

November - 03

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Morocco on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- ❖ It will provide a broad legal framework for bilateral cooperation between India and Morocco in investigation and prosecution of crime, tracing, restraint, forfeiture or confiscation or proceeds and instruments of crime.
- ❖ Senior IPS officer S.S. Deswal (present Director General of the Sashastra Seema Bal) was appointed as a chief of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) for a period up to August 31, 2021. He will succeed R K Pachnanda.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu inaugurated e-Adangal that is aimed at simplifying the preparation of 'G' forms (Government Forms) prepared by officers to assess the fertility, and water availability of the land.

NATIONAL

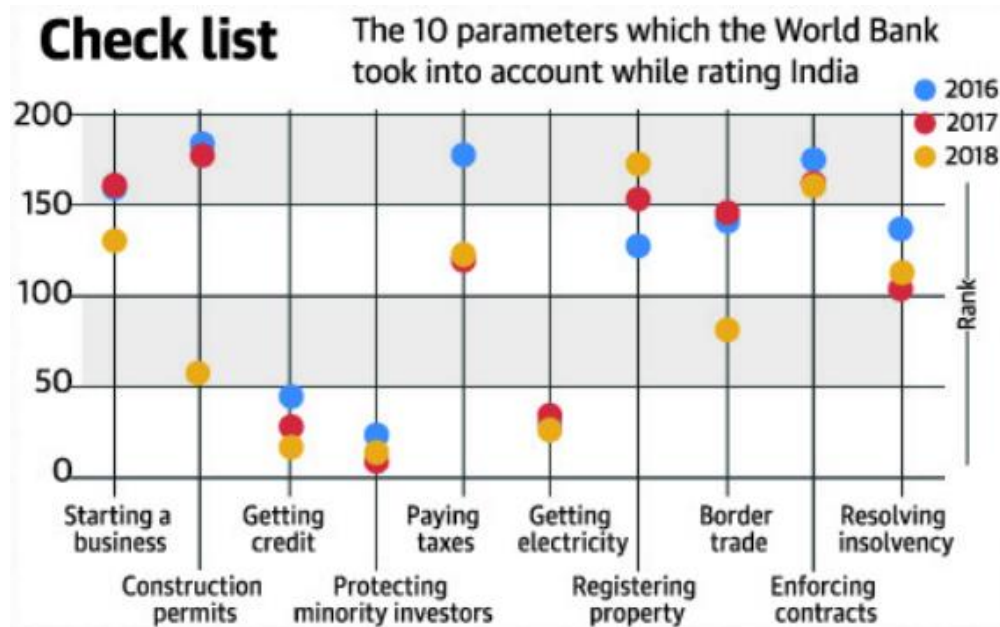
India – Italy Science and Technology summit

- ❖ A two-day technology summit between India and Italy began in Delhi on 30 October, calling for promotion of high quality and high impact collaborative research projects.
- ❖ The focus of the summit was renewable energy, clean technology, information and communication technology, healthcare, aerospace, education and preservation of cultural heritage.
- ❖ The conference was organised by Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in collaboration with the Italian government.

World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business'

- ❖ India has jumped 23 places to the 77th position in the World Bank's 'Ease of Doing Business' ranking helped by improvement in 6 out of 10 indicators.
- ❖ India improved its ranking for the second straight year on the back of reforms related to insolvency, taxation and other areas.

- ❖ India was ranked 100th in World Bank's Doing Business Report last year, moving up from 131st position that it recorded in 2016.



- ❖ New Zealand topped the list of 190 countries in Ease of Doing Business, followed by Singapore, Denmark, and Hong Kong.
- ❖ United States is placed at 8th and China has been ranked 46th. The Neighbour country Pakistan is placed at 136. World Bank put India among the top 10 economies to make the most improvements.

ECONOMY

19th Meeting of the FSDC

- ❖ The 19th Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley held at New Delhi.
- ❖ It reviewed the current global and domestic economic situation and financial sector performance and discussed at length the issue of real interest rate, current liquidity situation, including segmental liquidity position in NBFCs and mutual fund space.

