

October - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The United Nations (UN) World Food Program (WFP) has joined hands with Bollywood in India to create awareness and take steps against hunger and malnutrition in India.
 - It has launched the 'Feed Our Future' advertisement in collaboration with UFO Movies which is India's one of the largest in-cinema advertising platform.
- ❖ Incumbent President Evo Morales of MAS-IPSP party has won the elections in Bolivia fighting against Carlos Mesa of Civic Community party.

NATIONAL

Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel in J & K

- ❖ Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Kadkari has announced renaming of Chenani Nashri Tunnel on NH 44 in Jammu & Kashmir.
- ❖ It will be renamed as Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee (SPM) Tunnel.
- ❖ This 9 km tunnel is the longest such state of art tunnel in the country, connecting Udhampur to Ramban in Jammu.
- ❖ SPM (1901 – 1953) was an Indian politician who served as the Minister for Industry and Supply in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's first free Post independent cabinet.

Doing Business Report (DBR - 2020)

- ❖ “The World Bank” released its latest Doing Business Report (DBR - 2020).
- ❖ It measures regulations across 190 economies in 12 business regulatory areas to assess the business environment in each economy.
- ❖ The top 5 best places in the world to do business are
 - New Zealand (with a score of 86.8 out of 100),
 - Singapore (86.2)
 - Hong Kong SAR, China (85.3)
 - Denmark (85.3)
 - Republic of Korea (84)

India Specific Data

- ❖ India has been ranked 63rd out of 190 countries.
- ❖ It is a jump of 14 positions against its rank of 77 in 2018.
- ❖ India has improved its rank by 79 positions in last five years (2014-19).
- ❖ It continues to maintain its first position among South Asian countries.
- ❖ India saw the biggest jump in ranking in “Resolving Insolvency” category (52nd rank from 108th rank).

TABLE O.2 The 10 economies improving the most across three or more areas measured by *Doing Business* in 2018–19

Economy	Ease of doing business rank	Change in ease of doing business score	Reforms making it easier to do business									
			Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Getting electricity	Registering property	Getting credit	Protecting minority investors	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Enforcing contracts	Resolving insolvency
Saudi Arabia	62	7.7	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Jordan	75	7.6					✓		✓			✓
Togo	97	7.0	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bahrain	43	5.9		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan	106	5.7	✓				✓			✓		
Pakistan	108	5.6	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		
Kuwait	83	4.7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
China	31	4.0	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
India	63	3.5	✓	✓						✓		✓
Nigeria	131	3.4	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	

Source: *Doing Business* database.

Prison Statistics Report 2017

- ❖ The ‘Prison Statistics of India 2017’ report has been released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ It has included a new category for unnatural deaths of inmates called ‘negligence/excess by jail personnel’.
- ❖ The new category has only one entry across India, which is from Maharashtra.
- ❖ Recently, Justice Radhakrishnan Committee on Prison Reforms, released its report in 2018.

RTI Amended Rules Notified

- ❖ The Ministry of Personnel notified the Right to Information (Term of Office, Salaries, Allowances and Other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners and State Information Commissioners) Rules, 2019.

- ❖ The new rules have reduced the tenure of Information Commissioners from five years to three.
- ❖ It gives the government the discretion to decide on “conditions of service” for which no express provisions are made in the rules.
- ❖ The Chief Information Commissioner’s salary has been fixed at ₹2.5 lakh and an Information Commissioner’s at ₹2.25 lakh.

Southernmost Air station – INS Baaz

- ❖ Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh visited INS Baaz, the southernmost air station of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ The Indian Naval Ship (INS) ‘Baaz’ was commissioned in July 2012.
- ❖ It is a part of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, the only tri-services formation of the Indian Armed Forces that was started in 2001.



Strategic Location

- ❖ It is located at Campbell Bay on the Great Nicobar island, the southernmost and largest island of the Nicobar Islands, in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- ❖ The location has been described as India’s “window into East and Southeast Asia”.



- ❖ It is in close vicinity of the Six Degree Channel, one of the Indian Ocean's busiest shipping lines, carrying strategic cargo to East Asian countries.
- ❖ It is also close to the Strait of Malacca.

