TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM
CURRENT AFFAIRS - SEPTEMBER 2020
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CONTENTS

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Former Supreme Court Judge, A.R.Lakshmanan passed away recently.
  - o Currently he was the sitting representative of Tamil Nadu in the Mullai Periyar Panel headed by Justice A.S.Anand.

- ❖ Indian Railways is set to meet its energy consumption which will be over 33 billion units by 2030.
  - o The current annual energy requirements of Indian Railways are around 21 billion units.

- ❖ India is planning to host BRICS Games 2021, which will be aligned with the Khelo India Games scheduled for next year.

- ❖ St. Francis High School of USA was selected by Microsoft as a 2020-2021 Microsoft Showcase School for their excellence in demonstrated student outcomes resulting from its commitment to educational transformation.

- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to celebrate the September 2020 as "Poshan Maah" or "Nutrition Month" to educate everyone on the importance of optimum nutrition.

- ❖ India and Russia were announced as the joint winners of FIDE (International Chess Federation) Chess Olympiad.
  - o This was the first time that India had reached the finals of the FIDE Chess Olympiad.

- ❖ German's Bayern Munich Football Team won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title for the sixth time by defeating Paris Saint-Germain.

- ❖ Ahmedabad Railway Division has successfully introduced a Baggage Sanitization and Wrapping machine at Ahmedabad Railway Station.
  - o This machine is a first of its kind across the Indian Railways.

- ❖ Google has announced a new initiative called The Anywhere School, bringing over 50 new features across Google Meet, Google Classroom, G Suite and other products to more than 250 countries around the world.

- ❖ Ministry of Tourism recently organised the 50th webinar titled "Cultural heritage of Hyderabad" under Dekho Apna Desh series.
  - o This series aims to create awareness about and promote various tourism destinations of India

- ❖ Hurricane Laura made landfall as an extremely dangerous Category 4 storm near Cameron, Louisiana at USA.

- ❖ Karunaidas, a graduate teacher of Mathematics, Government High School, Naranapuram, Virudhunagar District, has been selected as Microsoft's Best Educator Internationally.
  - o Similarly, Naranapuram Government High School has been selected as the Best School (Microsoft Showcase School) by Microsoft.

- Ramachandra Guha authored New book 'The Commonwealth of Cricket: A Lifelong Love Affair with the Most Subtle and Sophisticated Game Known to Humankind'

- The DRDO constituted a five-member committee, headed by V. Ramagopal Rao, to overhaul its 52 laboratories for current and future defence and battlefield needs.
  - Previous committee was formed under P. Rama Rao in 2008.

- VK Yadav was appointed as Railway Board's First Ever Chairman and CEO.
  - He is the first to hold such a post in the railway's history.

- Usha Padhee has been given additional charge as Director-General of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).
  - She is the first woman and third IAS officer to have been appointed to the post.

- The Adani Group has acquired 74% stake in Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai.
  - Now it is the second largest private operator in India after the GMR group, which operates the Delhi and Hyderabad airports.

- For the first Time, Sudha Painuli, a vice-principal of Kalsi, Dehradun, Uttarakhand's Eklavya Model Residential School, has been selected for National Award to Teachers (NAT) 2020.

- Isha and Akash Ambani have been included by Fortune Magazine in the '40 under 40' list of the most influential young leaders for the year under the technology section.

- Aveek Sarkar, the Editor Emeritus and Vice Chairman of the Ananda Bazar Group of Publications, has been elected Chairman of the Press Trust of India.

- Current Pope Francis is set to release the book "Let Us Dream" in December 2020.

- Every year, 7th September is celebrated as 'World Forgiveness Day'.

- Goonmeet Singh Chauhan's released a New Book named 'Invertonomics' which Talks about Transforming India.

- The Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council inaugurated its first virtual Buyer and Seller meet to facilitate loose diamonds.

- The Supreme Court has directed removal of 48,000 slum dwellings along the 140 km length of railway tracks in Delhi.

- Mr Rajan Wadhera of Mahindra has been elected as the Executive Committee of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM).

- UNICEF has announced that it will be leading the procurement and supply of Corona Virus vaccines.
  - The mission is to be the world's largest and fastest ever operation of its kind.

- India, Israel and the Unites States held a summit virtually.
  - During the summit, these countries decided to work together in 5G technology.
- The Government of Australia has appointed former cricketer Matthew Hayden and Indian-origin politician Lisa Singh as trade envoys for advancing business ties with India.
- Top tennis player Novak Djokovic was disqualified from the US Open after accidentally striking a female line judge with a ball.
- The posts of Village Revenue Officers (VRO) have been scrapped by the Telangana state government as a part of major revenue reforms.
  - VROs are officials who are hold all major land records at the ground level.
- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Limited has entered top 40 of the world's most valuable firms' league.
  - It also becomes the first Indian company to top USD 210 billion in market capitalisation intra-day.
- UNICEF India appointed Ayushmann Khurrana as its celebrity advocate for children's rights campaign, For Every Child.
- Veteran actor Paresh Rawal has been appointed the new chairman of National School of Drama.
- Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga is set to become the country's next Prime Minister by replacing the outgoing PM, Shinzo Abe.
- Harivansh was re-elected as 12th Deputy Chairman Rajya Sabha.
  - He holding this post from 2018.
- 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.
- Railway Protection Force (RPF) Raising Day is celebrated on September 20 to commemorate the conferring of Armed Force status on RPF on par with the other Paramilitary forces of India on 20th September, 1985.
- Former Research and Analysis Wing chief Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as new chief of National Technical Research Organisation.

- 10th Meeting of the BRICS High Representatives on National Security was held virtually and it was chaired by Russia.
- USA banned the Chinese apps viz., TikTok and WeChat citing threat to national security.
- State Bank of India and Titan Company have partnered to launch contactless payment services through watches, called Titan Pay.
- Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation (TNSDC) has partnered with the online learning platform CoursEra to train 50,000 unemployed youth.
- A 17-year-old girl Khushi Chindaliya from Gujarat's Surat has been appointed as Regional Ambassador for India by the United Nations Environment Programme – Tunza Eco-Generation.
- Uttar Pradesh government approved to change the name of an under-construction museum dedicated to the Mughal empire in Agra after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- India's largest film city is to be set up in Gautam Buddh Nagar (Noida), Uttar Pradesh.
- The Indian Historian and author Romila Thapar have written a new book titled "Voices of Dissent".
- Flight Lieutenant Shivangi Singh is set to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft.
- The Golden Pen of Freedom, the annual press freedom award of the World Association of News Publishers (WAN-IFRA), has been awarded to Colombian journalist, Jineth Bedoya Lima.
- L Adimoolam has been elected president of the Indian Newspaper Society.
  - It is an apex body of the publishers of newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the country.

TAMIL NADU

Sub categories in reserved categories

- Supreme Court ruled that the states can sub classify list of Scheduled Caste, Socially and Educationally Backward Classes and Scheduled Tribes to provide preferential treatment to those that are deprived within.
- This means the Tamil Nadu Arunthathiyars Act 2009, providing 3% reservation to the community within the 18% SC quota, will continue to be in force.
- The bench disagreed with the 2004 judgement of Supreme Court in E V Chinnaiah Vs State of Andhra Pradesh.

❖ In 2009, the TN State government, headed by M Karunanidhi, introduced a special quota for the community, combining seven castes out of the 74 listed in the SC category.

❖ The sub-quota was introduced based on a report submitted by the Justice Janarthanam Commission.

Reservation Details

SC - Arunthathiyar
3.00%

Scheduled Tribe
1.00%

Scheduled Caste
15.00%

General Category
31.00%

Most Backward Class
20.00%

Backward Class
26.50%

Backward Class (Muslims)
3.50%

Ordinance in Tamilnadu Public Health Act 1939

❖ Tamil Nadu Governor Banwarilal Purohit promulgated the Tamil Nadu Public Health Act, 1939 (Second Amendment) Ordinance 2020.

❖ It made violations of COVID-19 lockdown and physical distancing norms "compoundable offences".

❖ It also prohibits acts of violence against persons implementing these measures.

❖ The ordinance specified that a fine of ₹5,000 would be imposed on those violating the standard operating procedure (SOP) issued for commercial establishments and other public places.

❖ Those not wearing a face mask in public places will have to pay ₹200.

❖ Those spitting in public places and violating distancing norms will have to pay ₹500 as fine.

❖ The penalty for violating quarantine norms will also be ₹500.

Electronics and Hardware Manufacturing Policy

❖ The Tamil Nadu Government released Electronics and Hardware Manufacturing Policy.

❖ The main aim of the policy is to increase the electronics industry output to 100 billion USD by 2025.

❖ The State will contribute 25% of India's total electronic exports of the country after implementation of the policy.

❖ The policy is aligned with the National Electronics Policy of 2019.

❖ The policy has identified districts under three categories.

❖ They are as follows

Category	Capital	Subsidy
A	Rs 200 crores - Rs 500 crores	15%
	Above Rs 500 crores	18%
B	Rs 200 crores - Rs 500 crores	20%
	Above Rs 500 crores	24%
C	Rs 200 crores - Rs 500 crores	25%
	Above Rs 500 crores	30%

7.5% quota in medical colleges

❖ Tamil Nadu State Assembly passed a bill which reserving 7.5% of the total seats available in Medical Colleges of the state for students coming from Government Schools.

❖ These seats would be allotted to students from Govt schools who appear for NEET 2020 and qualify the exam as per their category cut-offs.

❖ The new quota also covers allocation of medical seats in private medical colleges in the state.

Policies on AI, Blockchain and Cybersecurity

❖ Tamil Nadu becomes the first state to come out with Tamil Nadu Safe and Ethical Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain and Cybersecurity policies in the country.

❖ The policies were unveiled by the Chief Minister during the farewell session of the 19th edition of Connect 2020.

❖ This policy recommends the Six-Dimensional TAM-DEF Framework for evaluation of AI-based systems.

❖ The framework's factors like transparency & audit, accountability & legal issues, misuse protection, digital divide and data deficit, ethics and, fairness and equity, ensure that the evaluation is aligned to democratic values.

Amma mobile Ration shop expansion

❖ The Tamil Nadu government expanded the Amma mobile fair price shop scheme across the state.

❖ Presently, 48 such mobile units were serving people in remote and hilly areas in Nilgiris, Namakkal, and Salem among others.

❖ The scheme was launched by the late Chief Minister Jayalalithaa in 2014.

❖ Now, the government expanded the scheme by adding another 3501 mobile fair price shops in all 37 districts of the state.

NATIONAL

Disabled persons under NFSA - 2013

❖ The Central Government instructed to the State governments and the Union Territories that all the disabled persons should be included under National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013.

❖ The Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan benefits are for those persons who are not covered under NFSA Act or Public Distribution System of States.

❖ Now the disabled persons without rations cards are also eligible to receive benefits under Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abbhiyan.

New 78 routes under UDAN

INDIA BOARDS UDAN

World's cheapest domestic air travel scheme, UDAN, was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Shimla on April 27, 2017

- Introduced by Civil Aviation Ministry under National Civil Aviation Policy unveiled in 2016

- UDAN is acronym for 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik'- meaning 'for every common man to fly'

- Three initial flights were launched in the routes Shimla-Delhi, Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad

- Government aspires to connect unserved and underserved regions of the country through revival of existing airstrips and airports

- Airfare for a 1-hour journey of approximately 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for 30-minute journey on a helicopter would be capped at ₹ 2,500

- The seating capacity of aircraft under UDAN scheme will range from 19 to 78, and 50% of the seats in every flight will have a fare cap of ₹ 2,500 per seat per hour

- The Ministry of Civil Aviation sanctioned 78 new routes under 4th round of regional connectivity scheme (RCS).
- So far 766 new routes have been sanctioned under the scheme.
- The fourth round of UDAN scheme was launched in December 2019 focusing on North Eastern Regions, Islands and Hilly states.
- UDAN scheme was launched under Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016.

NDC-Transport Initiative for Asia

- NITI Aayog launched the "India Component" of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)–Transport Initiative for Asia (TIA).
- It is a regional initiative that aims to promote a comprehensive approach to decarbonize transport in India, Vietnam, and China.
- In each of the partner countries, the NDC-TIA supports in making their sectoral contributions to the achievement of the NDCs of the Paris Agreement.
- The NDC-TIA programme has a duration of 4 years.

Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana

- The 6th anniversary of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna (PMJDY) was observed which was launched on August 28, 2014.
- The objective of PMJDY is to ensure access to financial services, namely, Banking/ Savings & Deposit Accounts, Remittance, Credit, Insurance, Pension in an affordable manner.
- The Slogan of PMJDY is "Mera Khata – Bhagya Vidhaata."
- Later its Focus shift from 'Every Household' to Every Unbanked Adult'.
- It is operated by the Department of Financial Services under the Union Finance Ministry.
- A mobile application Jan Dhan Darshak App was launched to provide a citizen centric platform for locating banking touch points such as bank branches, ATMs, etc.

Report on construction waste

- The Centre for Science and Environment recently released a report on construction waste.
- According to that, India recycles only 1% of its demolition and construction waste.
- India generates around 150 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste every year.
- However, the official recycling capacity is just about 1% which is 6,500 tonnes per day.

- ❖ Around 53 cities were to set up recycling facilities in order to recover material from Construction and Demolition waste by 2017.
- ❖ But, only 13 cities have established till 2020.

Ancient Indian Sciences in Sanskrit

- ❖ IIT-Indore has introduced a one-of-its-kind course to teach classical scientific texts to students in Sanskrit.
- ❖ It starting with Bhaskaracharya's mathematical treatise 'Lilavati' which is almost a thousand years old.
- ❖ More than 750 people from across the globe have signed up for the course that started on August 22.
- ❖ The first edition will end on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.

E-Market Platform between Indian farmers and UAE food industry

- ❖ The UAE Government launched AGRIOTA, a new technology driven agricultural commodity trading platform.
- ❖ It will bridge the rural farmers from India and the gulf Food Industry.
- ❖ The E-Market place allows the farmers to connect with the UAE food industry directly bypassing intermediaries.
- ❖ This optimizes the supply chain.
- ❖ It ensures traceability creating value for all stakeholders.
- ❖ The platform will help to improve Global Food Security Index of UAE.

Chunauti - Next Generation Start-up Challenge

- ❖ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Start-up Challenge Contest.
- ❖ It aims to further boost start-ups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of India.
- ❖ The selected start-ups will be provided various support from the Government through Software Technology Parks of India centres across India.

First ever RORO service

- ❖ First ever RORO service of South Western Railway from Nelamangla (near Bengaluru) to Bale (near Solapur) has been started.
- ❖ This shall be the only privately operated RORO train services on Indian Railways.
- ❖ Roll On Roll Off (RORO) is a concept of carrying road vehicles loaded with various commodities, on open flat railway wagons.

❖ RORO services are combination of best features of road and rail transports.

❖ RO-RO train services were first introduced in Indian Railways on Konkan Railways in 1999.

South Western Railway's first ever

Roll on - Roll off (Ro-Ro) Service between Nelmangala (Bengaluru) - Bale (Solapur)

Women Participation in NREGS

❖ As per the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) portal, that the Participation of women in the NREGS is the lowest since 2013-14.

❖ It has dipped to 52.46%.

❖ According to the data, there are 13.34 crore active beneficiaries under NREGS.

❖ Of this, 6.58 crores are women.

❖ The national average of women's share had dipped by 2.24%.

❖ Among the states, Andhra Pradesh saw the highest fall of 3.58%.

❖ The participation of women in the scheme in the state of AP was 60.5% in 2019.

❖ It has now declined to 56.47%.

❖ This was followed by West Bengal, Telangana and Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Kerala had the highest share of women person days with 91.38%.

❖ It followed by Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Goa, Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh.

❖ The state of Jammu and Kashmir had the lowest participation of women.

❖ It stood at 30.72%.

❖ It was followed by UP, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh.

Draft standard for drinking water supply

❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards has prepared a draft standard for the supply of piped drinking water.

❖ It has been named "Drinking Water Supply Quality Management System-requirements for piped drinking water supply service".

❖ The draft was prepared by the BIS Public Drinking Water Supply Services Sectional Committee.

❖ The draft was developed with the aim to provide safe and adequate drinking water to rural households by 2024.

❖ It gives standards to the limit of substances in drinking water.

❖ This includes heavy metals such as arsenic and pH of the water, dissolved salts, colour, odour and turbidity.

AGR dues issues judgement

❖ The judgement was announced by a three-judge bench headed by Justice Arun Mishra.

❖ The court said that the telecom companies shall pay their AGR dues with in a time frame of 10 years to the central government.

AGR dues

❖ AGR is Adjusted Gross Revenue.

❖ It is the usage and licensing fee that the Department of Telecommunication charges on the telecom operators.

❖ It is divided as licensing fees, spectrum usage charges.

❖ It is fixed between 3%-5% and 8% respectively.

AGR JUDGEMENT
1.43 LAKH CRORES
TO BE PAID IN 10 YEARS

Official languages of Jammu and Kashmir

❖ The Union Cabinet approved the Jammu and Kashmir Language Bill, 2020.

❖ It aims to make five languages namely Urdu, Hindi, Dogri, English and Kashmiri as the official language of the Union Territory.

❖ Before the abrogation of Article 370, Urdu and English were the official language of the state.

❖ Now Hindi, Dogri and Kashmiri have been added.

Rashtriya Khel protosahan puraskar 2020

- ❖ The Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune has been awarded Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar 2020.
- ❖ The ASI was raised as part of the Indian Army's "Mission Olympics" program on July 1, 2001.
- ❖ The aim was to train the vast reservoir of talent in the Army in selected seven disciplines to include archery, athletics, boxing, diving, fencing, weightlifting and wrestling with an aim of winning medals at Olympics.

MEDBOT- medical trolley

- ❖ Indian Railways has developed a remote-controlled medical trolley named 'MEDBOT' to help deliver food and medicines to COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ It is providing service in the Central Hospital of the Diesel Rail Engine Factory of Indian Railways.
- ❖ During Corona crisis, apart from providing transport facilities and essential items like food grains to people, Indian Railways has also provided facilities for COVID-19 patients.

Report on accidental deaths, suicides

- ❖ This report was released by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- ❖ According to the report, the number of suicide cases and accidental deaths registered an increase across the country last year from the 2018 figures.

Death count
While the number of accidental fatalities and deaths by suicide grew in 2019 compared to the previous year, the rate of increase fell marginally

■ % change in accidental deaths ■ % change in suicides
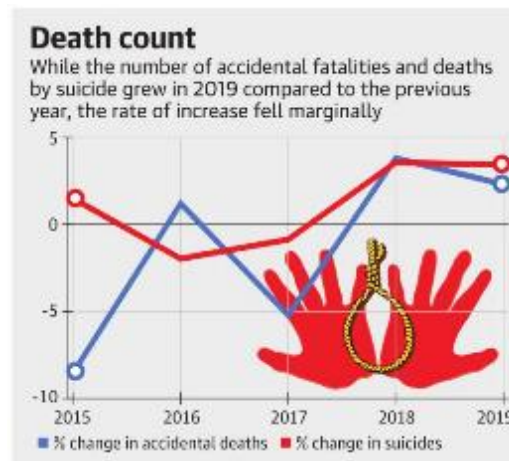
Suicides

- ❖ India reported an average 381 deaths by suicide daily in 2019
- ❖ Suicides in the country went up slightly from 1,34,516 to 1,39,123.
- ❖ Suicides in the farm sector have steadily declined over four years.
- ❖ Most suicides by unemployed persons were in Kerala at 14% followed by Maharashtra (10.8%), Tamil Nadu (9.8%), Karnataka (9.2%) and 6.1% in Odisha.

❖ Most suicides by those in business activities were in Maharashtra followed by Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh.

❖ The suicide rate in cities (13.9%) was higher compared to the all-India average.

❖ Most cases of mass/family suicides were reported from Tamil Nadu (16), followed by Andhra Pradesh (14), Kerala (11) and Punjab (9) and Rajasthan (7).

Accidents

❖ Accidental deaths in the country increased by 2.3%.

❖ Maharashtra reported the highest deaths (70,329), amounting to nearly one-sixth of the total.

❖ The major causes were 'traffic accidents' (43.9%).

❖ Most deaths (400) due to lightning was reported each from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, followed by Jharkhand (334) and Uttar Pradesh (321).

Mission Karmayogi

MISSION KARMAYOGI: POLICY FRAMEWORK OF NPCSCB

Transforming, Strengthening & Promoting Transparency

- To complement the physical capacity building approach with **online learning**
- Enable **adoption** of modern technological tools such as digital platforms, **Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Analytics**
- To calibrate all civil service tasks to a **Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies**
- To create and deliver relevant content through online, face-to-face and blended means
- Civil servants to get an opportunity to **build capacity** along their chosen and mandated career-paths
- Enabling access to training content in Hindi, English & other regional languages

❖ Union Cabinet approved Mission Karmayogi for Civil Services Capacity Building scheme.

❖ It aims to focus on capacity building of individual civil servants as well as institutional capacity building.

❖ The mission is being set up to build future ready civil servants, who will have the right attitude, skills and knowledge that will be in line with the vision of New India.

❖ The main objective of Mission Karmayogi is to prepare Indian Civil Servants for the future by enabling them to become more creative, innovative, professional, progressive, constructive, imaginative, transparent, proactive, energetic and technology-enabled.

Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity

❖ The Union Minister of New & Renewable Energy has launched the Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) for Electricity.

❖ It is a pan-India Green Term Ahead Market (GTAM) in electricity.

❖ The introduction of GTAM platform would lessen the burden on Renewable Energy (RE) rich States.

❖ The key features of GTAM include bilateral transaction (of RE) in nature with clear identification of corresponding buyers and sellers.

Suspension of Question Hour

❖ The Central government has decided to suspend the Question Hour and curtail Zero Hour for Monsoon Session.

❖ In the past too, the Question Hour has been suspended.

❖ However, they were suspended during national emergencies.

❖ Also, there is no Question Hour on the day the President addresses MPs from both Houses in the Central Hall.

❖ The current suspension has been done during a regular session.

Question Hour

❖ It is regulated according to parliamentary rules.

❖ The first hour of every parliamentary sitting is slotted for the Question Hour.

❖ But in 2014 the Question Hour was shifted in the Rajya Sabha from 11 am to 12 noon.

❖ Prior to Independence, the first question on government was asked in 1893.

Type of Questions

- ❖ Starred question - this requires an oral answer and hence supplementary questions can follow.
- ❖ Unstarred question - this requires a written answer and hence, supplementary questions cannot follow.
- ❖ Short notice question is one that is asked by giving a notice of less than ten days.
- ❖ It is answered orally.

Water Heroes contest

- ❖ The Water Heroes contest was launched by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ The main aim of the contest is to reach out to people with messages of water conservation and management.
- ❖ The entries of water conservation would be invited to share their success stories.
- ❖ This is to be done through video of 1-5 minutes along with a write up of 300 words.
- ❖ Of these, 10 entries are to be invited for awards.

State of the Young Child in India report

The index score was computed using indicators such as poverty rate, immunisation coverage, female literacy, sex ratio and percentage of households with protected water supply. India's average score was **0.585**

Best-performing States		Worst-performing States	
State	Index score (2015-16)	State	Index score (2015-16)
Kerala	0.858	Bihar	0.452
Goa	0.817	Uttar Pradesh	0.46
Tripura	0.761	Jharkhand	0.5
Tamil Nadu	0.731	Madhya Pradesh	0.526
Mizoram	0.719	Chhattisgarh	0.555

SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMY
THE BEST IAS ACADEMY IN SOUTH INDIA SINCE 2004

TNPSC THERVU PETTAGAM
Information is a Blessing
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

❖ The State of the Young Child in India report has been released by Mobile Creches, a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

❖ The Young Child Outcomes Index (YCOI) and the Young Child Environment Index (YCEI) are parts of the report.

Young Child Outcomes Index

❖ Kerala, Goa, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Mizoram are among the top five states for the well-being of children.

❖ Assam, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have scores below the country's average.

Young Child Environment Index

❖ Kerala, Goa, Sikkim, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh have secured the top five positions.

❖ The eight states with a below-average score on the above have also performed poorly on this one.

IMPROVING SCORE

(State of the Young Child in India report) — INDIA SCORE: 2015-16 **0.585** | 2005-06 **0.443** | Change **0.142**

Top three states 2015-16		Bottom three states 2015-16	
Kerala	0.858 / 0.796 — 0.062	Jharkhand	0.500 / 0.371 — 0.129
Goa	0.817 / 0.757 — 0.06	Uttar Pradesh	0.460 / 0.290 — 0.17
Tripura	0.761 / 0.582 — 0.179	Bihar	0.452 / 0.298 — 0.155

Note: Three major components for constructing the Index, viz., health, nutrition and cognitive growth and the respective indicators selected are Infant Mortality Rate, stunting and net attendance at the primary school level

Business Reforms Action Plan ranking of states

❖ Union Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs launched the fourth edition of Business Reforms Action Plan ranking of states.

