

ARUL IAS ACADEMY

TNPSC CURRENT AFFAIRS - ENGLISH APRIL-2021





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1. TAMIL NADU NEWS

Activities which held up in Tamil Nadu during April 2021

Any one of the 12 documents is enough to vote

- Voters can cast their ballots even if they do not have a voter ID card with photo to vote in the Legislative Assembly.
- Boy must be on the voter list. Voters can cast their ballots by displaying any of the 11 documents defined by the Board of Trustees in the absence of a voter ID card from the voter list. Details of 11 documents defined by the Total Authority:
 1. Aadhar card.
 2. Passport.
 3. Driving license.
 4. Identity card with photo for working in Central, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings.
 5. Bank or Postal Savings Account Book.
 6. Smart card issued by National Population Register.
 7. Card for one hundred day work plan.
 8. Pan Card (Permanent Account Number)
 9. Health Insurance Card of the Department of Labor Welfare.
 10. Retirement document with photo.
 11. Official Identity Card for MPs and MLAs.

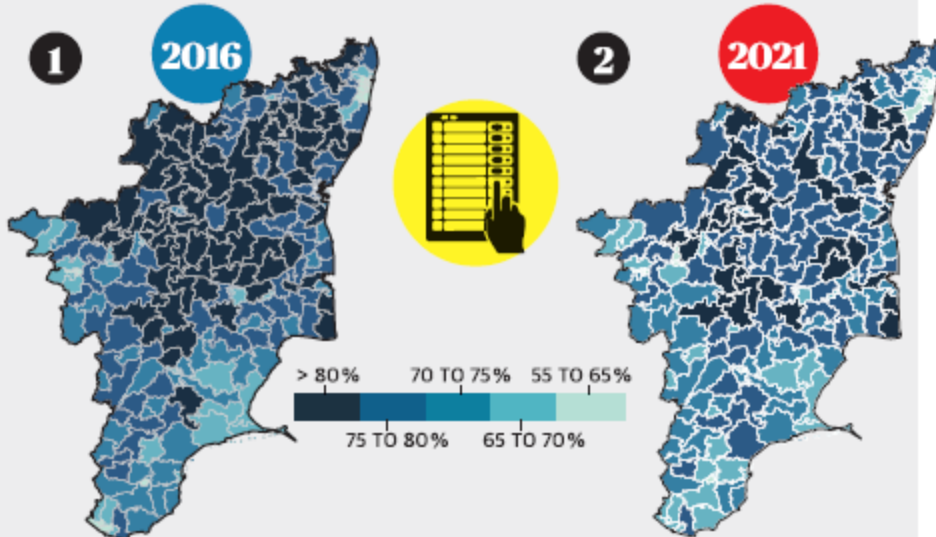
2021 Assembly poll holds similarities to 2016

- The 2021 Assembly election has similarities to the 2016 election, going by an analysis of the voter turnout data. The conclusion can be drawn from two factors – the overall turnout figure and the constituencies with a high turnout.
- As per the provisional figure of the total turnout released by Chief Electoral Officer Satyabrata Sahoo, the current election's tally – 72.78% – is marginally lower than the 2016 figure of 74.24%. After reconciliation of data, the State's average may go up.

Turnout trend

An analysis of the constituency-wise voter turnout in 2016 and 2021 shows that many constituencies in the western region continued to poll higher than the other regions in 2021 as well. But at the same time, the decline in the voter turnout was more pronounced in the western region in the 2021 poll

MAP 3 SHOWS WHETHER THE TURNOUT INCREASED OR DECREASED IN EACH CONSTITUENCY



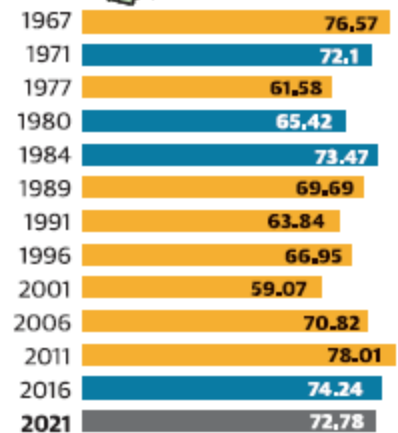
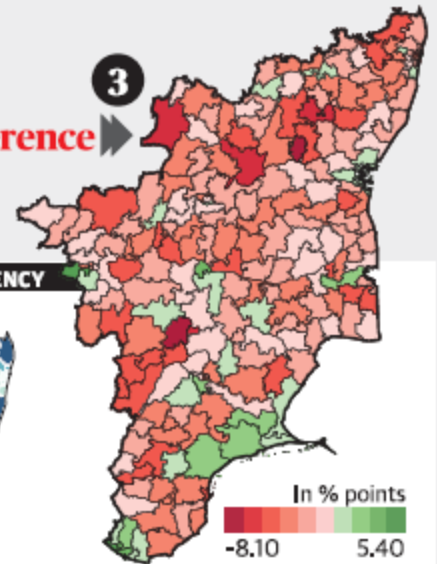
The table shows the polling percentage-wise distribution of constituencies, while the graph shows who won them in 2016