Jiyo Parsi Scheme

- ❖ The Jiyo Parsi Scheme introduced by Union Government in 2013 has resulted in 214 births over the last five years through assisted reproductive techniques.
- ❖ The scheme aimed to check the declining Parsi population through cash incentivization.
- ❖ According to the Union minority affairs ministry, the Parsi population declined from about 114,000 in 1941 to 57,264 in 2011.
- ❖ Maharashtra has the highest Parsi population in the country, followed by Gujarat.

INTERNATIONAL

UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019

- ❖ The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation 2019 were announced recently.
- ❖ The award aims to motivate the protection of cultural heritage sites by any individual organization or by any private sector entity.
- ❖ They were established in 2000 and awarded in 4 different categories.
- ❖ India has won 4 awards in the following categories.

Category	Award
Award of Distinction	Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management, (Ahmedabad) India
Award of Merit	Our Lady of Glory Church, Mumbai
	Keneseth Eliyadoo Synagogue, Mumbai
Honourable Mention	Flora Fountain, Mumbai
New Design in Heritage Contexts	None

Global Wealth Report 2019

- ❖ The Credit Suisse Group, a Switzerland-based multinational investment bank, has released the 10th edition of its annual Global Wealth Report.
- ❖ Wealth is defined in terms of “net worth” of an individual.
- ❖ Net worth is derived by addition of the value of financial assets and real assets minus the debts held by an individual.

Key Stats

- ❖ China has overtaken the United States this year to become “the country with most people in the top 10% of global wealth distribution”.
- ❖ Just 47 million people owned half 44% of world’s wealth (\$158.3 trillion)
- ❖ In terms of percentage – 0.9% of people hold 44% of world’s wealth.
- ❖ The richest 10% own 82% of global wealth.
- ❖ The bottom half of wealth holders collectively accounted for less than 1% of total global wealth in mid-2019.

The wealth distribution

India was among the regions with the highest percentage change in wealth per adult at 3.3%. Wealth per adult in the country is estimated at \$14,569 as of mid-2019.

	Change in wealth per adult 2018-19 (in %)	Wealth per adult 2019 (in \$)
India	3.3	14,569
Latin America	3.2	22,502
North America	2.7	417,694
China	2.6	58,544
Europe	1.2	153,973
Africa	0.4	6,488
Asia Pacific	-0.3	54,211
World	1.2	70,849

India specific Data

- ❖ India has fifth highest number of ultra-high net-worth individuals.
- ❖ Total wealth in India increased fourfold between 2000 and 2019, reaching \$12.6 trillion in 2019.



- ❖ India has 4,460 adults with wealth of over \$50 million and 1,790 that have more than \$100 million.
- ❖ India has 8.27 lakh adults in the top 1% of global wealth holders.
- ❖ India is expected to grow its wealth very rapidly and add \$4.4 trillion in the next five years.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Quantum Supremacy

- ❖ Using the company's state-of-the-art quantum computer called Sycamore, Google has claimed "quantum supremacy" over the most powerful supercomputers in the world.
- ❖ It claimed that Sycamore completed a complex computation in 200 seconds.
- ❖ The most powerful supercomputers existing today would approximately take 10,000 years to finish the same problem.
- ❖ Sycamore consists of microscopic circuits of superconducting metal that entangle 53 qubits in a complex superposition state.



About

- ❖ Quantum supremacy (QS) is the point at which quantum computers can solve problems that are practically unsolvable for “classical” (non-quantum) computers to complete in any reasonable timeframe.
- ❖ The term QS was originally popularized by American theoretical physicist John Preskill.

- ❖ Yuri Manin (1980) and Richard Feynman (1981) had proposed quantum computing.
- ❖ Quantum Supremacy is also known as “quantum advantage”.
- ❖ It is generally believed that at least 49 qubits are required to cross the quantum supremacy line.

Qubits

- ❖ In computers, Bits represent either a “1” or a “0”.
- ❖ In contrast, qubits can represent a combination state made up of both “1” and “0”.

