

September - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Veteran actor Paresh Rawal has been appointed the new chairman of National School of Drama.

NATIONAL

Five-star villages scheme

- ❖ The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages.
- ❖ The scheme seeks to bridge the gaps in public awareness and reach of postal products and services, especially in interior villages.
- ❖ It aims to ensure universal coverage of flagship postal schemes in rural areas of the country.
- ❖ The scheme is being launched on pilot basis in Maharashtra.

| Criteria | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 100% Coverage of all households in One of the Postal Schemes | One Star Village |
| Two of the Postal Schemes | Two Star Village |
| Three of the Postal Schemes | Three Star Village |
| Four of the Postal Schemes | Four Star Village |
| All Five Postal Schemes | Five Star Village |

Schemes covered:

- Savings Bank accounts, Recurring Deposit Accounts, NSC/KVP certificates,
- Sukanya Samridhi Accounts/ PPF Accounts,
- Funded Post Office Savings Account linked India Post Payments Bank Accounts.



- Postal Life Insurance Policy/Rural Postal Life Insurance Policy and
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana Account/Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana Account.
- ❖ One Scheme is equal to one star of rating.
- ❖ Therefore, if a village attains universal coverage for four schemes from the above list, then that village gets four-star status and so on.

SAROD-Ports for disputes of maritime sector

- ❖ Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has launched a dispute redressal mechanism named “SAROD-Ports” (Society for Affordable Redressal of Disputes-Ports).
- ❖ It will advise and assist in settlement of disputes through arbitrations in the maritime sector.
- ❖ It covers Major Port Trusts, Non-major Ports, including private ports, jetties, terminals and harbours.
- ❖ The mechanism is similar to provision available in the highway sector in the form of SAROD-Roads constituted by NHAI.
- ❖ It has been established under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 for affordable and timely resolution of disputes in a fair manner.

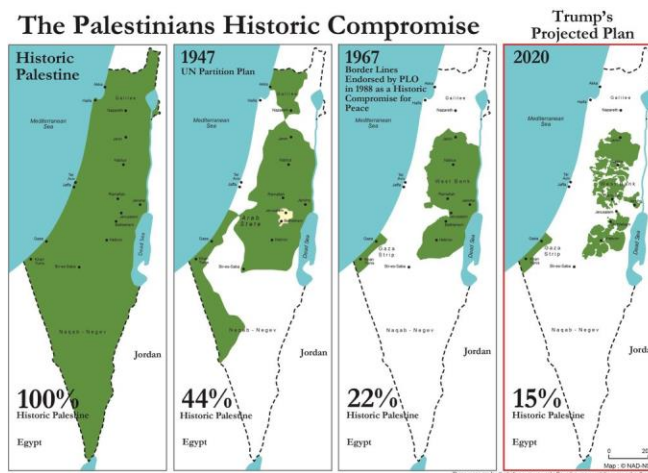
INTERNATIONAL

Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA)

- ❖ India and Japan signed a logistics agreement that will allow armed forces of both sides to coordinate closely in services and supplies.
- ❖ The supplies and services include food, water, transportation, airlift, petroleum, clothing, communications and medical services etc.
- ❖ The agreement is known as Reciprocal Provision of Supplies and Services agreement or Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA).
- ❖ It will remain in force for 10 years and will be automatically extended for periods of 10 years unless one of the parties decides to end it.
- ❖ India has similar agreements with the USA, Australia, France, Oman and Singapore.
- ❖ It is aimed at greater maritime cooperation and can upgrade India-Japan naval exercises as both countries are expected to share maritime facilities for mutual benefit.

Peace deal between Israel and Bahrain

- ❖ Israel and Bahrain agreed to establish full diplomatic relations in a US-mediated deal.
- ❖ With this, Bahrain has joined the United Arab Emirates in agreeing to normalise relations with Israel.
- ❖ Most countries in the Arab world have boycotted Israel for the Israeli-Palestinian disputes.
- ❖ However, Bahrain recognised Israel's right to exist in May 2018.
- ❖ The other three Arab countries, which established diplomatic relations with Israel include Egypt in 1979, Jordan in 1994 and the United Arab Emirates in 2020.