Range	No. of constituencies		2016 Winner	
	2021	2016	AIADMK+	DMK+
> 80%	37	75	46	29
75 to 80%	79	62	35	27
70 to 75%	52	40	29	11
65 to 70%	34	30	17	13
55 to 65%	32	27	9	18

Note: The turnout data released by the Chief Electoral Officer, Tamil Nadu, on Wednesday, was used for 2021. The data may undergo minor revisions till the final figures are released. For the Aravakurichi and Thanjavur constituencies, where elections were countermanded in 2016, data from the elections that took place subsequently were used

Data compiled by Pon Vasanth B.A

Difference

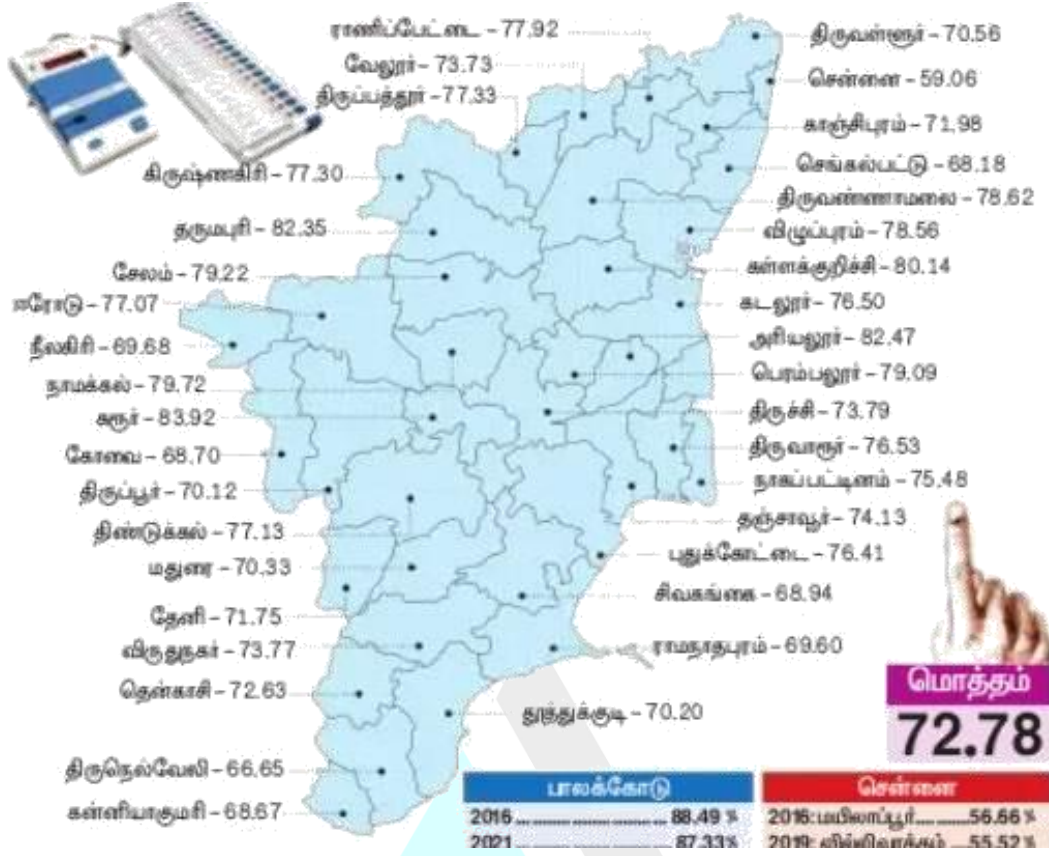


■ The trend since 1967 indicates that it is not always possible to link an increase or decrease in the voter turnout with anti-incumbency or other factors. The yellow bars in the graph show the elections that witnessed a change in government and the blue bars show incumbent governments retaining power

■ An example of this is the sharp decline in turnout in 2001, though there was a change in government. Similarly, in the 1980 and 1984 elections, an increase in turnout did not result in a change of government

Voter turnout in T.N. Assembly election revised to 72.78%

- The Election Commission revised the voter turnout for the Assembly election to 72.78% from 71.79% after consolidating the figures at the close of polling.
- Among the districts, Karur topped the chart with 83.92%. Among the constituencies, Palacode in Dharmapuri registered the highest polling at 87.33%, followed by Kulithalai at 86.15%, and Edappadi, from where Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami contested at 85.6%. A total of 37 of the 234 constituencies registered over 80%.



