladakh.
- ❖ It has been scanning the night sky in search of comets, stellar explosions, exoplanets and asteroids.
- ❖ It operates using delicate satellite communication link from Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST), IIA (Indian Institute of Astrophysics).
- ❖ The telescope marked 20 years of successful operation with more than 260 research papers published using data obtained from it.



5 years of ASTROSAT

- ❖ The ASTROSAT was the first multi-wavelength satellite launched by ISRO.
- ❖ It was launched on September 28, 2015.
- ❖ It has now completed five years of successful imaging of celestial objects.
- ❖ It explored stars, star clusters and mapped large and small galaxies of Milky Way galaxy called “Magellanic Clouds”.
- ❖ ASTROSAT was the first dedicated Indian Mission that studied celestial sources in X-ray, UV and optical spectral bands simultaneously.
- ❖ The resolution of ASTROSAT is three times better than the resolution of NASA Mission, GALEX.
- ❖ With the success of ASTROSAT, India has become one of the exclusive club of nations to have space-based observatories.



ISRO's Venus mission

- ❖ ISRO is all set to launch its Venus Mission in 2025 along with participation from French Space Agency CNES (The National Centre for Space Studies).
- ❖ It will be the first time a French payload will be flown on an Indian exploration mission.

- ❖ India and France have also been working on ISRO's Human Space Mission Gaganyaan project.



Cat Que Virus

- ❖ The Indian medical team have noted the presence of antibodies against the Cat Que virus (CQV) in two human serum samples.
- ❖ This indicates that the CQV virus may become a public health pathogen and may lead to a pandemic if it spreads.
- ❖ CQV belongs to the Simbu serogroup virus of the genus Orthobunya virus.
- ❖ It was first isolated in 2004 from mosquitoes in northern Vietnam.
- ❖ It has also been reported in China.
- ❖ CQV comes under the category of Arthropod-borne viruses.
- ❖ Arthropods are a group of invertebrate animals including insects, spiders etc.
- ❖ It is found in pigs and Culex mosquitoes.
- ❖ Birds such as the Jungle Myna may also act as a host.
- ❖ Humans can be infected through mosquito bites.
- ❖ It can cause febrile illnesses, meningitis and paediatric encephalitis in humans.

World's First Asteroid Mining Robot

- ❖ The Chinese private firm, Origin Space is all ready to send out the world's first asteroid mining robot into space in November 2020.
- ❖ The robot is named as 'asteroid mining robot' by the space start-up in China.
- ❖ A Chinese Long March series rocket will launch the asteroid mining robot into space.
- ❖ The mission will be a milestone for the space resources industry.
- ❖ It is a small, around 30 kilograms, satellite that intends to enter a 500-kilometer-altitude sun-synchronous orbit.
- ❖ The robot will not be engaging in any mining work but it will only be testing the technologies.

PARAM Siddhi Supercomputer

- ❖ The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) will commission the India's largest High-Performance Computing and Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer.
- ❖ It is named as 'PARAM Siddhi – AI' and have 210 AI Petaflops speed.
- ❖ This would put India into top countries in the field of global AI supercomputing research and innovation.

Other Supercomputers in India

- ❖ The first super computer was "Param Shivay" built under the National Supercomputing Mission by C-DAC.
- ❖ Pratyush – It is holding 39th position in the World and is located in Indian Institute of Meteorology, Pune.
- ❖ Mihir, which holds 66th position in the world, located in National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting.
- ❖ InC1 is holding 206th rank.
- ❖ SERC, the Supercomputer Education Research Centre at Indian Institute of Science at Bengaluru, holds 327th rank.
- ❖ iDataPlex holds 496th rank.

Shaurya Missile Test fire

- ❖ India successfully test fired the new version of nuclear capable Shaurya missile in Balasore, Odisha.
- ❖ The newer version of shaurya missile is easy to operate and is lighter as compared to that of the existing missile.
- ❖ It is a two-stage rocket missile and developed by DRDO.
- ❖ It is a hypersonic surface-to-surface missile with a range of 700-1000 km.

SMART weapon system

- ❖ India has successfully flight-tested SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo) from the Wheeler Island at Odisha.
- ❖ The event was monitored by the tracking stations (Electro-Optical Systems, Radars) along the coast and the telemetry stations including down range ships.
- ❖ It is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for the anti-submarine warfare (ASW) operations for far-beyond torpedo range.

iMediX - Telemedicine System

- ❖ The researchers at IIT Kharagpur's Department of Computer Science & Engineering have developed a telemedicine system called iMediX.
- ❖ The system integrates homecare with healthcare services from the hospital.
- ❖ It facilitates critical health care support to the patients at their doorsteps through remote consultation by a physician.
- ❖ It is accessible by any standard internet browser and also from a mobile device.

Rudram - 1st anti radiation missile

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested indigenously developed Anti-Radiation Missile (Rudram-1).
- ❖ It is an anti-radiation missile can locate and target any radiation-emitting source like enemy radars, communication sites and other Radio Frequency emitting targets.
- ❖ This is the first indigenous anti-radiation missile of the country.
- ❖ It has a range of up to 200 km depending upon the launch conditions.
- ❖ It can be launched from altitudes of 500 m to 15 km and speeds of 0.6 to 2 mach.



RUSTOM II Drone Test

- ❖ DRDO tested its Indigenously developed Rustom 2 drone successfully.
- ❖ It is a medium altitude long endurance indigenous surveillance drone.
- ❖ The Drone is capable of carrying payloads depending on the mission objectives.
- ❖ This includes aperture radar, situational awareness systems and electronic intelligent systems.
- ❖ The Drone was developed to match the specifications of the Israeli unmanned aerial vehicle Heron.



Nano Satellite by Tamil Nadu Students

- ❖ An experimental satellite, India Sat by three students from Tamil Nadu's Karur district, will be launched by the NASA.
- ❖ This will be launched into the sub orbit in June by its sounding rocket 7.
- ❖ The three students are M. Adnaan of Thanthonrimalai, M. Kesavan of Nagampalli and V. Arun of Thennilai.
- ❖ The satellite model has outnumbered many other satellites designed as part of the global competition conducted by the Cubes in Space programme.
- ❖ It has been deemed the world's smallest and lightest satellite, made with reinforced graphene polymer is 3 cm in size and weighs 64 gm.
- ❖ It is solar powered and fitted with 13 sensors that can be used to calculate over 20 parameters.



- ❖ Using this - Gravitational force, magnetic force, cosmic radiations are among the scientific parameters that are to be measured.
- ❖ It is said that the satellite also has its own radio frequency communication to transmit and receive signals from earth to outer space.

Soyuz MS - 17 spacecraft

- ❖ Russia's Soyuz MS-17 spacecraft left for the International Space Station (ISS) on carrying Expedition 64 astronauts.
- ❖ They are Kathleen "Kate" Rubins and cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Sergey Kud-Sverchkov.
- ❖ The three crew members will spend six months aboard the space station.
- ❖ This is Rubins' second voyage into space after she was aboard the Soyuz MS spacecraft on its first test flight to the ISS in July 2016.



Night trial of PRITHVI II missile

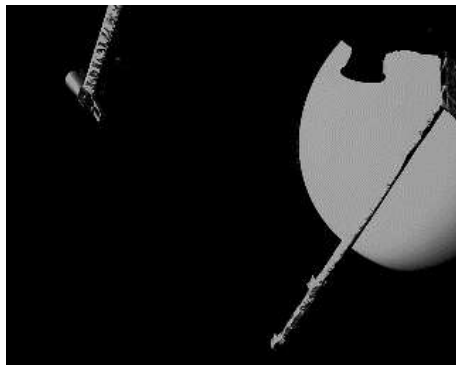
- ❖ India successfully conducted the night trial of indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi II missile.
- ❖ The test was conducted at the Integrated Test Range, Balasore, Odisha.
- ❖ Prithvi II is a surface-to-surface missile.
- ❖ The missile has a range of 25-350 kilometres.
- ❖ It is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1000 kg of nuclear material.

Wheat Bran Marine Bacterial Consortia

- ❖ The National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) has developed an eco-friendly crude oil bioremediation mechanism technology.
- ❖ It has been developed using consortia of marine microbe's wheat bran (WB) immobilized on agro-residue bacterial cells.
- ❖ It was found that complete breakdown and degradation of crude oil was achievable using wheat bran marine bacterial consortia.

BepiColombo spacecraft passes Venus

- ❖ BepiColombo spacecraft which is heading to Mercury passed Venus recently.
- ❖ The European-Japanese probe managed to capture a black-and-white snapshot of Venus from a distance of 17,000 kilometres.
- ❖ It was launched in October 2018 and it is on a seven-year trip to Mercury.
- ❖ It is expected to reach Mercury by 2025.
- ❖ Once it reaches Mercury, it will split in two.
- ❖ This will lead to the release of a European orbiter 'Bepi'.
- ❖ The orbiter will enter Mercury's inner orbit
- ❖ While the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency's 'Mio' will continue to gather data from a distance.
- ❖ NASA's Mariner 10 was the first spacecraft to fly-past Mercury in the mid-1970s.



Sample collection in Asteroid Bennu

- ❖ NASA's robotic spacecraft Osiris-Rex briefly touched down on the rocky surface of asteroid Bennu.
- ❖ It collects rock and dust samples almost 330 million kilometres from the Earth.
- ❖ A precision technique called the 'touch-and-go' or TAG manoeuvre was used for the historic mission.
- ❖ Any collected samples won't reach Earth until 2023.
- ❖ Bennu is the smallest celestial body a spacecraft has ever orbited.



NATO to set up new Space Centre

- ❖ The North Atlantic Treaty organisation is to setup a new Space Centre in Ramstein, Germany.
- ❖ The centre is to serve as a co-ordination Centre for space observation.
- ❖ The centre is being setup based on Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty organisation.
- ❖ There are more than 24 satellite ground stations being controlled by the NATO countries.

Anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) - Nag

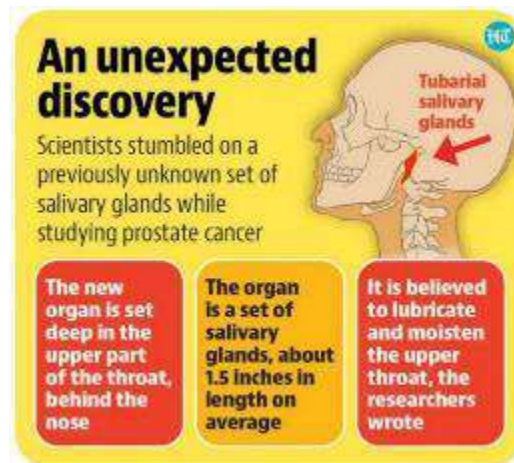
- ❖ DRDO recently carried out the final user trial of the anti-tank guided missile (ATGM), Nag, at the Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan.
- ❖ It was developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ The missile is now ready for induction into the armed forces.
- ❖ It is an Indian third-generation, all-weather, fire-and-forget, lock-on after launch, anti-tank guided missile (ATGM).
- ❖ It can be launched from both - land as well as air-based platforms.



IOWave 20 exercise

- ❖ Indian Ocean “Wave” exercises are held every two years under the auspices and coordination of the following institutions:
 - UNESCO’s Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission,
 - Intergovernmental Coordination Group of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTMWS) and
 - Indian Ocean Information Centre (IOTIC).
- ❖ Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre (ITEWC) participated in this exercise as its capacity as National Tsunami Warning Centre for India and also Tsunami Service Provider for the entire Indian Ocean Region.

Tubarial salivary glands



- ❖ They were discovered recently by Scientists in the Netherlands
- ❖ They are a set of salivary glands deep in the upper part of the throat.
- ❖ The glands probably lubricate and moisten the upper throat behind the nose and mouth.
- ❖ The discovery may be important for cancer treatment.
- ❖ Until now, there were three known large salivary glands in humans:
 - Under the tongue,
 - Under the jaw and back of the jaw,
 - Behind the cheek.

INS Kavaratti

- ❖ It is an anti-submarine warfare (ASW) ship to be commissioned into the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard, Vishakhapatnam.
- ❖ It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata
- ❖ It is the last of four indigenously-built ASW under 'Project 28' or Kamorta-class corvettes of the Navy.
- ❖ The other three warships under this project are INS Kamorta (commissioned in 2014), INS Kadmatt (2016) and INS Kiltan (2017).



SANT missile

- ❖ Indian successfully test-fired the Stand-off-Anti-tank (SANT) missile off the Odisha coast.
- ❖ It has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for the Indian Air Force (IAF).

Brahmos missile

- ❖ The supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos' was test-fired from INS Chennai.
- ❖ The Defence Research Development Organization test fired the naval version of BRAHMOS missile from INS Chennai.
- ❖ INS Chennai is an indigenously built stealth destroyer.
- ❖ Brahmos had hit a target in the Arabian Sea.
- ❖ It is a Surface to surface supersonic cruise missile.
- ❖ Supersonic missiles travel at a speed of 2 to 3 Mach.
- ❖ It was jointly developed by India and Russia.

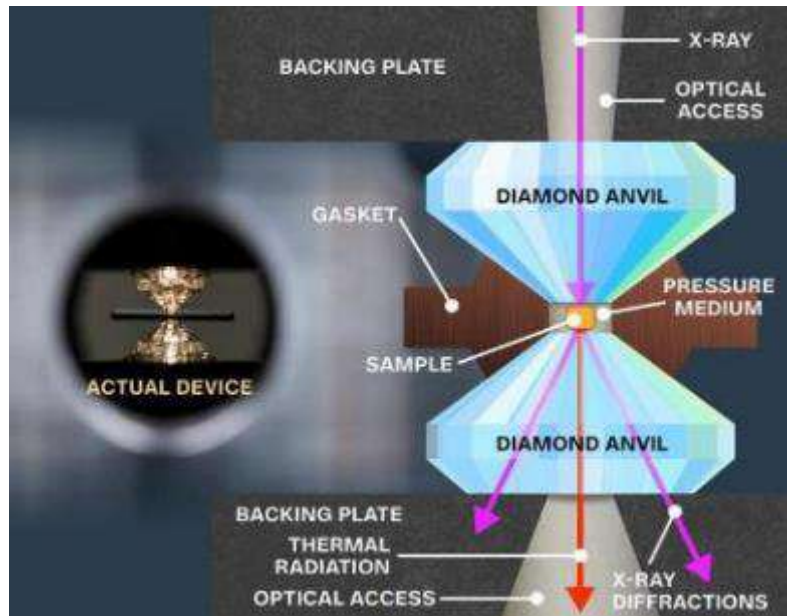
Trans Fat Elimination

- ❖ 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

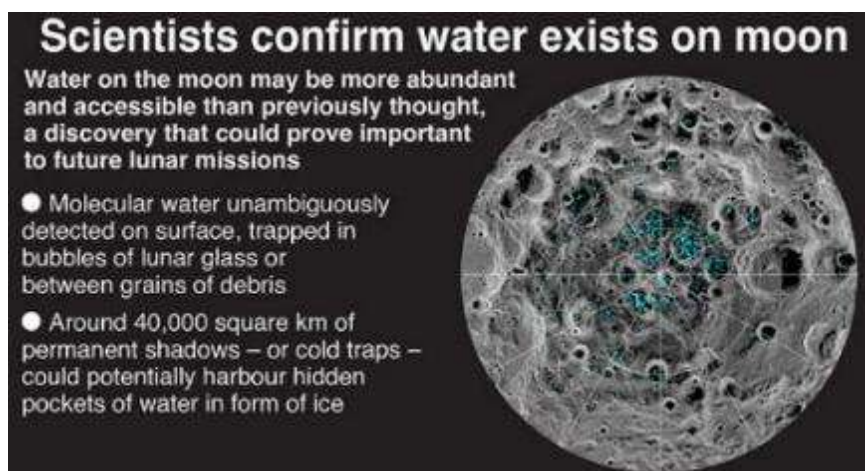
- ❖ Scientists have reported the discovery of the first room-temperature superconductor, after more than a century of waiting.
- ❖ The superconductor was formed by squeezing carbon, hydrogen and sulphur between the tips of two diamonds and hitting the material with laser light to induce chemical reactions.
- ❖ 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.