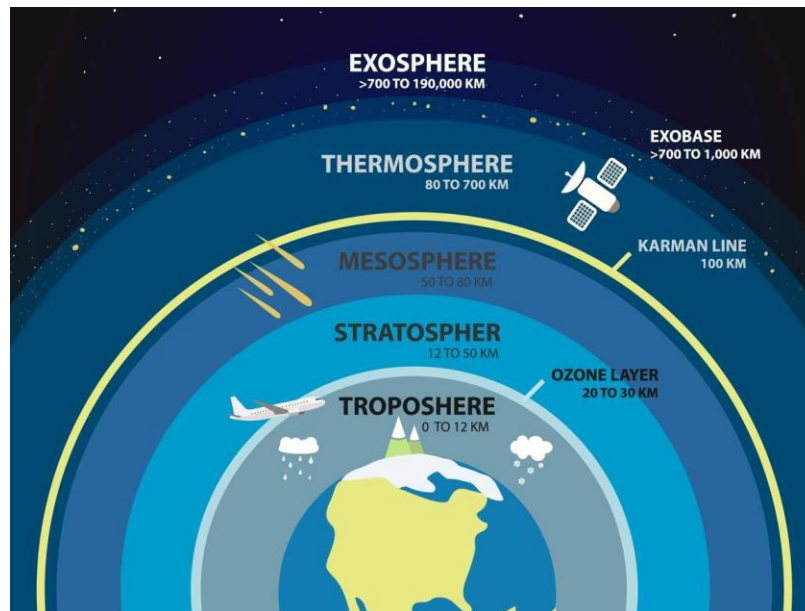
IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Democracy – September 15

- ❖ This day provides an opportunity to celebrate, appreciate and review the state of democracy in the world.
- ❖ This year's theme is "COVID-19: A Spotlight on Democracy".
- ❖ In 2008, the International Day of Democracy was first time celebrated.
- ❖ UN General Assembly recognised 2008 year and marked it as the 20th anniversary of the first International Conference of New or Restored Democracies.

International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer – September 16

- ❖ It is celebrated to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and search for possible solutions to preserve it.
- ❖ On December 19, 1994, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed September 16 the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.
- ❖ It is commemorating the date, in 1987, on which the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer was signed.
- ❖ “Ozone for life” is the slogan for World Ozone Day 2020.
- ❖ The Ozone layer is a piece of the atmosphere that has high ozone concentrations.
- ❖ Ozone is a gas that is made of three oxygen atoms O₃.



MISCELLANEOUS

United in Science 2020 report

- ❖ The United in Science 2020 Report has been compiled by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) under the direction of the United Nations Secretary-General.
- ❖ The report said that the final levels of emissions for 2020 would be 4-7% less than in 2019.
- ❖ To limit global heating to less than 2-degree Celsius rise above pre-industrial levels by 2100, emissions need to fall by 5% every year.

- ❖ Between 2020 and 2024, global temperatures are likely to breach the 1.5 degrees Celsius threshold in multiple months.
- ❖ The major greenhouse gases, CO₂, CH₄, and N₂O continue to increase in 2019 and 2020.
- ❖ Human activities emitted 42 billion tonnes of CO₂ in 2019 alone.
- ❖ In overall, 2020 emissions are estimated to decline by 4% to 7% compared to 2019 levels.
- ❖ Global fossil CO₂ emissions reached a new record high of 36.7 Gigatons (Gt) in 2019, 62% higher than in 1990.
- ❖ The 5-year period from 2016–2020 is expected to be the warmest on record with an average global mean surface temperature of 1.1 °C above pre-industrial era.
- ❖ The Emissions Gap in 2030 is to be estimated at 12-15 Giga tons (Gt) CO₂ to limit global warming to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century.