Hornbill birds living in the Kalvarayan Hill Plains



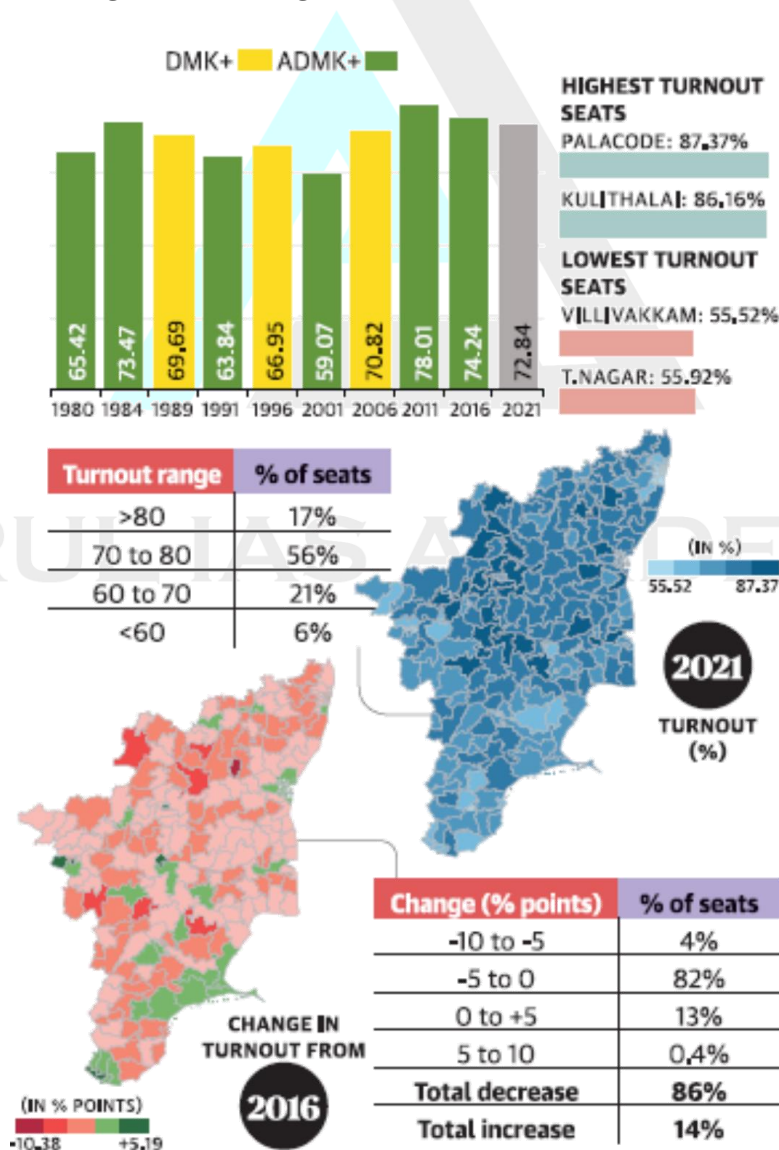
- A study by the Forest Department has revealed that a large number of Indian Hornbill live in the plains forests between Salem District, Kalvarayan Hill, Dharmapuri District and Chidderi Hills.
- Between Salem District, Kalvarayan Hill, Dharmapuri District, and Chidderi Range, the plain forest covers an area of 50 sq. Miles, beginning at Thumbal Mamanchi in Salem District and extending to Dharmapuri District, Selo, Velanur, Sidling and Kottapatti.
- The forest is home to a large number of wildlife and birds, including wildlife, deer and bears.
- A study by the Department of Forests has revealed that the plains forest is home to a large number of endangered, endangered Indian Hornbill.

Data | Assembly elections 2021: Voter turnout lower in 90% of seats compared to 2016

- Compared to the 2016 Assembly election, turnout decreased in 90% of the 530 seats in the four States where voting for the 2021 State polls took place on April 6.
- Nearly 86% of seats in Tamil Nadu, 95% in Kerala, 90% in Assam, and all the seats in Puducherry recorded lower turnout than in 2016. Despite the fall in numbers, 80%-plus voter turnout was recorded in more than 60% of the seats in Assam and Puducherry.
- In Tamil Nadu and Kerala, on the other hand, only 17% and 6% of the seats recorded turnouts more than 80%. In Tamil Nadu, in 6% of the seats, mostly in urban areas, the turnout was less than 60%.