❖ Tamil Nadu moved up one spot, to get to the 14th position in ease-of-doing-business ranking 2019, from the 15th place in 2018.

❖ Andhra Pradesh topped in the list and followed by Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand.

❖ The plan was released by DPIIT-World Bank.

QUICK PROGRESS FOR UP
State Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) ranking comparison

State/UT	Rank 2019	Rank 2018	Change (+/-)
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	0
Uttar Pradesh	2	12	10
Telangana	3	2	-1
Madhya Pradesh	4	7	3
Jharkhand	5	4	-1
Chhattisgarh	6	6	0
Himachal Pradesh	7	16	9
Rajasthan	8	9	1

11th edition of exercise - INDRA NAVY

❖ Indian Navy and Russian Navy has commenced the 11th edition of a biennial bilateral maritime exercise "INDRA NAVY".

❖ The biennial bilateral maritime exercise will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal.

❖ This year, the bilateral maritime exercise would be undertaken in a 'non-contact, at sea only' format amid the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

❖ It is Initiated in 2003 to integrate the long-term strategic relationship between the Navies of India and Russia.

Decriminalization of Begging

❖ The Ministry of Railways has proposed to decriminalise begging on trains or railway premises.

❖ It is the part of an exercise to decriminalise or rationalise penalties under the provisions of the Railway Act, 1989.

❖ It also compounds the offence of smoking by levying spot fine.

Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme - 2020

❖ Under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, Goa is paired with Jharkhand.

❖ The intensity of programmes is less due to lockdown and so the focus is laid on virtual events.

❖ Lokotsav programmes held earlier in Goa in Panaji evoked good response.

❖ The programme was announced by the Prime Minister in 2015 on the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Judicial recusal of high court judge

❖ Justice Suvir Sehgal of the Punjab and Haryana High Court recused from hearing the anticipatory bail application filed by former Punjab DGP Sumedh Singh Saini in the Balwant Singh Multani disappearance and murder case.

❖ The Judge, while recusing himself from the case referred the matter to the Chief Justice for re-listing.

❖ Judicial disqualification, referred to as recusal, is the act of abstaining from participation in an official action such as a legal proceeding due to a conflict of interest of the presiding court official or administrative officer.

❖ There are no definite rules on recusals by Judges.

INSTANCE OF RECUSAL OF SC JUDGES

March 8, 2016: Justice J Chelameswar recused from a case pertaining to Bangalore blasts accused Abdul Nazir Maudany

March 9, 2016: Justice AR Dave's bench said it was unable to hear activist Teesta's anticipatory bail plea and referred it to CJI for listing it before another bench

March 10, 2016: Justice VG Gowda recused from hearing CBI's plea challenging May 2010 Allahabad HC verdict dropping criminal conspiracy charge against BJP leaders LK Advani

in Babri Masjid case

April 28, 2011: Justices DK Jain and HL Dattu recused from hearing then Sikkim HC Chief Justice PD Dinakaran's petition seeking a stay on Rajya Sabha-appointed inquiry panel against him

March 2, 2012: Bench of justices HL Dattu and CK Prasad chose not to hear a petition challenging validity of the USD 8.5 million Cairn Energy-Vedanta deal.

E sanjivini implementation

❖ The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare presided over a review meeting with States/UTs on the "eSanjeevani" and "eSanjeevaniOPD" platforms.

❖ Tele-consultation by eSanjeevani and eSanjeevaniOPD have been implemented by 23 States and other States are in the process of rolling it out.

❖ Tamil Nadu topped in the list and followed by Andhra Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh.

❖ Nagappattinam topped in Tamil Nadu state level consultation.

❖ It is a web-based comprehensive telemedicine solution.

❖ This eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.

❖ It aims to make healthcare services equitable by bridging the digital divide that exists in both rural areas and isolated communities.

IIT roorkee - BASIIC program

- ❖ IIT Roorkee has signed MoU with National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) for the development of BASIIC initiative.
- ❖ It aims to work in the areas of universal design principles and to have the development of BASIIC (Building Accessible Safe Inclusive Indian Cities).
- ❖ Both the entities will engage in this with all their technical support in order to make Indian cities more accessible, safe for living.

Draft guidelines for ads

- ❖ The Consumer Affairs Ministry has come out with a comprehensive set of draft guidelines on advertising.
- ❖ The code has been drafted by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) under the Consumer Protection Act, 2019.
- ❖ It is aimed at curbing unfair trade.
- ❖ It holds manufacturers, service providers, and advertising agencies accountable for any misleading claims.

National Bamboo Mission logo

- ❖ Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched 22 bamboo clusters in nine states and National Bamboo Mission logo.
- ❖ The bamboo clusters will be set up in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.
- ❖ The designer of the logo is Shri Sai Ram Goudi Edigi of Telengana.
- ❖ It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that was started in year 2006-07.

Baghpat - National Importance Site

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) declares site and remains at Baghpat to be of National Importance which was discovered in 2018.
- ❖ This site has evidence of the existence of a warrior class around 2,000 BCE.
- ❖ Three chariots, legged coffins, shields, swords and helmets were among the objects found at the site.

❖ ASI termed the site the "largest necropolis of the late Harappan period datable to around early part of second millennium BCE".

❖ The ASI's notification released under provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC)

❖ Niti Aayog constituted a Multidimensional Poverty Index Coordination Committee (MPICC) chaired by Sanyukta Samaddar.

❖ NITI Aayog is the nodal agency and has the responsibility of leveraging the monitoring mechanism of the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to drive reforms.

❖ Global MPI is part of Government of India's decision to monitor the performance of the country in 29 select Global Indices.

❖ Global MPI is an international measure of multidimensional poverty covering 107 developing countries.

❖ According to Global MPI 2020, India is at 62nd among 107 countries.

❖ It was first developed in 2010 by Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
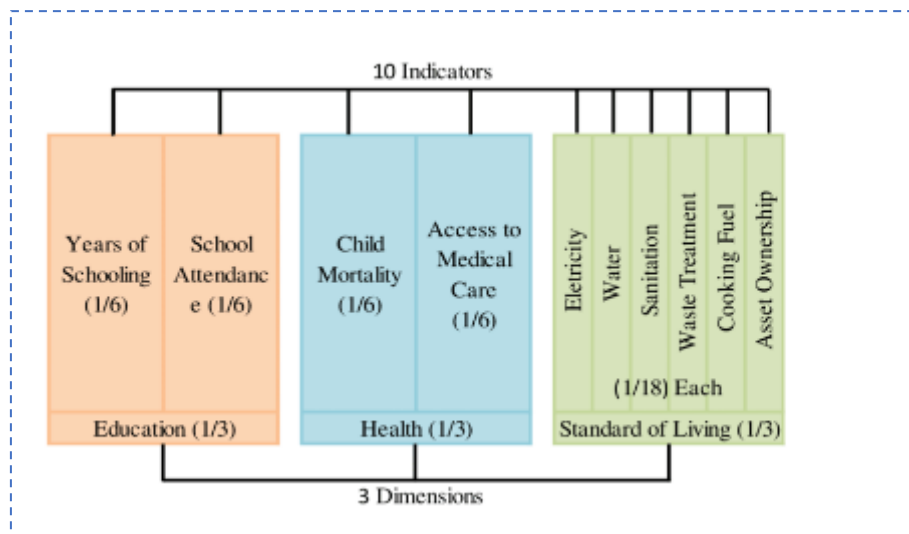
Real Mango Software

❖ In a nation-wide probe the Railway Protection Force (RPF) obstructed the use of Real Mango software.

❖ Real Mango software is an illegal notorious software developed for booking Tatkal ticket over the IRCTC website.

❖ This illegal and commonly banned software makes the complete process of Indian Rail ticket booking at a fly speed.

Patrika Gate in Jaipur

- ❖ The Prime Minister has inaugurated the Patrika Gate in Jaipur, Rajasthan through video conference.
- ❖ The Patrika Gate is a memorial that reflects the cultural heritage and architectural style of Rajasthan.
- ❖ This Patrika Gate was built by the Patrika group of Newspapers on the Jawaharlal Nehru Marg in Jaipur.
- ❖ He also launched 2 books Samvad Upanishad and Akshar Yatra.
- ❖ These are authored by Gulab Kothari, Editor in Chief of Rajasthan Patrika Group and Chairman of Patrika Group of Newspaper.

Fruits & vegetables under 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme

- ❖ All the fruits and vegetables in J&K will be covered under the 'Operation Green's TOP to TOTAL' scheme.
- ❖ This step is aimed at supporting farmers of Fruits and Vegetables.
- ❖ The scheme has been extended from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits and vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months.
- ❖ The Union Food Processing Industries Ministry will provide subsidy of 50% of the cost of transportation, under the scheme.
- ❖ Operation Greens was announced in the budget 2018-19 on the line of "Operation Flood".
- ❖ It focuses on the organised marketing of the of TOP vegetables by connecting the farmers with consumers through e-NAM platforms.

Five PSUs to join International Solar Alliance

- ❖ The Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry announced that five Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) will join the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Coalition for Sustainable Climate Action.

- The five PSUs to join the ISA are
  - Indian Oil Corporation Limited,
  - Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited,
  - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited,
  - Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited and
  - GAIL India Limited.

Finger Prints in India 2019 report

- 'Finger Prints in India 2019' is the 23rd edition of annual publication of Central Finger Print Bureau (CFPB).
- CFPB works under the aegis of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Gujarat topped the list by tracing as many as 69,636 search slips in 2019 followed by Tamil Nadu at 11,524 cases and Delhi at 8,517 cases.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana

- Prime Minister digitally launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana and e-Gopala application.
- He also announced the establishment of Fish Brood Bank at Sitamarhi, and Aquatic Disease Referral Laboratory at Kishanganj, in Bihar.

Aims

- Sustainable development of fisheries in India.
- Increasing the fish production to 70 lakh tonnes by 2024-25.
- Reducing the post-harvest losses of fisheries sector to 10%.

e-Gopala application

- It aims to boost the breed improvement marketplace and information portal for direct use of farmers.
- It will help fish farmers to manage livestock digitally.
- With this app, they can buy and sell of disease-free germplasm.
- Also, they can check for availability of quality breeding services for veterinary first aid, artificial insemination and vaccination.

Induction of Rafale Fighter Jets

- The Indian Air Force is going to formally induct the Rafale aircraft on September 10, 2020 at Air Force Station, Ambala.
- The first five Indian Air Force Rafale aircraft have arrived to the Air Force Station, Ambala from France on July 27th, 2020.
- It will now be part of the 17 Squadron, also known as Golden Arrows.

Other details

- ❖ Militarily, Rafale means "burst of fire".
- ❖ It is also called as an omni role aircraft by Dassault.
- ❖ This 4.5 Generation jet which can reach double the speed of sound, with top most speed of 1.8 Mach.
- ❖ It also come with SCALP which is an air-to-ground cruise missile having a range over 300 km.
- ❖ Within the range of 70 kms, it can be used against bunker-type hardened targets.

RAFALE SPECIFICATIONS

Max. take-off weight: 24.5 TONNES
Wing span: 10.90 M
Height: 5.30 M
External load: 9.5 TONNES
Fuel (internal): 4.7 TONNES
Fuel (external): UP TO 6.7 TONNES
Length: 15.30 M
Ferry Range: 3,700 KM
Overall empty weight: 10 TONNES
Landing ground run: 450 M (1,500 FT)
Top Speed: 1.8 MACH AT HIGH ALTITUDE
Service ceiling: 50,000 FT

Aatmanirbhar Bharat ARISE - Atal New India Challenges

- ❖ The programme will spur applied research and innovation in Indian MSMEs and startups.
- ❖ The initiative will help identify and promote innovations necessary for boosting the MSME sector.
- ❖ The programme will be driven by ISRO and other four ministries including
  - o Ministry of Defence,
  - o Ministry of Food Processing Industries,
  - o Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and
  - o Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0

- ❖ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has launched the Climate Smart Cities Assessment Framework (CSCAF) 2.0 and 'Streets for People Challenge'.
- ❖ It aims to provide a clear roadmap for cities towards combating Climate Change while planning and implementing their actions along with investments.

- The CSCAF initiative intends to inculcate a climate-sensitive approach to urban planning and development in India.
- The framework has 28 indicators across five categories namely:
  - Energy and Green Buildings
  - Urban Planning, Green Cover & Biodiversity
  - Mobility and Air Quality
  - Water Management
  - Waste Management
- The Streets for People Challenge is the response to the need for making our cities more walkable and pedestrian friendly.
- It aims to inspire cities to create walking-friendly and vibrant streets through quick, innovative, and low-cost measures.

South India's 1st Kisan Rail

- India's 2nd and South India's 1st Kisan Rail was flagged off between Anantapur and New Delhi.
- This train transport agriculture products from Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh to Adarsh Nagar Railway Station in New Delhi.
- The first Kisan Rail was flagged off on 7 August between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar as a weekly service and later it was made bi-weekly.

Flagging off Ceremony of

India's Second and
South India's First

KISAN RAIL

Between
Anantapur - New Delhi

Benefits of Kisan Rail

	It will take less time and cost in comparison of road transport.
	It will help the small farmers in better price realisation for their produce.
	It will ensure less damage to the farm produce while transportation
	Small farmers and traders related to fruits and vegetables like Sweet Lime, Pomegranate, Water Melons, Papaya, Guava, Tomato etc., will be benefitted.
	Balances the Fruits and Vegetables supply across the country.

State Startup Rankings 2019

❖ State of Gujarat and Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been named the best performers in the State Start-up Rankings 2019.

❖ Karnataka and Kerala are the top performing states in fostering innovative entrepreneurship to attract business and finance.

❖ Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Praadesh, Mizoram, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh are the emerging start-up ecosystems in the country.

❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is conducted the "State Start-up Ranking 2019".

Best Performer 100%		2 States/UTs
Gujarat	Category X	
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Category Y	
Top Performers More than 75% to less than 100%		2 States/UTs
Leaders More than or equal to 30% to less than or equal to 75%		5 States/UTs
Aspiring Leaders More than 10% and less than 30%		6 States/UTs
Emerging State Less than or equal to 10%		10 States/UTs
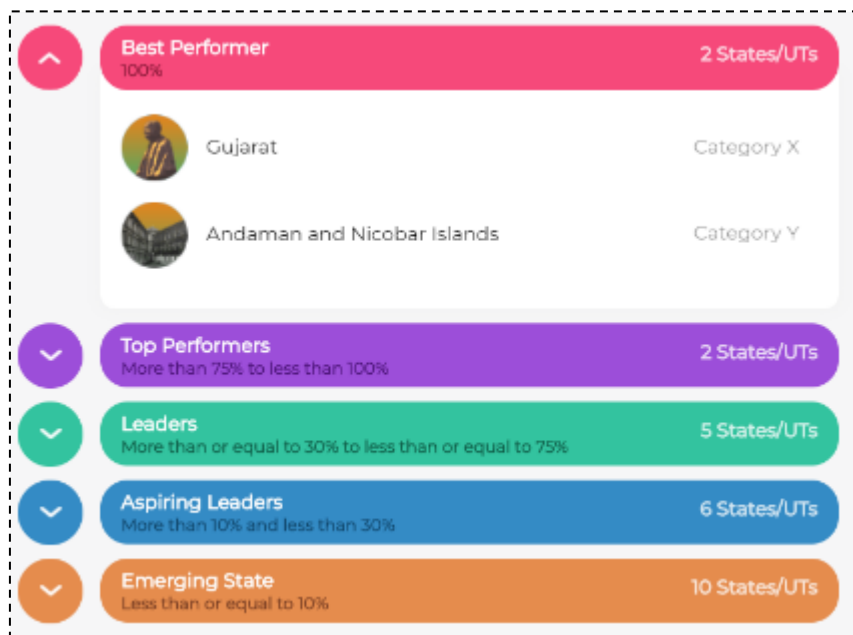
Five-star villages scheme

❖ The Department of Posts (Ministry of Communications) has launched a scheme called Five Star Villages.

Criteria — India Post

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

- 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.

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.

Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD)

- The Central government implementing Integrated Road Accident Database Project (iRAD) across the country and the related app will enable collection of accident data on the spot.
- Initially, the proposal will be implemented in six states, namely Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- The app will enable the stakeholders such as the Police, Transport, and Health etc. to use their mobile phones to collect accident data on the spot.

- ❖ This data can then be utilized for various purposes like finding the cause of accident and remedial measures to improve the road infrastructure and record the accident data.

Committee to Study Ancient Indian Culture

- ❖ The government has formed an expert committee for conducting a holistic study of origin and evolution of Indian culture since 12,000 years before present and its interface with other cultures of the world.
- ❖ The 16 member committee will include KN Dikshit, Chairman, Indian Archaeological Society, New Delhi, and former Joint Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, among others.

Aircraft Amendment Bill, 2020

- ❖ Lok Sabha has passed the Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934.
- ❖ The Act regulates the manufacture, possession, use, operation, sale, import and export of civil aircrafts and licensing of aerodromes.
- ❖ The Bill will provide statutory status to regulatory institutions like
    - o The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA),
    - o The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and
    - o The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).
- ❖ DGCA will carry out oversight and regulatory functions with respect to matters under the Bill.
- ❖ BCAS carries out regulatory oversight functions related to civil aviation security.
- ❖ AAIB carries out investigations related to aircraft accidents and incidents.
- ❖ The statutory status to these regulatory institutions would improve India's aviation safety ranking as suggested by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- ❖ The Act exempted aircrafts belonging to the naval, military, or air forces of the Union.

Shweta Kapila cows

- ❖ Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) – National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR) declared Shweta Kapila cows as Goan breed.
- ❖ These cows are found in Valpoi, Saakeri and some other regions in Goa.
- ❖ The Shweta Kapila cows are known for the nutritional value of their A2 rich milk.

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,
  - o The Institute of Post-Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda,
  - o Shree Gulabkunverba Ayurved Mahav idyalaya and
  - o The Indian Institute of Ayurvedic Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Resignation of union minister

- ❖ Harsimrat Kaur Badal, resigned from the Union cabinet for opposing 3 farm bills in Lok Sabha.
- ❖ She claiming that these proposed legislations will destroy the agriculture sector in Punjab.
- ❖ The three bills are
  - o The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill,
  - o The Farmers Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, and
  - o The Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill.
- ❖ She became Union Minister for Food Processing in 2014 and retained the portfolio in the second term of the government which started in 2019.

Ajay Tirkey committee

- ❖ The Centre has set up a high-level committee headed by Ajay Tirkey to prepare a roadmap for regularisation of land leasing in the agriculture sector.
- ❖ The reform will lay down the rights of landless farm workers who miss out on welfare benefits.
- ❖ The proposed land-leasing framework will recognise the rights of landowners and cultivators and farm workers.

Public Procurement Order, 2017 amendment

❖ The Government of India has recently amended the public procurement order 2017.

❖ This amendment has been made to curtail Chinese investment.

❖ The amendment now enables the departments and nodal Ministries to notify higher local content requirement for class 1 and class 2 local suppliers.

❖ Earlier the share of class 1 and class 2 local suppliers were fixed at 50 % and 20 % respectively.

❖ Class 1 local supplier means a supplier whose goods and services offered for procurement has local content greater than or equal to 50 %.

❖ Now with this amendment the ministry can notify local content requirement even greater than 50 %.

India's first exclusive private jet terminal

❖ India's first exclusive private jet terminal was inaugurated at the Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi.

❖ The exclusive terminal will handle flight operations of private jets.

❖ The new and exclusive private jet terminal will enable smooth movement of business jets and chartered aircraft.

Rajesh Pant committee

❖ The central government constituted a committee of experts under the National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen Rajesh Pant (retd).

❖ It tasked to examine reports of surveillance of prominent Indian nationals, including political leaders, by Chinese firm Zhenhua Data.

60 years of Indus Water Treaty

❖ September 19 this year marks the 60th anniversary of the Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan.

❖ The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank signed in Karachi in 1960.

❖ According to this agreement, control over

o The water flowing in three "eastern" rivers of India - the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej was given to India.

o The water flowing in three "western" rivers of India - the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum was given to Pakistan.

The Indus Water Treaty

The 56-year-old Indus Water Treaty between India and Pakistan has been instrumental in the peaceful sharing the water of Indus and its tributaries

With the recent spurt of tensions between the two countries and PM Narendra Modi's statement that "blood and water cannot flow together" followed by India's decision to suspend meetings of Indus Water Commission, here is a look at the treaty and its ingredients:

Signed on: September 19, 1960
Signatories: Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Pakistan's President Ayub Khan
Brokered by: The World Bank

Features

■ Rivers Beas, Ravi and Sutlej to be governed by India while Indus, Chenab and Jhelum by Pakistan

■ India is allowed to use 20 per cent of Indus water for irrigation, power generation and transport purposes

■ A permanent body called Indus Water Commission solves disputes arising over water sharing

■ River Indus originates from China, but it is not a part of the treaty

DRDO's new advanced technology centers

❖ DRDO has set up eight advanced technology centres to carry out research on futuristic military applications.

❖ The centres will provide support to academia to undertake research on new technologies in niche areas for military use.

❖ At present, the DRDO has over 50 laboratories across the country

❖ They are engaged in developing defence technologies covering disciplines like aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, engineering systems, missiles, advanced computing and naval systems.

Air Bubble agreements

❖ India has entered into Air Bubble agreements with 10 countries viz. USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, Afghanistan and Bahrain.

❖ 'Air bubble' is a bilateral agreement between India and other countries.

❖ It allows both to fly their national carriers to and from each other's soil when regular international flights are suspended due to COVID-19.

❖ But Mission Vande Bharat is the one where only Indian air carriers were allowed to operate flights.

Minimum Support Price of Rabi Crops

❖ The Government of India increased the Minimum Support Price of rabi crops.

❖ The MSP of wheat has been increased by Rs 50 per quintal.

❖ The other crops are Chana, Mustard, Safflower and Masoor.

❖ The MSP is fixed based on the recommendations made by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission.

Destination North East, 2020 festival

❖ The four-day event is to be formally inaugurated by Home Minister on September 27, 2020.

❖ The Union Minister, Jitendra Singh has unveiled the Logo and song for festival "Destination North East-2020" (The Emerging Delightful Destinations).

❖ The festival helps to familiarize people of other parts of the country with rich unexplored potential of North East.

❖ The festival was launched in the couple of years in 2018 (in Chandigarh) and in 2019 (in India Gate, New Delhi).

Ghar Tak Fibre scheme

❖ Prime Minister launched nine highway projects and Optical Fibre Internet Services in Bihar.

❖ The optical fibre services are being provided under the scheme "Ghar Tak Fibre".

❖ The project is to be implemented Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

❖ The project will connect 45,945 villages in the state.

❖ It will thus enable Digital revolution to reach farthest corner of Bihar.

Women Officers in Helicopter Stream

❖ For the first time in the history of Indian Defence System two women officers were selected to join as observers in the Helicopter Stream of Indian Navy.

❖ They will be the first women combatants operating warships.

❖ The two women officers joining the Helicopter team are Sub Lieutenant Riti Singh and Sub Lieutenant Kumudini Tyagi.

Suspension of MP

❖ Recently eight Rajya Sabha MPs were suspended for unruly behaviour in the House.

❖ The Chairman of Rajya Sabha is empowered under Rule Number 255 of its Rule Book to "direct any Member whose conduct is in his opinion grossly disorderly to withdraw immediately" from the House.

❖ The House may adopt a motion of suspending the Member from the service of the House for a period not exceeding the remainder of the session.

❖ Unlike the Speaker, however, the Rajya Sabha Chairman does not have the power to suspend a Member.

❖ The House may, by another motion, terminate the suspension.

Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill - 2020

❖ The Parliament passed the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 22, 2020, ensuring the protection of the health workers.

❖ The bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on September 19, 2020.

Highlights

❖ The bill amends the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 to include the protection of health care service personnel combating epidemic diseases as well as expands the power of the central government to prevent the spread of such diseases.

❖ The bill passed in the parliament repeals the Epidemic Diseases (Amendment) Ordinance that was promulgated in April 2020.

❖ The legislation makes injury, harm, danger, or hurts to the life of the health care service personnel as a cognizable and non-bailable offense.