Low Cost Technology anti-ageing Compound

- ❖ The researchers from IIT Guwahati developed a low-cost method to produce anti-ageing compounds.
- ❖ The product does not use organic solvents as done by the other commercial industry.
- ❖ This is the main reason for the low cost of the anti-ageing product.
- ❖ The cosmetics in India are regulated by the Drug and Cosmetic Act, 1940.

ENVIRONMENT

My Ganga My dolphin campaign

- ❖ On the occasion of the Ganga River Dolphin Day (October 05), “My Ganga My Dolphin” campaign was launched to promote and boost eco-tourism in the country.
- ❖ The ecotourism programme has been launched at six destinations by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG).
- ❖ The programme includes dolphin safari in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal, all three states blessed with the River Ganga’s presence.
- ❖ My Ganga My Dolphin was also launched to conduct Dolphin census in the 250-km stretch from Bijnor to Narora in Uttar Pradesh.

Two new species of wetland plant

- ❖ Scientists have discovered two new species of pipeworts, a type of wetland plant, from areas along the Western Ghats in Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- ❖ The species found in Maharashtra has been named *Eriocaulon parvicephalum* and the Karnataka species is being called *Eriocaulon karaavalense*.

60% Emission cut by 2030

- ❖ The European Union Parliament voted updating its climate target to reduce emissions by 60% by 2030 as compared to 1990 levels.
- ❖ Earlier EU had set a goal of reducing 40% emission by 2030.
- ❖ The World Wildlife Fund and other Non-Governmental Organizations were insisting on at least 65% emission reduction by 2030.
- ❖ The voting was held under the presidency of Germany.

Ratification of 7 Organic Pollutants

- ❖ Union Cabinet approved the ratification of seven Chemicals that are listed under Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants.
- ❖ Further, the cabinet delegated its powers of ratification to the union ministry of external affairs and ministry of environment, forest and climate change.
- ❖ These Ministries are already regulating the persistent organic pollutants under the domestic regulations.
- ❖ 7 persistent organic pollutants are:
 - Chlordecone
 - Hexabromobiphenyl
 - Hexabromodiphenyl ether and Heptabromodiphenylether (Commercial octa-BDE)
 - Tetrabromodiphenyl ether and Pentabromodiphenyl ether (Commercial penta-BDE)
 - Pentachlorobenzene
 - Hexabromocyclododecane
 - Hexachlorobutadiene

Stockholm Convention

- ❖ The Stockholm convention on persistent organic pollutants was held in 2001.
- ❖ It is a Treaty that was signed to protect environment and humans from persistent organic pollutants.
- ❖ Persistent organic pollutants are organic compounds that are resistant to environmental degradation through photolytic, chemical and biological processes.

Microplastics on sea floor

- ❖ CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation), an Australian government agency, has recently found that the world sea floor is littered with more than 14 million tonnes of microplastics.
- ❖ These microplastics have entered the floor through the breakdown of masses of rubbish entering the oceans annually.
- ❖ This is the first time the sea floor microplastic study has been carried out.
- ❖ Microplastics are small pieces of plastic that are of size 5 mm or less.
- ❖ They are mostly derived from the breaking down of larger plastic items.

Animal and Plant Discoveries 2019

- ❖ Scientists have discovered at least 364 new species of animals and 253 new species of plants from India in 2019.

- ❖ While these 364 animal species were unknown to humans.
- ❖ Another 116 species of animals, which were earlier found elsewhere in the world, but not recorded from India previously.
- ❖ Out of the 364 new species that have been discovered, four are fossil species.
- ❖ Another four sub-species have been discovered.
- ❖ The maximum numbers of species that have been discovered are of insects.
- ❖ With the new animal discoveries, India now has 102,161 species of animals.
- ❖ This is around 6.52 percent of the global share.
- ❖ More than 50,000 species of plants have also been identified from the country.
- ❖ The list of discoveries was published in the form of two books by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) and Botanical Survey India.

Polarstern Mission return

- ❖ The Polarstern Ship of the German Alfred Wegner Institute has returned to the port of Bremerhaven in Germany after spending 389 days drifting through the Arctic trapped in ice.
- ❖ It has allowed scientists to gather vital information on the effects of global warming in the region.
- ❖ It is the world's biggest mission to the North Pole and brings home some devastating proof of a dying Arctic Ocean and warnings of ice-free summers in just a few decades.

Polarstern Mission

- ❖ The Polarstern Mission has spent over a year collecting data on sea ice, ocean, atmosphere, and ecosystems in order to help assess the impact of climate change on the region as well as in the world.
- ❖ On September 20, 2019, the ship departed from Tromso in Norway.
- ❖ The crew saw the long months of complete darkness and temperatures as low as -39.5 celsius.
- ❖ The mission collected the water samples from beneath the ice during the polar night to study the plant plankton and bacteria as well as to better understand how the marine ecosystem functions under extreme conditions.

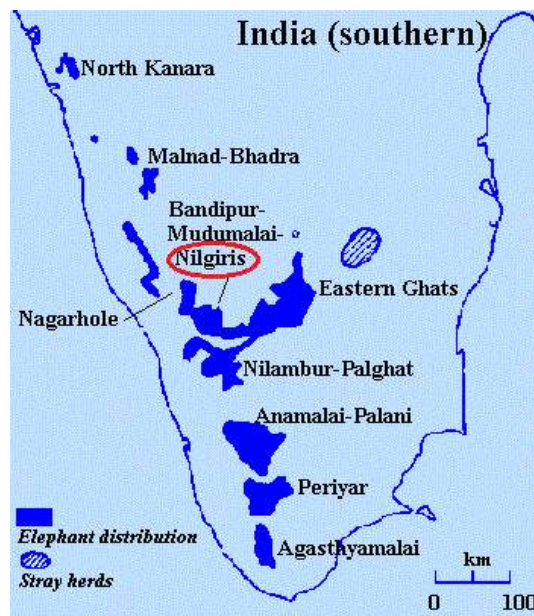
SILAM and ENFUSER models to monitor Air Quality

- ❖ Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) operationalised improved air quality forecast models.
- ❖ They were SILAM and ENFUSER.
- ❖ There are more than 40 air quality monitoring systems in Delhi.
- ❖ SILAM is System for Integrated Modelling of Atmospheric Composition.

- ❖ The model has been improved by implementing Global emission inventories such as CAMS-GLOB and EDGAR for mineral fine anthropogenic particulate matter at 10-kilometre resolution.
- ❖ ENFUSER is ENvironmental information FUsion SERVICE.
- ❖ It was operationalised to identify pollution hotspots in the national capital region.
- ❖ Both SILAM and ENFUSER were developed in technical collaboration with Finland.
- ❖ WRF-Chem is another air quality model that has been updated by the IMD.

Right of Passage of the Animals

- ❖ The Supreme Court upheld the 2011 order of the Madras High Court on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and the closure of resorts in the area.
- ❖ In 2011, the Madras HC upheld the validity of the Tamil Nadu government's notification (of 2010) declaring an 'Elephant Corridor' in the Sigur Plateau of Nilgiris District.
- ❖ Elephant corridors allow elephants to continue their nomadic mode of survival, despite shrinking forest cover, by facilitating travel between distinct forest habitats.
- ❖ These corridors play a crucial role in sustaining wildlife by reducing the impact of habitat isolation.
- ❖ The Nilgiris Elephant corridor is situated in the ecologically fragile Sigur plateau, which connects the Western and the Eastern Ghats.
- ❖ It is situated near the Mudumalai National Park in the Nilgiris district.

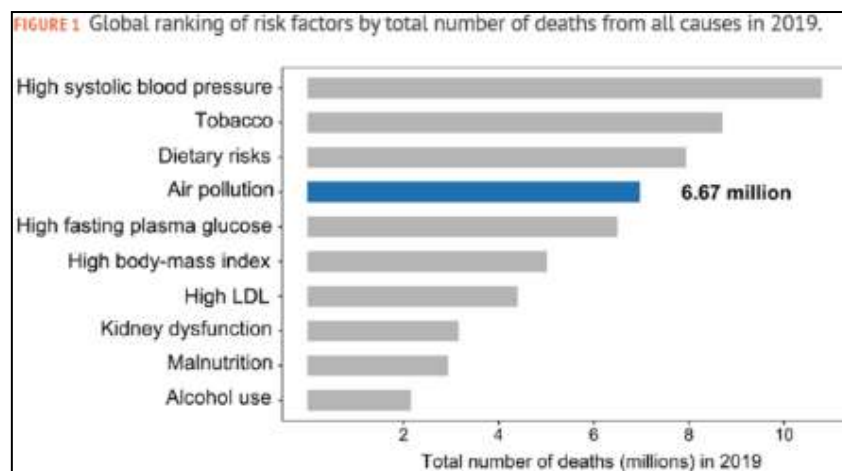


Chinese pink dolphins

- ❖ Chinese pink dolphins are making a comeback in the Pearl river estuary in Hong Kong.
- ❖ This species is often referred to as the Chinese white/pink dolphin in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore as a common name.
- ❖ The population of these dolphins had fallen by 70-80% in the past 15 years.
- ❖ IUCN Status of this Dolphin is Vulnerable.

State of Global Air 2020

- ❖ The State of Global Air is a collaboration between the Health Effects Institute (HEI) and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), with expert input from the University of British Columbia.
- ❖ India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are among the top ten countries with the highest PM_{2.5} (particulate matter) exposures in 2019.
- ❖ India is also among the top ten countries with highest ozone (O₃) exposure in 2019.
- ❖ Overall, the air pollution is now the largest risk factor for death among all health risks in India.
- ❖ India had faced the highest per capita pollution exposure — or 83.2 µg/cubic metre — in the world.
- ❖ It is followed by Nepal at 83.1 µg/cubic metre and Niger at 80.1.



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.



Climate Change Law in European Union

- ❖ European Union Environment Ministers strike a deal on climate law.
- ❖ The landmark climate change law will be forming a basis for Europe's plan of slashing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
- ❖ It aims to make 2050 zero emissions target of the bloc legally binding.

STATES

Modification of Forest Rights Act

- ❖ Maharashtra Governor has issued a notification modifying the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006.
- ❖ The notification has been issued by the Governor using his powers Schedule V of the Constitution.
- ❖ The changes will enable tribal and other traditional forest dwelling families to build houses in the neighbourhood forest areas.
- ❖ The decision is likely to provide a major relief to Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest-dwelling families residing in the scheduled areas of the State.

Vth schedule

- ❖ The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of Scheduled Areas as well as of Scheduled Tribes residing in any State other than the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Maps of biodiversity



- ❖ A biodiversity map of the city to showcase the wildlife hotspots, mangrove forests, urban green spaces and over 90 species that can be spotted in the Mumbai city has been illustrated.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind attempt to visually empower Mumbai's citizens with the resources they share the city with.
- ❖ Rohan Chakravarty, popularly known for his work under the title of Green Humour, is the man behind the map.
- ❖ This is part of a campaign Biodiversity by the Bay, initiated by the Ministry of Mumbai's Magic.

New PDS shops to women

- ❖ Rajasthan government has decided to give 30 per cent of the new PDS shops to women.
- ❖ The decision has been taken by the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to empower the women in the state.
- ❖ The state has also approved an additional budget of Rs.11 crore to "Sahyog Evam Uphar Yojna".
- ❖ In this scheme, there is a provision to provide financial assistance to the needy and eligible families for daughter's marriage.

Pathashree abhijan - West Bengal

- ❖ West Bengal government has launched the "Pathashree Abhijan" scheme.
- ❖ It is a road repair scheme, where more than 7,000 stretches of roads comprising 12,000 kilometers across the state will be repaired in a mission mode and in a time - bound manner.
- ❖ The people of the state reached out to the Chief Minister through the 'Didi Ke Bolo' initiative of the government to prepare list of the road.

Alert over Congo fever

- ❖ Maharashtra's Palghar district issued a 'Congo fever' alert after the virus was found in some of the neighbouring districts in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is caused by infection with a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) in the family Bunyaviridae.
- ❖ The disease was first characterized in the Crimea in 1944 and was given the name Crimean hemorrhagic fever.
- ❖ The disease was discovered to be the cause of illness in the Congo in 1969.
- ❖ The Congo fever is transmitted to humans to through contact with the blood of infected animals and by eating the meat of infected animals.

GI Tag for chilli of Sikkim

- ❖ The red cherry pepper chilli of Sikkim which is locally known as the “Dalle Khursani” got the geographical indication tag.
- ❖ It is considered as one of the hottest chillies in the world.
- ❖ It is to be mentioned that the largest manufacturer of Dalle Khursani products is the state government-owned Sikkim Supreme.



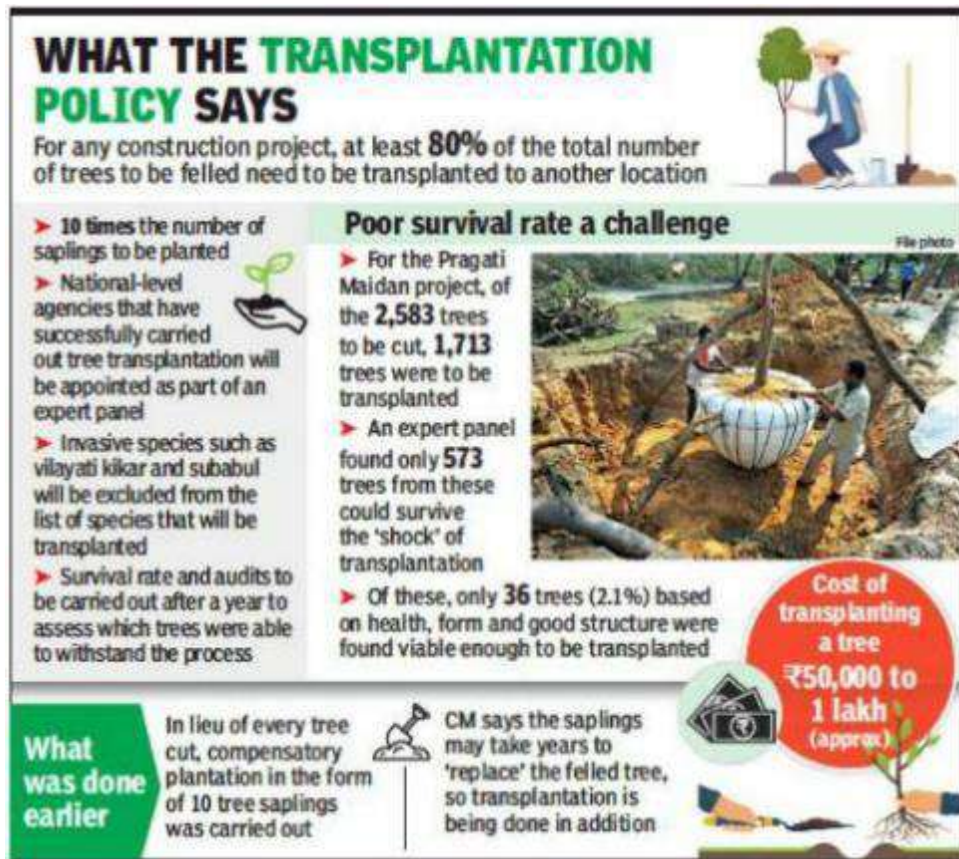
Digital Seva Setu programme

- ❖ Gujarat has announced a ‘Digital Seva Setu’ programme to ensure optimum utilisation of technology for public welfare in rural areas.
- ❖ The program has been initiated under the Centre’s BharatNet Project.
- ❖ Under this program, public welfare services will be made available in all the 14,000-gram panchayats in the state by connecting village.
- ❖ Each village panchayat will get e-gram office so that villagers will not have to go all the way to taluka or district-level offices.