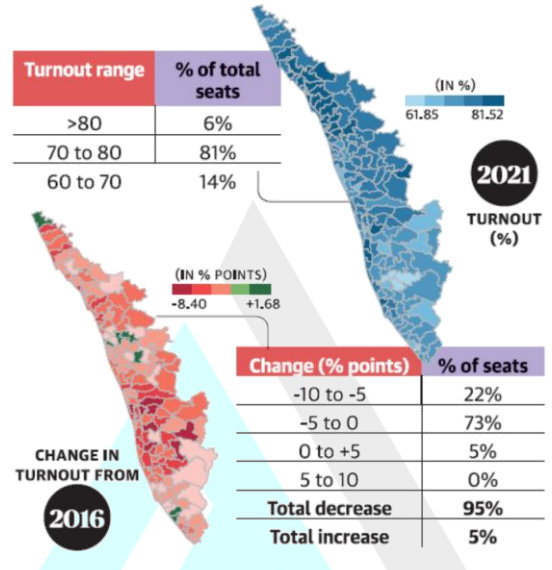
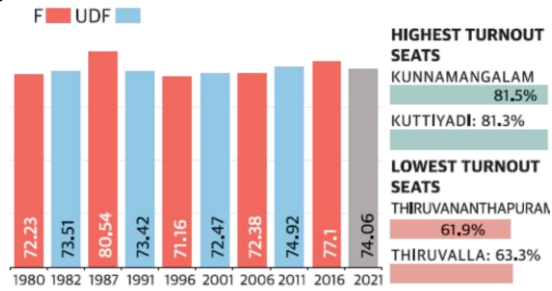
Tamil Nadu

- The chart shows the turnout (in %) in the past 10 elections in Tamil Nadu, coloured according to winning coalition.



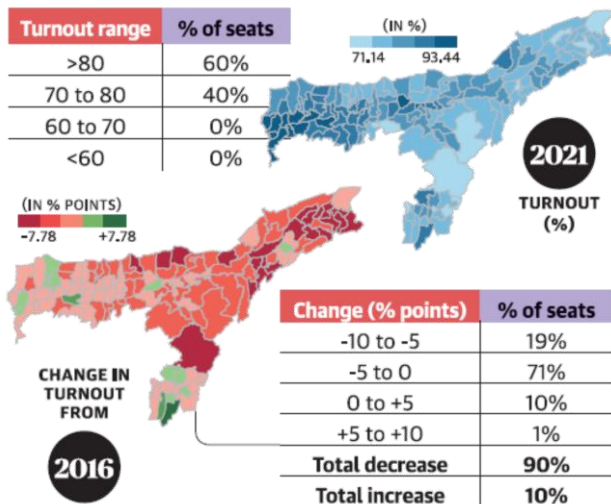
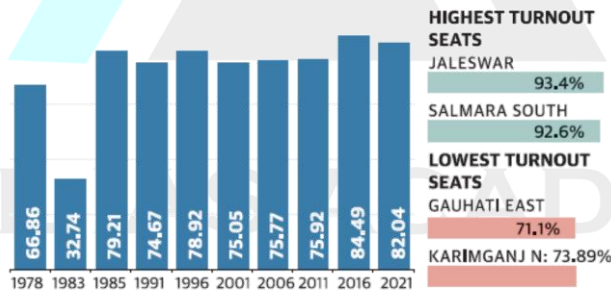
Kerala

➤ The chart shows the turnout (in %) in the past 10 elections in Kerala, coloured according to winning coalition.



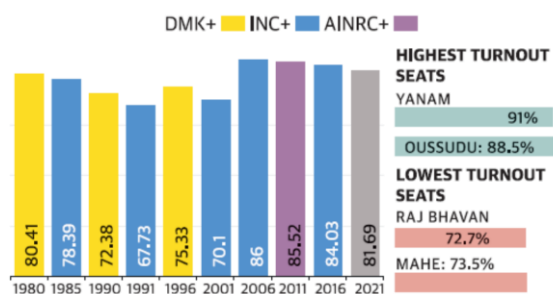
Assam

➤ The chart shows the turnout (in %) in the past 10 elections in Assam.



Puducherry

➤ The chart shows the overall turnout (in %) in the past 10 elections in Puducherry, coloured according to winning coalition.