❖ The bill also has the provisions of imprisonment from three months to five years and a fine between Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 2,00,000.
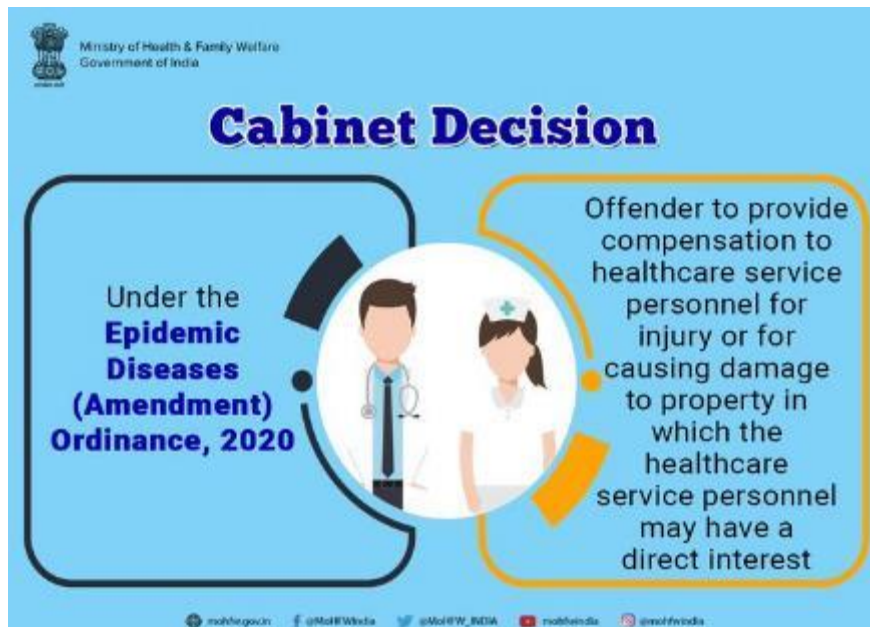
Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020

❖ The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2020 passed by the parliament to replaces an ordinance to the same effect promulgated on June 26.

❖ The Bill proposes amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

❖ This new Bill aims to bring cooperative banks under the supervision of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Highlights

❖ All the Provisions applicable to banking companies will also be applicable to cooperative banks.

- It will help the central bank to develop a scheme to ensure the interest of the public, banking system, account holders in the bank and banking company's proper management, without disrupting any banking functionalities.
- The amendments also allow cooperative banks to raise money via public issues and private placements of equity or preference shares as well as unsecured debentures.

Exceptions

- It will not affect the existing powers of the state registrars of co-operative societies under state laws.
- It will not apply to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) or co-operative societies whose primary object and principal business is long-term finance for agricultural development, and which do not use the words "bank", "banker" or "banking".

IIIT Laws Amendment Bill 2020

- The Parliament on September 22, 2020 passed the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill 2020.
- This Amendment Bill 2020 will amend the principal Acts of 2014 and 2017.
- It seeks to declare five IIITs in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode - IIIT Bhopal, IIIT Agartala, IIIT Surat, IIIT Bhagalpur and IIIT Raichur as Institutions of National importance.
- The institutes are already functioning as societies, registered under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- With this, the total number of IIITs that have been declared as Institutions of National Importance will go up to 25.

PASSEX - India and Australia Naval exercise

- The Indian Navy has commenced a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region.
- The exercise would involve participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk.
- The Passage Exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices from each other.
- This is the fourth major Naval Drill conducted by Indian Navy in the Indian Ocean Region since June 2020.

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.

- o Removes imprisonment in certain offences.
- o 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.

1st Union minister to die of Covid-19

- ❖ Union minister of state for railways and Karnataka BJP MP Suresh Angadi, 65, passed away after he tested positive for Covid-19.
- ❖ Angadi is the first Central minister to die of coronavirus.
- ❖ He was the fourth-term MP from Belagavi.
- ❖ H Vasantha kumar, Congress MP from Kanyakumari is the first MP to die of COVID-19.
- ❖ So, Kanniya kumari Lok Sabha Constituency to see First By-Poll in more than 50 Years.
- ❖ Previously, in January 1969, the constituency witnessed a significant by-election.
- ❖ It marked the political return of former chief minister K. Kamaraj.

Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill - 2020

- ❖ The Parliament passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15.
- ❖ The Bill replaces an Ordinance promulgated in June 2020.
- ❖ It amends the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955.
- ❖ The ECA 1955 was used to curb inflation by allowing the Centre to enable control by state governments of trade in a wide variety of commodities.

Features of the Bill

❖ Removes commodities like cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from the list of essential commodities.

❖ Aims to remove fears of private investors of excessive regulatory interference in their business operations.

❖ Ensures that interests of consumers are safeguarded by regulating agricultural foodstuff in situations such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise and natural calamity.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2020

❖ Foreign Contribution Regulation (Amendment) Bill 2020 was passed by the parliament to amend the FCRA act, 2010 on September 23.

❖ The bill is aimed at amending the provisions of the FCRA Act to streamline the funding procedure.

❖ The bill aims to increase transparency and accountability.

❖ It also aims to strengthen the compliance mechanism in the utilisation of foreign contribution.

Features of the Bill

❖ It seeks to prohibit 'public servants' from receiving any foreign funding.

❖ It proposes to reduce the use of foreign funds to meet administrative costs by NGOs from the existing 50 per cent to 20 per cent.

❖ It seeks to "prohibit any transfer of foreign contribution to any association/ person".

❖ It proposes to make Aadhaar cards a mandatory identification document for all office-bearers, directors and other key functionaries of NGOs or associations eligible to receive foreign donations.

Labour Code reform bills

❖ Parliament passes following 3 Bills related to Labour Law

    o Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions,

    o The Industrial Relations Code, and

    o The Social Security Code.

❖ It aims at amending the laws relating to Trade Unions, conditions of employment in industrial establishment or undertaking, investigation and settlement of industrial disputes.

❖ With the passage of these three Bills, 29 central labour laws have been codified into four broad codes (the first code on wages was approved by Parliament last year).

❖ It improves ease of doing business and providing universal social security to workers as well.

Center for disability sports

- ❖ The foundation stone laid for 'Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Setting up of a Centre for Disability Sports at Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh was approved by the Cabinet on 28 February 2019.
- ❖ The Centre will be registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

Antyodaya Diwas

- ❖ The foundation day (September 25) of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana celebrated as "Antyodaya Diwas".
- ❖ The Day was celebrated under the theme "Kaushal Se Kal Badlenge".
- ❖ The scheme is a part of the National Rural Livelihood Mission.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on providing employment to the youth between the age group of 15 and 35 years by training them with required skills.
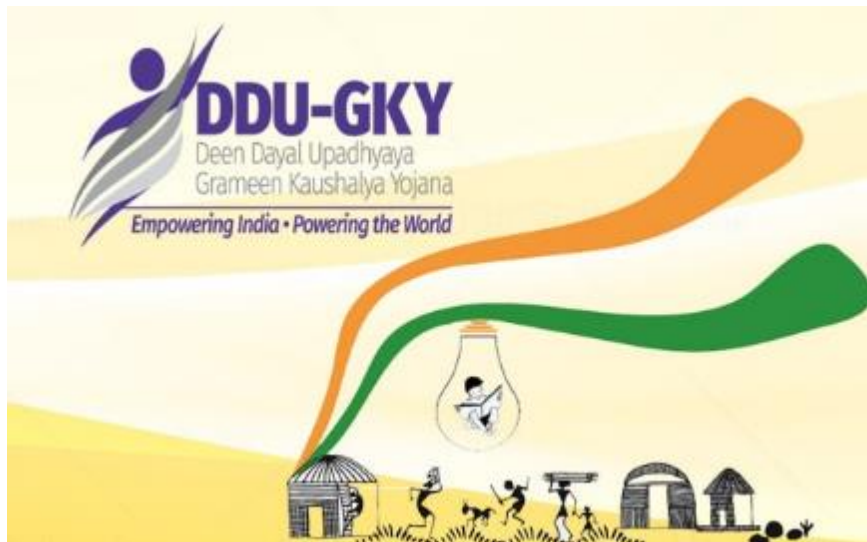
Medical devices park

- ❖ The Central government approved the setting up four medical device parks (MedSpark) in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala
- ❖ Country's first MedSpark is to be set up in Thonnakkal, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- ❖ It is the joint initiative of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology (SCTIMST), an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (KSIDC).

SHANKAR
IAS ACADEMY
THE BEST IAS ACADEMY IN SOUTH INDIA SINCE 2004

TNPSC THERVU PETTAGAM
Information is a Blessing
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

National Medical Commission

- ❖ The Union government has set up the National Medical Commission (NMC) along with four other autonomous boards while abolishing the Medical Council of India.
- ❖ The four autonomous boards include:
  - o Undergraduate Medical Education Board.
  - o Postgraduate Medical Education Board.
  - o Medical Assessment and Rating Board.
  - o Ethics and Medical Registration Board.
- ❖ These boards have been constituted to help the NMC in day-to-day functioning.
- ❖ The NMC Act received the assent of the President on August 8, 2019.
- ❖ The NMC comprises a chairman, 10 ex-officio members and 22 part-time members.
- ❖ Suresh Chandra Sharma will be the first chairman for three years.

INTERNATIONAL

Resignation of Japan Prime Minister

- ❖ Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan announced his resignation owing to his health condition.
- ❖ He was the longest serving Prime Minister of Japan (2006-2021).

The Longest-Serving Japanese Prime Ministers

Japanese prime ministers by total days in office and number of terms served

Start of first administration		Number of terms
	LDP Liberal/DLP None	
2006	Shinzo Abe	4
1901	Katsura Taro	3
1964	Eisaku Sato	3
1885	Ito Hirobumi	4
1946	Shigeru Yoshida	5
2001	Junichiro Koizumi	3
1982	Yasuhiro Nakasone	3
1960	Hayato Ikeda	3

Sources: Japan Times, Kyodo News, Nippon.com, Japan Forward

Participation of Women in Peacekeeping Forces

❖ India co-sponsored United National Security Council Resolution for Greater Participation of women in peacekeeping forces.

❖ The resolution was tabled by Indonesia has been seconded by India.

❖ India is the fifth largest troop contributor to UN peacekeeping operations.

❖ The resolution has been passed by a consensus.

❖ According to 2019 data, only six percent of UN peacekeepers are women.

❖ In total, there are 86, 687 peacekeepers in the UN of which 5,243 are female.

Global ranking of average wages

❖ Global ranking of average wages was prepared by Picodi.com.

❖ India ranked 72nd among 106 countries with an average monthly wage of Rs 32,800.

❖ Its analysis team looked into earnings of countries around the world and created a global ranking of average wages.

❖ The ranking has been topped by Switzerland followed by Luxembourg and United States.

❖ Among Asian countries, India ranked 10th out of 16.

❖ It has been topped by Singapore, Australia, and Hong Kong.

Chinese Warships for Pakistan

❖ China has launched first of the four advanced naval warships for Pakistan.

❖ First ship is of Type-054 class frigate.

❖ It is equipped with Latest surface, subsurface, anti-air weapons, combat management system, and sensors.

World's Largest Solar Tree

❖ The CSIR-CMERI operating under the Ministry of Science and Technology has developed world largest solar tree at Durgapur of West Bengal.

❖ The tree has an annual capacity of generating 12,000 to 14,000 units of Clean and Green power.

❖ One solar tree can reduce ten to twelve tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions.

Human African Trypanosomiasis elimination

- ❖ Recently Togo has become the first country in Africa to eliminate human African Trypanosomiasis.

- ❖ Togo is a West African nation on the Gulf of Guinea and it did not report any cases in the past 10 years.

- ❖ Sleeping sickness, or human African trypanosomiasis, is caused by parasites which are transmitted by infected tsetse flies and is only found in 36 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

6th International Military-Technical Forum

- ❖ The 6th International Military-Technical Forum "Army-2020" was held at Moscow, Russia.

- ❖ It was organized by Russian Defence Ministry and operated by International Congresses and Exhibitions Ltd.

- ❖ For the first time, a line of 23 tanks and armoured vehicles were deployed in an open area.

Guidelines on access to social justice for people with disabilities

- ❖ The United Nations has released its first-ever guidelines on access to social justice for people with disabilities to make it easier for them to access justice systems around the world.

- ❖ The guidelines outline a set of 10 principles and detail the steps for implementation.

- ❖ The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted in 2007 as the first major instrument of human rights in the 21st century.

- ❖ Persons with Disabilities are those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

- ❖ As per statistics maintained by the UN, in India 2.4 per cent of males are disabled and two per cent of females from all age groups are disabled.
- ❖ In comparison, the disability prevalence in the US is 12.9% among females and 12.7% among males.

Kavkaz-2020

- ❖ India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise "Kavkaz 2020" to be held in Russia.
- ❖ Due to COVID-19 and consequent difficulties in exercise, India has decided not to send a contingent this year to Kavkaz-2020.
- ❖ Both China and Pakistan are going to be a part of the multinational exercise.

First 'historic' Direct Flight between Israel and UAE

- ❖ In a historic step towards peace in the Middle East, the first commercial direct flight between Israel and the UAE landed in Abu Dhabi.
- ❖ Israel and the UAE announced on August 13 that they were establishing full diplomatic relations, in a US-brokered deal.
- ❖ UAE is only the third Arab country to establish diplomatic ties with the Jewish state next to Egypt and Jordan.

World's largest solar power generation assets

- ❖ Mercom Capital has ranked, Adani Green Energy Ltd as the world's largest solar power generation asset owner in terms of operating, under-construction and awarded projects.
- ❖ AGEL's under-construction and awarded capacity stands at 10.1 GW, while its operational capacity is nearly 3 GW.
- ❖ Adani's portfolio is 12.32 GWac which exceeds total installed capacity of U.S. in 2019.
- ❖ Adani Green Energy established its first solar project in just 2015.

Top 10 Global Large-Scale Solar Developers by Total Capacity
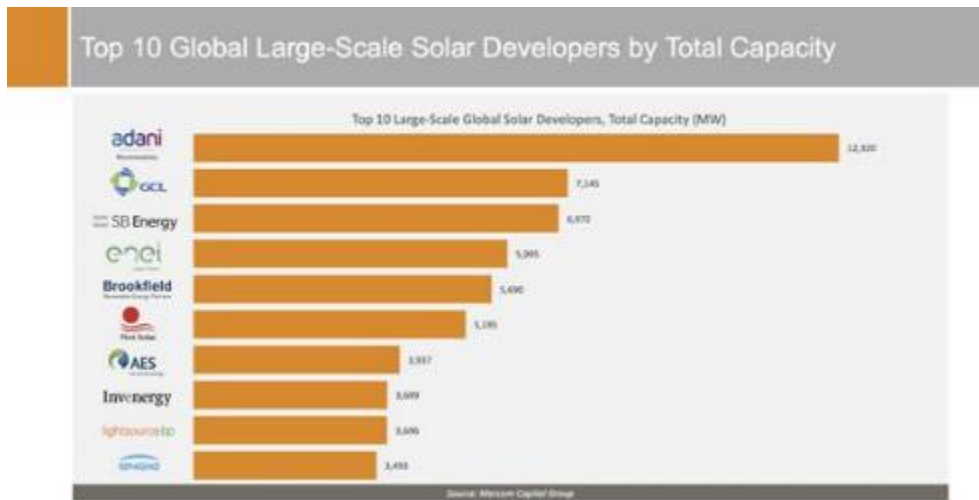
Changes in Qatari labor

❖ Qatar has scrapping rules that made it compulsory for workers to take owner's permission before switching jobs.

❖ This is known as 'kafala system' or a "no objection certificate" made migrant workers get permission from their employers before changing jobs.

❖ The 'kafala' system is a system that lays down obligations in the treatment and protection of foreign 'guests'.

❖ Kafala means 'to guarantee' or 'to take care of' in Arabic.

❖ Also, it increased the minimum wage by 25 per cent to $274 or 1000 Qatari riyals.

❖ Qatar is hosting the 2022 FIFA World Cup with the event setting in motion a huge construction programme employing foreign workers.

❖ It is being practiced in the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and also in the Arab states of Jordan and Lebanon.

G-20 Foreign Ministers meet

❖ Saudi Arabia recently hosted the G-20 foreign ministers' meet focusing on cross border movement amidst the pandemic.

❖ During the meet, India proposed development of G-20 Principles on Coordinated Cross border movement of people.

❖ The proposed principles are based on three elements. They are as follows

   o Standardisation of Quarantine procedures

   o Standardisation of testing procedures and universal acceptability of test results

   o Standardisation of movement and transit protocols

India to host Summit of SCO Council

- ❖ India is to host a summit of council of heads of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) on November 30, 2020.
- ❖ India was an observer of SCO till 2005.
- ❖ It became a member in 2017 along with Pakistan.
- ❖ India wants to expand its cooperation with SCO to increase its trade in the central Asian region.
- ❖ This is to be achieved through India's Connect Central Asia Policy.

Annual report on Chinese Military power

- ❖ The United States recently published an annual report on Chinese Military power.
- ❖ According to the report, the Chinese Navy is now the largest in the world.
- ❖ The report says that the overall battle force of China is approximately 350 ships and submarines.
- ❖ This includes 130 major surface combatants.
- ❖ On the hand the US Navy has approximately 293 ships as of early 2020.

Other highlights

- ❖ The Western theatre command of china is oriented towards India.
- ❖ The official budget allocated by china annually is 174.4 billion USD.
- ❖ On the other hand, India allocated 61.7 billion USD.
- ❖ China aims to build world class military by 2049.
- ❖ The Chinese define world class military as a military force that is superior to the United States.
- ❖ China has increased the participation of armed forces at STRIDE in the last two years.
- ❖ China is to supply 8 Yuan class diesel-electric submarines and other weapons and build naval platforms in Pakistan.

The Little book of green nudges

- ❖ A new publication "The Little Book of Green Nudges" has been launched by the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ The newly launched publication seeks to encourage around 200 million students around the world to adopt environmentally friendly habits and greener lifestyles.
- ❖ It is a UNEP's first on behavioural science and nudge theory.

UN Environment Programme introduced The Little Book of Green Nudges

5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting

❖ The 5th BRICS Culture Ministers' Meeting was held through video conference under the Chairpersonship of Russia.

❖ The delegates from Culture Ministries of the BRICS nations - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - participated in the meeting.

❖ The National Gallery of Modern Arts, New Delhi will host the BRICS Joint Exhibition titled 'Bonding Regions & Imagining Cultural Synergies' under the auspices of the BRICS Alliance of Art Museums and Galleries in 2021.

Manufacturing AK-203 rifles

❖ India and Russia leaders signed the AK-203 rifles deal. According to the deal, the rifles are to be produced in India under the Make in India initiative with Russia support.

❖ The rifles are the latest and the most advanced version of AK-47 rifles.

❖ The AK203 are to replace the INSAS.

❖ INSAS is Indian Small Arms System (5.56x45mm) assault rifle.

3rd US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) Summit

❖ It is a 5-day summit with the theme "US-India Navigating New Challenges".

❖ The USISPF is a non-profit organization.

❖ It works for the partnership between India and the US and was established in 2017.

❖ The USISPF plays a significant role in creating a robust and dynamic relationship between the two countries through policy advocacy.

Peace talks between Greece and turkey

❖ Turkey said that Turkey is in favour of talks with Greece on the resources of Mediterranean Sea.

❖ It would lead to the fair sharing of resources in the eastern Mediterranean, where the two countries are locked in a tensed standoff.

❖ Turkey and Greece have overlapping maritime claims in the eastern Mediterranean.

❖ The maritime dispute is related to the maritime jurisdiction areas, including the territorial waters and the continental shelf and their delimitation in the Aegean Sea.

Gas Finds and Maritime Claims in the Mediterranean
A deal between Turkey and Libya has heightened tensions

Sources: Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Anadolu Agency; Federation of American Scientists; United States Geological Survey
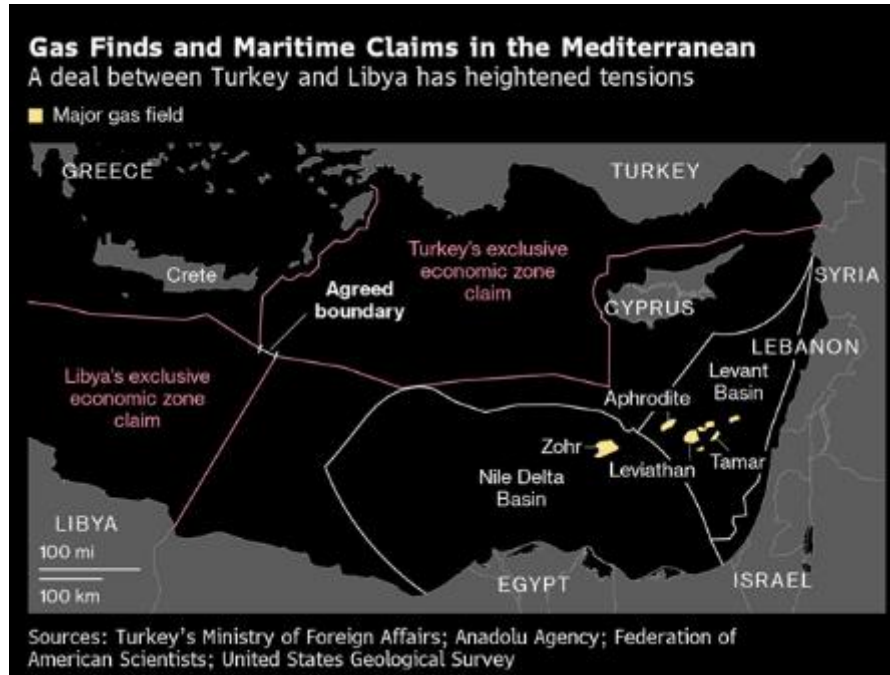
First World Solar Technology Summit

❖ The International Solar Alliance (ISA) organised the first World Solar Technology Summit.

❖ The summit focused on bringing the light on affordable and sustainable clean energy.

❖ The summit launched 8 initiatives and guidelines.

❖ The ISA comprises 121 sunshine countries lying between the two tropics that is tropic of cancer and tropic of Capricorn.

FIRST WORLD SOLAR TECHNOLOGY SUMMIT
8 September 2020

Annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum

❖ The third annual Indo-Pacific Business Forum is to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

❖ The forum is to be sponsored by US-ASEAN Business Council, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, US Chamber of Commerce and Government of Vietnam.

❖ The forum aims to provide a free and open Indo-Pacific region with countries that are independent, prosperous and strong.

Indo-Pacific club

❖ Germany has joined the Indo-Pacific club.

❖ The move is aimed at securing the trade routes from aggressive China.

❖ The move makes it the second European nation after France to formally adopt a strategy for the Indo-Pacific region.

❖ It is constituted by the United States, Japan, Australia, and India.

FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific

- The 35th Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC 35) was held under the Chair of the Host Country, Bhutan.
- Bangladesh will host the 36th Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific of the in 2022.
- It will be the first time that the country will host the event, ever since it joined the organisation in 1973.
- The Regional Conference is held once every two years.
- The first regional conference was held in Bangalore, India, in 1953.

First India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue

- The first India-France-Australia Trilateral Dialogue was held virtually.
- The virtual dialogue focuses on enhancing the cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region.
- The trio discussed on economic, geo-strategic challenges and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region in the backdrop of increasing Chinese aggression.

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.

India's membership in UN's ECOSOC body

❖ India & Afghanistan has been elected as a member of the United Nation's Commission on Status of Women, a body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

❖ Both countries will be a member of United Nation's Commission on Status of Women for four years, 2021 to 2025.

ECOSOC

❖ The Economic and Social Council is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental.

❖ It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals.

Djibouti Code of Conduct Observer

❖ India has joined the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment as Observer.

❖ It is a grouping on maritime matters comprising 19 member states adjoining the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, the East Coast of Africa and Island countries in the Indian Ocean Region.

❖ India has joined Japan, Norway, the UK and the US as Observers to the group.

❖ The Djibouti Code of Conduct is a regional maritime security cooperation agreement established by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2008.