Farmers Welfare Fund Board - Kerala

- ❖ For the first time in the country, Kerala government has decided to set up a Welfare Fund Board for the farmers in the state.
- ❖ The board to be known as ‘Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Board’.
- ❖ As per the Kerala Karshaka Kshemanidhi Act, agriculture includes horticulture, medicinal plant cultivation, nursery management, fish, ornamental fish, mussels, bees, silkworms, poultry, ducks, goats, rabbits, livestock, and the maintenance and use of land for such agricultural purposes.

Tree Transplantation Policy - Delhi



WHAT THE TRANSPLANTATION POLICY SAYS

For any construction project, at least **80%** of the total number of trees to be felled need to be transplanted to another location

- 10 times the number of saplings to be planted
- National-level agencies that have successfully carried out tree transplantation will be appointed as part of an expert panel
- Invasive species such as vilayati kikar and subabul will be excluded from the list of species that will be transplanted
- Survival rate and audits to be carried out after a year to assess which trees were able to withstand the process

Poor survival rate a challenge

- For the Pragati Maidan project, of the **2,583** trees to be cut, **1,713** trees were to be transplanted
- An expert panel found only **573** trees from these could survive the 'shock' of transplantation
- Of these, only **36** trees (2.1%) based on health, form and good structure were found viable enough to be transplanted

Cost of transplanting a tree ₹50,000 to 1 lakh (approx)

What was done earlier

In lieu of every tree cut, compensatory plantation in the form of 10 tree saplings was carried out

CM says the saplings may take years to 'replace' the felled tree, so transplantation is being done in addition

- ❖ Delhi has become the first State in India to pass Tree Transplantation Policy.
- ❖ A dedicated panel of government agencies with track record and experience of tree transplantation is being formed under the policy.
- ❖ The agencies concerned will have to transplant 80 per cent of the trees affected by their projects to a new location.
- ❖ The government will also form local committees, which will also include citizens, for checking, monitoring and certification of the tree transplantation exercise.
- ❖ Payments for transplantation will be made after one year to ensure this, and if less than 80 per cent of the transplanted trees survive, payment will be deducted.

Jagananna Vidya Kanuka Scheme - Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh government has launched Jagan Anna Vidya kanuka scheme.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the state government will provide school kits to 43.32 to lakh government school students.
- ❖ The kits to be provided have been named Vidya Kanuka kits.

Mukhya Mantri Saur Swarojgar Yojana – Uttarakhand

- ❖ The scheme promotes self-employment of the youth and production of green energy.
- ❖ The beneficiaries of the scheme are to be allocated with solar power plants of 25 KW each.
- ❖ It is estimated that these power plants will generate 38,000 units of electricity per year.
- ❖ The generated electricity is to be bought by Uttarakhand Power Corporation for 25 years.

100% Tap Water Connections

- ❖ Goa has become the first state in India to provide 100% tap water connections in rural areas.
- ❖ On its successful implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission, Goa has become the first “Har Ghar Jal State”.
- ❖ The State of Goa is now planning to install sensor-based service delivery monitoring system to monitor the functionality of water supply.

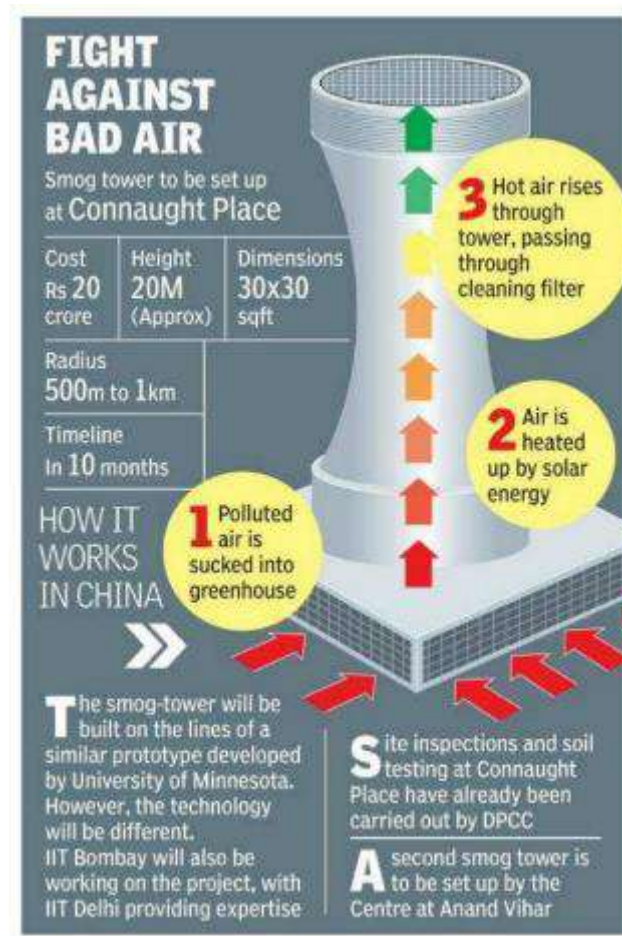
Tie-up with India Post for PM-KISAN scheme

- ❖ The Goa Government has tied up with India Post to get 11,000 farmers enrolled in the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme.
- ❖ This is the first such exercise in India to enrol farmers in the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, whereby the postman will be utilised to benefit farmers.
- ❖ This scheme, where the farmers directly received direct benefit transfer of Rs 2,000 in three instalments every year, is for the economically weaker farmers.

World second smog tower

- ❖ The Delhi government approved a proposal to install a 'smog tower' in Connaught Place to deal with air pollution.
- ❖ It will be the second smog tower after China and first of its kind in the world.
- ❖ The technology of the smog tower coming up at Connaught Place will be different from the one in China.
- ❖ Smog towers are structures designed to function as large-scale air purifiers to reduce air pollution particles.
- ❖ They are usually fitted with multiple layers of air filters, which clean the air of pollutants as they pass through them.
- ❖ Highly-effective H14 grade Highly Effective Particulate Arrestance (HEPA) filter would be used in Delhi.

- ❖ The filter is said to have been designed to clean up to 99.99% Particulate Matter (PM) present in the air with the help of pre-filter and activated carbon.



First state to go digital in public education

- ❖ Kerala became the first state in the country to go completely digital in public education.
- ❖ The digitalization programmes are being implemented by the Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE).

50th SIAA congress – 2021

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir have won the bid to host the 50th annual Skal International Asia Area (SIAA) Congress in 2021.
- ❖ Skal International is a professional organization of tourism leaders around the world, promoting global tourism and friendship.
- ❖ It is a Spain-based tourism body with 15,000 members and 150 chapters across the world.
- ❖ It is the only international group uniting all branches of the travel and tourism industry.

Gujarat Disturbed Area Act (Amendment) bill

- ❖ The president of India assented the Gujarat Disturbed Area act (Amendment) Bill 2019.
- ❖ The amendment will prohibit transfer of assets that is the immovable property in disturbed areas.
- ❖ Also, it will protect the tenants from vacating the property.
- ❖ Gujarat prohibition of transfer of immovable property and provision for protection of tenants from eviction from premises in Disturbed Areas Act 1991 is commonly referred to as Disturbed Areas act.

Gupkar Declaration II

- ❖ The six political parties of Jammu and Kashmir signed a statement titled as 'Gupkar Declaration II'.
- ❖ It aims to collectively fight against the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The first Gupkar declaration was signed before the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019.

'Tech for Tribals' initiative

- ❖ TRIFED under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with Chhattisgarh MFP Federation and IIT of Kanpur launched Tech for Tribals initiative in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ It aims at the holistic development of tribals with a focus on entrepreneurship development, soft skills, IT, and business development through SHGs operating through Van Dhan Kendras (VDVKs).
- ❖ This program will mainly entail three aspects of development for sustainable entrepreneurship which can be considered as the three pillars – Engagement, Capacity Building, and Market linkages.



TRIBAL COOPERATIVE
MARKETING DEVELOPMENT
FEDERATION OF
INDIA LIMITED -
TRIFED

My Town My Pride initiative

- ❖ Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha announced the 'My Town My Pride' programme.

- ❖ Its main objectives are public outreach in towns, strengthening grassroots democracy, and service delivery at doorsteps

Artificial Intelligence Research Centre at Hyderabad

- ❖ The Intel India announced the launch of an applied artificial intelligence (AI) research (INAI) center in Hyderabad.
- ❖ The research center would be launch in collaboration with the
 - Telangana government,
 - International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) and
 - Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI).
- ❖ INAI mainly focus on identifying and solving the challenges in the healthcare and smart mobility segments.

Red Light on Gaadi off – Delhi

- ❖ "Red Light On, Gaadi Off" is an awareness campaign.
- ❖ It will be observed from October 21 to November 15.
- ❖ It is not an enforcement campaign.
- ❖ The onus is on individuals to follow.
- ❖ It is expected that, if 10 lakhs turn off the ignition at traffic signals, PM10 (Particulate matter) levels would go down by 1.5 tones and PM2.5 levels by 0.4 tonnes in one year.

World's biggest Zinc Smelter project

- ❖ Gujarat government has signed a pact with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Ltd (HZL) to set up a Greenfield zinc smelter in the state.
- ❖ The new facility – the first for Hindustan Zinc in Gujarat, will be set up with zero discharge technology and will be among the lowest-cost smelters in the world.
- ❖ Hindustan Zinc is one of the world's largest and India's only integrated producer of Zinc-Lead and Silver.

Nechiphu Tunnel

- ❖ Union defence minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Nechiphu Tunnel.
- ❖ It is located on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The 450m-long tunnel, which will bypass the existing road, will be D-shaped and comprise two lanes.

Mission Shakti - UP

- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government launched a 6-month long women empowerment programme 'Mission Shakti'.
- ❖ This Six-month campaign has two phases - 'Mission Shakti' and 'Operation Shakti'.
- ❖ The initiative was launched in order to raise awareness and tackle crime against women in the state.
- ❖ It has features of awareness campaigns related to women's safety.
- ❖ Under Operation Shakti, the police will prepare a register of persons who have served the jail terms for crimes against women and now have come out.

Karunya Aarogya Suraksha Pathadi – Kerala

- ❖ It is the health care scheme which aims at providing a health cover of Rs. 5 lakhs per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization.
- ❖ It provides financial assistance for the treatment of the general public, which was extended to over 14 lakh families in the last two years.

First route of Seaplane project

- ❖ The first of the five seaplane services in Gujarat will be inaugurated on October 31.
- ❖ It will be connecting Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad to the Statue of Unity in Kevadia in Narmada district.
- ❖ A seaplane is a fixed-winged aeroplane designed for taking off and landing on water.
- ❖ It offers the public the speed of an aeroplane with the utility of a boat.
- ❖ There are two main types of seaplane: flying boats (often called hull seaplanes) and floatplanes.
- ❖ This is usually supplemented with smaller floats near the wingtips, called wing or tip floats.
- ❖ The hull of a flying boat holds the crew, passengers, and cargo.
- ❖ It has many features in common with the hull of a ship or a boat.



Price cap of masks

- ❖ Maharashtra State has emerged as the first state in the India to cap the prices of masks.
- ❖ The Prices are fixed by state-appointed committee.
- ❖ N95 masks will now be available at Rs 19 to Rs 49, while two-layer and three-layer masks will be available for Rs 3 to 4.
- ❖ In the state the mask will be available at the rate of 70% of the prescribed maximum selling price limit.

Anemia Mukh Bharat (AMB) Index

- ❖ The 'Anemia Mukh Bharat', an initiative of the Union Health Ministry and UNICEF, has been launched to reduce the prevalence of anemia all over India.
- ❖ Haryana State emerged as the best state in the AMB Index among all the 29 states in the country.
- ❖ The state has also achieved 93% of immunization in year 2019-2020 for the first time.
- ❖ AMB strategy focuses on to benefit six target beneficiary groups, through six interventions and six institutional mechanisms.
- ❖ The programme is aimed at achieving the target of anaemia reduction under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.



Evidence of River at Thar Desert

- ❖ The researchers from Anna University, IISER Kolkata and Max Planck Institute of Germany have found that the population of stone age lived in a different landscape in Thar desert.
- ❖ The researchers have found a lost river in the central Thar desert.
- ❖ The river would have supported populations of Paleolithic era.

Country's first multi-modal logistic park

- ❖ The Country's first-ever multi-modal logistic park will be built in Assam.
- ❖ It will be developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India.



PMGSY implementation report

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district has bagged top position among 30 districts of the country in successful implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh has also secured second position at the national level for construction of roads under PMGSY.
- ❖ PMGSY is a programme funded by the Union government to connect habitations having population of more than 250 in the state.

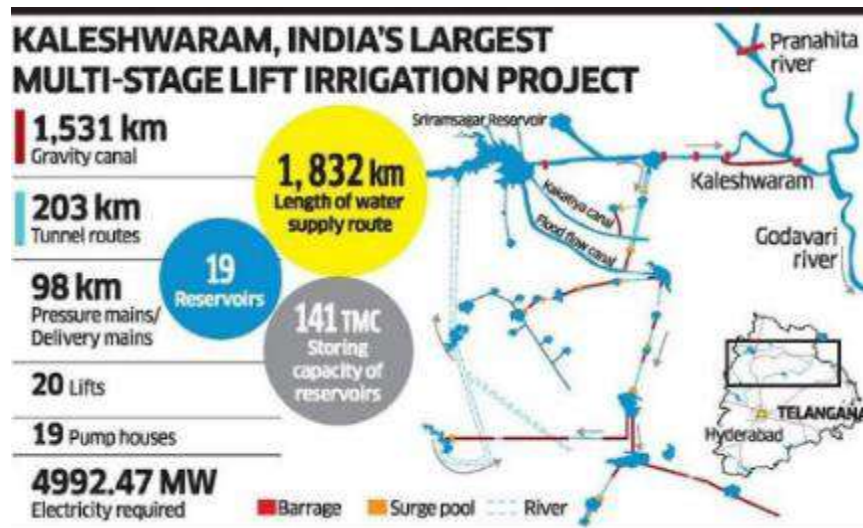
Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP)

- ❖ Originally called Pranahita-Chevella project in erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, it was redesigned, extended and renamed as Kaleshwaram project in Telangana in 2014.
- ❖ It is aimed to make Telangana drought proof by harnessing the flood waters of the Godavari.
- ❖ The project starts at the confluence point of Pranahita River and Godavari River.
- ❖ When completed, it will be the world's largest irrigation and drinking water system.
- ❖ The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has held that environmental clearance given to this project is "in violation of law".
- ❖ It was granted after completion of substantial work, by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- ❖ The ruling was delivered by a bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel.

Background

- ❖ Mission Kakatiya is a flagship programme of the Telangana government.