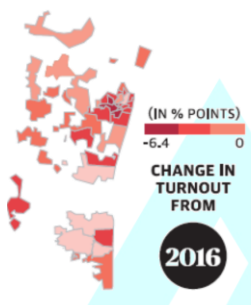
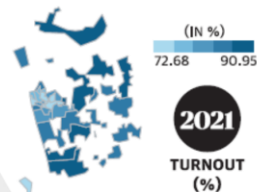
HIGHEST TURNOUT SEATS

YANAM	91%
OUSSUDU	88.5%

LOWEST TURNOUT SEATS

RAJ BHAVAN	72.7%
MAHE	73.5%

Turnout range	% of seats
>80	63%
70 to 80	37%
60 to 70	0%
<60	0%



Change (% points)	% of seats
-10 to -5	13%
-5 to 0	87%
0 to +5	0%
+5 to +10	0%
Total decrease	100%
Total increase	0%

Cleanfull Thanjavur Movement - Tamil University Agreement



- Tamil University Assistant Govt. Radhika Michael, who exchanged MoUs in the presence of Balasubramanian, Chinappan.
- The Gavinmigu Thanjavur Movement and the University Administration have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to plant trees on 6 acres at the Thanjavur Tamil University.
- Tamil University Assistant Govt. Radhika Michael, Chairman, Gavinmigu Thanjavur Movement, in the presence of Balasubramanian, University Registrar Gu. Chinnappan signed the MoU.

1.70 Crore people did not vote! The list by the Election Commission



- In the assembly elections held in Tamil Nadu, 1.70 crore people did not vote. Their list has been prepared by the Election Commission.
- Tamil Nadu Assembly elections ended on the 6th. In Tamil Nadu, 3.09 crore men; 3.19 crore women; There are 7,192 transgender voters, for a total of 6.28 crore voters.
- In the assembly elections, 72.81 per cent votes were cast. That is, 2.26 crore men; 2.31 crore women; In total, 4.57 crore people voted as 1,419 transgender. One crore, 70 lakh, 93 thousand, 644 people did not vote.
- In the last, 2016 assembly election, 74.26 percent of the vote was cast. At that time, 4.28 crore voters cast their ballots. In this election, 29.02 lakh more voters have cast their ballots than in the last, 2016 election.

Female voters who voted the most in 27 districts: An additional 158 constituencies voted



- In the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly, female voters outnumbered male voters in 27 districts. Out of a total of 234 constituencies, women registered the highest number of votes in 158 constituencies.



மாவட்ட வாரியாக வாக்களித்த ஆண்-பெண் வாக்காளர்கள் விவரம்

மாவட்டம்	ஆண் வாக்காளர்கள்	பெண் வாக்காளர்கள்
1. திருவள்ளூர்	12,34,675	12,06,426.
2. சென்னை	12,09,458	11,89,794.
3. காஞ்சிபுரம்	4,69,318	6,64,963.
4. வேலூர்	4,60,104	4,80,228.
5. கிருஷ்ணகிரி	6,27,775	6,07,294.
6. தருமபுரி	5,30,938	5,14,029.
7. திருவண்ணாமலை	8,14,187	8,26,944.
8. விழுப்புரம்	6,64,921	6,62,340.
9. சேலம்	12,06,952	11,79,915.
10. நாமக்கல்	5,61,508	5,94,406.
11. ஈரோடு	7,51,766	7,57,888.
12. நீலகிரி	2,02,463	2,07,557.
13. கோவை	10,49,395	10,55,412.
14. திண்டுக்கல்	7,10,013	7,30,379.
15. கரூர்	3,64,626	3,90,464.
16. திருச்சி	8,41,318	8,78,817.
17. பெரம்பலூர்	2,12,565	2,43,053.
18. கடலூர்	8,05,534	8,42,244.
19. நாகப்பட்டினம்	4,88,619	5,20,073.
20. திருவாரூர்	3,86,710	4,18,326.
21. தஞ்சாவூர்	7,31,884	7,91,725.
22. புதுக்கோட்டை	4,92,184	5,37,800.
23. சிவகங்கை	3,81,689	4,37,657.
24. மதுரை	9,40,542	9,59,009.
25. தேனி	4,00,533	4,16,687.
26. விருதுநகர்	5,98,935	6,33,199.
27. ராமநாதபுரம்	3,78,551	4,32,067.
28. தூத்துக்குடி	5,08,025	5,31,505.
29. திருநெல்வேலி	4,40,831	4,63,226.
30. கன்னியாகுமரி	5,33,371	5,48,582.
31. அரியலூர்	2,12,875	2,24,957.
32. திருப்பூர்	8,26,457	8,17,217.
33. கள்ளக்குறிச்சி	4,40,186	4,54,930.
34. தென்காசி	4,66,526	5,04,904.
35. செங்கல்பட்டு	8,88,919	8,68,864.
36. திருப்பத்தூர்	3,68,315	3,73,681.
37. ராணிப்பேட்டை	4,00,506	4,05,174.
மொத்தம்	2,26,03,156	2,31,71,736.