Pakistan's 5th province

- ❖ Pakistan is going to integrate the occupied Gilgit-Baltistan region by making its fifth province.
- ❖ It is one of the two parts of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK).
- ❖ The other one is "Azad Jammu and Kashmir" (AJK).
- ❖ Both formed part of the territory of the erstwhile princely state of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The territory was handed over to the newly created state of Pakistan in November 1947 by the action of a British officer of the Gilgit Scouts.
- ❖ It provides land access to China, contains vast reservoirs of fresh water and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes through it.
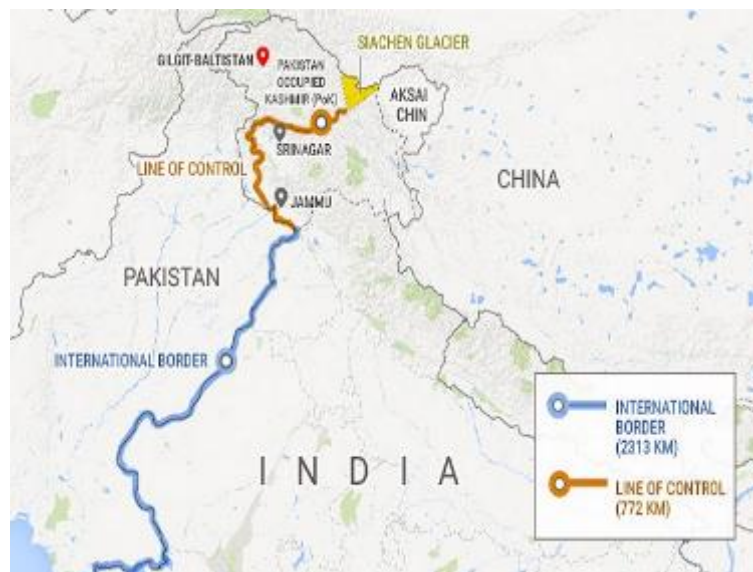
Special Permission for Export Fish to India

- ❖ The Bangladesh Government granted permission to India so as to export Hilsa fish.
- ❖ Earlier, in 2012, the Government of Bangladesh imposed a ban on export of Hilsa fish to India.

Hilsa Fish

- ❖ The Hilsa Fish, also called as Ilish Fish, is an endemic species of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The fish is usually called as "King of Fish".
- ❖ The Hilsa fish has been designated as the National Fish of Bangladesh.
- ❖ The fish is categorised as Threatened species under the IUCN red list.
- ❖ Bangladesh accounts for 75% world Hilsa fish production.

India's demand for Queen's counsel

- ❖ Pakistan rejected India's demand that an Indian lawyer or a Queen's counsel should be appointed for death-row prisoner Kulbhushan Jadhav to ensure a free and fair trial in this country.

- ❖ Queen's Counsel is a barrister or advocate, appointed Counsel to the UK Crown on the recommendation of the Lord Chancellor.

- ❖ Queen's counsels are recognised in almost all courts around the world.

- ❖ A Queen's Counsel is appointed from within the legal profession on the basis of merit rather than the level of experience.

Charter for health workers' safety

- ❖ The World Health Organization released a Health Worker Safety Charter.

- ❖ It is a step towards ensuring that health workers have the safe working conditions, the training, the pay and the respect they deserve.

- ❖ As per this Charter, health workers represent less than 3% of the population in the large majority of countries and less than 2% in almost all low and middle-income countries.

- ❖ Around 14% of Covid-19 cases reported to WHO are among health workers.

- ❖ According to the Union health ministry data, Telangana (18%), Maharashtra (16%), Delhi (14%), Karnataka (13%), Puducherry (12%) and Punjab (11%) have a high covid-19 infection rate among healthcare workers in India.

Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit Trains to Nepal

- ❖ The Konkan Railway delivered two modern Diesel-Electric Multiple Unit (DMUC) trains to the Nepal Railway for Jaynagar-Kurtha broad gauge.

- ❖ It would run between Jaynagar in Bihar and Kurtha in Dhanusa district.

- ❖ This will be the first broad-gauge railway service in the Himalayan nation.

First-ever direct Cargo Ferry Service to Maldives

- ❖ India and the Maldives have launched the first-ever direct Cargo Ferry Service to boost trade between the two countries.
- ❖ The cargo ferry service will connect the Indian ports of Tuticorin and Cochin ports with Kulhudhuhfushi and Male ports in the Maldives.
- ❖ This initiative will help to cut costs and reduce the time taken to transport goods between the two countries.
- ❖ The Cargo Ferry Vessel MCP Linz operated by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) will be used to connect the Indian and Maldivian ports.

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.
  - o Turbofan design - accommodate 120 to 200 passengers
  - o Blended wing body design - accommodate up to 200 passengers
  - o Turboprop design - accommodate up 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.

Jimex 2020

- ❖ The biennial bilateral Maritime Exercise, JIMEX, was conducted between India and Japan.
- ❖ JIMEX will show high level joint operational skills and high degree of inter-operability between the countries.
- ❖ The exercise began in 2012 with a special focus on maritime cooperation.

❖ The last edition of the exercise was conducted in 2018.

JIMEX 2020

Call for UN Security Council reforms

❖ External Affairs Ministers of India and his counterparts from Brazil, Japan and Germany met virtually during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

❖ They have highlighted the urgency of reforming the UN and updating its main decision-making bodies, in order to better reflect contemporary realities.

Demands

❖ Permanent seats should be given in the council for these countries.

❖ There is a clear need for an enhanced role of developing countries and of major contributors to the United Nations to make the Council more legitimate, effective and representative.

❖ Africa needs to be represented in both the permanent and non-permanent categories to correct the historical injustice against this continent with regard to its under-representation.

❖ Need for text-based negotiations within a fixed time frame for the UNSC reform.

Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA)

❖ The Special Ministerial conference of CICA was held recently with India participation.

❖ It is an inter-governmental forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

❖ The key idea of the Conference is based on the priority of the indivisibility of security, joint initiative and mutually beneficial interaction of small and large states.

❖ The CICA Summit is convened every four years in order to conduct consultations, review the progress of, and set priorities for CICA activities

❖ Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs is required to be held every two years.

- CICA has 27 member states; 8 observer states; 5 observer organizations.
- For becoming a member of CICA, a state must have at least a part of its territory in Asia.
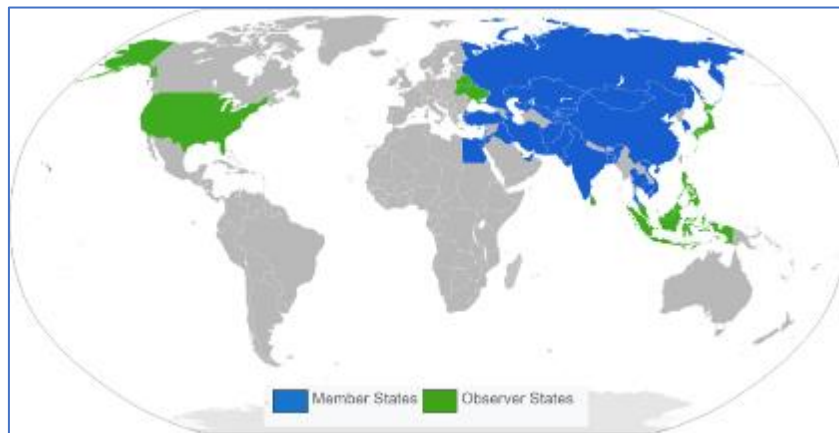
ECONOMY

RBI Annual Report 2019-20

- Reserve Bank of India released its annual report 2019-20.
- According to the report, the total income in 2019-20 has increased by 28.97%.

key Points

- The balance sheet size of Reserve Bank increased by 13.42%.
- The total income in the year 2018-19 was Rs 1,49,672.
- In 2019-20, it was Rs 1,93,036.
- The expenditure decreased by 39.72%.
- The interest income of the bank increased by 44.62%
- The RBI holdings of Government Securities increased by 57.19%.
- The value of bank fraud cases has increased 74%.
- The number of bank fraudulent cases increased to 6,800 in 2019 as compared to 5,900 in 2018.
- The Gross Non-Performing Ratio of banking system have declined to 9.1% as compared to 11.2% in March 2019.
- The currency in circulation has soared 17%.
- It was Rs 21.10 trillion in 2019-20.
- Till June 2019, the RBI held 618.16 metric tonnes of gold as compared to 566,23 tonnes held in June 2018.

Eat Out to Help Out scheme

❖ This Scheme is an economic recovery measure by the UK government to support hospitality businesses as they reopen after the COVID-19 lockdown in the country.

❖ The scheme was announced as part of the Plans for Jobs summer economic update.

❖ Under the EOHO Scheme, the government would subsidise meals (food and non-alcoholic drinks only) at restaurants by 50 per cent, from Monday to Wednesday every week, all through August.

Indian GDP trend

❖ According to the data of National Statistical Office India's gross domestic product (GDP) contract by 23.9% (-23.9%) in April-June period quarter of 2020.

❖ India's real GDP fell to 26.9 lakh crore in constant terms, 23.9% lower than a year ago.

❖ Nominal GDP fell to Rs 38.08 lakh crore, 22.6% lower than the same period last year.

❖ The June quarter GDP data is the worst contraction in the history of the Indian economy since Independence.

❖ This is India's fourth recession since independence and the first since liberalisation.

❖ The economy last contracted in Financial Year of 1980.

❖ This is the first contraction since India began releasing GDP growth data on a quarterly basis in 1997-98.
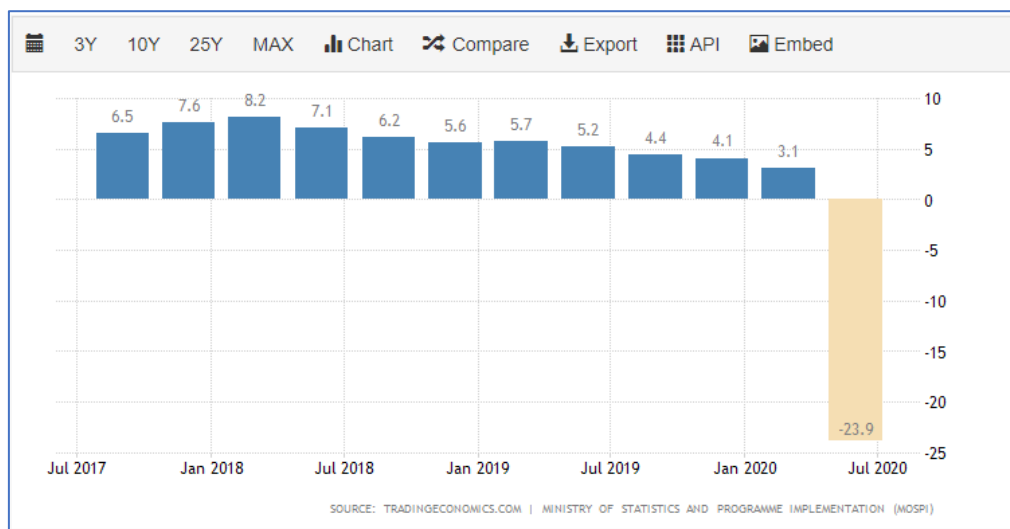
Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments report

- ❖ It has been jointly developed by the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)'s Data Security Council of India (DSCI) and PayPal Payments Pvt. Ltd. (PayPal).
- ❖ The report gives a glimpse of growth of frauds and payment scams.

Key Findings

- ❖ The E-commerce market is expected to grow from USD 50 billion (in 2018) to USD 200 billion by 2026.
- ❖ It is expected that the internet user base will grow to 835 million by 2023 from 560 million in 2018.
- ❖ As of March 31, 2019, 925 million debit and 47 million credit cards have been issued in India, 2nd to China.

Revision of Priority Sector Lending norms

- ❖ RBI has revised priority sector lending (PSL) guidelines to include entrepreneurship and renewable resources, in line with emerging national priorities.
- ❖ This includes
  - o Loans to farmers for installation of solar power plants for solarisation of grid-connected agriculture pumps and
  - o Loans for setting up Compressed BioGas plants.
- ❖ Revised PSL guidelines will enable:
  - o Better credit penetration to credit deficient areas;
  - o Increase the lending to small and marginal farmers and weaker sections;
  - o Boost credit to renewable energy, and health infrastructure.

Brand identity – Vi

- ❖ An integrated brand identity – Vi has been announced by Vodafone and Idea.
- ❖ The new brand is having the tagline 'Together for Tomorrow'.
- ❖ These two brands got merged in 2018.
- ❖ The merger was finalised by National Company Law Tribunal on August 30, 2018.

26 sectors identified for loan restructuring

❖ The five-member committee under the leadership of the former chief of New Development Bank K V Kamath submitted its report to RBI.

❖ The panel was formed to make recommendations on financial parameters to be considered for one-time restructuring of loans that were affected by COVID-19 pandemic.

EASE 2.0 Banking Reforms Index

❖ The EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) 2.0 Banking Reforms Index on performance of Public Sector Banks (PSB) from March 2018-2020 was released recently.

❖ The Union Minister of Finance also inaugurated Doorstep Banking Services by PSBs on the occasion.

❖ The EASE 1.0 report showed significant improvement in PSB's performance in resolution of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) transparently.

❖ EASE 2.0 builds on the foundation of EASE 1.0 and introduces new reform Action Points across six themes to make reforms journey irreversible, strengthen processes and systems, and drive outcomes.

Strong progress across themes

	Overall	Responsible Banking	Customer Responsiveness	Credit off-take	PSBs as Udyamimitra for MSMEs	Deepening FI and Digitalisation	Governance and HR
March-19	49.2	44.9	52.1	43.4	42.9	55.5	48.2
March-20	67.4	69.9	64.1	59.0	58.7	70.2	67.1
Change	+37%	+56%	+23%	+36%	+37%	+26%	+39%

Note: Average scores out of 100. Mar-19 baseline scores revised to ensure comparability

Top performers

Top 3 banks in each theme

Top 3 banks for EASE 2.0 Index
- Bank of Baroda
- State Bank of India
- Oriental Bank of Commerce

Top 3 banks in improvement from March baseline
- Bank of Maharashtra
- Central Bank of India
- Corporation Bank

Theme 1: Responsible Banking
- Bank of Baroda
- State Bank of India
- Punjab National Bank

Theme 2: Customer Responsiveness
- State Bank of India
- Oriental Bank of Commerce
- Bank of Baroda

Theme 3: Credit Off-take
- Oriental Bank of Commerce
- Union Bank of India
- State Bank of India

Theme 4: UdyamiMitra for MSMEs
- Oriental Bank of Commerce
- State Bank of India
- Union Bank of India

Theme 5: Deepening FI & Digitalisation
- Bank of Baroda
- Canara Bank
- Punjab National Bank

Theme 6: Governance and HR
- State Bank of India
- Bank of Baroda
- Punjab National Bank

Note: Only banks with ≥80% of total weight for a theme applicable for them are considered for ranking

11 New industrial corridors
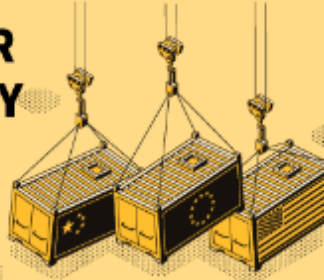
❖ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) announced that 11 industrial corridors are being developed in the country.

❖ The 11 industrial corridors include the Delhi-Nagpur Industrial Corridor (DNIC).

❖ Of these, following five projects have already been approved

  o Dholera Special Investment Region,

  o Shendra Bidkin Industrial Area,

  o Integrated Industrial Township Greater Noida,

  o Integrated Industrial Township Vikram Udyogpuri and

  o Integrated Multi Modal Logistics Hub at Nangal Chaudhary

Country of Origin Rules: CAROTAR- 2020

❖ The Customs (Administration of Rules of Origin under Trade Agreements) Rules, 2020 (CAROTAR, 2020) came into force from 21st September 2020.

❖ It was notified on 21st August 2020.

❖ They set guidelines for enforcement of the 'rules of origin' for allowing preferential rate on imports under free trade agreements.

❖ The new Rules would also strengthen the hands of the Customs in checking any attempted misuse of the duty concessions under FTAs.

CAROTAR rules:

CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE BY IMPORTERS

▶ Denial of benefit under FTA with possible recovery of custom duty differential (with interest and penalties) for past and future consignments of identical imports

▶ Future benefit to be restored only prospectively on demonstrating that origin criteria is met; this results in denial of benefits during the intermittent period

▶ Subsequent imports, where preferential duty claims have been made, are compulsorily verified, resulting in clearance delays with all attendant consequences

▶ Possible investigations of past transactions

▶ Provisional assessments (that are long drawn and time consuming)

Source: EY

❖ An importer is now required to do due diligence before importing the goods to ensure that they meet the prescribed originating criteria.

❖ A list of minimum information which the importer is required to possess has also been provided in the rules along with general guidance.

❖ An importer would now have to enter certain origin related information in the Bill of Entry, as available in the Certificate of Origin.

4th Global Ayurveda summit

❖ The 4th edition of Global Ayurveda Summit was virtually inaugurated by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu.

❖ Theme of the event is "Emerging Opportunities for Ayurveda during Pandemic".

❖ The objective of the summit is to showcase the Ayurveda immunity model to the global level as a solution named 'Health as One' and 'Immunity through Ayurveda'.

i-ATS - Automatic Train Supervision

❖ The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) launched 'i-ATS', an indigenously-built communication-based train control signalling technology for the metro.

❖ The i-ATS (Automatic Train Supervision) is a computer-based system that manages train operation.

❖ This system is indispensable for high-density operations such as the metro, where services are scheduled every few minutes.

❖ i-ATS is indigenously-developed technology, which will significantly reduce the dependence of Indian metros on foreign vendors dealing with such technologies.

❖ It can work with train control and signalling systems of various suppliers.

❖ Additionally, it is suitable for introduction in Indian Railways.

Vodafone case against India

❖ Vodafone won a significant ruling against the Indian government in an international court over ₹ 20,000 crore in dues Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.

❖ The Government raised a demand of Rs 7,990 crore in capital gains and withholding tax from Vodafone in 2007.

❖ Vodafone challenged the demand notice in the Bombay High Court, which ruled in favour of the Income Tax Department.

❖ Then, Vodafone challenged the judgment in the Supreme Court.

❖ In 2012 the Supreme Court ruled that Vodafone Group's interpretation of the Income Tax Act of 1961 is correct.

❖ But, the same year, the government made an amendment to the Finance Act.

❖ It was giving the Income Tax Department the power to retrospectively tax such deals.

❖ This case had by then become infamous as the 'retrospective taxation case'.

Long and taxing

May 2007: Vodafone buys Hutchison Whampoa's controlling stake in Hutchison Essar for $10.9 billion

Sept 2007: The I-T Department serves a notice to Vodafone International Holdings BV, citing alleged failure to deduct withholding tax from Hutchison Telecommunications International Ltd. The UK firm later moves Bombay High Court

Sept 2010: The Bombay High Court rules in favour of the I-T Department, stating it has jurisdiction over the deal. Vodafone challenges the ruling in the Supreme Court

Jan 2012: The Supreme Court rules in favour of Vodafone, saying the transaction is not taxable in India and hence the company is not responsible for deduction of withholding tax

April 2012: George Osborne, UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer, raises the issue with then Finance Minister, Pranab Mukherjee

April 2014: Vodafone Group moves the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague

Sept 25, 2020: The arbitration tribunal rules in favour of Vodafone in ₹20,000-crore tax case

Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for UCBs

❖ The Reserve Bank of India will implement the Technology Vision for Cyber Security' for Urban Co-operative Banks (2020-2023).

❖ It aims to enhance the IT security system of Urban Co-operative banking to prevent, detect, respond to and recover from cyber-attacks.

❖ RBI will achieve this objective using its five-pillared strategic approach 'GUARD'.

❖ GUARD denotes:

  o G – Governance Oversight,

  o U – Utile Technology Investment,

  o A – Appropriate Regulation and Supervision,

  o R – Robust Collaboration

  o D – Developing necessary IT, cybersecurity skills set.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

AUDFs01 Galaxy

- ❖ India's first multi- wavelength satellite observatory, ASTROSAT, has detected an extreme ultraviolet (UV) light from a galaxy called "AUDFs01".
- ❖ It is 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ The galaxy is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field (XDF).
- ❖ ASTROSAT was launched in 2015.
- ❖ It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
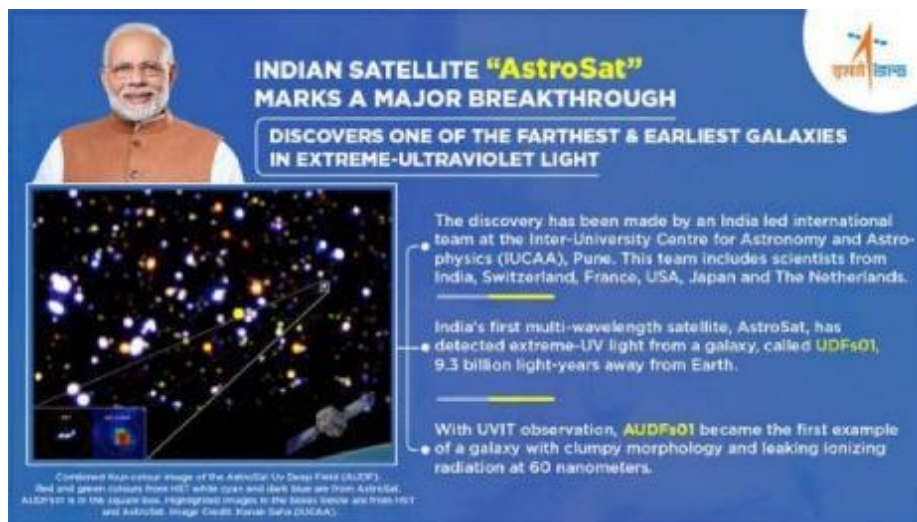
Largest ever Hydrogen bomb blast

- ❖ Russia released a 40-minute video of detonation of the world's most powerful hydrogen bomb.
- ❖ The bomb was called the Tsar Bomb.
- ❖ It is believed to be 3,333 times more destructive than that of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atom bombs Little Boy and Fat Man.
- ❖ The Hydrogen bomb was first tested over Novaya Zemlya, an archipelago in the Arctic Ocean.
- ❖ The video released was titled "Top Secret: Test of a clean hydrogen bomb with a yield of 50 mega tonnes."
- ❖ The countries that have conducted hydrogen bomb tests are Britain, US, Russia, France and China
- ❖ Hydrogen bombs have so far not been used in any war.

How a thermonuclear H-bomb works

An H-bomb uses an atomic fission bomb to initiate the detonation of the far more destructive store of fusion fuel.

Atomic bomb

Detonation of a Hydrogen bomb

Thermonuclear fusion fuel

❶ The implosion of fission bomb inside the H-bomb.

❷ This energy compresses the fusion fuel.

❸ Fusion fuel ignites.
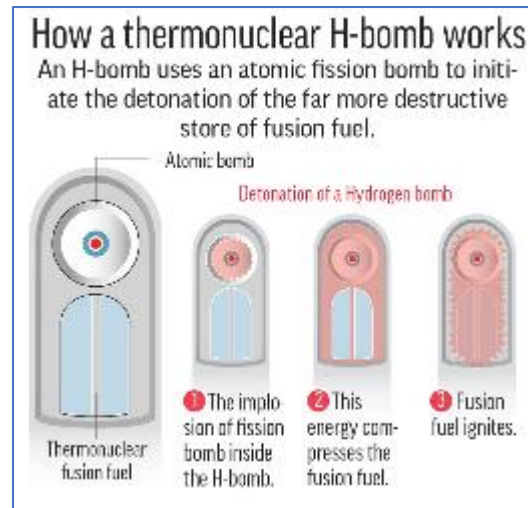
Signal - GW19052

❖ The LIGO and Virgo Gravity Wave Observatory confirmed that the largest double black hole fusion which was detected in 2019.

❖ The signal has been named GW190521 and likely represented the instant that the two black holes merged.

❖ The masses of the two black holes were 66 and 85 times that of the Sun.

❖ And they eventually merged into a black hole with a mass of 142 times that of the Sun.

❖ The black hole with 85 solar masses falls in an "intermediate-mass" range (first-ever to be observed)

❖ It defies the traditional knowledge of how black holes are formed.

❖ A solar mass is the mass of the sun or more precisely.

❖ It is 1.989×10^{30} kilograms, which is equivalent to about 333,000 Earths.

❖ Black holes 100-100,000 times the mass of the sun are called intermediate mass black holes.

Asteroid 465824

❖ NASA says asteroid 465824 2010 FR, which is twice as big as the Pyramid of Giza, crossed the Earth's orbit on September 6.

❖ It is classified as a Near-Earth Object and a potentially hazardous asteroid.

❖ These objects are composed mostly of water ice with embedded dust particles.

❖ Asteroid 465824 2010 FR was discovered on March 18, 2010 by the Catalina Sky Survey (CSS).

❖ Asteroids are rocky objects that orbit the Sun, much smaller than planets.

❖ They are also called minor planets.

Portable Optical Cavity Sterilization Unit

❖ Scientists have developed a portable sterilisation unit using a new technology called the hybrid sterilization system.