- ❖ The mission aims to rejuvenate water storage structures in order to help small and marginal farmers in the state.
- ❖ The Mission Bhagiratha aims to provide safe drinking water to every household in both cities and villages in the state of Telangana.



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

Ex-Union Minister Jaswant Singh passes away

- ❖ Jaswant Singh had served as India's foreign minister (1998), defence minister (2001) and finance minister (2002).
- ❖ He was one of the longest serving parliamentarians in the country.
- ❖ He was the candidate for the post of Vice president for the NDA in 2012.
- ❖ He is widely regarded for his handling of relations with the United States which were strained after the 1998 Indian nuclear tests.



Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize 2020

- ❖ The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2020 was announced by the Union Science and Technology Ministry.
- ❖ This prize is given to Indian scientists below the age of 45 for outstanding research in seven fields — Biology, Chemistry, Environment Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine and Physics.

Winners

Disciplines	Awardees
Biological Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Subhadeep Chatterjee, • Dr Vatsala Thirumalai
Chemical Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jyotirmayee Dash, • Dr Subi Jacob George
Earth, Atmosphere, Ocean and Planetary Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Abhijit Mukherjee • Dr Suryendu Dutta
Mathematics Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr UK Anandavardhanan, • Dr Rajat Subhra Hazra
Medicine Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Bushra Ateeq, • Dr Ritesh Agarwal
Physics Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Rajesh Ganapathy • Dr Surajit Dhara

Kuwait's emir passes away

- ❖ The ruler of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad-al Sabah passed away recently.
- ❖ With the emir's death, the 83 years prince Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been recognized by the cabinet to take Sabah-al Ahmad's place as the monarch of the country.



- ❖ Sheikh was sworn in as the emir on January 29, 2006.
- ❖ After the confirmation of the National Assembly and served as the ruler until his death on September 29, 2020.

- ❖ Emir was dubbed 'dean of Arab Diplomacy' for his efforts to restore relations with states that had backed Iraq during the 1990-1991 Gulf war when Kuwait was being invaded by the Iraqi forces.

Citizen Diplomacy Award

- ❖ India's Sehgal Foundation has been selected as a co-runner up of the prestigious Citizen Diplomacy Award.
- ❖ This is for its human rights and women's empowerment work in rural Indian communities.
- ❖ The fourth annual Citizen Diplomacy Award will be presented to Mohamed Amin Ahmed, founder, chairman and executive director of Average Mohamed.
- ❖ Sehgal Foundation, Tempe Sister Cities is the other co-runner up of the prestigious annual award.



Syeda Anwara Taimur passes away

- ❖ Syeda Anwara Taimur, the only woman chief minister of Assam passed away recently.
- ❖ She was also the only female Muslim chief minister of Assam and first female Muslim CM of any state.
- ❖ Taimur was four-time MLA and the member of Indian National congress.
- ❖ She was chief minister from December 6, 1980, to June 30, 1981.
- ❖ She served as public works department minister from 1983 to 1985.
- ❖ In 1988, she was nominated to the Rajya Sabha.

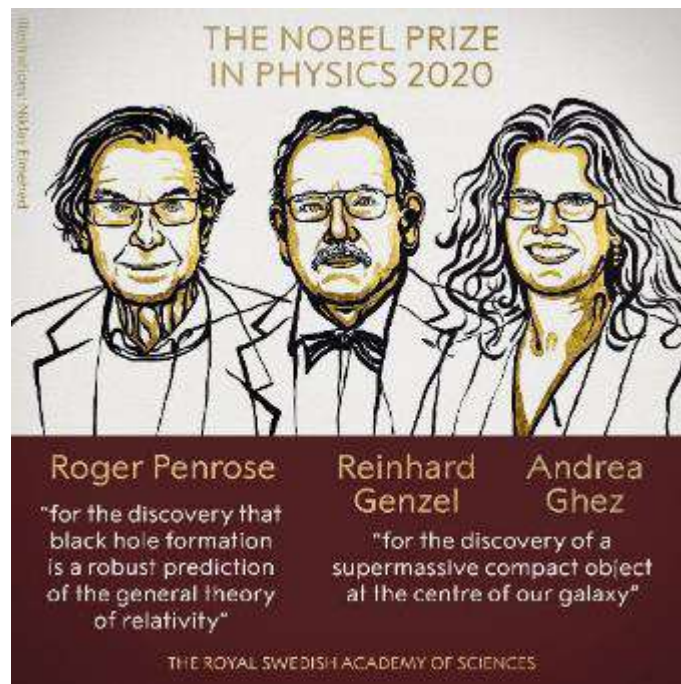


Nobel Prize 2020 for Physics

- ❖ The Nobel Prize 2020 in the Physics category has been awarded to Roger Penrose while the other half is jointly awarded to Andrea Ghez and Reinhard Genzel.
- ❖ The three scientists have been awarded the prestigious prize for their ground-breaking discoveries about the black holes.
- ❖ So far 4 women, including the latest winner Andrea Ghez have won the prestigious award since it was first given in 1901.

discoveries

- ❖ Penrose: discovery that the black hole formation is a robust prediction for the general theory of Relativity.
- ❖ Ghez and Genzel: An invisible and extremely heavy object governs the orbits of stars at the centre of our galaxy and a supermassive black hole is the only currently known explanation.



Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020

- ❖ The Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Skekhawat presented the Swachh Bharat Awards, 2020.
- ❖ The awards were given under cleanliness categories and drinking water category.
- ❖ Awards were conferred under three categories which are:
 - Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) campaign
 - Samudayik Shauchalaya Abhiyan (SSA)
 - Gandagi Se Mukh (GMB) campaign

- ❖ Under SSSS campaign
 - Best State: Gujarat
 - Best District: Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu
 - Best Block: Khachrod, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
 - Best Gram Panchayat: Chinnor, (Salem)
- ❖ Under SSA
 - Best State: Uttar Pradesh (GKRA) and Gujarat (Non-Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan)
 - Best District: Prayagraj (GKRA) and Bareilly (Non-GKRA)
 - Best Gram Panchayat: Borigaon, Bongaigaon, Assam.
- ❖ Under GMB
 - Best State: Telangana and Haryana.
 - Best District: Moga (Punjab).

Right Livelihood Award 2020

- ❖ The Right Livelihood Award Foundation has announced the four winners of the 2020 Right Livelihood Award 2020.
- ❖ It is also known as the alternative Nobel Prize of Stockholm.
- ❖ The four winners shared the 2020 award for their contribution towards equality, democracy, justice and freedom.
 - Ales Bialiatski of Belarus,
 - Nasrin Sotoudeh of Iran,
 - Bryan Stevenson of the United States and
 - Lottie Cunningham Wren of Nicaragua.



UNSDG Action Award 2020

- ❖ CII Foundation's work on crop residue management has been awarded the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG) Action Award by UNDP.

- ❖ This was awarded under the category 'Integration, Convergence, Joint Action and Holistic Solution Approach – Industry'.

2020 Gandhi award

- ❖ Rajya Sabha MP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Sanjay Singh has been selected for the 'Gandhi Award' 2020.
- ❖ It is instituted by the Mahatma Gandhi National Foundation.
- ❖ He was instrumental in India's diplomatic intervention to remove Mahatma Gandhi's images on beer bottles of a private company in Israel.

Nobel Peace Prize 2020

- ❖ Nobel Peace Prize 2020 has been presented to the World Food Programme (WFP).
- ❖ This recognise its efforts to combat hunger, for its contribution to bettering conditions for peace in conflict-affected areas.
- ❖ It has been acting as a driving force in efforts to prevent the use of hunger as a weapon of war and conflict.
- ❖ This programme was established in 1963 at the Food and Agriculture Organization held in 1960.
- ❖ It aims to provide food aid in emergency situations and also build resilience for food security.
- ❖ In 2008, the WFP organised purchase for progress (P4P) project.
- ❖ It is aimed at assisting smallholding farmers by providing them opportunities to access agricultural market.



Nobel Prize for the chemistry

- ❖ French-American duo Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna have been awarded the 2020 Nobel Prize for the chemistry.
- ❖ They are recognised for the development of a method for genome editing-CRISPR.
- ❖ The CRISPR is an acronym for Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats, developed in the year 2012.
- ❖ It has made gene editing very easy and simple, and at the same time extremely efficient.
- ❖ It can be used for a lot of diseases and disorders, including some forms of cancer, that are caused by an undesired genetic mutation.
- ❖ For the first time in History, the Nobel Prize for chemistry has been given to two women jointly.



1st Edition of National Startup awards

- ❖ The first edition of National Start-up Awards (2020) were announced by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
- ❖ The Awards invited applications across 12 sectors, which are Agriculture, Education, Enterprise Technology, Energy, Finance, Food, Health, Industry 4.0, Space, Security, Tourism and Urban Services.
- ❖ A total of 38 start-ups were awarded, one in each of the 35 categories and 3 special categories in the 12 sectors.

Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology



- ❖ Two American scientists Harvey J Alter and Charles M Rice and a British scientist Michael Houghton were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology.

- ❖ The award has been conferred to them for the discovery of the hepatitis C virus.
- ❖ The trio's work helped explain a major source of blood-borne hepatitis that couldn't be explained by the hepatitis A and B viruses.
- ❖ Due to their discovery, highly sensitive blood tests for the virus are now available and these have essentially eliminated post-transfusion hepatitis in many parts of the world, greatly improving global health.
- ❖ Their discovery has allowed the rapid development of antiviral drugs directed at hepatitis C and for the first time in history, the disease can now be cured.



About Hepatitis:

- ❖ Hepatitis is an inflammation of the liver.
- ❖ The condition can be self-limiting or can progress to fibrosis (scarring), cirrhosis or liver cancer.
- ❖ Hepatitis viruses are the most common cause of hepatitis but other infections, toxic substances and auto immune diseases can also cause hepatitis. There are five main types of hepatitis viruses namely A, B, C, D and E.
- ❖ Hepatitis A and E are typically caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water.
- ❖ Hepatitis B, C and D are transmitted through unsafe blood transfusions or contaminated needles/syringes, sexual-transmission or even mother-to-child transmission.
- ❖ Hepatitis A and B are preventable by vaccine.
- ❖ There is no vaccine for Hepatitis C.
- ❖ However, it can be treated with antiviral medication.

Nobel Prize in Medicine

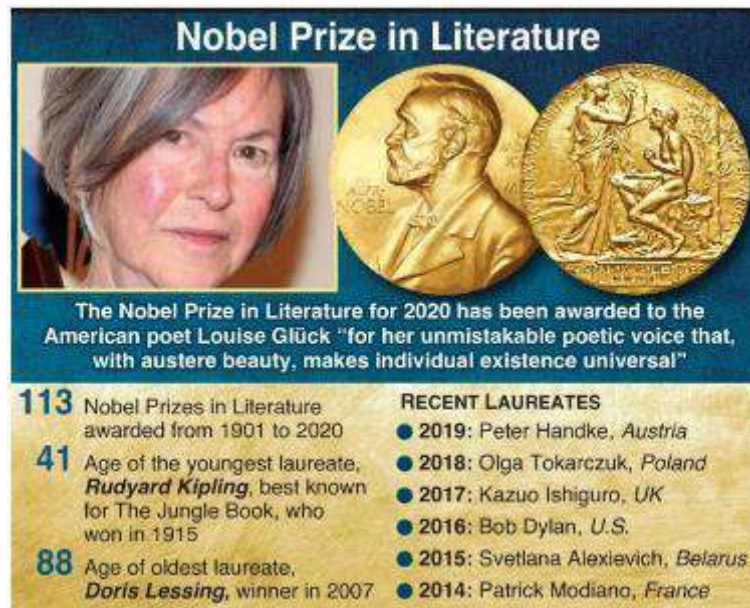



Harvey Alter (USA, left), Michael Houghton (UK, centre) and Charles Rice (USA, right) share the Nobel Prize for their discovery of the virus Hepatitis C, which causes cirrhosis and liver cancer

<p>111 Nobel Prizes in Medicine awarded from 1901 to 2020</p> <p>32 Age of youngest laureate, Frederick G. Banting, awarded in 1923 for discovery of insulin</p> 	<p>12 Women awarded Medicine Prize to date</p> <p>87 Age of oldest laureate, Peyton Rous, awarded in 1966 for discovery of tumour-inducing viruses</p> 
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Nobel Prize 2020 for Literature

- ❖ Nobel Prize 2020 in Literature has been awarded to 77 years old American poet Louise Glück.
- ❖ This recognised her unmistakable poetic voice that with austere beauty makes individual existence universal.
- ❖ She has received many awards including Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1993), Bollingen Prize (2001), US Poet Laureate (2003–2004), National Book Award (2014) and National Humanities Medal (2015).



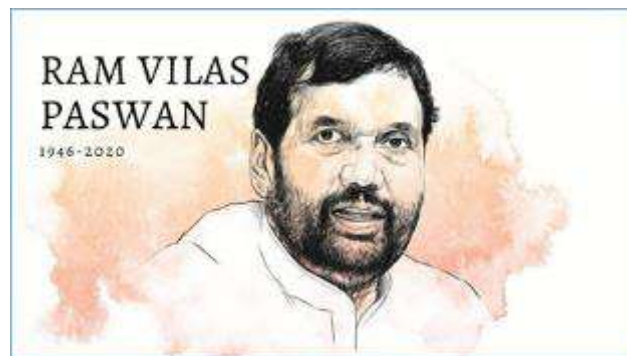
1st woman director for WTO

- ❖ The selection committee of the WTO has announced that South Korea's Yoo Myung-hee and Nigeria's Ngozi Okonjo Iweala are the two finalists to become the next Director General.
- ❖ The WTO was established under the Marrakesh Agreement in 1995.
- ❖ The highest authority of WTO is the Ministerial Conference.
- ❖ The first ministerial conference was held in Singapore which meets every two years.



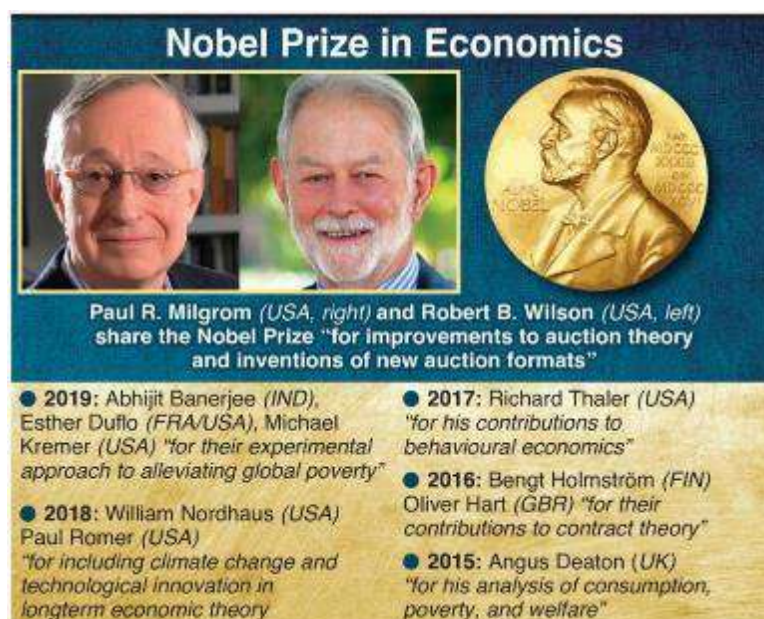
Ram vilas paswan passed away

- ❖ Union Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs (from 26 May 2014) Ram Vilas Paswan passed away recently.
- ❖ Paswan became a member of Bihar Legislative Assembly in 1969.
- ❖ He was elected to Lok Sabha for the first time as Janata Party member in 1977.
- ❖ He held the World record for winning the election by highest margin.
- ❖ He was re-elected five consecutive times from Hajipur constituency in Bihar.
- ❖ He formed Lok Janshakti Party in 2000.
- ❖ He became a Minister of Mines in the first National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government (2001-2002).
- ❖ Paswan joined Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) in 2004 and again became a union minister till 2009.