Kaveri Poompattinam has regained its name

- Myla District Sirkazhi Circle, Keezhiyoor Village Pattinam was recently renamed in the Revenue Department documents.
- This name, celebrated by the Chola kings for about 3,000 years, has not been in the state administrative revenue department documents for so long.

Solar-powered poultry incubator

- The Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, in association with Panimalar Engineering College, recently developed a solar-power backed poultry incubator.
- This is designed for rural and small-scale poultry farmers.
- This over comes the disadvantage of electric incubators, which affects hatchability due to power shortage or frequent suspension of supply.

'Centre, Japan sign loan agreement for AIIMS'

- Information was revealed in RTI reply
- A loan agreement has been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Japan for setting up an All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Madurai, revealed a reply to a Right to Information Act query submitted by R. Pandiaraja, a social activist.

Two tagged migratory birds spotted in salt pans in Manakudy bird reserve



- Two tagged migratory birds – a redshank and a whiskered tern – were spotted in the salt pans of Swamithoppu in the Manakudy bird reserve in Kanniyakumari district.
- Davidson Sargunam, a bird watcher and conservation educationist, has spotted the birds. He says the reserve has an adequate supply of freshwater fish fauna, crustaceans, barnacles and freshwater weeds, and has provided the birds security and a shield from sound pollution.

Increase in the import of foreign birds to Kundankulam Sanctuary

- Foreign birds have started arriving at the Kundankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tirunelveli District.
- Of these, red and yellow-nosed storks are the most nesting and laying eggs.
- The Bird Sanctuary at Kundankulam near the corner of Tirunelveli District, Nankuneri Circle was established by the public in 1994. The sanctuary was later brought under the supervision of the Forest Department. The birds live on an area of about a thousand acres, including a 132 acre pond. During the Tamil months, birds usually stay here from the Thai New Moon to the Audi New Moon.
- Birds come from as far away as Australia, Switzerland, Russia, Jomani, the Philippines, Nigeria, Siberia, and parts of Himachal Pradesh and Assam to build their nests and lay their eggs. 234 bird species are estimated to be coming.

Tiruchi-Pudukottai electrified track to be ready in June



- Electric poles have been installed on the nearly 60 km BG stretch
- Work on overhead electrification project on Tiruchi-Pudukottai broad gauge section is expected to get completed in June.
- The Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE) is executing the project on Tiruchi- Pudukottai-Karaikudi-Manamadurai-Virudhunagar broad gauge section following sanction from Railway Board, New Delhi.

Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project can proceed, says NGT



- National Green Tribunal has allowed the Tamil Nadu government to proceed with the **Mettur-Sarabanga lift irrigation project** and has dismissed an application seeking a stay on the project.