❖ It can decontaminate personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary for combating COVID 19, easily and rapidly, allowing them to be used multiple times.

❖ It can prevent generation of hazardous solid waste from PPEs.

Chakr DeCoV device

❖ IIT Delhi incubated startup Chakr Innovation has launched 'Chakr DeCoV'.

❖ It is a decontamination device that decontaminate N95 masks.

❖ The mechanism utilises the high penetrability of Ozone gas for cleaning the pores of the N95 mask.

Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle

❖ DRDO successfully flight-tested Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle.

❖ It is an unmanned scramjet demonstration aircraft that are used in hypersonic speed flights.

❖ India now has become the fourth country in the world after the US, China and Russia to do such testing.

❖ It would help missiles to travel at six times the speed of sound known as the hypersonic speed.

❖ The testing also leads to development of hypersonic cruise missiles.

Assisting partners

❖ Israel helped in wind tunnel testing.

❖ Russia provided help in research of the hypersonic propulsion.

Need for speed

A few features of the hypersonic technology demonstrator vehicle

■ It attained a speed of Mach 6 or six times the speed of sound

■ Reached altitude of 30 km where heat shields separated at hypersonic speed

■ It uses a scramjet engine, in which air enters at supersonic

speed and comes out at hypersonic speeds

■ It will help in development of hypersonic cruise missiles

■ Most missiles use the ramjet engine, which operates at supersonic speeds of up to Mach 3

Explosion of supernova LSQ14fmg

- ❖ Unusual supernova explosion is observed at Hundred million light-years away from Earth recently.

- ❖ That exploding star known as "Supernova LSQ14fmg".

- ❖ It gets brighter extremely slowly, and it is also one of the brightest explosions in its class are unlike any other.

- ❖ The exploding star is what is known as a Type Ia supernova, and more specifically, a member of the 'super-Chandrasekhar' group.

- ❖ Type Ia supernovae were crucial tools for discovering what's known as dark energy.

- ❖ Dark Energy is unknown energy that causes the current accelerated expansion of the universe.
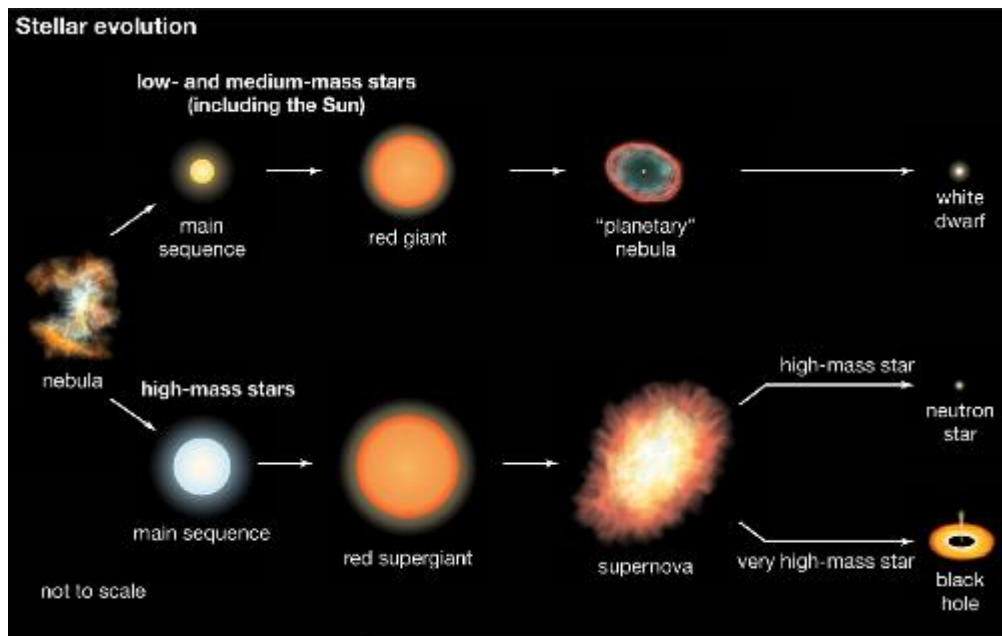
Indian Brain Templates (IBT)

- ❖ A team of neuroscientists from the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) has developed Indian Brain Templates (IBT) and a brain atlas.

- ❖ It is a gross representation from various brain images to understand brain functionality in diseased conditions.

- ❖ These new population and age-specific Indian brain templates will allow more reliable tracking of brain development and ageing.

- ❖ The templates and atlas will provide more precise reference maps for areas of interest in individual patients with neurological disorders like strokes, brain tumours, and dementia.

Scientists developed
Indian Brain Template (IBT)
and a Brain Atlas
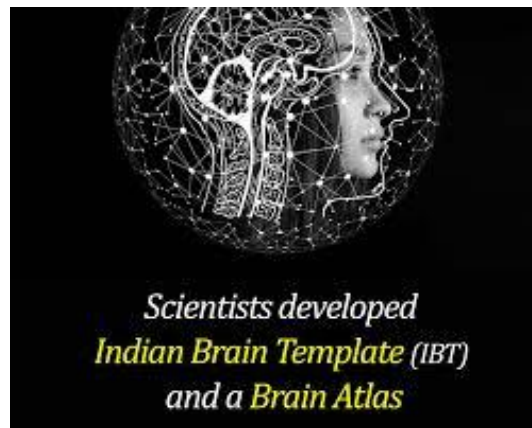
Phosphine Gas in Venus

❖ A team of international scientists have detected traces of phosphine gas in the atmosphere of Venus.

❖ On Earth, phosphine is produced by bacteria thriving in oxygen-starved environments.

❖ So, the detection indicates the possibility of the presence of lifeforms on Venus.

❖ Phosphine also arises non-biologically in certain industrial settings.

❖ It was used as a chemical weapon during World War I.

❖ Phosphine is still manufactured as an agricultural fumigant.

❖ It is used in the semiconductor industry, and is a by-product of meth labs.

Venus

❖ Venus is Earth's closest planetary neighbour.

❖ It is also known as earth's twin.
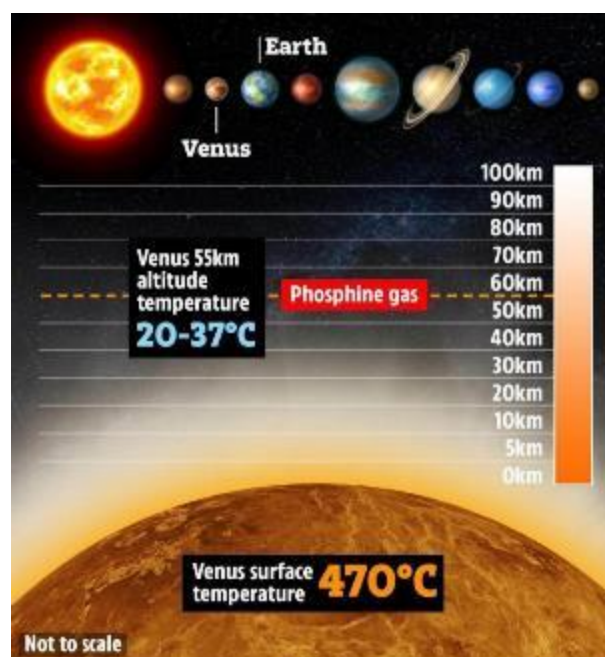
- ❖ Similar in structure but slightly it is smaller than Earth.
- ❖ It is the second planet from the sun.
- ❖ It is the hottest planet in the solar system.
- ❖ It has atmospheric pressure more than 90 times what's felt on Earth's surface.

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.
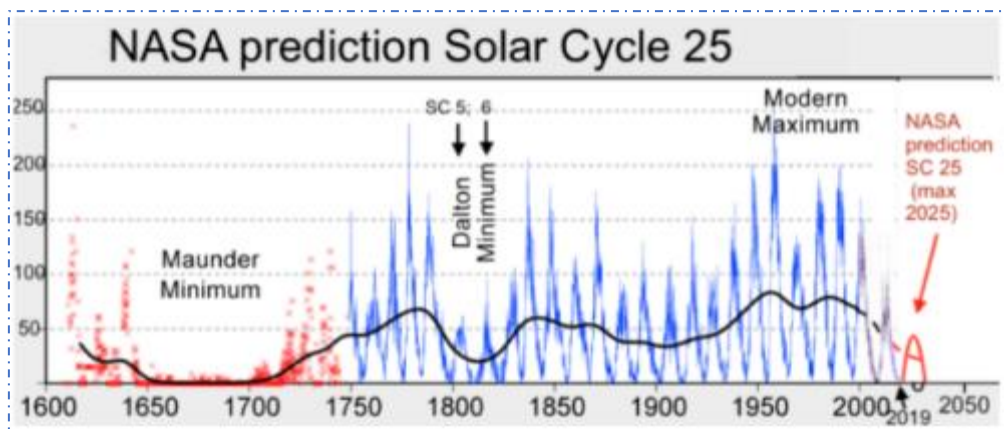
World Largest Telescope's parts production

- ❖ The world's largest radio telescope is to have control systems designed and built by Tata Consultancy Services, India.
- ❖ Several other multiple leading Indian scientific Institutions are also contributing to the project under the leadership of TCS.
- ❖ The National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) operating under Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) is the leading manager of the project.
- ❖ This telescope is known as square kilometre array (SKA).
- ❖ The telescope is to be built in in South Africa.

- The out stations of the telescope are to be located in eight other African partner countries such as Ghana, Botswana, Kenya, Mauritius. Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Namibia.

- The low frequency array of the telescope is to be built in Western Australia.

First Gene based COVID-19 test

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recently approved the gene-based COVID-19 test called FELUDA.

- The test was indigenously developed.

- It uses cutting edge CRISPR gene editing technology to detect the COVID-19 virus.

- The test was developed by scientists based in CSIR-IDIB along with the TATA Group.

- The test will diagnose the virus in 2 hours.

- It is the first test in the world to deploy Cas9 protein to detect the virus.

- FELUDA is the acronym of FNCAS9 editor linked uniform detection.

- It is a paper strip test.

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.
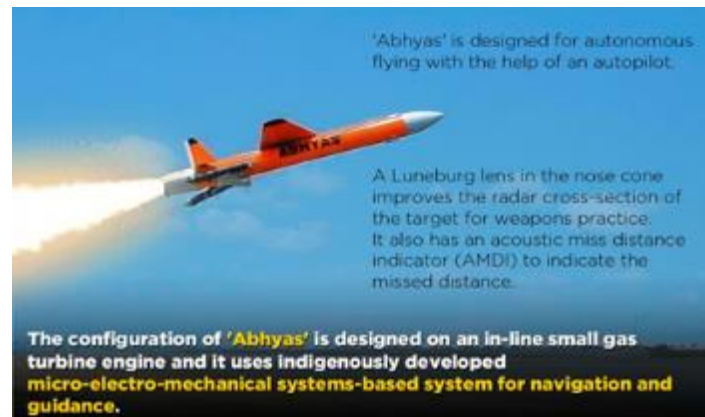
Prithvi-II missile test fire

❖ India conducted a successful night test fire of its indigenously developed nuclear capable surface-to-surface Prithvi-II missile.

❖ It has a strike range of 350 km.

❖ It is also capable to launch from a mobile launcher.

❖ Prithvi-II is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads.

❖ It is powered by liquid propulsion twin engine.

❖ Prithvi was the first missile to have been developed by DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

Indigenous Microprocessor for IoT Devices

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras have successfully developed 'MOUSHIK', an indigenously-made microprocessor for the Internet of things (IoT) devices.

- ❖ It was conceptualised, designed and developed at the Pratap Subrahmanyam Centre for Digital Intelligence and Secure Hardware Architecture (PS-CDISHA).

- ❖ There are three steps involved in the making of a microprocessor, namely design, fabrication and post-silicon boot-up.

- ❖ The project was funded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

ENVIRONMENT

Mahseer fish in Sileru river

- ❖ A rare fish called "Mahseer" recently sighted in the Sileru river.

- ❖ This fish is listed as Endangered in IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) list.

- ❖ Mahseer is commonly found in the Himalayan rivers that are running in cooler regions.

- ❖ This includes Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bhutan, Nepal.

- ❖ It is a large fresh water fish.

- ❖ There are 47 species of Mahseer in the world.

- ❖ Out of these, 15 are found in India.

- ❖ Recently, in 2019, the IUCN changed the conservation status of Hump Backed Mahseer to Critically Endangered.

- ❖ They are found only in River Cauvery in India and nowhere in the world.

Highest August Rainfall Since 1976

- ❖ India has received the highest rainfall in the month of August this year since 1976, it is 25 per cent more than the average.

- ❖ Previously in 1976, the month of August received 28.4 per cent more rainfall than the average.

- ❖ While the highest rainfall in August was in 1926-between 1901 and 2020.

- ❖ In 1926, 33 per cent more rainfall was recorded than the average.

Fujiwhara effect

- ❖ Simultaneous formation of two storms in western Atlantic Ocean creates Fujiwhara effect scare.
- ❖ The Fujiwhara effect happens when two tropical systems come near, then orbit each other, or possibly merge into one system.
- ❖ If two cyclones pass within 900 miles of each other, they can start to orbit.
- ❖ The term "Fujiwhara effect" refers to the interaction between the two tropical weather systems.
- ❖ It is named for Sakuhei Fujiwhara, a Japanese meteorologist who first described the effect in 1921.
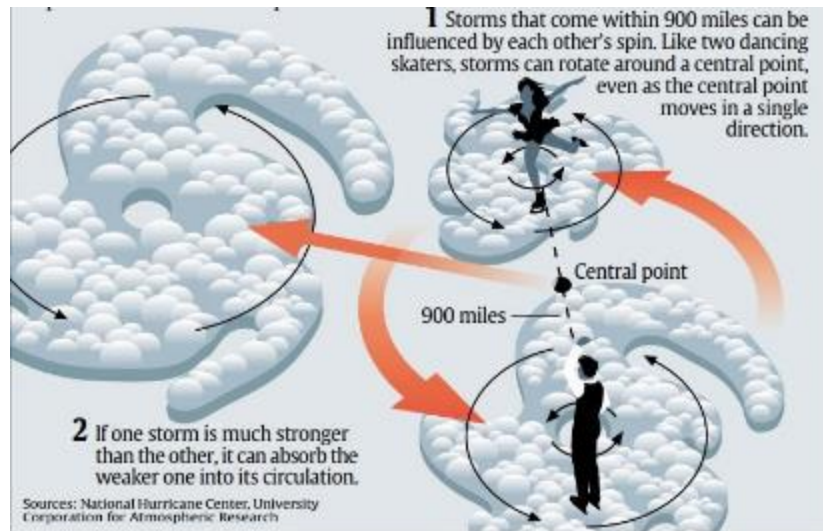
New species of freshwater fish

- ❖ New species of freshwater fish named Systomus gracilus was found by researchers from Kerala and West Bengal from Ganga in West Bengal.
- ❖ This edible fish has a reddish-white, thin and compressed body.
- ❖ It can be cultured in inland waterbodies.

J&K Biodiversity Council

- ❖ The Jammu and Kashmir government recently set up a 10-member biodiversity council.
- ❖ It includes five ex-officio members and five non-official members.
- ❖ The council will maintain a Peoples Biodiversity Register with the help of representatives from local governance bodies.
- ❖ The biodiversity council will function in consultation with National Biodiversity Authority, as per an order issued by General Administration Department (GAD).

- ❖ The work conducted by the biodiversity council will be monitored by the bio-diversity committees at three levels:
  - o National Biodiversity Authority,
  - o J&K Bio-Diversity Council,
  - o Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Expansion of Kaziranga National Park

- ❖ The Assam government has approved to expand the Kaziranga National Park by 3053 hectares.
- ❖ It would help to provide connectivity to Orang and Nameri National Parks across river Brahmaputra.
- ❖ It also provides connectivity to the hills of Karbi Anglong to the south of the park.
- ❖ It would lead to the reduction in human-wildlife negative interactions.

13 Million Year Old Fossil - Ape fossil

- ❖ The fossil of a molar tooth unearthed in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand, in 2015, belongs to the earliest ancestor of gibbons.
- ❖ The fossil provides an evidence to understanding the migration of the great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, bonobos and even humans) from Africa to Asia13 million years ago.
- ❖ The fossil is a complete lower molar tooth and belongs to a previously unknown genus and species, which has now been classified as Kapi ramnagarensis.
- ❖ It is the first ape species discovered at the location in nearly a century.

❖ It predates the oldest-known fossil record of gibbons by at least five million years.

Typhoon Haishen

❖ Typhoon Haishen made landfall over the southern Japan and becoming the country's second landfalling typhoon within a week.

❖ The typhoon is categorised as a Category 4 storm which means well-built framed houses can suffer severe damage.

❖ It referred to as typhoon number 10 in Japan because the first typhoon to occur after January 1st of the year is called typhoon number 1.

❖ Haishen was a name recommended by China and means "sea god" in Chinese.

❖ Depending on where they occur, hurricanes may be called typhoons or cyclones.

Advisories Initiated	Becomes a Tropical Storm	Rapid Intensification
August 31 - September 1	September 1 Tropical Storm	September 3 - 4 Super Typhoon
Advisories initiated by JMA JTWC as tropical depression forms from a disturbance northeast of Guam	Haishen upgraded to a tropical storm by JMA and tracks westward	Continues to track westward across the Philippine Sea and undergoes rapid intensification to super typhoon status

Close approach to Japan	Korea Landfall	Dissipation
September 6-7 Typhoon	September 7 Typhoon	September 8 Tropical Storm
Haishen brushes the western coast of Kyushu, Japan as a category-2	South Korea landfall from a rapidly weakening category-2. Tracks northward along the Korean Peninsula	Further tracks toward the China-North Korea border. Downgraded to a tropical storm, then loses tropical characteristics

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.

Biodiversity index map for Kochi

❖ This is the first for a city in Kerala and the second in the country.

❖ The index is part of the 'INTERACT-Bio' project implemented with the help of the Centre for Heritage, Environment and Development through ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

❖ It aims at developing the city's biodiversity index and estimating the green cover in urban areas.

❖ An 'Illustrative Natural Asset Map' was also unveiled a part of this.

India's own eco-label BEAMS

❖ Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) launched India's own eco-label BEAMS.

❖ This is launched with e-hoisting of the flag #IAMSAVINGMYBEACH simultaneously at the eight beaches recently recognized as blue flag beaches.

❖ MoEFCC is promoting its policies for sustainable development in coastal regions have embarked upon a highly acclaimed program "BEAMS" (Beach Environment & Aesthetics Management Services).

❖ BEAMS is executed under its Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project.

❖ The Government of India is undertaking for the sustainable development of coastal regions, striving for globally recognized and the coveted eco-label 'Blue flag".

Mandate of climate risk reporting

❖ New Zealand will be the first country in the World to require the financial sector to report on climate risks.

❖ This means that about 200 of the country's biggest companies and banks would have to report on the impact that extreme weather events or climate polices will have on their business.

❖ The changes build on the huge progress this Government has made to tackle the climate crisis.

❖ If the proposal passes in the parliament, then the climate reporting would begin in 2023.

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

Canberra
AUSTRALIA
Perth
Sydney
Melbourne

Hundreds of long-finned pilot whales stranded

Launceston
Strahan
TASMANIA
Macquarie Harbour
Hobart
30 km

Pilot whale
One of the largest members of the dolphin family

Long finned:
Globicephala melas

Short finned:
Globicephala macrorhynchus

▶ 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

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

STATES

Resolution to enter in the sixth schedule

❖ The Arunachal Pradesh State Assembly on 27, unanimously passed a resolution to include the entire state in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

❖ The sixth schedule provides protection to tribal people's rights in the Northeast.

❖ The Sixth Schedule apart from giving considerable autonomy to the tribal community will also empower the council to enact laws for the protection of land protection.

6th Schedule Areas

MEGHALAYA
- Khasi Hills Autonomous District Council
- Jaintia Hills Autonomous District Council
- Garo Hills Autonomous District Council

MIZORAM
- Chakma Autonomous District Council
- Lai Autonomous District Council

- Mara Autonomous District Council

TRIPURA
- Tripura Tribal Areas Autnomous District Council

ASSAM
- Dima Hasao Autonomous Council
- Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council
- Bodoland Territorial Council

Skill University at Assam

❖ Assam Cabinet passed a resolution to set up a Skill University at Mangaldoi in Assam.

❖ The University is to be set up with financial assistance from Asian Development Bank.

❖ It is the first skill university in the country.

❖ Around 80% of the seats are to be reserved for students of Assam and 20% for North Eastern states.

India's first International Women Trade Centre

❖ Kerala is to set up its first International Women Trade Centre in terms of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals.

❖ This is first of its kind in India and it will accelerate women entrepreneurship.

❖ The International Women Trade Centre will dedicate space to women to promote arts and cultural forms such as music, dance and theatre for women.

❖ The building will hold a creche and a day care centre for children.

'Iraada' campaign

❖ In Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Sagar D. Doifode, Doda District Deputy Commissioner (DCC) launched 'Iraada' campaign to include eligible left-out beneficiaries.

❖ This include who have not yet been enrolled to receive the financial assistance benefits under various social welfare schemes, which includes old age pension, widow and handicap scheme.

❖ In other words, the campaign is for 100% coverage under social welfare schemes.

Northeast's first transgender doctor

❖ Beoncy Laishram is the first transgender doctor from the Manipur.

❖ The 27-year old doctor in Imphal is not just Manipur's first transgender woman doctor, but entire Northeast's.

❖ During the pandemic times, Beoncy is participating in the fight against Covid-19.

Aarey reserve forest

❖ Maharashtra government has announced the reservation of 600 acres of Aarey land near Sanjay Gandhi National Park (SGNP) as forest.

❖ The govt claiming it as the first instance of an extensive forest blossoming within the limits of metropolis anywhere in the world.

❖ A reserve forest denotes forests accorded a certain degree of protection.

❖ The term was first introduced in the Indian Forest Act, 1927 during British India

❖ Rights to all activities like hunting, grazing, etc. in reserved forests are banned unless specific orders are issued otherwise.

❖ The reserved forests are declared by the respective state governments but national parks or wildlife sanctuaries are declared by the central government.

First ever inland shipping cargo from Bangladesh

❖ The Daukandi (Bangladesh) - Sonamura (Tripura) Inland Waterway Protocol route was operationalised and Tripura receives first ever inland shipping cargo.

❖ The Protocol for Inland Water Trade & Transit (PIWTT) was signed between India and Bangladesh in 1972.

❖ The inclusion of Sonamura - Daudkhandi stretch of the Gumti river (93 km) as a new route in the Protocol will improve the connectivity.

Bill to protect State's Heritage Sites

❖ The Assam assembly passed bills for creation of three autonomous councils which included Moran, Motok and Kamtapur Autonomous Council.

❖ These proposals were made by the government after the height of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) protest.

❖ The bills are being termed as a 'historic' step towards implementing the Clause 6 of Assam Accord.

Clause 6

❖ The state government is empowered to take necessary steps to ensure constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, that shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.
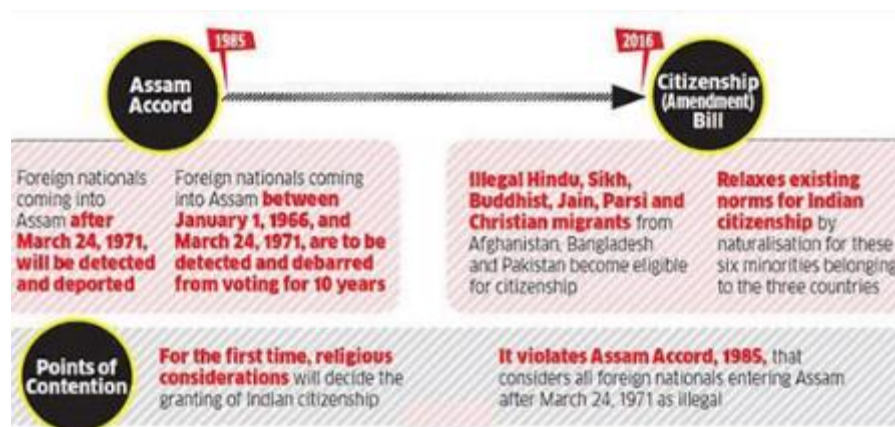
SPARROW scheme

❖ Jammu & Kashmir Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha launched the online portal, Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW).

❖ It aims to bringing more transparency, avoiding loss of Appraisal Reports (APR) during the transition, ensuring better monitoring and timely completion of performance appraisals of JKAS officers.

❖ It is expected to make the process seamless, quick and convenient due to in-built alert mechanisms and providing online status checks.