Nobel prize in economics

- ❖ Two American economists Paul R Milgrom and Robert B Wilson jointly won this year's Nobel Prize in Economics.



- ❖ They are awarded for improvements to auction theory and inventions of new auction formats.
- ❖ They have used their insights to design new auction formats for goods and services that are difficult to sell in a traditional way, such as radio frequencies.
- ❖ Their discoveries have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world.

Earthshot Prize launch

- ❖ Britain's Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge, launched a new 50-million-pound Earthshot Prize.
- ❖ It is aimed at funding the most innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- ❖ The Earthshot Prize is centred around five "Earthshots", simple but ambitious goals for our planet.
- ❖ The five Earthshots unveiled this week include protect and restore nature; clean our air; revive our oceans; build a waste-free world; and fix our climate.
- ❖ Prizes could be awarded to anyone whose workable solutions make a substantial contribution to achieving the Earthshots.

Fleet award 2020

- ❖ It was organised to mark the successful culmination of the Operational Cycle of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam.
- ❖ Sixteen trophies were awarded in recognition of excellence in various operational verticals.
- ❖ The most coveted trophies of Best Ship were awarded to INS Sahyadri amongst Capital ships and INS Kora amongst Corvettes and similar classes of ships.
- ❖ Indian Naval Ships Airavat and Kiltan jointly bagged the 'Best Spirited Ship' displaying indomitable spirit and grit whilst undertaking a plethora of challenging missions.



New 100 Rs coin of Vijaya Raje Scindia

- ❖ Prime Minister released Rs 100 commemorative coin in the honour of Vijaya Raje Scindia on October 12, 2020, on the occasion of her 100th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Vijaya Raje Scindia, also popularly known as the Rajmata of Gwalior, was one of the founding members of the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ❖ She was the wife of the last ruling Maharaja of Gwalior, Jivajirao Scindia and was ranked among the highest royal figures of the land.
- ❖ She was elected repeatedly to both houses of the Indian parliament.



Lifetime achievement award in US

- ❖ Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ It is the recognition of his work in the U.S. for meeting the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness.
- ❖ Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually.
- ❖ It aims to honour people who have tirelessly worked to ensure that all children may have what most take for granted: safety, shelter, and a future.



Wildlife Photographer of the Year Award 2020

- ❖ Aishwarya Sridhar of Maharashtra is the First Indian to win this award.
- ❖ Her photo was titled as Lights of Passion.

- ❖ The Photo focussed on endangered fireflies deep inside the Western Ghats.
- ❖ She won the award under the 'Behaviour-Invertebrates' category.
- ❖ It is an annual international wildlife photography competition owned by the Natural History Museum of London.



50 Most Influential Indian 2020

- ❖ Pravir Krishna (IAS) is one of the handful bureaucrats to have made it to that list.
- ❖ He is currently serving as MD of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED).
- ❖ The List was compiled by Fame India magazine, Asia Post and PSU Watch.

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

2020 Russian Grand Prix

- ❖ The 2020 Russian Grand Prix was held in Russia.
- ❖ The race was won by Valtteri Bottas of the Mercedes team, with Max Verstappen of Red Bull placing 2nd, and Lewis Hamilton taking the final podium place.



French Open 2020

- ❖ Rafael Nadal (Spain) beats Novak Djokovic (Serbia) to win the men's 2020 French Open Title.
- ❖ This is his 13th French Open men's singles title and 20th Grand Slam title.
- ❖ Under female category of the French Open 2020, Iga Swiatek won the title.
- ❖ She was the first player from Poland to win a Grand Slam.



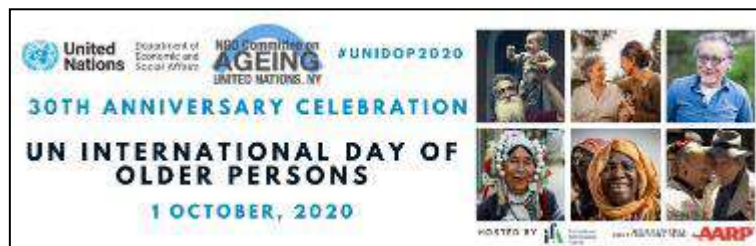
Lewis Hamilton's Record

- ❖ 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

International Day of Older Persons – October 01

- ❖ The year 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary of the International Day of Older Persons.
- ❖ It aims to recognize the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.
- ❖ The theme of the 2020 commemoration is “Pandemics: Do They Change How We Address Age and Ageing?”.



National Anti Drug Addiction Day – October 02

- ❖ It was observed to mark the birth anniversary of Gandhi who condemned the use of drugs.
- ❖ The aim of the day is to make India free from drug and to preserve the talent.



World Space Week – October 4/10

- ❖ The World Space Week is the largest space event on the Earth.
- ❖ The World Space Week was launched on October 4, 1957.
- ❖ The date was selected to mark the launch of first human – made earth satellite, Sputnik 1.
- ❖ Sputnik was the first human made satellite that was launched into the space in 1957 by Soviet Union.
- ❖ This year the theme is “Satellites Improve Life.”



World Teachers' Day - October 05

- ❖ World Teachers' Day commemorates the anniversary of the adoption of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers.
- ❖ The day is observed annually on 5 October since 1994.
- ❖ The World Teachers' Day is co-convened in partnership with UNICEF, the International Labour Organization and Education International.

World Architecture Day - October 05

- ❖ The World Architecture Day is celebrated on the first Monday of October in parallel with UN World Habitat Day.
- ❖ This day was created in 1985 by the Union International des Architects.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Toward a better urban future".



World Day for Farmed Animals - October 2

- ❖ It was celebrated by the International animals' welfare organization, World Animal Protection along with the Asia for Animals coalition.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise awareness among people that intensive animal farming and poor treatment of farm animals can lead to a pandemic-level threat to humans.
- ❖ The day is being organised by the Farm Animal Rights Movement (FARM) since 1983.

World Sight Day – October 08

- ❖ It is observed on the second Thursday of October and this year it falls on 8 October.
- ❖ The day aims to spotlight global attention on vision impairment and blindness.
- ❖ The International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness features a leadership role in preparing the annual World Sight Day across the World.
- ❖ The theme of World Sight Day 2020 is "Hope in Sight".



Indian Air Force day – October 08

- ❖ It is celebrated on 8 October and this year marks the 88th anniversary of Indian Air Force Day.
- ❖ Indian Air Force Day was first observed in the year 1932.
- ❖ It aims to increase the awareness of the Indian Air Force in any organisation of the national security both officially and publicly.
- ❖ Indian Air Force is also known as “Bhartiya Vayu Sena”.
- ❖ It is categorised into five operational and two functional commands.



- ❖ The operations carried out by it are Operation Meghdoot, Operation Vijay – the invasion of Goa, Operation Cactus, and Operation Poomalai.
- ❖ The Indian Air Force functions with the motto “Touching the Sky with Glory”

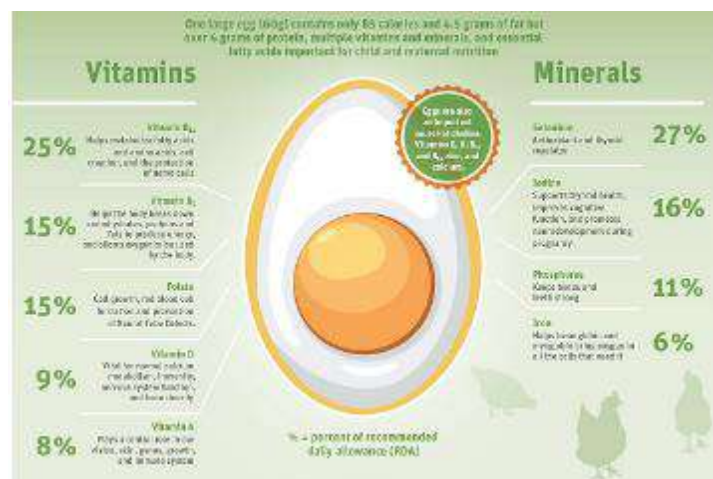
Rapid Action Force Raising Day – October 09

- ❖ Rapid Action Force (RAF) was created as a specialised wing of CRPF in 1992.
- ❖ It is tasked to tackle riot and riot-like situations that too with promptness and less application of physical force.
- ❖ It is popularly known as Zero - time response Force.
- ❖ RAF has been acting in accordance with its own tag-line ‘Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing.’



World Egg Day – October 09

- ❖ The day is celebrated in order to raise awareness about the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition.
- ❖ The day was established at IEC (International Egg Commission) in Vienna in 1996 conference.
- ❖ On this day, it was decided that World Egg Day will be celebrated on second Friday in October every year.
- ❖ Theme of this year is Eat Your Egg Today and Every day.



World Post Day - October 09

- ❖ It marks the anniversary of the establishment of Universal Postal Union (UPU) across the World.
- ❖ UPU was established in 1874 in Bern, Switzerland.
- ❖ It was declared as the World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969.
- ❖ World Post Day 2020's theme is "We Have Always Delivered".
- ❖ The Government of India is celebrating National Postal week from 9th – 15th October, 2020.



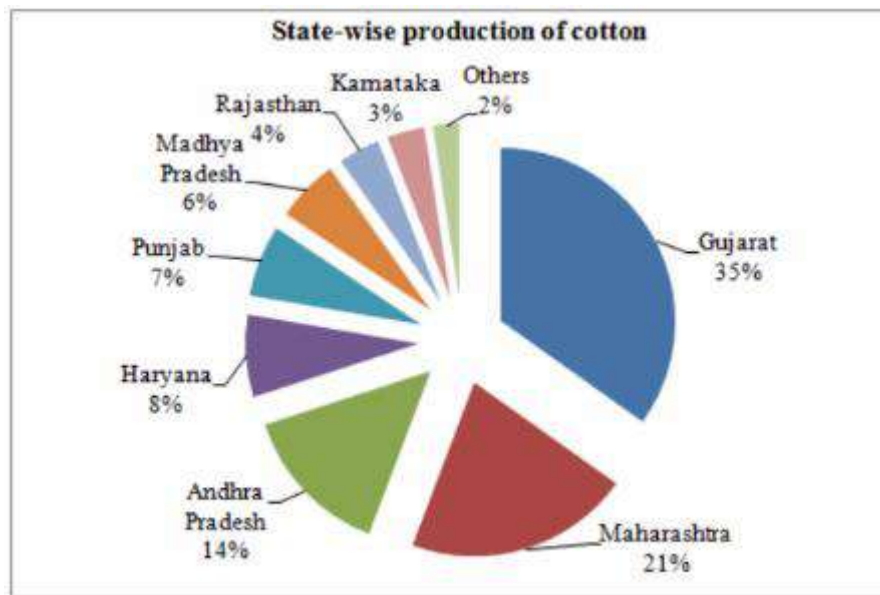
World Day Against Death Penalty – October 10

- ❖ This day aims to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty and to raise awareness of the conditions and the circumstances which affect prisoners with death sentences.
- ❖ The day was first organised by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty in 2003.
- ❖ On 26 September 2007, the Council of Europe also declared 10 October to be the European Day Against the Death Penalty.



World Cotton Day – October 07

- ❖ World Cotton Day (WCD) is observed globally on 7th October since 2019.
- ❖ The international day aims to recognize the importance of cotton as a global commodity grown in over 75 countries across five continents.
- ❖ The day was inaugurated by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva.



Source: Ministry of Agriculture, GoI

- ❖ WCD Day was initiated by the Group of Cotton-4 countries namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali.
- ❖ About 80 per cent of the world's production comes from Brazil, China, India, Pakistan, the United States and Uzbekistan.
- ❖ India amounts to approximately 23% of the world cotton.

World Mental Health Day – October 10

- ❖ It aims to raising awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.
- ❖ The Day provides an opportunity for all stakeholders working on mental health issues to talk about their work, and what more needs to be done to make mental health care a reality for people worldwide.
- ❖ The first one was started in 1992 at the initiative of the World Federation for Mental Health.
- ❖ This year's theme is "Mental Health for All" and an increased investment in mental health.

World Migratory Bird Day – October 10

- ❖ World Migratory Bird Day is celebrated by people across the world on second Saturday of October.
- ❖ It aims to bring attention to the need of conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.
- ❖ The global programme helps raise awareness about the numerous threats faced by the birds.

- ❖ In 2006, the United Nations decided to observe World Migratory Bird Day on two particular dates in a year – the second Saturday in May and October.
- ❖ This year, it is celebrated on 9 May and 10 October.
- ❖ Theme of this year is “Birds Connect Our World”.



International Day of the Girl Child – October 11



- ❖ UN General Assembly on December 19, 2011 declared October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child.
- ❖ The day has been dedicated to the welfare of the girl child internationally.
- ❖ This year's theme will be “My Voice, Our Equal Future”.

World Arthritis Day – October 12

- ❖ World Arthritis Day is observed to raise awareness about Arthritis around the world.
- ❖ The theme of the World Arthritis Day 2020 is “It's in Your Hands, Take Action”.
- ❖ Arthritis is not a single disease but a collection of more than 100 different conditions that affect the joints, tissues around joints, and other connective tissues.



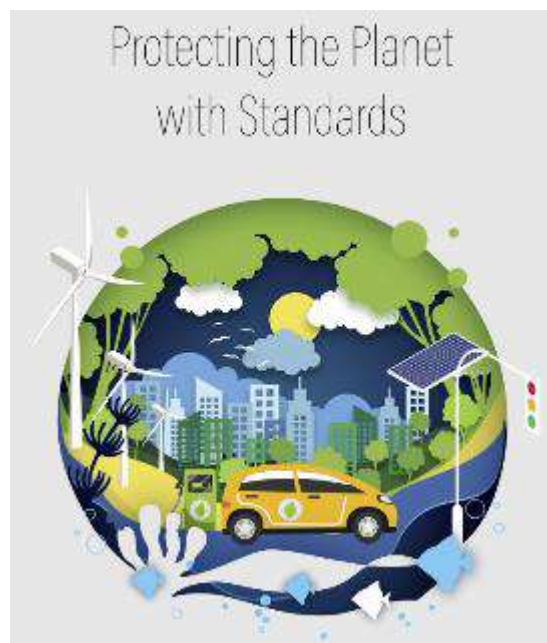
International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction – October 13

- ❖ It aims to how people and communities across the world are reducing their exposure to disasters.
- ❖ It spread awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.
- ❖ The theme of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2020 is “it’s all about governance”.



World Standards Day – October 14, 2020

- ❖ It aims to pay tribute to the collaborative efforts of the thousands of experts across the world who develop the voluntary technical agreements that are published as International Standards.
- ❖ The day raises awareness about the importance of standardization to the global economy among the consumers, regulators, and industry.
- ❖ It was first observed in 1970.
- ❖ The theme of World Standards Day 2020 is "Protecting the planet with standards."



International Day of Rural Women – October 15

- ❖ The first International Day of Rural Women was observed on 15 October 2008.
- ❖ The role of rural women is important to fulfil the vision of SDG – Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ The theme for this International Day of Rural Women is “Building rural women’s resilience in the wake of COVID-19”.

