

September - 27

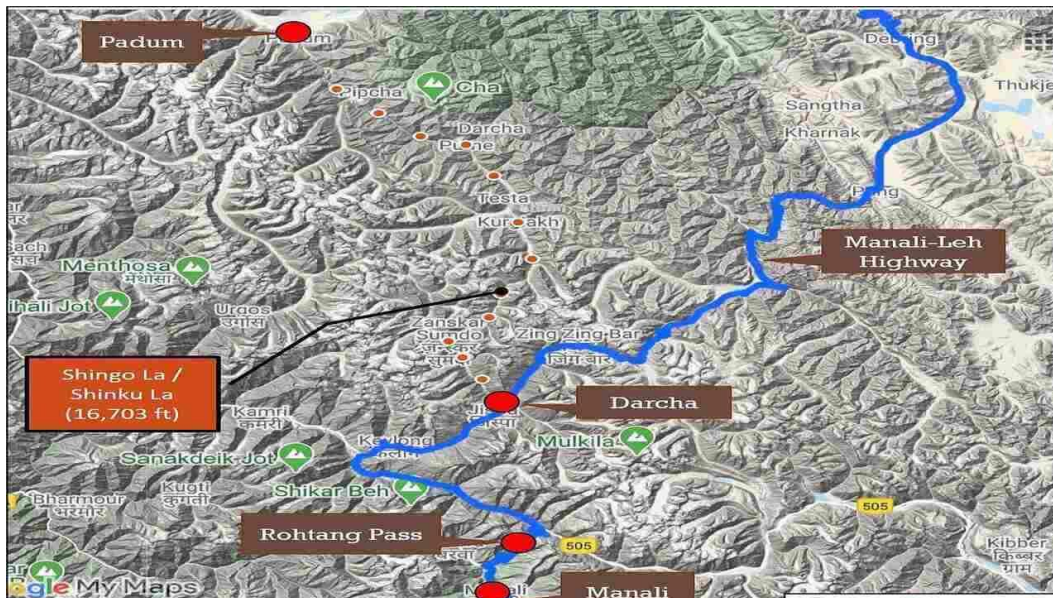
TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Indian Historian and author Romila Thapar have written a new book titled “Voices of Dissent”.

NATIONAL

Shinkun La Tunnel

- ❖ The National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), is working on the project report for the world's longest high-altitude Shinkun La Tunnel.
- ❖ The 13.5 Km long tunnel under the Shingo La pass will enable all-weather road connectivity between Manali and Nimu via Shingo La and Padum.
- ❖ The tunnel will provide all-weather road connectivity between Himachal Pradesh and Leh.
- ❖ With the construction of the tunnel, the inhabitants of around 15-odd villages of Zanskar Valley in Jammu and Kashmir will be relieved since the valley remains cut off due to heavy snowfall during the winter.



Policy on right to protest

- ❖ The Supreme Court said there cannot be a "universal policy" on right to protest and possible curbs as the situation may vary from case to case.
- ❖ A bench consisting of justices SK Kaul, Aniruddha Bose, and Krishna Murari held that while listening to a batch of petitions against the anti-CAA protests in December.
- ❖ It stated that, the right to protest has to be balanced against other public rights such as the right to mobility.

Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2020

- ❖ The Bill seeks to amend the Companies Act, 2013.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the burden on the National Company Law Tribunal.
- ❖ The Bill empowers the central government to allow certain classes of public companies to list classes of securities in foreign jurisdictions.
- ❖ The Bill exempts companies with a CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) liability of up to Rs 50 lakh a year from setting up CSR Committees.
- ❖ The Bill makes three changes in offences.
 - Removes the penalty for certain offences.
 - Removes imprisonment in certain offences.
 - Reduces the amount of fine payable in certain offences.
- ❖ Also, it decriminalises various offences which can promote Ease of doing ethical business and Ease of doing honest business.

'Kritagya' Hackathon

- ❖ "KRITAGYA" hackathon has been planned by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) under National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP).
- ❖ It aims to promote potential technology solutions for enhancing farm mechanization with special emphasis on women friendly equipment.