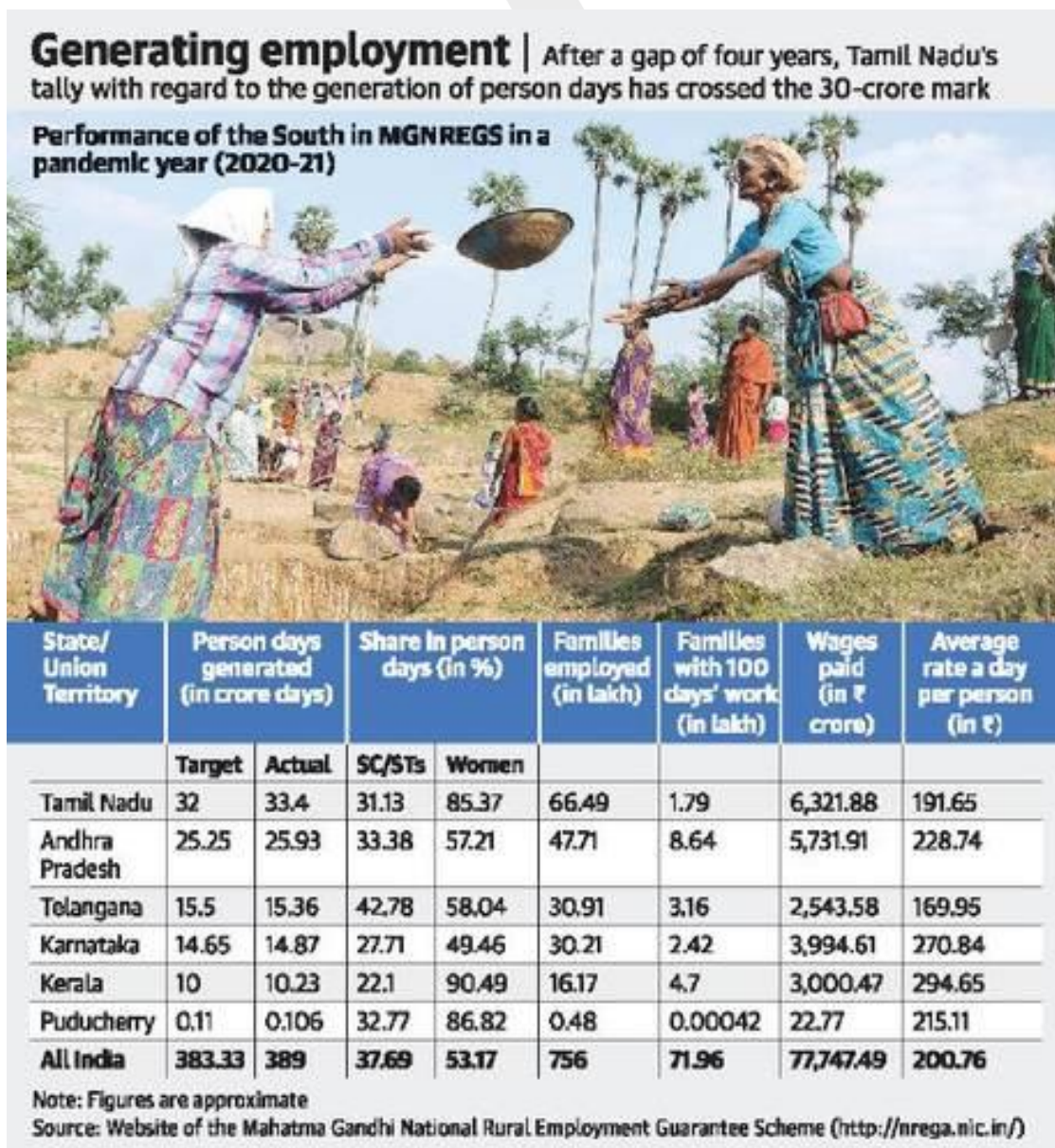
About the Project:

- **Being** implemented by Tamil Nadu Government.
- The project is aimed at irrigating 4,200 acres of land in Edappadi, Omalur, Sankagiri and Mettur taluks, diverting surplus water from Mettur reservoir through 100 tanks, lakes and ponds.

Rs. 365.85 crore sanctioned for barrage across the Cauvery

- It will come up between Nanjai Pugalur and Anichampalayam in Namakkal district
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned Rs. 365.85 crore for construction of a barrage across the Cauvery in Karur district.
- The barrage will come up between Nanjai Pugalur in Karur district and Anichampalayam in Namakkal district. It has been designed to store about 800 million cubic feet (MCFT) of water, benefiting 3,801.63 acres of land. The foundation stone for the project was laid in last November.
- The project is expected to provide income opportunities to the people in nearby areas to carry out agriculture and allied activities, M. Paramesh Kumar, Assistant General Manager, NABARD, Karur, said in a press release.

T.N. sets record in job guarantee scheme



- Tamil Nadu has created a record in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in the just-concluded financial year (2020-21).
- After four years, the number of person days generated in the State crossed the 30-crore-mark.
- It stood at 33.4 crore person days.
- For 2020-21, the Centre had fixed a target of 27 crore person days for the State.
- Later, it revised the target to 32 crore person days.
- Salem was one of those districts that exceeded the target of person days last year, generating about 1.24 crore person days against the approved 1.12 crore person days.
- Kancheepuram's performance was said to be impressive in natural resources management, water conservation and plantation.

Worshipping the statue of Sundaralinganar



- On the occasion of the **251st birth anniversary** of freedom fighter Sundaralinganar, the District Revenue Officer in charge of the District Administration, Kannapiran, paid homage to his statue at the memorial hall at Kavanagiri near the Ottapidaram.

Human bones retrieved from burial urn in Keezhadi

- Human bones were retrieved from a burial urn in Konthagai during the seventh phase of excavation in Keezhadi cluster village in Sivaganga. According to sources, the seventh phase of excavation started on February 13 under the deputy director of Archeology department, R Sivanantham, in Konthagai, Keezhadi, Agaram and Manalur villages.
- "Two burial urns were spotted when the archeologists dug three trenches in Konthagai. The officials, with the support of experts from Madurai Kamaraj University, retrieved the bones from an urn and sent them for DNA test. The age of the person during the burial, gender, cause of death will be known only after the DNA result are out," they added.