World Students' Day – October 15

- ❖ World Students' Day is celebrated every year on October 15 on former Indian president APJ Abdul Kalam's birthday.
- ❖ In 2010, the United Nations declared October 15 to be World Students' Day.
- ❖ He was the 11th President of India (2002-2007).
- ❖ Being a politician, he was a scientist and a teacher.
- ❖ He played a crucial role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998 and so, he earned the title 'Missile Man of India'.



World Food Day – October 16

- ❖ World Food Day is annually held on October 16 to commemorate the founding of the United Nations' (UN) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- ❖ The aim is to ensure food security and nutritious diets for all.
- ❖ It was founded in October 1945.
- ❖ This year marks the 75th anniversary of FAO.
- ❖ Theme of the year: Grow, Nourish, Sustain. Together.



Global Handwashing Day – October 15

- ❖ The global campaign is dedicated to raising awareness of handwashing with soap as a key factor in disease prevention.
- ❖ The first Global Handwashing Day was held in 2008.
- ❖ This year's Global Handwashing Day theme is "Hand Hygiene for all".



International E-Waste Day - October 15

- ❖ The third International E-Waste Day was observed on 2020.
- ❖ The day is being observed by the Waste Electrical and Electronic Forum (WEEF) since 2018.
- ❖ This year, the day is observed on the theme: Education.

Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas - October 15

- ❖ It is celebrated to recognize the contribution of women farmers in various aspects of agriculture.
- ❖ Rashtriya Mahila Kisan Diwas has been observed since 2016 by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- ❖ An e-book on 'Inspiring Stories of Progressive Women Farmers' was released during this year celebration.
- ❖ Two Short Films 'Mahila Krishak and her Contribution in Agriculture' & 'Global Examples of Successful Women Farmers' were launched.

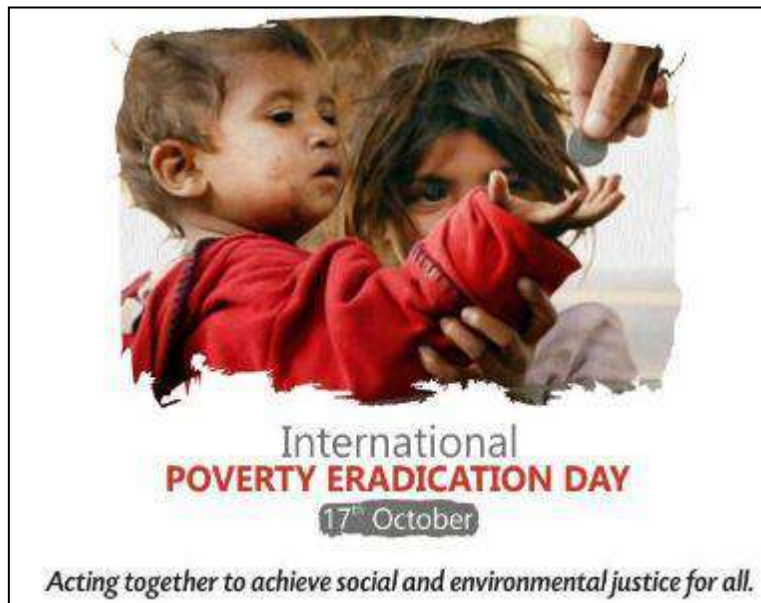
World Allergy Awareness Day - October 16

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness of the impact of allergy in our communities.
- ❖ An allergy is a hypersensitivity disorder of the immune system.

- ❖ Allergic reactions can happen when a person's immune system reacts to normally harmless substances in the environment.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty - October 17

- ❖ The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty can be traced back to 17 October, 1987 in Paris.
- ❖ On 22 December of 1992, the General Assembly declared 17 October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.
- ❖ The theme of 2020 is "Acting together to achieve social and environmental justice for all".



NSG foundation day - October 15

- ❖ The National Security Guard (NSG) is an elite counter-terrorism unit under the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ It was founded on 15 October 1984, following Operation Blue Star, Golden Temple attack and the assassination of Indira Gandhi.
- ❖ It is tasked "for combating terrorist activities and protect states against internal disturbances".
- ❖ National Security Guard personnel are sometimes referred as the Black Cats.
- ❖ The NSG has set five regional hubs under regional deployment such as Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Gandhinagar.
- ❖ Its significant operations are Black Thunder, Ashwamedh, Combat missions in Jammu and Kashmir, Vajra Shakti and Black Tornado.

Intellectual Property Literacy Week - October 15 to 23

- ❖ Intellectual Property Literacy Week is observed from October 15 to 23.
- ❖ It aims to promote awareness in the field of Intellectual Property rights
- ❖ The Union Education Ministry's Institution Innovation Council (IIC) is conducting the Intellectual Property Literacy Week.
- ❖ The council has also presented IIC 2.0 annual report.
- ❖ Also, the launch of IIC 3.0 was also held.

14th India-International Food and Agri Week

- ❖ The India-International Food and Agri Week is observed from 16th October to 22nd October 2020.
- ❖ The aim of this India-International Food and Agri Week is to create a platform for the benefit of the stakeholders in Agri and allied sectors.
- ❖ Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has organized its first-ever CII Agro and food tech: India International Food and Agri on CII HIVE virtual platform.



3rd World Statistics Day - October 20

- ❖ In February 2010, the United Nations Statistical Commission proposed the World Statistics Day.
- ❖ It aims to recognise the importance of statistics for the progress of the world.
- ❖ 20 October 2010 was observed as the first ever World Statistics Day.
- ❖ It is celebrated every five years.
- ❖ The theme of 2020 is "Connecting the world with data we can trust."



National Solidarity Day – October 20

- ❖ This day is observed to honour the Armed Forces, who protect our extensive borders.
- ❖ It is also to remember the national integrity shown by Indian on the occasion at Sino - Indo war against China.
- ❖ On 20th October 1962, the Indo-china war began when army of China attacked India.



World Osteoporosis Day – October 20

- ❖ The day is celebrated to raise global awareness of the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of osteoporosis and metabolic bone disease.
- ❖ It is organized by the International Osteoporosis Foundation.
- ❖ This year theme is “THAT’S OSTEOPOROSIS”.
- ❖ Osteoporosis causes bones to become weak and fragile so that they break easily – even as a result of a minor fall, a bump, a sneeze, or a sudden movement.



International Chef's Day – October 20

- ❖ The day aims to celebrate and honour the noble profession and educate people around the world about eating healthy.
- ❖ The theme of International Chefs Day 2020 campaign is “Healthy Food for the Future”.

- ❖ International Chefs Day was created by Dr Bill Gallagher, a renowned chef and the former president of the World Association of Chefs Societies (World Chefs), in 2004.

National deworming day – October 20

- ❖ National Deworming Day is celebrated on February 10 and October 20 in India.
- ❖ It aims to create awareness about the Soil Transmitted Helminths and its ill effects.
- ❖ India accounts to 28% of total number of global children between the age of 1 and 14 years of age at risk of Soil Transmitted Helminths.
- ❖ This is about 68% of children in India.



Iodine Deficiency Disorders Day – October 21

- ❖ World Iodine Deficiency Day is also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) Prevention Day.
- ❖ The aim of this day is to generate awareness of the adequate use of iodine and to highlight the consequences of iodine deficiency
- ❖ Iodine is stored in the thyroid gland of our body.
- ❖ It is an essential dietary mineral.
- ❖ In 1993, for controlling IDD, a primary intervention strategy that is universal salt iodization was adopted.

Police Commemoration Day – October 21

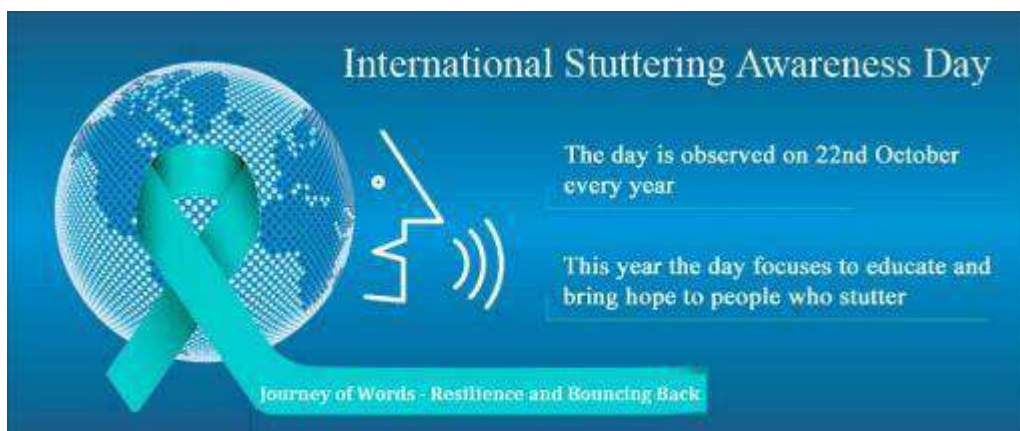
- ❖ The day is observed to honor the loyalty and supreme sacrifice of police personnel for the nation.
- ❖ The day is observed to pay homage to the CRPF personnel who lost their lives during an ambush by the Chinese troops in 1959 in the hot spring area of Ladakh region.

World Energy Day - October 22

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness of global energy-related issues.
- ❖ It was first proclaimed at the World Energy Forum 2012.
- ❖ Under the theme of Connecting Energy Societies, this year's World Energy Week took place as a digital-only event from 7-9 October.

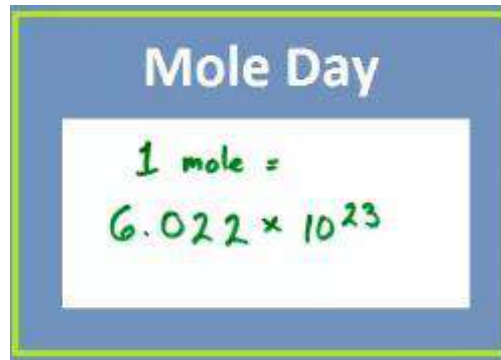
International Stuttering Awareness Day - October 22

- ❖ Stuttering is a communication disorder in which repetitions — or abnormal stoppages of sounds and syllables — break the flow of speech.
- ❖ The Sea Green colour ribbon is used to represent stuttering awareness.
- ❖ Theme of this year is "Journey of Words - Resilience and Bouncing Back".



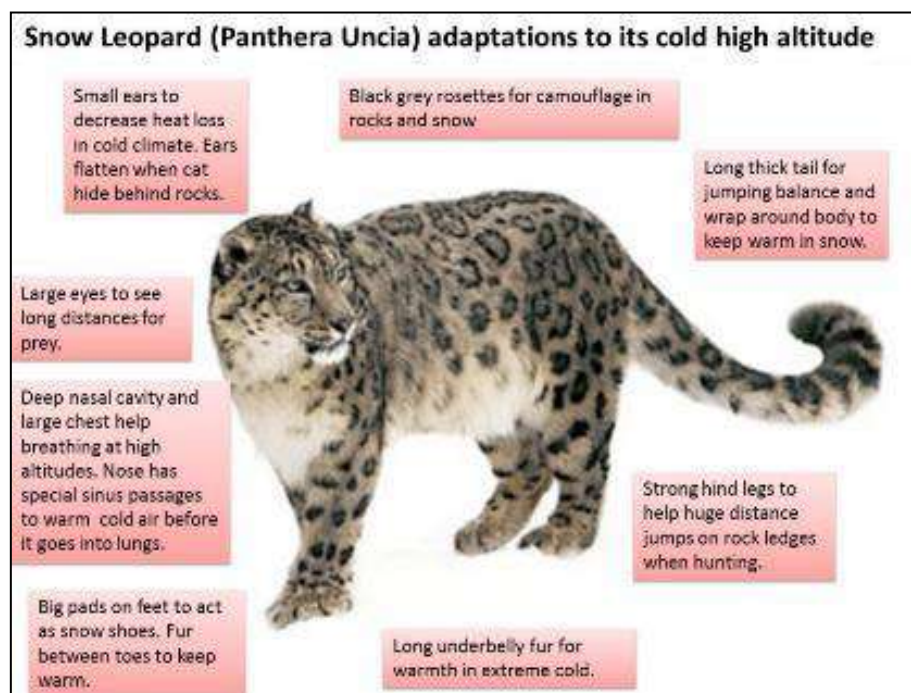
National Mole Day - October 23

- ❖ It is celebrated every year on 23 October from 6:02 a.m. to 6:02 p.m.
- ❖ The theme of Mole Day 2020 is 'MOLEzilla!'
- ❖ The day commemorates Avogadro's Number (6.02×10^{23}).
- ❖ It is a basic unit of measuring in chemistry.
- ❖ It is to define the number of particles present in a single mole of any substance.
- ❖ Mole is one of all the seven base SI units.



International Snow Leopard Day - October 23

- ❖ Snow Leopard is called Man's Best Friend.
- ❖ The first International Snow Leopard Day was celebrated in 2014.
- ❖ It was proclaimed at the first Global Snow Leopard Forum held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Programme was initiated by Kyrgyzstan Government.
- ❖ The programme secures 20 snow leopard landscapes under the "Secure 20 by 2020" initiative.
- ❖ India is a signatory of the programme.
- ❖ The other countries that have signed the programme are China, Uzbekistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.
- ❖ All these countries are in the Snow Leopard ranges.
- ❖ These countries signed the Bishek Declaration



- ❖ The year 2015 was declared as the International Year of Snow Leopard.
- ❖ India has 10% of global snow leopard population.
- ❖ It is listed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in India.
- ❖ Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009 in India.
- ❖ The project was launched in states where the population of snow leopard are found.
- ❖ They are Arunachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

United Nations Day - October 24

- ❖ The United Nations came into Existence on October 24, 1945.
- ❖ It marks the anniversary of UN Charter coming in to force.
- ❖ This year 2020 marks 75 years of successful functioning of the United Nations.
- ❖ Theme of this year is 'The Future We Want, UN We Need: Reaffirming our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism'.
- ❖ The Day is also called World War II Allies Day.
- ❖ The Allies of World War called for establishing the United Nations in 1942.
- ❖ The decisions of the allies were controlled by UK, Soviet Union and United States.
- ❖ These three countries were then referred as “Big Three”.
- ❖ Along with China, the four countries are referred to as “Four Policemen of the United Nations”.
- ❖ They together opposed the Axis powers during the second world war.
- ❖ The Axis powers were Japan, German and Italy.



World Day for Audio visual Heritage – October 27

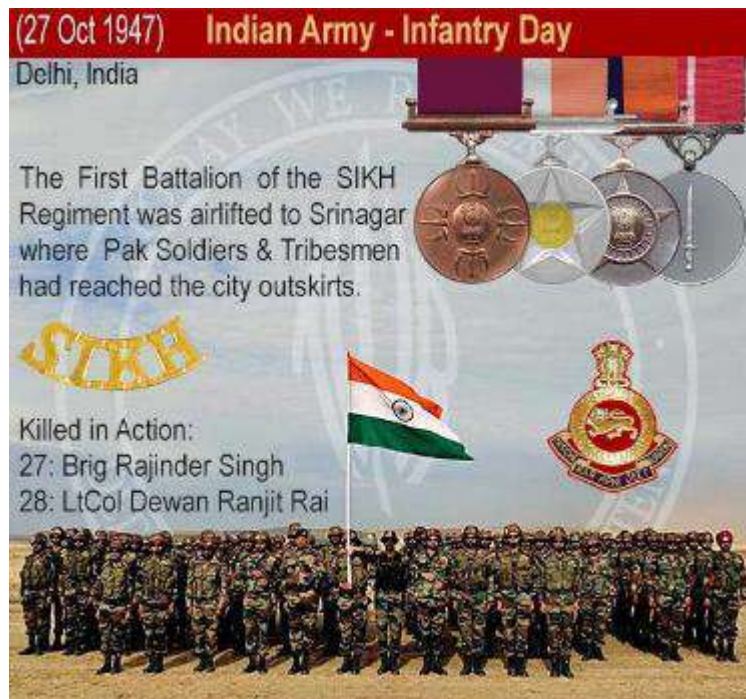
- ❖ It is a key initiative for both UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audio-visual Archives Associations (CCAAA) to honour audio visual preservation professionals and institutions that safeguard our heritage for future generations.