YSR Sampoorna Poshana Scheme

❖ Andhra Pradesh government launched YSR Sampoorna Poshana scheme and YSR Sampoorna Poshana Plus scheme.

❖ The schemes aim to provide nutritious food to lactating mothers and pregnant women.

❖ It will mainly focus on malnutrition and anaemia in pregnant and lactating mothers.

First-ever cannabis medicine project

❖ The first ever Cannabis Medicine project that is to be set up in Jammu and Kashmir in collaboration with Canada.

❖ It is to be the first foreign investment in the union territory.

❖ The project is to be set up at the Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine in Jammu and Kashmir.

❖ Jammu and Kashmir is to be the first in the country to develop medicines from the cannabis plant.

❖ The 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, an international treaty classed cannabis as a hard drug.

Anti-Dengue Campaign- Delhi

❖ The Delhi Government launched a mass campaign against Dengue and other vector borne diseases named "10 Hafte 10 Baje 10 Minute".

❖ The campaign seeks the residents of Delhi to pick up their phone and call 10 of their relatives and friends and advise them on practices to prevent Dengue.

❖ According to the report, "Dengue in India", prepared by the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, the numbers of Dengue went up in 2019.

Country's first integrated air ambulance service

❖ Karnataka Chief Minister Yeddyurappa unveiled the country's first integrated air ambulance service.

❖ Air ambulance firm, International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT) will operate this with the collaboration of Kyathi.

❖ This ambulance is equipped with state-of-the-art German Isolation Pod to transport critical Covid-19 patients safely.

❖ ICATT-Kyathi's fixed wing aircraft is capable of long-distance emergency medical transportation, combined with helicopter and land ambulance services providing last mile connectivity.

India's largest "Piggery Mission"

- ❖ Meghalaya has launched India's Biggest "Piggery Mission" with an outlay of Rs 209 Crores.
- ❖ It is being launched under the aegis of Meghalaya Livestock Enterprises Advancement Society (MLEADS) and funded by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- ❖ The main objective of the Piggery Mission is to reduce the annual import of Pork and make Meghalaya self-sufficient ("Aatma Nirbhar") in pork production over the next 3 years.

YSR Aasara Scheme

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh launched the YSR AASARA scheme.
- ❖ It is a part of implementation of "Nava Ratnalu".
- ❖ The scheme has been launched with the commitment of alleviating the poverty in both rural and urban areas and to improve the productivity.
- ❖ The scheme has been launched for women empowerment economically and socially.
- ❖ Bank loan will be reimbursed in four instalments under the scheme to the Self-Help Groups.
- ❖ This Nava Ratnalu scheme was announced in the Andhra Pradesh Budget 2019-20.

GARIMA scheme - Odisha

- ❖ Odisha govt has launched a new scheme named 'GARIMA' which aims to ensure the economic safety and social dignity of core sanitation workers in the state.
- ❖ Under this scheme, the working hours of sanitation workers will be limited to 6 hours per day.
- ❖ The Core Sanitation workers and their family members will be covered under the health insurance scheme with regular health check-ups, housing, educational support, mobility support and mobile support.

My Family, My Responsibility campaign

- ❖ Maharashtra has launched a state-wide campaign titled, 'My Family, My Responsibility', to curb the spread of coronavirus pandemic.
- ❖ The campaign will be conducted in two phases.
- ❖ The campaign will aim to achieve effective health care education for the control of Covid-19 outbreak.

Tripura's First Ever SEZ

- ❖ First-ever Special Economic Zone (SEZ) was laid to foundation stone by the Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb at Sabroom.
- ❖ Sabroom is the southernmost town of the state bordering Bangladesh.
- ❖ It would emerge as the commercial capital of the Northeast.
- ❖ An integrated check post will be set up for the movement of passengers and goods.

Institutionalized snake handling

- ❖ Kerala Forest Department has framed guidelines for rescuing snakes from human dominated places and releasing them in uninhabited areas.
- ❖ Thus, Kerala Becoming the first to institutionalize snake handling in the country.
- ❖ The move to certify snake handlers comes amid allegations of unscientific approaches by snake catchers that tend to create stress to the animal and pose risk to their and others' lives.
- ❖ Kerala has reported 334 deaths and 1,860 other cases of snake-bites in the past three years.

National Generic Document Registration System

- ❖ Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir launched the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).
- ❖ J&K will be the 10th among States and UTs to become the part of NGDRS.
- ❖ NGDRS represents a major shift from the existing manual registration system to online registration of all transactions in sale-purchase and transfer of land.
- ❖ Stamp papers have been replaced by e-stamps.
- ❖ It has been incorporated in coordination with Stockholding Corporation of India.
- ❖ The launching of NGDRS is a big step towards National Integration and a leap towards 'One Nation One Software'.

Mapping forgotten religious institutions

❖ West Bengal government decide to map all these religious institutions has been taken by the information and cultural affairs department under two programs.

❖ The two programs are

  o 'Maha Tirtha Bhumi' (Great Pilgrimage Land) and

  o 'Maha Punnya Bhumi' (Great Sacred Land).

❖ It aims to conserve all the lesser known and forgotten religious institutions – temples, mosques, gurudwaras and churches.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Honor of Memorial Blue Plaque

❖ Noor Inayat Khan (Noor-un-Nissa Inayat Khan or Nora Baker) became the 1st Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in London.

❖ During Britain's World War II, she served in the Special Operations Executive as a spy.

❖ She is the 1st Muslim war heroine of Britain and 1st female wireless operator sent from the UK into Nazi-occupied France to aid the French Resistance.

❖ London's Blue Plaque scheme was founded in 1866 and has inspired many similar schemes in the UK and around the world.

❖ Indian Figures were to be honoured with Blue Plaques in London Includes, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and BR Ambedkar.

CBSE best teachers award 2019-20

❖ The Central Board of Secondary Education has selected 39 teachers for the CBSE Award to Teachers for 2019-20.

❖ Following three are selected from Tamil Nadu:

  o Shoba Raman, principal, Vidya Mandir Senior Secondary School, Chennai.

  o Dr. S. Deepa, science teacher at G.K. Shetty Vivekananda Vidyalaya, Ambattur west.

  o V. Bindhu, principal of Hosur Public School, Karapalli.

Shoba Raman, left, Dr. S. Deepa and Dr. V. Bindhu, right.

India's 1st Female & Oldest Cardiologist

❖ India's 1st Female & Oldest Cardiologist, Dr S. Padmavati Passwd away recently.

❖ She established the 1st cardiac clinic and catheterization laboratory at the Lady Hardinge Medical College in India.

❖ She is popularly known as the "God Mother of Cardiology".

❖ She is the recipient of Padma Bhushan (1967) and Padma Vibhushan (1992).

❖ She is the 1st female student to earn a medical degree at Rangoon Medical College, Rangoon.

❖ She initiated India's first Doctorate of Medicine in Cardiology.

❖ She is the 1st and only person to be chief administrator of 3 major institutions at the same time - Maulana Azad Medical College, Lok Nayak Hospital and G.B. Pant hospital.

Dr. S Padmavati, an eminent cardiologist, rather the first female cardiologist of India, popularly known as 'God Mother of Cardiology' passed away at the age of 103 due to COVID-19 infection. Dr. Padmavati founded the All India Heart Foundation in 1962 and went on to set up National Heart Institute in 1981 as a tertiary care modern heart hospital in Delhi with the first cardiac catheterization laboratory in the private sector in the Southern Hemisphere. For her achievements and contributions to the development of cardiology in India, she was awarded Fellowship of the American College of Cardiology and FAMS, and Padma Bhushan in 1967 and Padma Vibhushan in 1992 by the Government of India. Source: DNA

India's First Female Cardiologist, Dr. S Padmavati, Succumbs To COVID-19

Pranab Mukharjee passed away

- ❖ The Former President of India, Pranab Mukherjee Passes away on August 31.
- ❖ Pranab Mukherjee served as the 13th President of India from July 25, 2012 to 25 July 2017.
- ❖ He also served at different times as Defence (2004-2006), Foreign (2006-2009), and Finance Minister (1982 & 2009).
- ❖ He was elected to Rajya Sabha five times from 1969 and twice to Lok Sabha from 2004.
- ❖ In 2019, Pranab Mukherjee was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna.

Pranab Mukherjee

1935 - 2020
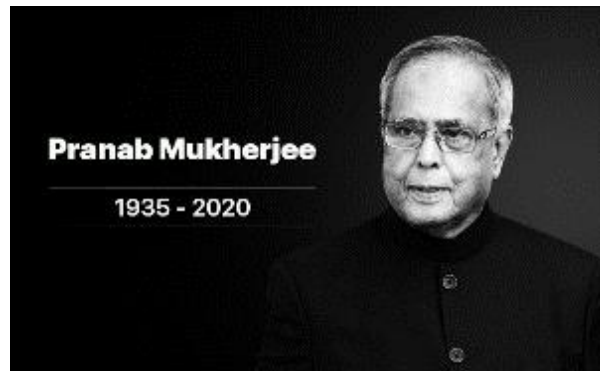
National Energy Leader award

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (Hyderabad) won the 'National Energy Leader' and 'Excellent Energy Efficient Unit' awards at the 21st National Awards for 'Excellence in Energy Management'.
- ❖ It was organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Godrej Green Business Centre (GBC).
- ❖ Hyderabad International Airport received the "Excellent Energy Efficient Unit" award for 4th year in a row and the "National Energy Leader" for the 2nd year in a row.

Kesavananda Bharati passed away

- ❖ The man who behind the landmark judgement of basic structure doctrine passed away.
- ❖ He was the chief pontiff of Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district, Kerala.
- ❖ He was the petitioner in Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala.
- ❖ In 1970, He had filed a case challenging the Kerala Government's attempts to acquire the Mutt's property, through the Kerala Land Reforms Act of 1963 as amended in 1969.
- ❖ He had argued that this action violated his fundamental right to religion (Article 25), freedom of religious denomination (Article 26), and right to property (Article 31).

❖ It is a landmark decision of the Supreme Court of India that outlined the basic structure doctrine of the Constitution.

❖ This case had held that constitutional amendments through Article 368 were subject to fundamental rights review only if they affect the 'basic structure of the Constitution'.

CASE SUMMARY

Kesavananda Bharti v. State of Kerala

AIR 1973 SC 1461

The court by a majority of 7:6 held that Parliament can amend any and every provision of the constitution subject to condition that such amendment does not violate Basic Structure of the constitution.
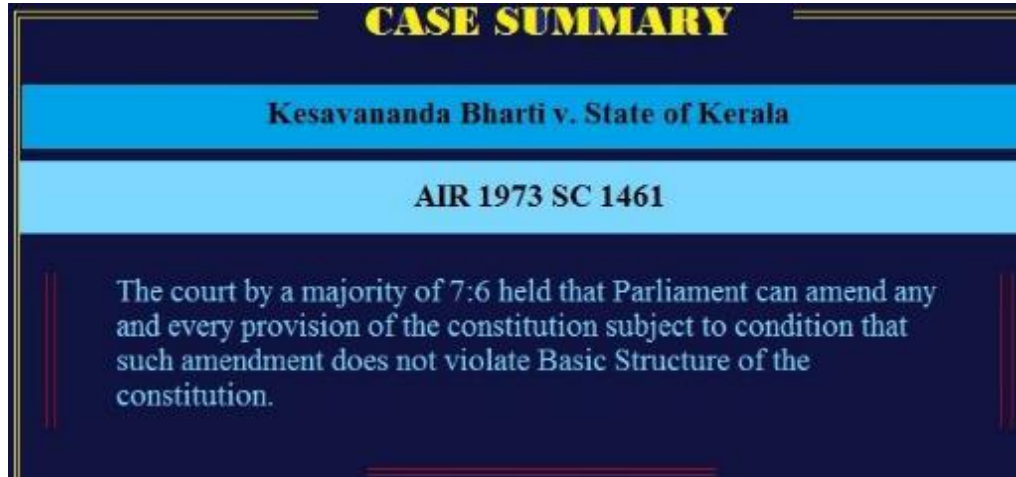
Indira Gandhi Peace Prize

❖ Sir David Attenborough was conferred with the prestigious Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2019.

❖ He is an English broadcaster and a historian.

❖ He is popular for writing and presenting BBC Natural History unit.

❖ He worked to make aware to preserve and protect biodiversity of the planet.

❖ The Indira Gandhi Peace Prize award is for peace, disarmament and development.

❖ It is being conferred every year since 1986 by Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust.

INDIRA GANDHI
MEMORIAL TRUST

INDIRA GANDHI PEACE PRIZE 2019
AWARD CEREMONY FOR SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

Father of Indian Radio Astronomy passed away

- ❖ Govind Swarup, who is regarded as the 'Father of Indian Radio Astronomy', recently passed away.
- ❖ He was the founding director of Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.
- ❖ He set up the Ooty Radio Telescope and the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) array in Pune.
- ❖ He was awarded:
  - o The Padma Shri in 1973 for his contributions.
  - o The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar prize in 1972,
  - o The Khwarizmi International Award in 1999, and
  - o The Grote Reber Medal in 2007.
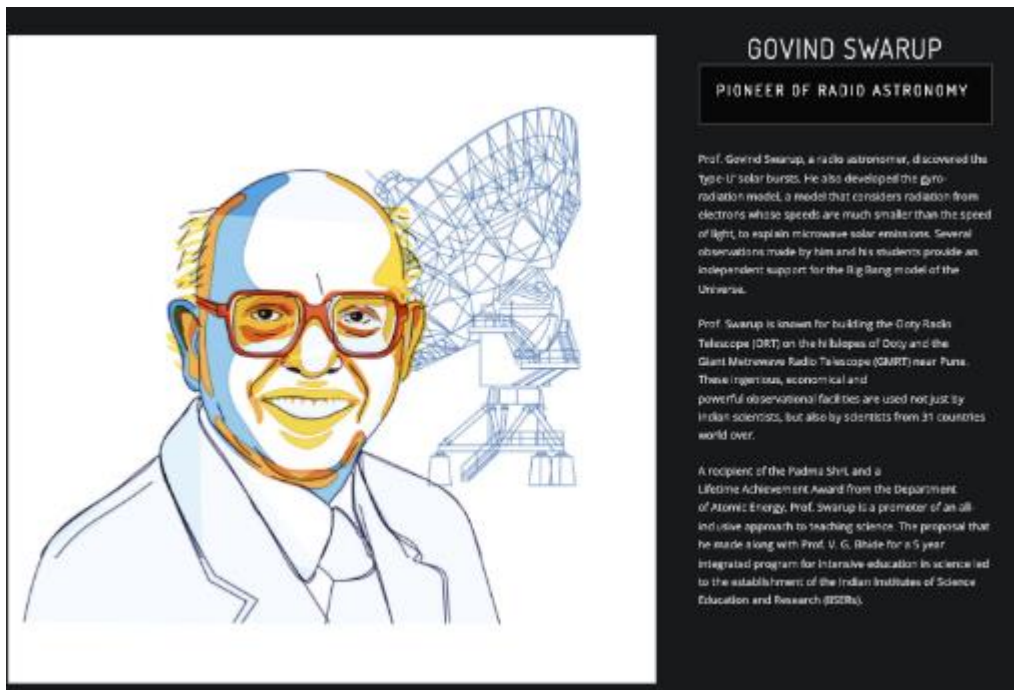
Kalpana Chawla name for US spacecraft

- ❖ Northrop Grumman, an American global aerospace and defence technology company, announced that its next Cygnus capsule will be named the "S.S. Kalpana Chawla".
- ❖ In November 1996, Chawla was assigned as a mission specialist on STS-87 aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia.
- ❖ This makes her the first Indian born woman to fly in space.
- ❖ Her second spaceflight experience came in 2001 when she was selected for the crew of STS-107.
- ❖ She lost her life in 2003 when the Space Shuttle Columbia explosion while re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

WSIS award 2020

❖ West Bengal government won WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) award 2020 for its Sabuj Sathi scheme.

❖ After Kanyashree scheme, another West Bengal government project has received a global prize under the e-government category.

❖ This Project Started in 2015, bicycles are given to students of state-run, state-sponsored, aided schools and madrasas studying between classes 9 and 12.

❖ It aims to reduce the issue of dropping out of school, especially in rural Bengal and also to ensure they continue school education till at least class 12.

❖ In 2017, Kanyashree Prakalpa, which is a targeted conditional cash transfer scheme, received the United Nations highest award.

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.

UN List of 2020 Class of Young Leaders for SDG

❖ The United Nations named an 18-year-old Indian teenager in the list of 2020 Class of Young leaders for Sustainable Development Goals.

❖ The Delhi based teenager is the founder of Glass2Sand.

❖ It is zero waste ecosystem that converts glass to sand.

❖ The system has been addressing the growing problem of glass in the national capital region largely.

❖ His initiative prevented empty glass bottles getting dumped into landfills.

Young leaders for SDG

❖ The young leaders for sustainable development goal initiative is organised on biennial basis.

❖ It is considered as the United Nations office highest profile recognition opportunity for the young people who raise their voices and take efforts to combat the most pressing issues in the world.

"As a Young Leader for the SDGs, I will be an active agent of change. I hope to be able to encourage communities to embrace a better civic sense to create sustainable living spaces."

- Udit Singhal

2020 YOUNG LEADERS
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
An initiative of the
Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth
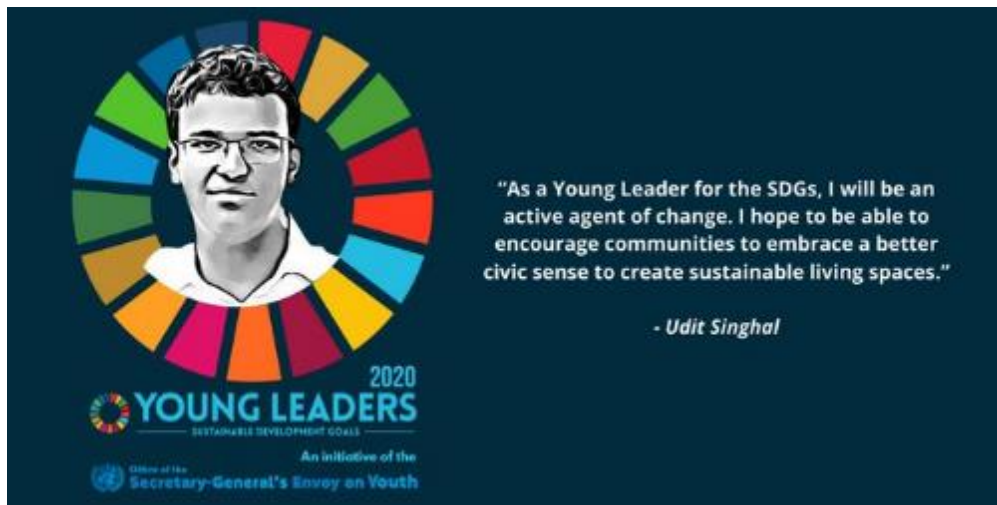
Dr Kapila Vatsyayan passes away

❖ She was a Leading scholar of Indian classical dance, art, architecture and art history.

❖ She had been a former Member of Parliament.

❖ She was also a founding Director of the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts.

❖ She received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1970.

❖ She has also been conferred with the Lalit Kala Akademi Fellowship in 1955 which happens to be highest honour in the fine arts.

❖ In 2000, she received the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award.

❖ In 2011, she was bestowed upon with the Padma Vibhushan by the government of India.

❖ She wrote many books including,

o The Square and the Circle of Indian Arts in 1997

o Bharata: The Natya Sastra in 1996 and

o Matralaksanam in 1988.

72nd Primetime Emmy Awards

❖ This award recognise excellence within areas of television and emerging media.

❖ Popular sitcom Schitt's Creek won most awards in a single season by a comedy series.

❖ He took seven Primetime awards and nine Emmys in the comedy categories.

❖ Euphoria's Zendaya became the youngest winner for best lead actress in the drama series category.

Other winners

❖ Best Actor – Drama - Jeremy Strong, (Succession)

❖ Best Actress – Drama - Zendaya, (Euphoria)

❖ Best Actor – Comedy - Eugene Levy (Schitt's Creek)

❖ Best Actress – Comedy - Catherine O'Hara (Schitt's Creek)

❖ Best Actor – Limited Series or Movie - Mark Ruffalo (I Know This Much Is True)

❖ Best Actress – Limited Series or Movie - Regina King (Watchmen)

Ig Nobel Prize 2020

❖ Narendra Modi has been awarded the Ig Nobel Prize 2020 for Medical Education.

❖ He has been awarded the prestigious award for "using the COVID-19 pandemic to teach the world that politicians can have a more immediate effect on life and death than scientists and doctors can".

❖ PM Modi shares the award with Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil, Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Andrés Manuel López Obrador of Mexico, Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus, Donald Trump of the USA, Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, Vladimir Putin of Russia, and Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow of Turkmenistan.

❖ Apart from this, the governments of India and Pakistan jointly won the Ig Nobel Peace Prize 2020.

❖ PM Modi is the second Indian Prime Minister to be honoured with the Ig Nobel Prize.

❖ Prior to this, Atal Bihari Vajpayee was awarded in 1998.

❖ It was shared with then Prime Minister of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif.

TIME's 100 most influential people list 2020

❖ The TIME magazine has released a list of 100 pioneers, leaders, titans, artists, and icons who marked their impact on people this year.

❖ The list includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, actor Ayushman Khurrana and Bilkis, who emerged as the face of the Shaheen Bagh protests.

❖ Actor Ayushmann Khurana was the only actor from India who made it to the list.

❖ The others included in the list are Sundar Pichai, the CEO of Google's parent Alphabet and clinical microbiology professor Ravindra Gupta.

'Snow leopard' Ang Rita Sherpa Passed Away

❖ Ang Rita Sherpa, popularly known as 'Snow Leopard, had won several awards as an extremely successful mountaineer.

❖ He also worked on a number of projects with The Mountain Institute on conservation of the alpine Himalayan zone.

❖ He received the Sir Edmund Hillary Mountain Legacy Medal in 2011 for his efforts towards conservation of the fragile Himalayan ecology.

❖ He won a Guinness World Record certificate for climbing Mount Everest the maximum number of times without using supplementary oxygen.

Global Architecture Award

❖ Bhubaneswar-based Krushi Bhawan building was selected as the "People's Choice Winner" at the AZ Awards 2020 in Social Good Category.

❖ The Krushi Bhawan was the only project from India at the globally recognised prestigious award.

❖ It had also become India's first government building and Odisha's first-ever building to feature in Dezeen, a prestigious international journal on architecture.

❖ The building features the glorious Sambalpuri saree and its designs.

SPB passed away

- ❖ Legendary playback singer SP Bala subrahmanyam passed away recently.
- ❖ He made his singing debut in 1966 with Telugu movie Sri Sri Sri Maryada Ramanna.
- ❖ He has sung over 40,000 songs in as many as 16 languages including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, and Hindi.
- ❖ He won six national awards and received the Padma Shri award in 2001 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.

UNIATF award on control of non-communicable diseases

- ❖ Kerala bagged a United Nations award for its "outstanding contribution" towards the non-communicable diseases-related sustainable development goals.

❖ The award recognises achievements during 2019 on the multisectoral action in the prevention and control of NCDs, mental health and the wider NCD-related sustainable development goals (SDGs).

❖ This is the first time the state has been recognised for this annual award by the UN.

❖ Kerala is among the seven ministries of health across the World.

Jnanpith award

❖ The Jnanpith award announced in November last year was handed over to poet Akkitham Achuthan Namboothiri.

❖ His work Balidarshanam won the State and Central Sahitya Akademi awards in 1972-73.

Jnanpith award

❖ Jnanpith is the highest literary award in India, given annually for the best creative literary writing to writers in any of the 22 scheduled languages of the Constitution.

❖ This Award was instituted in 1961.

❖ The first Jnanpith was awarded to poet G Sankara Kurup in 1965.

SPORTS

US Open 2020

❖ The 2020 US Open was the 140th edition of tennis' US Open and the second Grand Slam event of the year.

❖ Austria's Dominic Thiem defeated Alexander Zverev of Germany to win the men's singles title.

❖ It was Thiem's first Grand Slam title.

❖ Japan's Naomi Osaka defeated Victoria Azarenka of Belarus to clinch the Women's Singles title.

❖ This is the third Grand Slam title for Osaka.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Nutrition Week - September 01/07

❖ India marks National Nutrition Week annually on the first week of September (from September 1 to September 7).

❖ This event was launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development's Food and Nutrition Board in 1982.

❖ It aims to raise awareness on the importance of nutrition for human body.