Financial Stability and Development Council

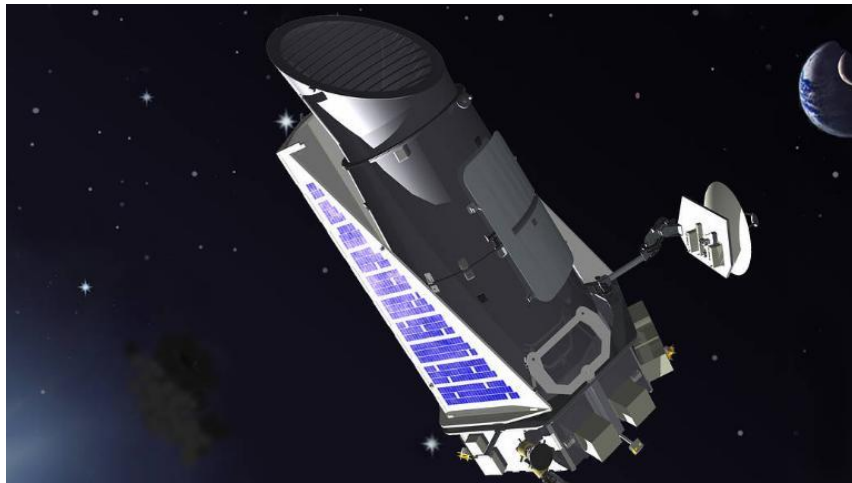
- ❖ FSDC is a super regulatory body for regulating financial sector which is vital for bringing healthy and efficient financial system in economy of the country.

- ❖ Its is chaired by the Union Finance Minister and its other members are
 - Heads of the financial sector regulatory authorities (i.e., RBI, SEBI, IRDA, and PFRDA),
 - Finance Secretary,
 - Department of Economic Affairs (Union Finance Ministry) Secretary
 - Department of Financial Services (Union Finance Ministry) Secretary
 - Chief Economic Adviser.
- ❖ The FSDC can invite experts to its meeting if required.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NASA retires Kepler Space Telescope

- ❖ National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) has decided to retire the Kepler space telescope.



- ❖ It has run out of fuel after a 9-1/2-year mission. During this period, it detected more than 2,600 planet discoveries from outside our solar system, many of which could be promising places for life.

Kepler Space Telescope

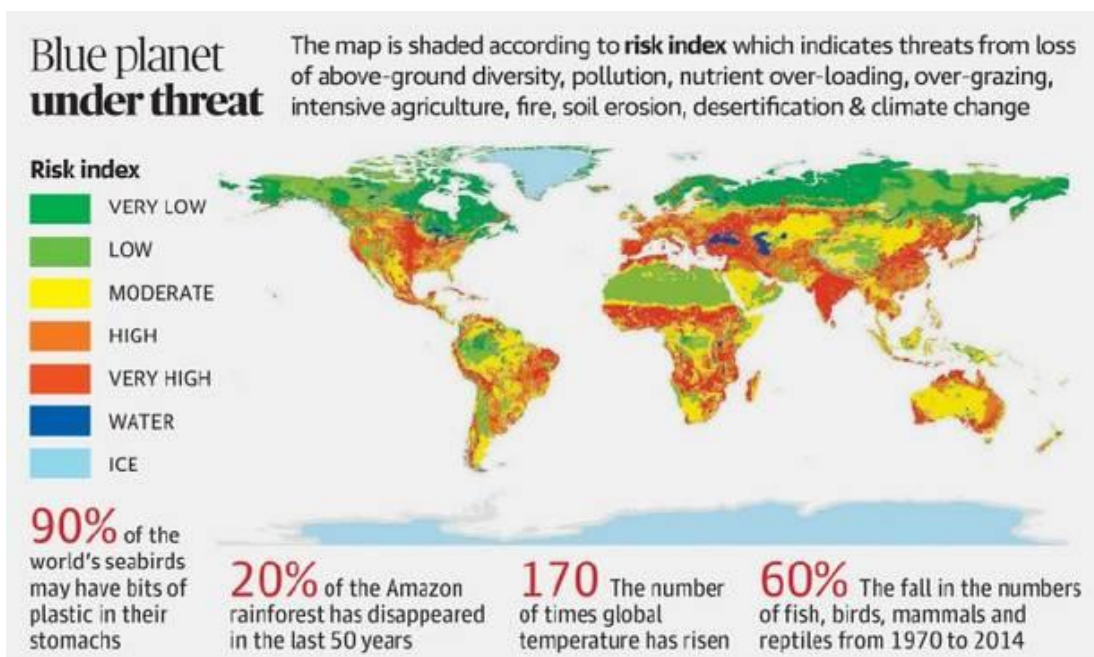
- ❖ It is an unmanned space observatory and it was originally launched in 2009 as a part of NASA's Discovery Program.
- ❖ Kepler was the first telescope to find a planet (Kepler-69c) approximately the size of Earth in the habitable region of a star.