- ❖ This year, the theme of the World Day for Audio visual Heritage is "Your Window to the World".



Infantry Day – October 27

- ❖ The Infantry Day is observed every year in India on 27 October to commemorate supreme sacrifices made by Indian Army's infantry against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) in 1947.
- ❖ It was first infantry action by Indian Army after independence.
- ❖ Observance of the day also commemorates infantry's exceptional courage and dedicated service to nation.



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.



59th ITBP Raising Day - October 24

- ❖ The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) is India's primary border patrol organization with its border with Tibet (China).
- ❖ The ITBP was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Chinese aggression.
- ❖ It was raised on 24 October 1962, under the CRPF Act.
- ❖ It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India (CAPF) or Paramilitary Forces of India.
- ❖ CAPF refers to uniform nomenclature of five security forces in India under the authority of Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ Their role is to defend the national interest mainly against the internal threats.



- ❖ They are the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Assam Rifles (AR) and National Security Guard.

International Day of Diplomats - October 24

- ❖ It is also the United Nations Day.
- ❖ It was first celebrated in Brasília on 24 October 2017.
- ❖ It was first proposed by Indian Poet-Diplomat Abhay K.
- ❖ India observes October 9 as the Indian Foreign Service Day.
- ❖ It is being observed since 2011 to commemorate the day when the Foreign Service was created by the Indian Cabinet in 1946.

World Stroke Day – October 29

- ❖ Stroke is the world's second most common cause of death.
- ❖ The annual event was started in 2006 by the World Stroke Organization (WSO).
- ❖ The WSO declared stroke a public health emergency in 2010.

International Internet Day – October 29

- ❖ The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969.
- ❖ Charley Kline, a student programmer at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), transmitted the first-ever electronic message.
- ❖ The message sent was the word "login".

World Thrift Day/ Savings Day – October 30

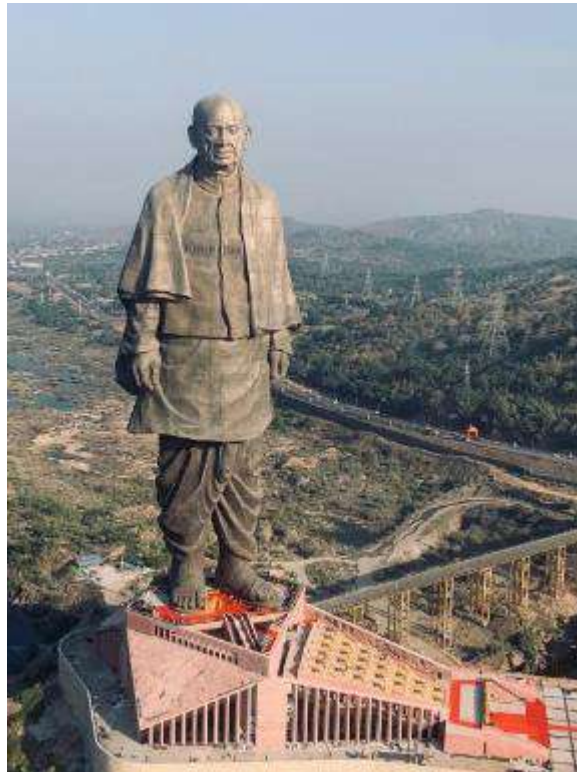
- ❖ October 31 was declared World Thrift Day at the end of the first International Thrift Congress in 1924 in Milan, Italy.
- ❖ In India, due to the death of late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on October 31, 1984, this day is celebrated on 30th October.
- ❖ It aims to promote the importance of savings for the country's economy and the individuals.
- ❖ The 2020 theme is "When you save a bit, big things follow."



World Cities Day – October 31

- ❖ 2020 is the seventh global celebration since the day was launched on 31 October 2014 in Shanghai, China.
- ❖ The 2020 theme is 'Valuing our communities and cities'.

National Unity Day – October 31



- ❖ It was introduced by the Government of India in 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of Iron Man of India - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- ❖ He is also famous as an Iron Man of India.
- ❖ He was the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.
- ❖ Patel played a crucial role in the integration of India from 560 princely states.
- ❖ On Patel's 143rd anniversary in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.
- ❖ It is the world's tallest statue with a height of 182 metres (597 feet).
- ❖ It is located on the Narmada River in the Kevadiya colony and faces the Sardar Sarovar Dam.

MISCELLANEOUS

World Risk Report 2020

- ❖ According to the World Risk Index (WRI) 2020, India has been ranked at the 89th spot among 181 Countries.
- ❖ WRI has been developed in cooperation with the United Nations University's Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNUEHS) and calculated by the International Law of Peace and Armed Conflict (IFHV).
- ❖ Vanuatu and Tonga topped in the list while Qatar at last.
- ❖ WRI is part of the World Risk Report 2020 with special focus on "Forced Displacement and Migration
- ❖ India is behind Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Maldives in terms of abilities to cope with extreme disasters, lack of adaptive capacities and the preparedness to deal with extreme events.
- ❖ The Global Hotspots are in Oceania, South East Asia, Central America, West and Central Africa.

NSO Time Use Survey 2019

- ❖ The National Statistical Office conducted the first Time Use survey between January 2019 and December 2019.
- ❖ According to the survey, 92% of Indian Women and only 27% of men participate in employment related activities.
- ❖ Only 22% of Indian women participated in employment related activities.

Participation data

- ❖ The employment related activities in
 - Rural area - Male: 69.7% and Female: 22.5%
 - Urban Area - Male: 73% and Female: 19.9%
- ❖ The unpaid domestic works in
 - Rural area - Male: 29.2% and Female: 93.2%.
 - Urban Area - Male: 22.5% and Female: 88.8%
- ❖ The Percentage that participated in unpaid domestic activities were the highest in Assam, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh.

Where India spends time

CHART 1 SHARE OF TIME SPENT IN 24 HOURS PER PERSON

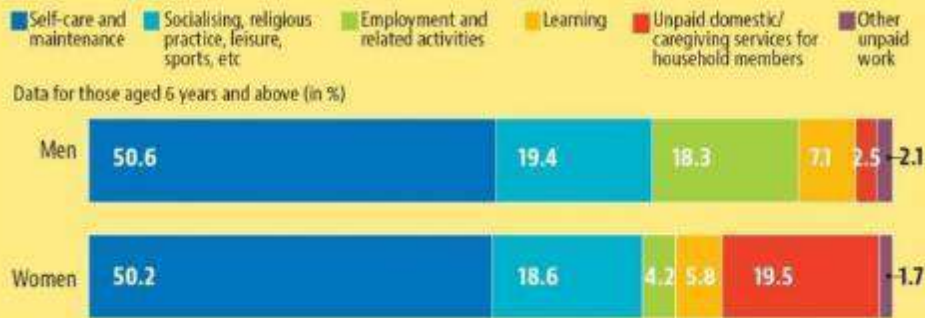
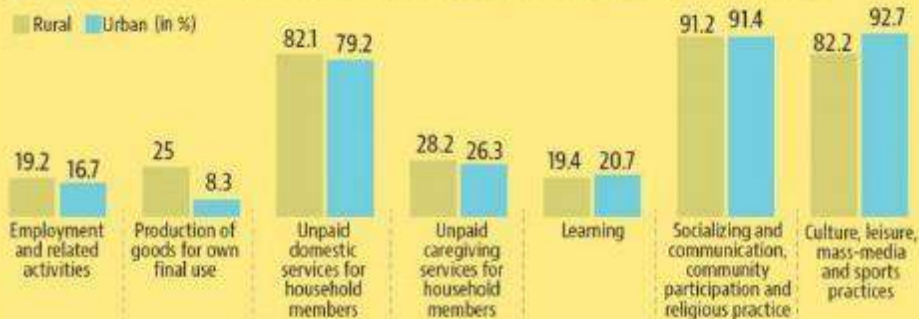


CHART 2 PARTICIPATION IN DOMESTIC AND CAREGIVING SERVICES



CHART 3 PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES



Source: Time Use in India-2019, NSO

Crimes in India report

- ❖ The National Crime Record Bureau released a report titled "Crime in India", 2019.
- ❖ According to the report, crimes against women increased by 7.3% between 2018 and 2019.

Highlights

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh reported highest number of cases in both the categories, crimes against women and crimes against scheduled castes.
- ❖ Also, UP had the highest number of crimes against girl children under POCSO Act followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh.

- ❖ UP had the highest number of acid attacks followed by West Bengal.
- ❖ UP had the highest crimes against Scheduled Castes followed by Rajasthan and Bihar.
- ❖ UP also had the highest number of dowry cases followed by Bihar.
- ❖ Assam reported the highest rate of crimes against women.
- ❖ Rajasthan had the highest rate of crimes against scheduled castes.
- ❖ In 2018, the crime rate was 58.8 and it increased to 62.4 in 2019.
- ❖ The highest number of rapes against Dalit women was recorded in Rajasthan, followed by Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Health in India survey

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the report of a survey titled 'Health in India'.
- ❖ Its main objective was to gather basic quantitative information on India's health sector.
- ❖ According to the report, the Zoroastrian community remains the most susceptible (31.1%) to ailments.
- ❖ This number for other communities is Jains, 11.2 per cent; Sikhs 11 per cent; Christians 10.5 per cent; Muslims 8.1 per cent; Buddhists 8 per cent; and Hindus 7.2 per cent.
- ❖ Around 7.5 percent of Indians reported that they were suffering from ailments, as per the survey.

Religion	Male	Female	Person
Hindu	65	79	72
Muslim	70	93	81
Christian	89	122	105
Sikh	94	127	110
Jain	109	115	112
Buddhist	45	113	80
Zoroastrian	257	359	311
Others	83	54	69
All	67	83	75

Number per 1,000 persons reporting ailments (PAP) during the last 15 days by religion (Source: Survey report)

46th Foundation Day of CPCB

- ❖ The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is a statutory organisation.
- ❖ It was constituted in 22 September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

- ❖ It was entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- ❖ It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Breast cancer awareness month 2020 - Oct 1 to 30

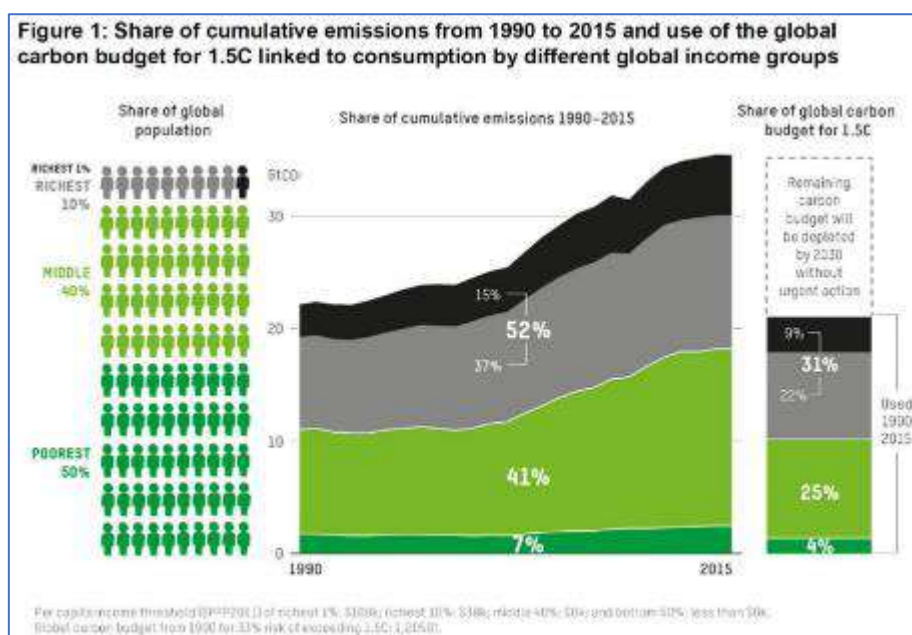
- ❖ The month of October is observed as breast cancer awareness month.
- ❖ It tries to make people aware of the need for early detection of breast cancer, its treatment options and prevention methods that can help save lives.
- ❖ Mammography is an X-ray that can help detect any abnormality in the breasts.

Confronting Carbon Inequality report

- ❖ The Oxfam International and the Stockholm Environmental Institute (SEI) has released a report titled “Confronting Carbon Inequality”.

Data Analysis from 1990 to 2015

- ❖ The richest 1% of humanity accounted for 15% of cumulative emissions, while the poorest 50% accounted for only 7%.
- ❖ The richest 10% depleted the global carbon budget by 31% and the poorest 50% used only 4% of the carbon budget.
- ❖ A carbon budget is a cumulative amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions permitted over a period of time to keep within a certain temperature threshold.
- ❖ While the richest 10% accounted for 46% of emissions growth, the poorest 50% accounted for only 6%.



India and other nations

- ❖ An Indian emitted only 1.97 tonnes of CO₂ (tCO₂) annually, while Americans and Canadians both emitted well over 16 tCO₂.
- ❖ The per capita CO₂ emissions of the richest 10% of Indians were about 4.4 tonnes in 2018.
- ❖ In comparison to the per capita emissions of the richest 10% Americans were 52.4 tonnes, almost 12 times that of the richest Indians.
- ❖ India's per capita emissions were a fraction of the EU's emission (6.78 tCO₂/person) and making it the lowest per capita emitter amongst the World's large economies.
- ❖ China's per capita emissions 7.95 tCO₂/person.

What India Eats report

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and National Institute of Nutrition recently released a report, "What India Eats".

Key Findings

- ❖ The urban centres of India consumed 51.6 grams of fat per day
- ❖ The rural centres consume 36 grams of fat per day.
- ❖ Overall obesity was prevalent in 12.5% of population in urban areas and 4.9% in rural areas.
- ❖ Around 31.4% of urban were overweight and 16.6% of the rural population were overweight.

Data Governance Quality Index Survey

- ❖ NITI Aayog and Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office (DMEO) recently conducted the Data Governance Quality Index Survey.
- ❖ The Department of Fertilizers (Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers) has been ranked 3rd out of the 65 Ministries/Departments.
- ❖ It aims to drive healthy competition among them and promote cooperative peer learning from best practices.

Reference body weight of Indians

- ❖ The National Institute of Nutrition recently increased the ideal weight of men and women.
- ❖ The average body weight of Indians has been increased by 5 kg.
- ❖ Thus, the current ideal weight of Indian men is 65 kg and of Indian women is 55 kg.
- ❖ Earlier, the ideal weight of Indian men was 60 kg and that of Indian women was 50 kg.

