

September - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Kerala Health Minister KK Shailaja aka Shailaja Teacher has been named as the winner of World's Top 50 Thinkers of COVID-19 Age by UK-based Prospect Magazine.
- ❖ Arundhati Roy's new book titled "Azadi: Freedom. Fascism. Fiction".
 - This nonfiction book is a collection of essays that shows the meaning of Freedom in the world of increasing authoritarianism.
- ❖ Tata Group has won the contract for construction of India's new Parliament building by beating Larsen & Toubro.
 - The new Parliament complex is among the first projects to be finalised and tendered out as part of the Central Vista redevelopment.
- ❖ Due to the nonpayment for oil lifted from the fields, India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) recently exited from Sudan oilfields.

NATIONAL

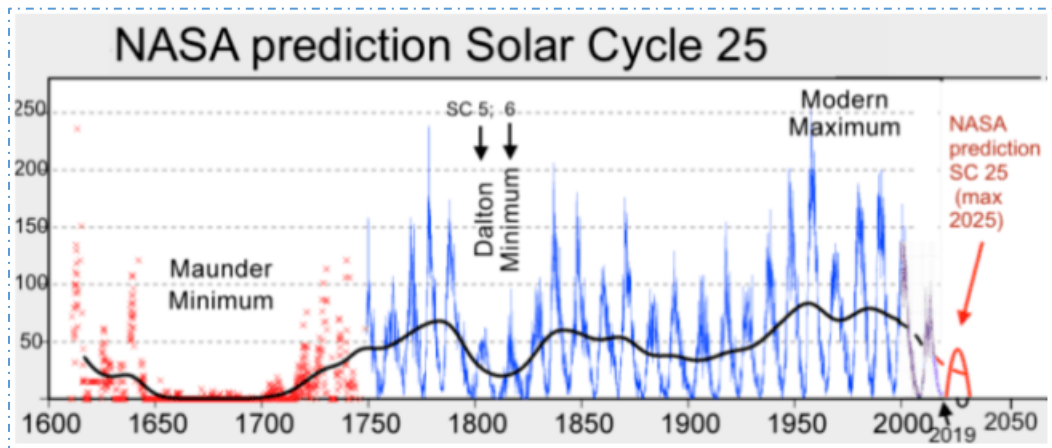
Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill-2020

- ❖ Parliament passed the Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda Bill, 2020.
- ❖ The bill seeks to establish an Institute of Teaching and Research (IoTR) in Ayurveda.
- ❖ The bill also proposes to declare the IoTR as an Institute of National importance.
- ❖ The funds for the institutions will be received from the central government.
- ❖ The bill proposes to merge three Ayurveda institutes situated in Jamnagar, Gujarat into one.
- ❖ The three institutes are,
 - The Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda,
 - Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahavidyalaya and
 - The Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Solar Cycle 25

- ❖ NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced the commencement of solar cycle 25.
- ❖ The solar minimum for Solar Cycle 25 occurred in December 2019.
- ❖ This solar cycle will be as strong as the last solar cycle, which was a “below-average cycle” but not without risks.
- ❖ Like seasons on Earth, the Sun follows a cycle of 11 years, during which solar activities fluctuate between solar minimum and maximum.
- ❖ So far, astronomers have documented 24 such cycles, the last one ended in 2019.
- ❖ Solar eruptions can cause lights in the sky, called aurora, or impact radio communications.
- ❖ Extreme eruptions can even affect electricity grids on Earth.



ENVIRONMENT

Global Initiative to reduce Land Degradation and Coral Reef program

- ❖ It was launched at the recently held Environment Ministerial Meeting (EMM) of the G20 countries.
- ❖ Theme of the meeting has been selected as “Realizing Opportunities of the 21st Century for All”.
- ❖ In the meeting, the Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation was launched.



- ❖ It aims to strengthen the implementation of existing frameworks to prevent, halt, and reverse land degradation within G20 member states and globally.
- ❖ Also, taking into account possible implications on the achievement of other SDGs and adhering to the principle of doing no harm.
- ❖ The Global Coral Reef R&D Accelerator Platform is an innovative action-oriented initiative aimed at creating a global research and development (R&D) program to advance research, innovation and capacity building to enhance coral reefs conservation.

Land Degradation

- ❖ Reduction or loss of biological or economic productivity of the land resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including human activities and climatic variations.

Desertification

- ❖ It is the degradation of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.
- ❖ Desertification does not refer to the expansion of existing deserts.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

MGNREGA man passed away

- ❖ Raghuvansh Prasad Singh was a Member of Parliament in the 15th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ He also served in the 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th Lok Sabha.
- ❖ He started his political career when he was elected as an MLA and was subsequently made the energy minister of Bihar.
- ❖ He is known as the architect of India's biggest welfare programme, the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in 2006.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Bamboo Day – September 18

- ❖ This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the benefits of bamboo and to promote its use in everyday products.
- ❖ It was officially declared by the World Bamboo Organization at 8th World Bamboo Congress held in Bangkok in 2009.
- ❖ The theme for 11th edition of WBD 2020 is 'BAMBOO NOW.'



MISCELLANEOUS

Human Capital Index

- ❖ The World Bank released report named The Human Capital Index 2020 Update: Human Capital in the Time of COVID-19.
- ❖ The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.
- ❖ India has been ranked at the 116th position in 2020.
- ❖ Last year India was ranked 115 out of 157 countries.
- ❖ This year India finds itself at 116th from among 174 countries.
- ❖ However, India's score increased to 0.49 in 2020 from 0.44 in 2018.
- ❖ Singapore topped in the index and followed by Hongkong& china and Japan.

Human Capital

- ❖ It consists of the knowledge, skills, and health that people accumulate over their lives, enabling them to realize their potential as productive members of society.



Global Smart City Index

- ❖ The Institute for Management Development, in collaboration with Singapore University for Technology and Design (SUTD), has released the Smart City Index 2020.
- ❖ The index has been topped by Singapore, followed by Helsinki and Zurich as top three smart cities.
- ❖ Hyderabad was the top Indian city, placed at the 85th position (67th in 2019).
- ❖ Other three Indian cities - New Delhi (86th from 68), Mumbai (93rd from 78) and Bengaluru (95th from 79) also witnessed a significant drop in their rankings.

Top 10 Smart Cities 2020		INDIAN CITIES		
Rank	City	City	Rank	Chg in rank
1	Singapore	Hyderabad	85	-18
2	Helsinki, Finland	New Delhi	86	-18
3	Zurich, Switzerland	Mumbai	93	-15
4	Auckland, New Zealand	Bengaluru	95	-16
5	Oslo, Norway			
6	Copenhagen, Denmark			
7	Geneva, Switzerland			
8	Taipei, Taiwan			
9	Amsterdam, Netherlands			
10	New York, United States			