- ❖ It examined the TRAPPIST-1 system which likely has multiple Earth-sized planets in it between December 2016 and March 2017.

ENVIRONMENT

Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas

- ❖ According to the Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas which is prepared by the European Commission Joint Research Centre, India's soil biodiversity is in grave peril.
- ❖ It shows India among other countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk (Coloured red on the Atlas) which include Pakistan, China, several countries in Africa and Europe, and most of North America.
- ❖ The two key drivers of biodiversity loss were the over exploitation of natural resources and agriculture.



- ❖ It highlighted that, India's per capita ecological footprint was less than 1.75 hectares/person (which is in the lowest band, among countries surveyed) and its high population made it vulnerable to an ecological crisis.
- ❖ This 'risk index' for the globe indicates threats from loss of above-ground diversity, pollution and nutrient over-loading, over-grazing, intensive agriculture, fire, soil erosion, desertification and climate change.
- ❖ The findings were the part of bi-annual Living Planet Report 2018.



Less Polluting Firecrackers by CSIR

- ❖ CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) scientists have developed Less Polluting Firecrackers which are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional ones.
- ❖ These crackers have been named as safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR).
- ❖ These functional prototypes have been successfully demonstrated in Sivakasi to leading manufacturers.

STATES

India's first Justice city – Andhra Pradesh

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh is building a world-class city and India's first 'Justice City' within its new capital Amaravati with the vision to provide a state-of-the-art ecosystem. It is built on latest technology for supporting the judicial system in the state.
- ❖ APCRDA (Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority) is developing Justice City in Amaravati which will comprise integrated judicial hub spread across 3,309 acres with an estimated population of 2.5 lacs.
- ❖ The Justice City is expected to generate employment for more than 1.3 lac people.

Odisha Coastal Disaster Alert System

- ❖ The Odisha government launched the Early Warning Dissemination System (EWDS), the first-of-its-kind technology in India.
- ❖ It will simultaneously warn coastal communities and fisherfolk about impending cyclone and tsunami through siren towers.
- ❖ Sirens will go off from 122 towers installed along the 480-km-long coast of the State if a button is pressed in the State emergency centre in Bhubaneswar.
- ❖ It is a collaborative effort of the Central and State governments and it has been implemented under the assistance of World Bank.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

Hall of fame – Rahul Dravid

- ❖ India's batting legend Rahul Dravid was officially inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame minutes before the fifth and final ODI of the series between India and West Indies at Thiruvananthapuram.
- ❖ Dravid is currently in charge of India U-19 and India 'A' teams as coach.
- ❖ Rahul Dravid became the fifth player from India to be named after former Indian captains Bishan Singh Bedi, Gavaskar, Kapil Dev and Anil Kumble.



IMPORTANT DAYS

World Vegan Day – November 1

- ❖ World Vegan Day, an annual event that commemorates the holistic benefits of converting to vegetarianism was observed on November 1.
- ❖ It was established in the year 1994. The World Vegan Day is celebrated through exhibitions, seminars, public debates, workshops etc.



- ❖ This day is said to be a chance for individuals to advocate the lifestyle, share ideas and sensitise their friends about its value and benefits.