INTERNATIONAL

World's first Commercial Hydrogen Aircraft

- ❖ The hydrogen aircraft will be designed and created by the Airbus.
- ❖ It is the first commercial hydrogen powered aircraft.
- ❖ Airbus has introduced three concepts for zero emission under the code name ZEROe.
 - Turbofan design - accommodate 120 to 200 passengers
 - Blended wing body design - accommodate up to 200 passengers
 - Turboprop design - accommodate up to 200 passengers.
- ❖ The aircrafts would be operational by 2035.
- ❖ Earlier, the Russian manufacturer Tupolev had built a prototype of the aircraft called Tu -154.
- ❖ That was the first experimental aircraft that operated on liquid nitrogen.



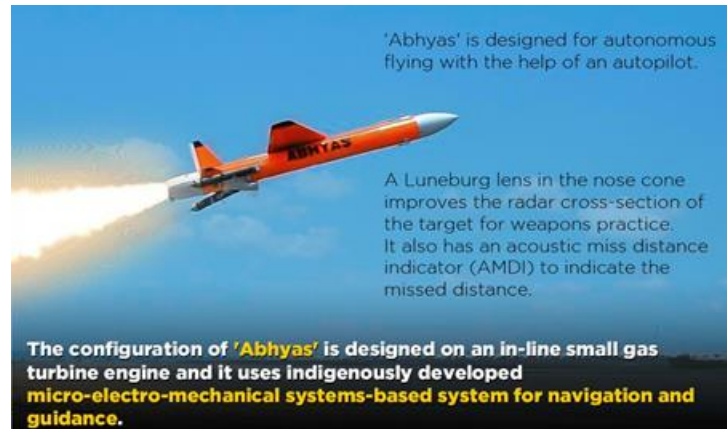
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Abhyas - HEAT test

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful flight-tests of the Abhyas HEAT in Balasore (Odisha).
- ❖ The term HEAT stands for High - speed Expendable Aerial Target.
- ❖ It is designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of DRDO.

Special Features

- ❖ It is a drone (UAV) that will be used as a target for various missile systems.
- ❖ It is powered by a small gas turbine engine.
- ❖ Navigation by Micro-electromechanical (MEMS) systems based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation.
- ❖ It is lightweight and reliable, consumes less power and is cost-effective.
- ❖ Programmed as fully autonomous flight.



ENVIRONMENT

Mass Whales Stranding

- ❖ Around 380 pilot whales have died off the coast of Tasmania.
- ❖ The experts are calling this as Australia's largest recorded mass-stranding event.
- ❖ Nearly 500 whales have been stranded on a beach and two sandbars along the western coast of the island state.
- ❖ Whale stranding is neither an uncommon nor a recent phenomenon.
- ❖ Before this, the largest stranding that has occurred in Tasmania happened in 1935 when over 294 whales were stranded.

Australia whale strandings

Map source: maps4news.com

Pilot whale
One of the largest members of the dolphin family

- ▶ Commonly seen in tight, sociable pods of 20 - 100 individuals
- ▶ Estimated Antarctic population around 200,000
- ▶ One of the species most often involved in mass strandings

Long finned:
Globicephala melas

Short finned:
Globicephala macrorhynchus

Named pilot whales because it was thought that each pod followed a "pilot" in the group

Weight: up to 2,300 kg

Length: 7.6 m

Diet: mainly arrow squid, common octopus, mackerel

Can dive to depths of about 600 m



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Sign Languages – September 23

- ❖ This day marks the establishment of World Federation of the Deaf.
- ❖ The World Federation of the Deaf brought the concept of celebrating International Day of Sign Languages.
- ❖ The first International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated in 2018 along with the International Week of the Deaf.
- ❖ The International week of the Deaf was first celebrated in 1958 by World Federation of the Deaf.
- ❖ Theme for the year 2020 is “Sign Languages are for Everyone”.



World Maritime Day – September 24

- ❖ It aims to spread awareness about the importance of shipping safety, maritime security, and the marine environment.
- ❖ The first time World Maritime Day was held on March, 1978 to mark the date of the IMO Convention's entry into force in 1958.
- ❖ The theme of World Maritime Day 2020 is "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet."
- ❖ In India, the National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 every year.
- ❖ This year India celebrated its 57th edition of the National Maritime Day.



National Service Scheme Day – September 24

- ❖ The National Service Scheme is a public service program conducted by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- ❖ It aims to provide hands-on experience to young students in delivering community service.
- ❖ The National Service Scheme was launched in 1969, the birth centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ NSS is a central sector scheme of the government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