❖ Theme for National Nutrition Week 2020: Eat Right, Bite by Bite.
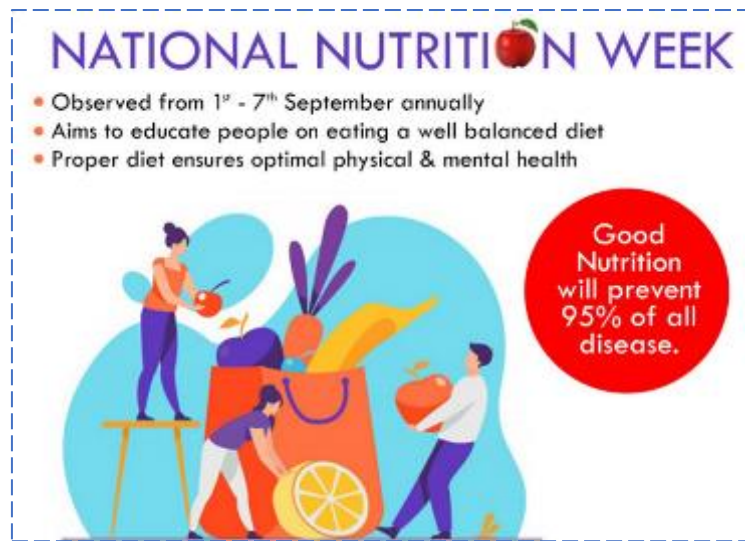
World Coconut Day - September 02

❖ The main objective of celebrating this day is to create awareness across the globe about the importance of the coconut and its benefits.

❖ The day is especially marked in countries under Asian and Pacific regions by the Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC).

❖ The first celebration of world coconut day ever was in the year 2009.

❖ The theme of World Coconut Day 2020 this year is – "Invest in Coconut to save the world".

International Day of Charity – September 05

❖ It commemorates the death anniversary of Mother Teresa and to make people understand about the importance of charity.

❖ The International Day of Charity officially was declared by the UN General Assembly in 2012.

❖ In 1950, Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity in India.

Teachers Day - September 05

❖ It commemorates the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

❖ He was born on September 5, 1888, in Thiruthani, Tamil Nadu

❖ He was a renowned scholar, recipient of Bharat Ratna (1954), first Vice-President and second President of independent India.

❖ He was the first Indian to hold a chair at the University of Oxford (1936-1952).

❖ He was elected chairman of UNESCO's executive board in 1948.

❖ The National Teachers' Awards are given to the meritorious teachers by the President of India.
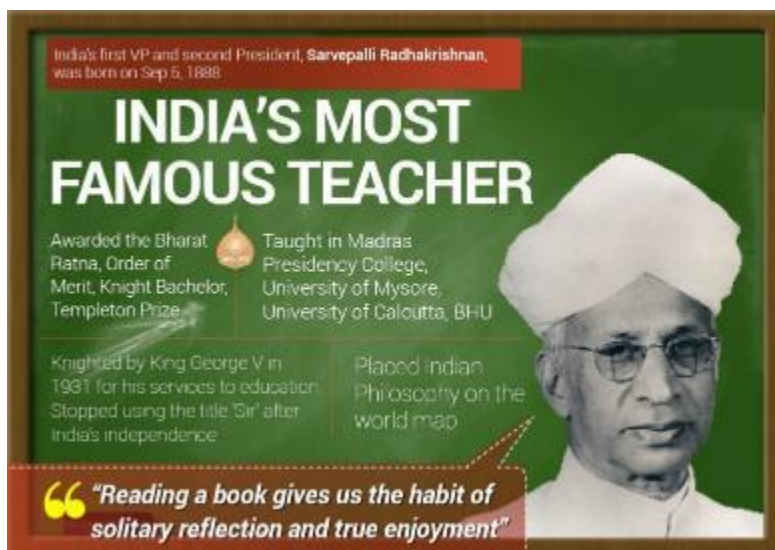
International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies - September 7

❖ The very first International Day of Clean Air for blue skies was held on September 7th, 2020.

❖ The Day aims to Raise public awareness at all levels—individual, community, corporate and government—that clean air is important for health, productivity, the economy and the environment.

❖ The United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to hold an International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on December 2019.

❖ The WHO is working with "Breathe Life partners" to coordinate activities for the day.

International Literacy Day - September 8

❖ It aims to raise awareness and concern for literacy problems that exist within our own local communities as well as globally.

❖ This year focuses on "Literacy teaching and learning in the Covid-19 crisis.

❖ The International Literacy Day was founded by proclamation of UNESCO, in 1966.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack - September 09

❖ The International Day to Protect Education from Attack was celebrated for the first time in 2020.

❖ The day was established by a unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly, calling on UNESCO and UNICEF to raise awareness of the plight of millions of children living in countries affected by conflict.

❖ In the leadup to 9 September 2020, Education Above All (EAA) Foundation is launching #UniteToProtect.

❖ It is a Global Campaign to Protect Education from Attack with its partners UNICEF, UNESCO and Save Our Future campaign.

World Suicide Prevention Day - September 10

❖ It aims to create awareness and to promote worldwide action to prevent suicide.

❖ International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) organizes World Suicide Prevention Day every year.

❖ It is co-sponsored by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH).

❖ It is observed since 2003 to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.

❖ The theme of this year is "Working Together to Prevent Suicide."
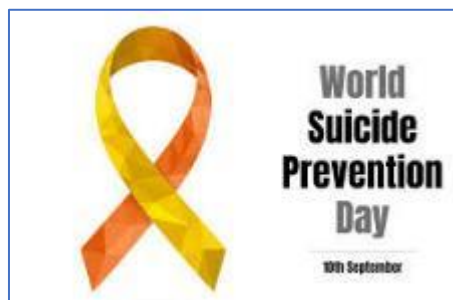
United Nations Day for South South Cooperation – September 12

❖ The day of South-South Cooperation was fully adopted by the United Nations on 12 September 2011.

❖ The day commemorates the day when the UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a plan of action in 1978 to promote and implement technical cooperation among developing countries.

❖ It works towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

UNITED NATIONS DAY FOR SOUTH - SOUTH COOPERATION

Himalaya Diwas - September 09

❖ Himalaya Diwas or Himalaya Day is annually celebrated particularly in Uttarakhand to create and spread awareness on the conservation of the Himalayan Ecosystem.

❖ Theme of this year celebration is: 'Himalayas and Nature'

❖ In 2014, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Harish Rawat accepted the proposal and declared the 9th of September.

❖ This day is celebrated every year by the Government of Uttarakhand from 2015.

World First Aid Day - September 12

❖ World First Aid Day is celebrated on the second Saturday in the month of September every year.

❖ First aid day is celebrated to raise public awareness of how first aid can save lives in everyday and crisis situations.

❖ The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) introduced the World First Aid Day in 2000.

Hindi Diwas - September 14

❖ It aims to commemorate the adoption of Hindi as one of the official languages of India.

- ❖ Under Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, Hindi written in Devanagari script (a script that is used by over 120 languages) was adopted as the official language.
- ❖ This decision was ratified by the Constitution of India that came into effect on the 26th of January 1950.

National Engineers Day - September 15

- ❖ This day is remembrance and tribute to the greatest Indian engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, or M Visvesvaraya on his birthday.
- ❖ He became India's most prolific civil engineer, dam builder, economist, statesman, and can be counted among the last century's foremost nation-builders.
- ❖ He was also the Diwan of Mysore from 1912 to 1918.
- ❖ He was the chief engineer responsible for the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- ❖ He was also the chief designer of the flood protection system for the city of Hyderabad.
- ❖ He also designed and patented the automatic weir water floodgates, first installed at the Khadakwasla reservoir, Pune 1903.
- ❖ He transformed the Mysore state into what was then known as 'model state'.
- ❖ Due to his outstanding contribution to the society, Government of India conferred 'Bharat Ratna' on this legend in the year 1955.
- ❖ He was also awarded the British knighthood by King George V.

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 O_3.
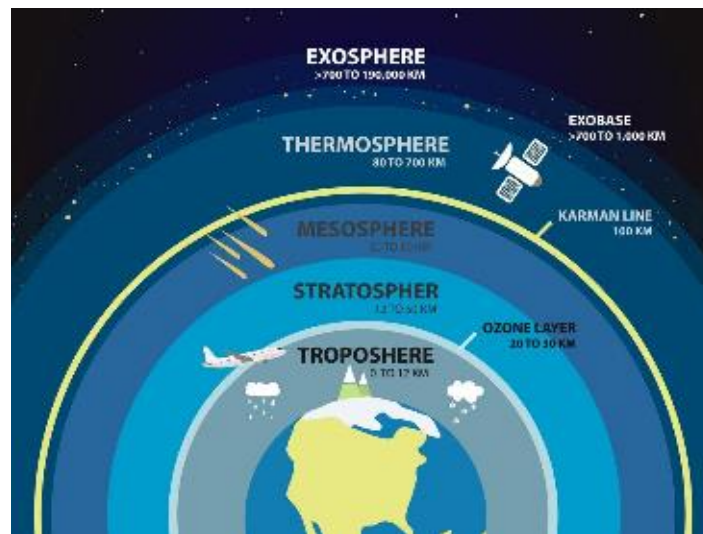
National Forest Martyrs Day 2020 – September 11

❖ It aims to remember the sacrifice of those who laid their lives to protect the forests and wildlife across the remote corners of the country.

❖ It is observed to commemorate the Khejarli massacre, which took place on September 11 in 1730.

❖ During the massacre, Rajasthan's Maharaja Abhay Singh started cutting the Khejarli trees, which were considered as a sacred tree in the Bishnoi community in Khejarli village in Rajasthan.

❖ A woman, reportedly named Amrita Devi stood up in resistance and offered her head instead of Khejarli trees.

❖ The army of Abhay Singh beheaded her and her three daughters who stood up in resistance and continued with 359 more men execution from the Bishnoi community.

❖ The Ministry of Environment and Forest made the declaration in 2013 to observe this day.
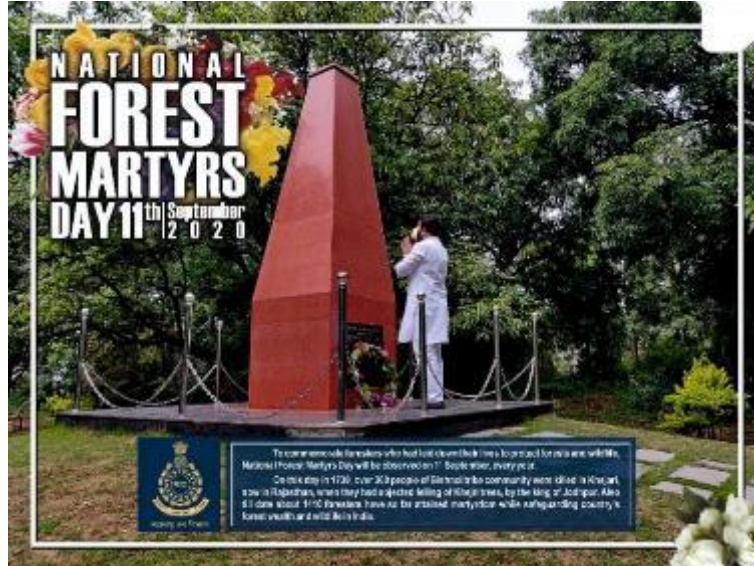
World Patient Safety Day - September 17

❖ World Patient Safety Day was established by the 72nd World Health Assembly, in May 2019.

❖ The objectives of the day are to increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and spur global solidarity and action to promote patient safety.

❖ Theme of this year is Health Worker Safety: A Priority for Patient Safety

International Equal Pay Day - September 18

❖ The day is intended to promote further action towards the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value.

❖ On November 15, 2019, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming September 18 as International Equal Pay Day.

THE GENDER PAY GAP OVER TIME
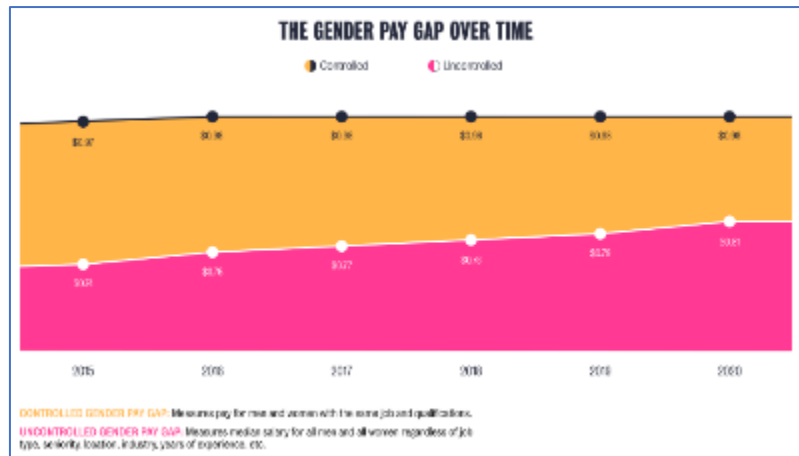
World Water Monitoring Day - September 18

❖ World Water Monitoring Day was established in 2003 by America's Clean Water Foundation.

❖ The day aims to empower the citizens to conduct basic checking of their local water bodies.

INDIA'S WATER CRISIS IN NUMBERS

600 mn No. of Indians who face high to extreme water stress

200,000 No. of people who die every year due to inadequate access to safe water

By **2030,** India's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply

6% Loss to GDP by 2030 due to water crisis

TOP 5 NON-HIMALAYAN STATES IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT FOR FY16-17...
- Gujarat
- Karnataka
- Madhya Pradesh
- Maharashtra
- Punjab

...AND THE BOTTOM 5
- Jharkhand
- Uttar Pradesh
- Haryana
- Bihar
- Odisha

Source: NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index

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.'

WORLD BAMBOO CONGRESS
Bamboo Now!
Ideas to call to action

International Day of University Sport - September 20

❖ The day aims at confirming the importance of sport in universities and the role of universities in the community as responsible actors for consolidating and developing quality physical and sport education at the service of citizens.

❖ It was proposed by the International University Sports Federation (FISU) and officially endorsed by the UNESCO in 2015.

International Coastal Clean Up Day - September 19

❖ International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day takes place on the third Saturday in September every year.

❖ It is one of the largest one-day volunteer event in the world.

❖ It started in 1986 when Linda Maraniss met Kathy O'Hara while working for Ocean Conservancy.

❖ O'Hara had just completed a report called Plastics in the Ocean: More Than a Litter Problem.

❖ The two of them reached out to other ocean-lovers and organized a Cleanup for Ocean Conservancy.

International Day of Peace – September 21

❖ A United Nations-designated day, it was first established in 1981.

❖ On International Day of Peace, the world body encourages countries to observe the day by adhering to "24 hours of non-violence".

❖ Theme of the year: Shaping Peace Together.

World Alzheimer's day – September 21

❖ The day is meant to raise awareness about the neurological condition, its causes, symptoms and management.

❖ Alzheimer's disease is a neurological disorder which causes problems with memory, thinking skills, and behaviour.

❖ The theme for 2020 is 'Let's talk about dementia'.

❖ This is the 9th World Alzheimer's day.

❖ It was launched in 2012.
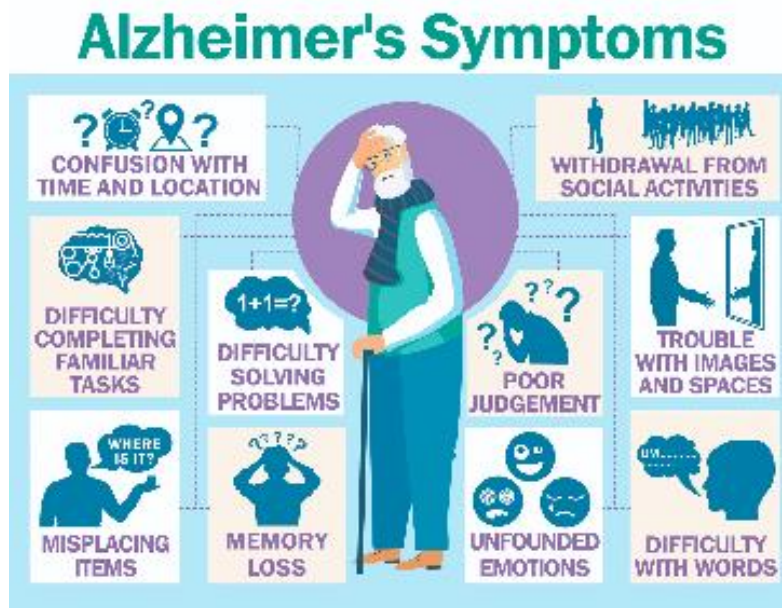
Zero Emissions Day – September 21

❖ Zero Emissions Day has been designed to give the world a break from fossil fuels and to raise awareness about the harm caused by carbon emissions.

❖ Zero Emissions Day was launched in Nova Scotia, Canada in 2008.

World Rose Day – September 22

❖ World Rose Day is celebrated in the memory of a memory of 12-year-old girl Melinda Rose.

❖ The Canadian girl had a rare blood cancer Askin's Tumour.

❖ The day is dedicated to her and many cancer patients like her who fight the disease.

❖ The day is also aiming to raising awareness about the various types of cancers and how early detection can help to find a cure.

❖ World Cancer Day 2020 Theme: History and Key Facts.

World Car Free Day – September 22

❖ The Environmental Transport Association set the initial annual Car-Free Day on the first Tuesday in their Green Transport Week (around 17 June).

❖ Later it was established as a Europe-wide initiative by the European Commission in 2000.

❖ The day encourages citizens across the world to go car-free.

International Red Panda Day - September 19

❖ It is celebrated on third Saturday of September every year to raise public awareness and support for red panda conservation issues.

❖ The day was launched by the Red Panda Network in 2010.

❖ The first international red Panda day was celebrated on 18th September 2010.

❖ There are two distinct species of red pandas:

  o Ailurus fulgens is commonly known as Himalayan Red Panda and

  o Ailurus fulgens styani commonly known as Chinese Red Panda.

Rhino Day – September 22

❖ It provides an opportunity to work towards saving the rhinos, which has been the target of poachers for decades.

❖ India is home to the Greater Indian One-Horned Rhino commonly found in Assam and in neighbouring Nepal and Bhutan.

❖ The rhinos prefer tall grasslands and forests in the foothills of the Himalayas.

❖ Apart from the Indian one-horned rhino, there are four other species which are famous.

❖ The IUCN's conservation status of the Five Rhino Species

Rhino Species	Conservation Status
Javan Rhino	Critically Endangered
Sumatran Rhino	Critically Endangered
Black Rhino	Critically Endangered
White Rhino	Near Threatened
Greater One-Horned Rhinos (Indian Rhino)	Vulnerable

WORLD RHINO DAY
22 September
Celebrating
the FIVE species of rhinoceros

Sumatran rhino
Black rhino
Greater one-horned rhino
Javan rhino
White rhino
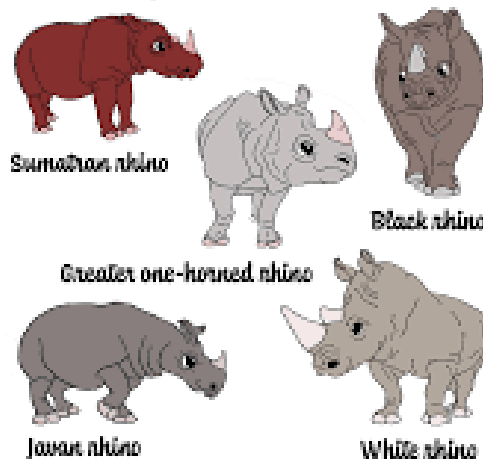
International Day of Sign Languages – September 23

❖ 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 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.

World Pharmacist Day - September 25

❖ This day is celebrated to create awareness about the role of a pharmacist in improving health.

❖ This day was created by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Council at the World Congress of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences in Istanbul, Turkey in 2009.

❖ The theme of World Pharmacist Day 2020 is "Transforming global health".
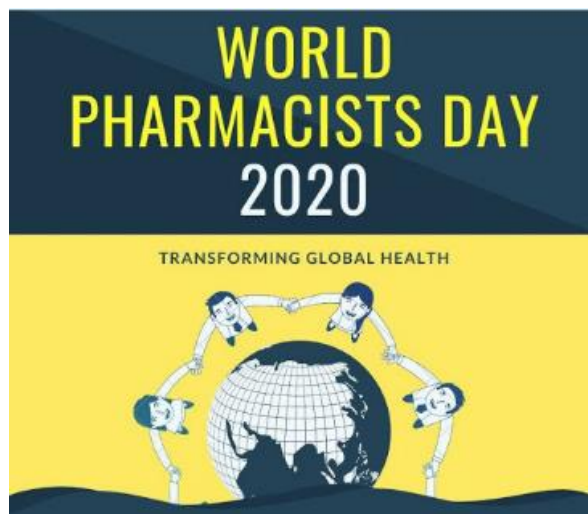
International day for the total elimination of nuclear weapons- September 26

❖ The day is observed to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared the day in 2013.

❖ It is being observed since 2014.

❖ Every year, the day is marked by the ICAN campaigners all around the world.

❖ ICAN is the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

❖ It received the Nobel Prize for peace in 2017.

World Contraception Day - September 26

- ❖ It is an annual global campaign to improve awareness about contraception.

- ❖ This campaign aims to raise awareness about birth control methods available to a woman and her partner to enable them to make an informed decision regarding their reproductive health.

- ❖ World Contraception Day was first observed on 26th September in 2007 by ten international family planning organizations to raise awareness about contraception.

CSIR foundation Day - September 26

- ❖ The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was established as an autonomous body in 26, September 1942.

- ❖ CSIR is funded by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- ❖ It operates as an autonomous body through the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

- ❖ It has a dynamic network of 38 national laboratories, 39 outreach centres, 3 Innovation Complexes and 5 units.

World Environmental Health Day - September 26

❖ The World Environmental Health Day was launched by the IFEH Council (International Federation of Environmental Health).

❖ The observance was inaugurated in 2011 in Indonesia.

❖ Theme of this year is "Environmental health, a key public health intervention in disease pandemic prevention".

World Tourism Day – September 27

❖ The day aims at creating awareness on social, political, cultural and economic values among international community.

❖ The World Tourism Day marks adaptation of Statutes of UNWTO (World Tourism Organization) on September 27, 1970.

❖ Tourism is a major contributor of SDG – Sustainable Development Goals – 8, 12 and 14.

❖ The theme of World Tourism Day this year is "Tourism and Rural Development".

World Rivers day – September 27

❖ World Rivers Day is observed every year on the fourth Sunday of September.

❖ It is celebrated to raise public awareness about the rivers and the importance of all of the waterways around the globe.

❖ The United Nations (UN) launched the Water for Life Decade in 2005.

❖ That first World Rivers Day was celebrated in 2005.

World Rabies Day – September 28

- ❖ It aims at raising awareness about the viral disease, rabies, and how to prevent it.
- ❖ It marks the death anniversary of Louis Pasteur, the man who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- ❖ It is marked by the Global Alliance World Rabies Control, USA.
- ❖ The first Word Rabies day campaign was organized on September 2007.

International Day for the Universal Access to Information - September 28

- ❖ This year the day focuses on the right to information in the times of crisis.
- ❖ The day was declared by UNESCO in 2015.
- ❖ The day was celebrated as "International Right to Know Day" since 2002 until UNESCO adopted it with a different name.
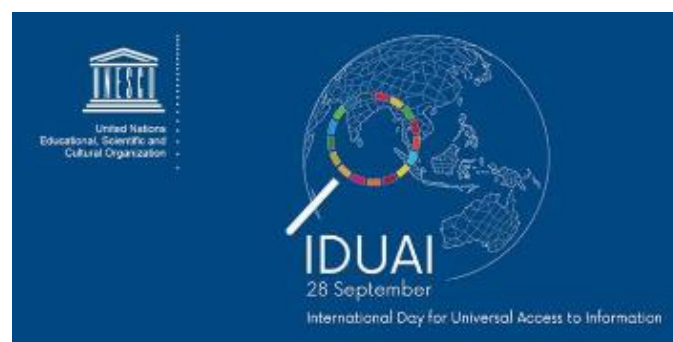
International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste – September 29

- ❖ This year is the first ever observance of this International Day.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly, on 19 December 2019, designated 29 September as the International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste.
- ❖ The Food and Nutrition Organization of the UN (FAO) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) will collaborate in facilitating the observance of the Day.

World Heart Day– September 29

❖ It aims to raise awareness around cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and how they can be prevented.

❖ It was created by the World Heart Federation.

❖ The first World Heart Day took place in 2000.

❖ Theme of the year is: "Use to Beat".