Wildlife Week – October 02/08

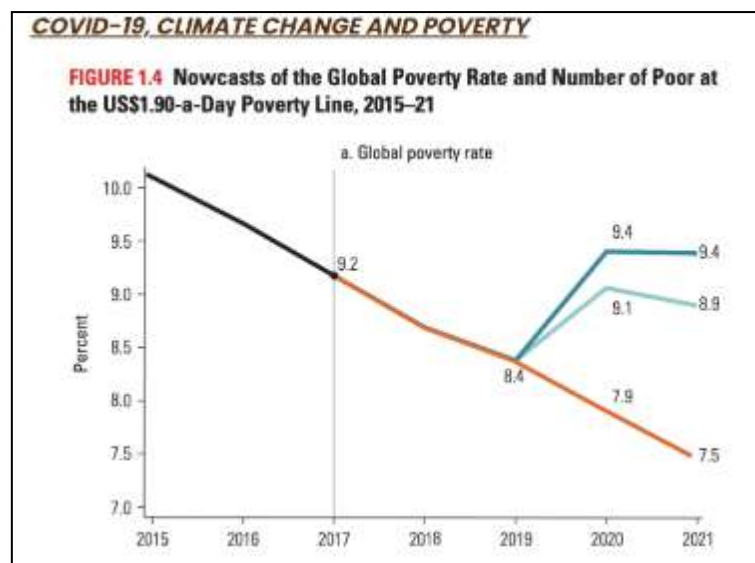
- ❖ Wildlife Week is annually celebrated across India between 2nd to 8th October with an aim to protect and preserve the flora and fauna of India.
- ❖ The first Wildlife Week was observed in 1957.
- ❖ Wildlife Week 2020 marks the 66th Wildlife Week.
- ❖ It was celebrated under the theme 'Roar (Roar and Revive) – Exploring Human-Animal Relationships'.

Poverty and Shared Prosperity Report 2020

- ❖ It is a biennial report of the World Bank titled “Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020: Reversals of Fortune”.
- ❖ It provides a global audience with the latest and most accurate estimates on trends in global poverty and shared prosperity.

Highlights

- ❖ The study finds that on average, poverty levels will be set back 3 to 10 years due to Covid-19.
- ❖ The COVID-19 pandemic is estimated to push an additional 88 million to 115 million people into extreme poverty this year.
- ❖ The pandemic and global recession may cause over 1.4% of the world's population to fall into extreme poverty.
- ❖ Global extreme poverty rate is projected to rise by around 1.3% to 9.2% in 2020.
- ❖ If the pandemic would not have been there, the poverty rate was expected to drop to 7.9% in 2020.
- ❖ Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia will be badly hit as per the Bank's projections.



UN's Still Birth Report

- ❖ United Nations recently launched a report on stillbirths titled "A Neglected Tragedy: The Global Burden of Stillbirths".
- ❖ The report was created by UNICEF, World Health Organisation, World Bank and the United Nations department of economic and social affairs.
- ❖ Still birth means a baby born with no signs of life at 28 weeks of pregnancy.
- ❖ The report says that a stillborn baby is delivered every 16 seconds.
- ❖ 84 percentage of these grievous episodes occur in low and lower-middle-income countries.
- ❖ This is the first-time a stillbirth report has been published by the United Nations.

India's status

- ❖ The report says that there were around 1.9 million still births globally and out of this 0.34 million were from India.
- ❖ India along with other countries such as Nigeria, Congo, Pakistan, China and Ethiopia contributed to half of all the stillbirth in the world.
- ❖ The progress in decline in still birth in India has improved in last two decades.
- ❖ The stillbirth rate has improved by 2.7% in 2010 as compared to 2000.

CRI Index of Oxfam

- ❖ India has been ranked 129 among 158 countries in the 2020 Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index.
- ❖ The third edition of the index focuses on Fighting Inequality in the time of COVID-19.
- ❖ The 2020 CRI index has been topped by Norway.

COUNTRY	PUBLIC SERVICES RANKING	TAX RANKING	LABOUR RANKING	CRI RANKING
Norway	14	21	1	1
Denmark	8	29	2	2
Germany	5	17	11	3
Belgium	7	37	8	4
Finland	2	61	4	5
Canada	26	8	20	6
France	3	47	18	7
New Zealand	21	11	34	8
Austria	18	50	18	9
Sweden	11	78	7	10

COUNTRY	INCOME	PUBLIC SERVICES RANKING	TAX RANKING	LABOUR RANKING	CRI RANKING
Ukraine	LMIC	24	58	38	28
Kyrgyz Republic	LMIC	46	14	61	37
Togo	LIC	133	2	112	82

- ❖ South Sudan is the lowest ranking country in the index at 158th position.
- ❖ The index is released by the international charitable organisation 'Oxfam International' in partnership with Development Finance International and with inputs from independent experts.
- ❖ The index is based upon three basic pillars: Public Services Pillar, Progressive Tax Pillar and Workers Rights Pillar.
- ❖ India is ranked fifth last among bottom 10 spenders on public services including education, health and social protection.

Health Spending Index

- ❖ Oxfam released the Health Spending Index for the year of 2020.
- ❖ The survey data indicates India has spent less than 4% of its budget on health and ranked 155th on the health spending index.
- ❖ Also, the report founded that only 26 of the 158 countries surveyed were spending the recommended 15% of their budgets on health.

HOW THE SAARC NATIONS FARE				
Country	Public services ranking*	Tax ranking	Labour ranking	Overall ranking
India	141	19	151	129
Pakistan	148	71	116	128
Bangladesh	142	32	109	113
Nepal	120	16	130	112
Bhutan	124	130	141	146
Afghanistan	153	6	113	102
Sri Lanka	106	91	86	94

*Health + education + social protection

Human Cost of Disasters 2000-2019 Report

- ❖ The report is published by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).
- ❖ The report did not touch on biological hazards and disease-related disasters like the coronavirus pandemic.

Highlights

- ❖ Climate change is largely to blame for a near doubling of natural disasters in the past 20 years.
- ❖ 7,348 major disaster events had occurred between 2000 and 2019, affecting 4.2 billion people.
- ❖ The figure is far more than the 4,212 major natural disasters recorded between 1980 and 1999.

- ❖ 6,681 climate-linked disasters had been recorded in the period 2000-19, up from 3,656 during the previous 20-year-period.
- ❖ Major floods had more than doubled to 3,254; there had been 2,034 major storms up from 1,457 in 20 years.
- ❖ India is the 2nd most affected country by floods after China.
- ❖ Extreme heat is proving especially deadly.
- ❖ Heatwaves of 2015 in India resulted in 2,248 deaths.
- ❖ The data showed that Asia has suffered the highest number of disasters in the past 20 years with 3,068 such events, followed by the Americas with 1,756 and Africa with 1,192.
- ❖ In terms of affected countries, China topped the list with 577 events followed by the United States with 467 and India (321 events).

The HealthyLife Programme

- ❖ In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, HDFC Bank and Apollo Hospitals have joined hands to launch 'The HealthyLife' Programme.
- ❖ It is a holistic healthcare solution which makes healthy living accessible and affordable on Apollo's digital platform, Apollo 24/7.

State of Climate Services 2020 Report

- ❖ The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released the State of Climate Services 2020 Report.
- ❖ It was released on the occasion of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction - October 13.

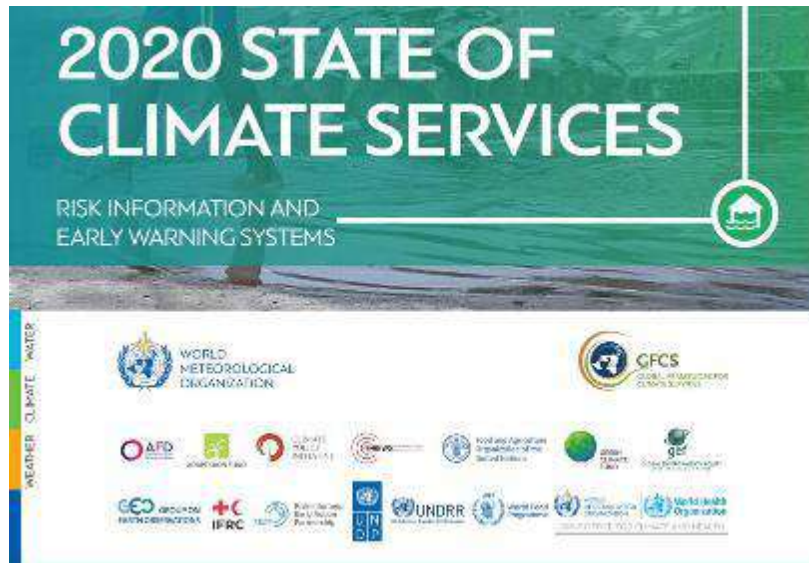
Highlights

- ❖ One in three people are not adequately covered by early warning systems.
- ❖ In the past 50 years, more than 11,000 disasters have occurred and have caused weather, climate and water-related hazards.
- ❖ The disaster involves 2 million deaths and economic losses of US \$ 3.6 trillion.
- ❖ By 2030, the number of people taking international humanitarian system could increase by 50% at a cost of around US\$ 20 billion a year.

WMO

- ❖ The organisation was established under the International Meteorological Organization founded in 1873.
- ❖ The World Meteorological Convention of 1947 formally established the World Meteorological Organization.
- ❖ The WMO comprises of 193 countries and territories and headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

- ❖ It is responsible for promoting international cooperation on atmospheric science, hydrology, climatology, and geophysics.



Transparency International's report on Corruption

- ❖ Transparency International released its recent study entitled 'Exporting Corruption 2020: Assessing Enforcement of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention'.
- ❖ All six Asian economies surveyed - China, Japan, India, South Korea, Hong Kong and Singapore - were classified in the bottom of four categories.
- ❖ All 6 countries are with "little or no" enforcement against bribery of foreign public officials.
- ❖ It also revealed that India lacks a mechanism to crack down on bribery of foreign officials by its exporters.
- ❖ Only four countries worldwide made it into the top category of "active enforcement": the U.S., U.K., Switzerland and Israel.

Enforcement against foreign bribery	
Level	Selected countries/territories
Active	U.S., U.K., Switzerland, Israel
Moderate	Germany, France, Australia, Brazil, Sweden
Limited	Netherlands, Canada, South Africa, Chile, New Zealand
Little or no	China, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Belgium, Finland

47 economies scored based on number of investigations launched, other enforcement performance from 2016 to 2019
Source: Transparency International

Global Hunger Index 2020

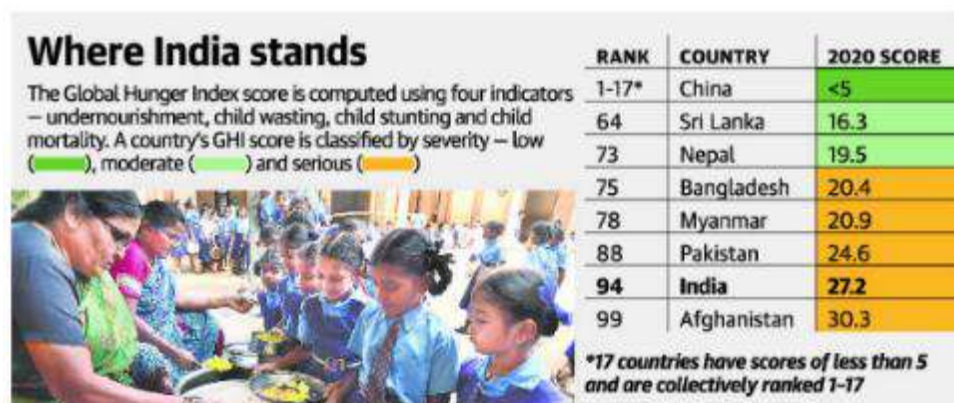
- ❖ The Global hunger index was launched by jointly prepared by the Welhunger life and Concern Worldwide.
- ❖ The report ranked the countries on the basis of four indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting and child mortality.

Highlights

- ❖ The report has put India under “serious category” and has given the score of 27.2.
- ❖ This year India has been ranked 94th Out of 107 countries.
- ❖ Nepal has been ranked 73rd, Bangladesh has been ranked 75th while Pakistan has been ranked 88th this year.
- ❖ Previously in 2018 India was ranked at 103 while in 2019 India was ranked at 102.
- ❖ The child stunting rate, for age group 0-5 years, in India was reported as 37.4 %.
- ❖ Wasting in child was reported as 17.3 %.
- ❖ Undernourishment rate of India is 14%.
- ❖ As per the report, child mortality rate is 3.7 %.

Reference

- ❖ “Wasting” means the child is having low weight as per the height.
- ❖ “Undernourishment” is the share of population with insufficient caloric intake.
- ❖ “Stunting” means the child is having low height for their weight.



Arton Capital's Passport Index

- ❖ New Zealand emerged as the country with the most powerful passport in the world.
- ❖ Citizens of that country get visa-free travel to 129 destinations.
- ❖ Japan is on second spot along with Germany, Austria, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Ireland, South Korea and Australia.

- ❖ Spain shares the third spot with Sweden, Belgium, France, Finland and Italy.
- ❖ The Indian passport ranks 58th on the list with visa-free access to 52 countries (visa-free access to 18 countries and visa-on-arrival in 34 countries).
- ❖ Afghanistan and Iraq, both of which have a score of 31, are ranked on the bottom of this ranking.

Global tuberculosis report 2020

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently released the Global Tuberculosis Report, 2020.
- ❖ The report says that COVID-19 could push Tuberculosis related deaths in the world to eight years back.
- ❖ In other words, it might increase the TB deaths by 0.2 to 0.4 million.

Highlights

- ❖ Philippines, Indonesia and South Africa account to 44% of global TB cases in the world.
- ❖ The three countries that have the largest burden of drug-resistant TB are India, China and Russia.
- ❖ The eight countries, that are home to two-thirds of global TB cases, are India, Indonesia, China, Philippines, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Russia.
- ❖ Between 2015 and 2019, there were 9% reduction of TB incidence and 14% reduction in TB deaths.
- ❖ India has the highest TB burden in the world.
- ❖ It accounts to 26% of total global TB cases.
- ❖ India registered a decline in notification of Tuberculosis cases by 85% in April 2020.
- ❖ The number of TB deaths could be between 200,000 and 400,000.

Intellectual Property India Report 2018-19

- ❖ The Intellectual Property India annual report was released by the Government of India.
- ❖ Along with that, annual rankings the year 2018-19 were also decided by Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trademarks, Government of India.
- ❖ Chandigarh University Gharuan top the list among all university in India.
- ❖ It topped for filing the highest number of patents in a year counting 336.
- ❖ It is followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) with 239 patent applications.
- ❖ CSIR comes the third with 202 applications and BHEL stands at fourth position with 173 patent applications.

- ❖ In the overall patents filing category, 27 Indian Institute of Technology (IIT's) have filed 557 patents collectively.



State's performance

- ❖ Punjab has managed into rankings of the Top 10 States of India in the field of Research & Innovation for the first time.
- ❖ Haryana with 507 applications comes at second position while Himachal Pradesh with 193 applications stands at third position.

Nazca line Cat Drawing

- ❖ The Peruvian archaeologists have uncovered a 37 metre-long cat on the famous Nazca lines of Peru.
- ❖ It is a world known UNESCO Heritage site.
- ❖ The Nazca lines consists of hundreds of gigantic geoglyphs that date back more than 2000 years.
- ❖ The newly discovered cat Geoglyph is older than the ones discovered earlier.
- ❖ The cat figure was 37 metres long and date from the Paracas Era 500 BC to 200 AD.
- ❖ Nazca lines are a group of Geoglyphs that are made on the ground using elements of landscape such as gravel, stones, dirt or lumber.
- ❖ The lines were discovered in 1927.
- ❖ The site was declared the UNESCO Heritage site in 1994.