International Translation Day – September 30

❖ It aims to raise awareness about the translation profession and to pay tribute to the work of language professionals.

❖ It helps in promoting cultural heritage and mutual respect in our changing world.

❖ 30 September celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator, who is considered the patron saint of translators.

❖ The theme of 2020 is "Finding the words for a world in crisis".

Blasphemy Day – September 30

❖ It aims to educates individuals and groups about blasphemy laws and defends freedom of expression, especially the open criticism of religion which is criminalized in many countries.

❖ This Day was introduced as a worldwide celebration by the Centre for Inquiry in 2009.

❖ Blasphemy is the act of abusive or showing contempt or lack of respect to a deity, or sacred objects, or toward something considered sacred or inviolable.

MISCELLANEOUS

UNICEF report on school children

❖ UNICEF released a report named "COVID-19: Are children able to continue learning during school closures?".

❖ As per the report, At least a third of the world's schoolchildren (463 million children globally) were unable to access remote learning when COVID-19 shuttered their schools.

❖ Globally, 3 out of 4 students who cannot be reached by remote learning opportunities come from rural areas and/or poor households.

❖ Almost all countries implemented digital and broadcast remote learning policies, but only 60 per cent did so for pre-primary education.

❖ The report highlights significant inequality across regions.

❖ Schoolchildren in sub-Saharan Africa are the most affected, with half of all students cannot be reached with remote learning.

Percentage and number of students potentially reached and not reached† by digital and broadcast remote learning policies, by region (pre-primary to upper secondary)
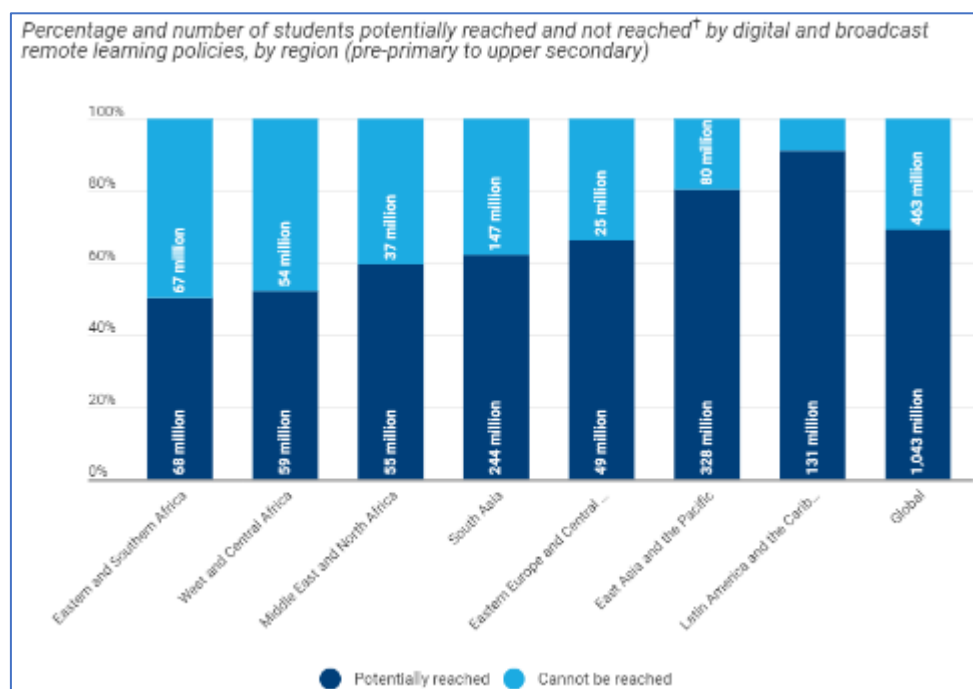
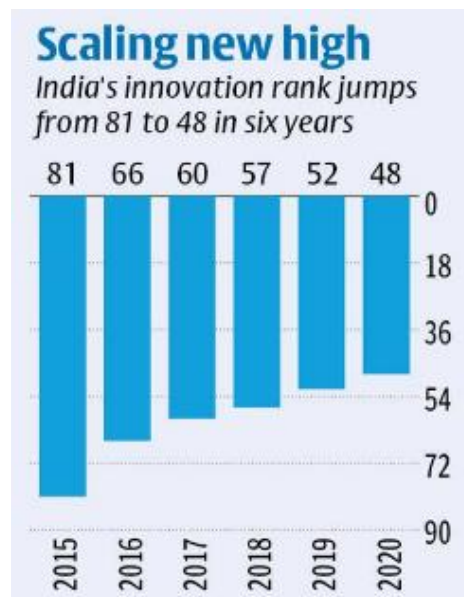## Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20

❖ Amul, Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation became the first Indian Dairy Company to enter Rabobank's Annual listing of Global Dairy Top 20-2020 Companies.

❖ Amul was ranked 16th and Switzerland's Nestle topped the list followed by France's Lactalis.

❖ Amul is based out of Anand, Gujarat, India.

❖ Its tagline is "The Taste of India".

❖ India is the World's Largest Milk Producer, with 22 per cent of global production according to the Food & Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Global Innovation Index

❖ The Global Innovation Index (GII) list, 2020 released jointly by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Cornell University and INSEAD Business School.

❖ Switzerland, Sweden, the US, the UK and the Netherlands lead the innovation ranking.

❖ India has been ranked 48th and joined the group of top 50 countries for the first time.

❖ Also it become the third most innovative lower middle-income economy in the world.

❖ India ranks in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services exports, government online services, graduates in science and engineering, and R&D intensive global companies.

Scaling new high
India's innovation rank jumps from 81 to 48 in six years

| 81 | 66 | 60 | 57 | 52 | 48 |

(Bar chart with y-axis values: 0, 18, 36, 54, 72, 90; x-axis years: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

Inscription from Renati Chola Era

❖ A rare inscription dating back to the Renati Chola era has been unearthed in a remote village of Kadapa district of Andhra Pradesh.

❖ The inscription was found engraved on a dolomite slab and shale, which are part of a fragmentary pillar.

❖ The inscription was written in archaic Telugu.

❖ It was assigned to the 8th Century AD, when the region was under the rule of Chola Maharaja of Renadu.

- ❖ The inscription seems to throw light on the record of a gift of six Marttus (a measuring unit) of land to a Brahmin Priest.
- ❖ Some lines are indicative of the priority given to morality in those days.

Renati Cholas

- ❖ The Telugu Cholas of Renadu (also called as Renati Cholas) ruled over Renadu region, the present-day Kadapa district.
- ❖ The earliest of this family was Nandivarman (500 AD).
- ❖ These kings claimed that they belonged to Karikala Chola's dynasty.
- ❖ They are said to be the first kingdom to use Telugu in administration and inscriptions, instead of Sanskrit.

World University Ranking 2021

- ❖ Times Higher Education announced the results of World University Rankings, 2021.
- ❖ In the 2021 ranking, India has recorded its highest ever number of universities to qualify Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2021.
- ❖ However, none of Indian Universities could make it to top 300.
- ❖ Around 63 universities from India have qualified for the ranking.
- ❖ Indian Institute of Science, or IISc, Bengaluru, has been placed in the 301-350 category in overall global rankings.
- ❖ The others in the list of top 500 are- IIT Ropar and IIT Indore.
- ❖ Bharathiar University and VIT University are secured 801-1000 category.
- ❖ This year 14 more universities have qualified as compared to that of the 2020 ranking.
- ❖ It is the highest jump by any country in south Asian region.
- ❖ The University of Oxford was at the top position followed by Stanford University, Harvard University, California Institute of Technology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

❖ The United States was the most represented country with 59 entries in the top 200.

❖ It was followed by UK with 29, Germany with 21.

❖ China's Tsinghua University was the first Asian university to make it to top 20.

INDIAN INSTITUTES IN THE'S
WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2021

Institute	2020	2021
IISc	301–350	301–350
IIT Ropar	301–350	351–400
IIT Indore	351–400	401–500
Banaras Hindu University	601–800	601–800
ICT, Mumbai	501–600	601–800

Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Food Systems - Report

❖ It is published by World Wide Fund (WWF), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), non-profit organization EAT & think tank Climate Focus.

❖ It aims to help policymakers adopt food systems solutions and set more ambitious targets and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, in turn, improve biodiversity, food security, and public health.

❖ According to the report, Food system's production, processing, distribution, preparation and consumption of food account for up to 37% of all greenhouse gas emissions.

❖ Under the 2015 Paris Agreement, countries are expected to resubmit their NDCs every five years.
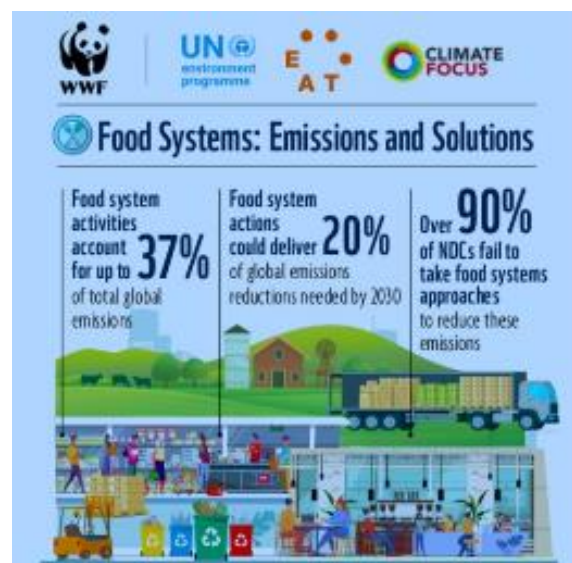
From Insights to Actions: Gender Equality in the wake of COVID-19 report

- ❖ It is released by UN Women and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- ❖ It states that the COVID-19 pandemic will have negative impacts on the women and will increase the poverty rate of women and widen the gap between men and women in poverty.
- ❖ The pre-pandemic female poverty rate in South Asia was projected to be 10 per cent in 2021 but is now expected to reach 13 per cent.
- ❖ The pandemic is expected to reverse the progress made to eradicate poverty by the end of this decade and push around 96 million people into extreme poverty by 2021 of which around 47 million will be women and girls.
- ❖ International Labour Organisation estimates that by June 2020, around 72% of the domestic workers had lost their jobs due to COVID-19.

NSO Survey for 2017-2018

- ❖ The National Statistical Office released its report on "Household Social Consumption: Education in India as part of 75th round of National Sample Survey".
- ❖ The survey provides state wise details of literacy between the period July 2017 and June 2018.
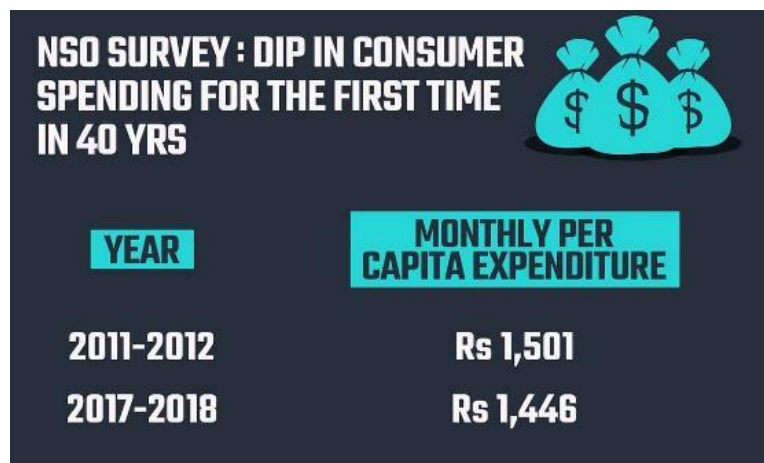
Highlights

- ❖ Kerala has the highest literacy rate in the country.
- ❖ Around 96.2% of the people the state were literates.
- ❖ Delhi had the second-best literacy rate at 88.7% followed by Uttarakhand at 87.6%, Himachal Pradesh at 86.6% and Assam at 85.9%.
- ❖ Andhra Pradesh was at the bottom with 66.4% and it was followed by Bihar at 70.9% and Telangana at 72.8%.
- ❖ The overall literacy rate in India is 77.7%.

- The literacy rate in rural areas is 73.5%
- The literacy rate in urban areas is 87.7%
- The male literacy rate is higher than that of female literacy rates in all states.
- Male literacy rate was 80.8% and female literacy rate was just 57.6% in Rajasthan.
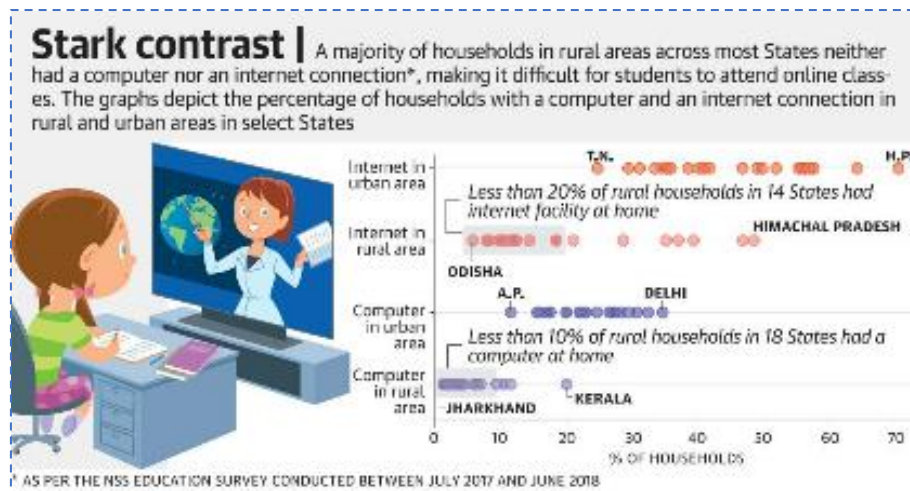
The Levels & Trends in Child Mortality' Report 2020

- According to the new UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) report, the Child Mortality Rate in India has seen a decline to 34 in 2019 from 126 in 1990.
- India has registered a 4.5% annual rate of reduction in under-five mortality between 1990-2019.
- India along with Nigeria is still accounted for almost a third of all under-five deaths in 2019.
- The infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) in India has declined from 89 in 1990 to 28 in 2019.
- India has also witnessed a decrease in neonatal mortality rates between 1990 and 2019 from 57 to 22.

Other countries

- The number of global under-five deaths dropped to its lower point on record in 2019 down to 5.2 million from 12.5 million in 1990.
- The regions of Central and Southern Asia and Oceania (excluding New Zealand and Australia) both saw a faster decline in the under-five mortality rate from 2010-2019 compared to 2000-2009.
- As per the report, about 53% of all under-five deaths in 2019 occurred in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Roughly 1.5 million children died in 2019 before reaching age five in Central and Southern Asia.
- In 2019, 49 percent of all under-five deaths occurred in just five countries: India, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, and Ethiopia.

NSO's Report on Digital Divide

- The National Statistical Organisation (NSO) recently published the report on 'household social consumption'.
- It is the 75th round of the survey which was conducted between 2017-2018.
- The report shows that how digital divide have increased across States, cities and villages, and income groups.

Stark contrast | A majority of households in rural areas across most States neither had a computer nor an internet connection*, making it difficult for students to attend online classes. The graphs depict the percentage of households with a computer and an internet connection in rural and urban areas in select States

*AS PER THE NSS EDUCATION SURVEY CONDUCTED BETWEEN JULY 2017 AND JUNE 2018

Highlights

❖ Himanchal Pradesh have highest internet penetration covering more than 70% households.

❖ Kerala emerges to have least inequality where 39% of the poorest rural homes and 67% of the richest urban homes have Internet.

❖ Delhi has the highest Internet access covering 55% of the households.

❖ States including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have less than 20% penetration.

❖ One in 10 households have access to computer across the country.

❖ 1/4 of all homes have Internet connection.

❖ Cities have 42% Internet-enabled homes while in rural India 15% are connected to the internet.

❖ 20% of Indians above the age of 5 years have basic digital literacy.

Countdown to 2023: WHO report on global trans-fat elimination 2020

❖ 58 countries so far have introduced laws that will protect 3.2 billion people from the harmful substance by the end of 2021.

❖ But more than 100 countries still need to take actions to remove these harmful substances from their food supplies.

❖ 15 countries account for approximately two thirds of the worldwide deaths linked to trans-fat intake.

❖ Of these 15, four - Canada, Latvia, Slovenia, United States of America have implemented WHO-recommended best-practice policies since 2017.

❖ The remaining 11 countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea) still need to take urgent action.

India's action

❖ In 2011, India passed regulations that set a TFA limit of 10% in oils and fats, which was further reduced to 5% in 2015.

❖ In December 2018, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) proposed reducing this limit to 2% and eliminating industrially produced TFA in the food supply by 2022, a year ahead of the global target.

❖ In August 2019, the FSSAI proposed aligning India's regulations with global best practice and notified for public comment draft regulations that apply the 2% TFA limit to all food products by January 2022.

TRANS FAT FREE BY 2023
Number of countries and territories that have enacted a TFA limit or PHO ban

33	5	9	1	1	8
Countries with a TFA limit of 2 per cent for all foods	Countries with a TFA limit of 2 per cent for fats/oils and 5 per cent for all other foods	Countries with a TFA limit of 2 per cent for fats/oils only	Countries with a TFA limit of 5 per cent for fats/oils only	Countries with a TFA limit of 4 per cent for foods with a total fat content of <20%, and a TFA limit of 10 per cent for foods with a fat content of <3%	Countries and territories with a ban on PHOs

Global Economic Freedom Index 2020

❖ India has been ranked 105th position "Global Economic Freedom Index 2020 Annual Report" by Canada's Fraser Institute.

❖ It has been released in India in conjunction with Center for Civil Society, New Delhi-based think tank.

❖ This is the 24th edition of Economic Freedom of the World.

❖ Top 5 countries are - Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland and United States.

❖ The 5 lowest-rated countries are the African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe and Algeria.

Living planet report 2020

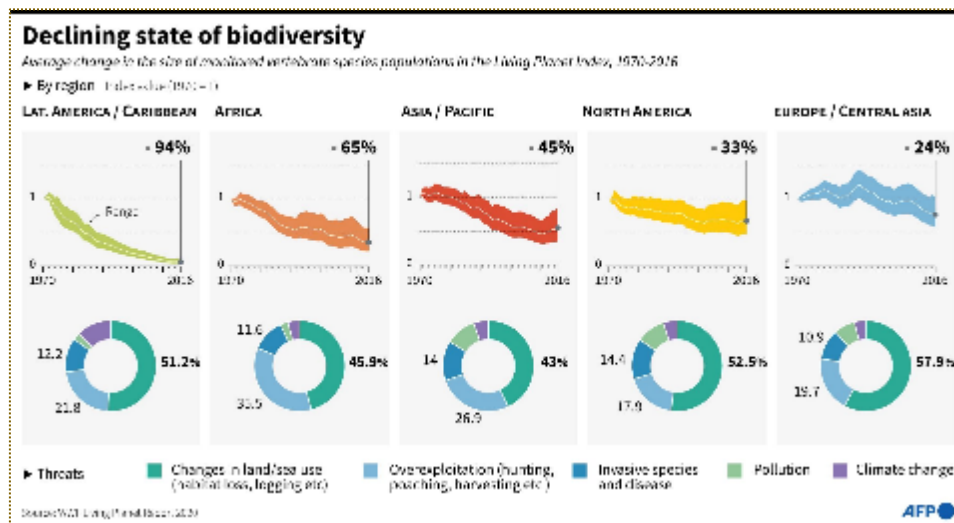❖ It is Published by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Zoological Society of London.

❖ It has found that there has been a reduction of 68 % in the global wildlife population between 1970 and 2016.

Key Findings

❖ 75 % of the Earth's ice-free land surface has already been significantly altered, most of the oceans are polluted.

❖ More than 85% of the area of wetlands has been lost during this period.

❖ The highest biodiversity loss due to land use change globally has been found in Europe and Central Asia at 57.9 %, then in North America at 52.5 %, Latin America and Caribbean at 51.2 %, Africa at 45.9 % and then Asia at 43 %.

❖ The largest wildlife population loss, has been in Latin America at an alarming 94 %.

❖ India, a "megadiverse country" with over 45,000 species of plants in only 2.4 % of the world's land area, has already lost six plant species to extinction.

❖ India has lost 12 per cent of its wild mammals, 19 per cent amphibians and 3 per cent birds over last five decades.

❖ Vertebrate population has been declining at a rate of about 60 per cent in India.

Declining state of biodiversity
Average change to the size of monitored vertebrate species populations in the Living Planet Index, 1970-2016

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 CO_2 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.


Ecological Threat Register

❖ This is compiled by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a think-tank which produces annual terrorism and peace indexes.

Key Findings

❖ Over the next 30 years, the report finds that 141 countries are exposed to at least one ecological threat by 2050.

❖ 19 countries with the highest number of ecological threats are among the world's 40 least peaceful countries including Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Chad, India and Pakistan.

❖ Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa are the regions facing the largest number of ecological threats.

❖ By 2040, a total of 5.4 billion people (more than half of the world's projected population) will live in the 59 countries experiencing high or extreme water stress, including India and China.

❖ 3.5 billion people could suffer from food insecurity by 2050.

❖ Regions that have high resilience, such as Europe and North America, will not be immune from the wider impact of ecological threats.

❖ Developed countries which are facing no threats include Sweden, Norway, Ireland, and Iceland.

❖ In total there are 16 countries facing no threats.
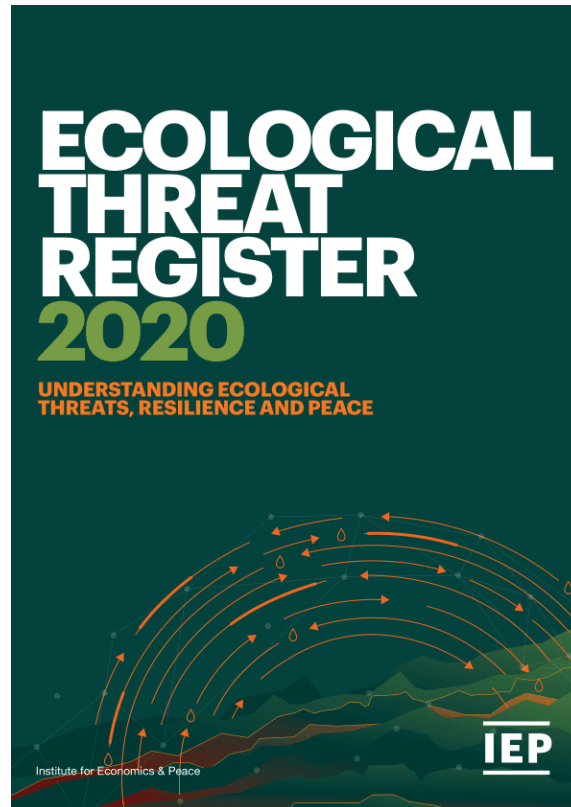
Human Capital Index

❖ 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.

POTENTITAL PRODUCTIVITY OF NEXT GENERATION

Country	Value
SINGAPORE	0.88
HONG KONG	0.81
SRI LANKA	0.6
NEPAL	0.5
INDIA	0.49
BHUTAN	0.48
BANGLADESH	0.46
PAKISTAN	0.41
AFGHANISTAN	0.4

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

Rank	City
1	Singapore
2	Helsinki, Finland
3	Zurich, Switzerland
4	Auckland, New Zealand
5	Oslo, Norway
6	Copenhagen, Denmark
7	Geneva, Switzerland
8	Taipei, Taiwan
9	Amsterdam, Netherlands
10	New York, United States

INDIAN CITIES

City	Rank	Chg in rank
Hyderabad	85	−18
New Delhi	86	−18
Mumbai	93	−15
Bengaluru	95	−16

NASA led study on Cryosphere

- ❖ As per the report, if greenhouse gas emissions continue, Greenland and Antarctica's ice sheets could together contribute more than 38 cm to global sea level rise by 2100.

- ❖ In the lower emissions scenario, the loss from the ice sheet would raise global sea level by about 1.3 inches (3 cm).

❖ The findings are in line with projections in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) 2019 Special Report on Oceans and the Cryosphere or portions of Earth's surface where water is in solid form.

Special Report on Sustainable Recovery

❖ In the backdrop of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, International Energy Agency (IEA), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, presented a 'Special Report on Sustainable Recovery'.

❖ It is a part of International Energy Agency's flagship World Energy Outlook series.

❖ It proposes a number of actions that could be taken over the next three years to revitalize economies and boost employment while making energy systems cleaner and more resilient.

❖ The IEA's report, prepared in cooperation with IMF, details energy-focused policies and investments that could help boost economic growth, create jobs and put emissions into structural decline.

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