Supreme Court allows Vedanta to produce O2 at TN plant

- The Supreme Court allowed Anil Agarwal-led **Vedanta Ltd** to produce medical oxygen at its shuttered copper smelter in **Tamil Nadu**, as the surge in Covid-19 infections overwhelms hospitals and leads to shortage of the life-saving gas.
- The oxygen produced at Vedanta's **Sterlite** unit in **Tuticorin** will go to the central pool and will be allocated to the states as per their requirement, a three-judge bench led by Justice **DY Chandrachud** said. The order is restricted to Sterlite reopening an oxygen plant and not the copper smelter, the bench said.

Keeladi excavations: Similar graffiti found on different urns in Konthagai

- Archaeologists at work in Keeladi and neighbouring Konthagai in the seventh phase of excavations have come across similar graffiti on two different urns, sending a wave of excitement in them. A graffiti of three lines was found on two pots (one broken) in an urn and also a broken pot found in another urn, indicating they belong to the same family.
- A similar graffiti was also found in a broken offering dish of urn number four at a depth of 71 cm. Archaeologists are now trying to decipher the meaning of graffiti, which they say may be indicative of the urns belonging to the same family.

The seventh phase of excavations started on February 13 at Keeladi and a few days later in Konthagai, which is believed to be the burial site of the Keeladi civilization. Eight burial urns were found in Konthagai this time and archaeologists of the state archaeology department are in the process of removing the remains within them.

Animals roaming freely at Kodiakarai Sanctuary

- Visitors are barred from the Kodiakarai Wildlife Sanctuary due to corona infection. Thus, the animals roam freely without any hindrance.
- Vedaranyam Forest Officer According to P. Ayub Khan, there is water in all the water bodies in the sanctuary area. There is no shortage like in previous years. Water is filled by tap as usual in tanks set up where there are no water bodies.
- Due to the restrictions imposed to prevent the spread of corona, the environment is free from any disturbance to the animals. Animals are monitored by modern technology cameras. That said they are healthier than ever.

Project 'Pyrasol'

- The foundation stone of the integrated Solar Dryer and Pyrolysis pilot plant was laid at Chennai.
- The pilot plant is part of the Indo-German project 'Pyrasol'.
- It was awarded to CSIR-CLRI by the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre.
- The project will ultimately lead for the technology development to transform urban organic waste and sewage sludge into biochar and energy in Indian Smart Cities as well as in other urban centres.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY



2. SPECIAL NEWS

Very important events can be called as special news

Dadasaheb Phalke Award

- Mr. Rajinikanth has been conferred with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award in this year.
- Rajinikanth made his debut into cinema in 1975 with K Balachander's Apoorva Ragangal.
- He has completed over 45 years in Kollywood.

About the award

- The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is India's highest honour in cinema.
- The award is presented by the Directorate of Film Festivals.
- It is given for the recipient's contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.
- The award is named after Dhundiraj Govind Phalke.
- Phalke is revered as the father of Indian cinema.
- The award was instituted in 1969.
- The recipient receives a Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

Recipients

List of award recipients by year

Year	Recipient	Industry
1969	Devika Rani	Actress
1970	Birendranath Sircar	Producer (film)
1971	Prithviraj Kapoor	Actor (after death)
1972	Pankaj Mullick	Composer
1973	Ruby Myers (Sulochana)	Actress
1974	Bommireddy Narasimha Reddy	Director (film)
1975	Dhirendra Nath Ganguly	Actor, Director (film)
1976	Kanan Devi	Actress
1977	Nitin Bose	Editor, director (film), screenwriter
1978	Raichand Boral	Composer, Director (film)
1979	Sohrab Modi	Actor, Director (film), Producer (film)
1980	Paidi Jairaj	Actor, Director (film)
1981	Naushad	Composer
1982	L. V. Prasad	Actor, Director (film), Producer (film)
1983	Durga Khote	Actress
1984	Satyajit Ray	Director (film)



1985	V. Shantaram	Actor, Director (film), Producer (film)
1986	B. Nagi Reddy	Producer (film)
1987	Raj Kapoor	Actor, Director (film)
1988	Ashok Kumar	Actor
1989	Lata Mangeshkar	Playback singer
1990	Akkineni Nageswara Rao	Actor
1991	Bhalji Pendharkar	Director (film), producer (film), screenwriter
1992	Bhupen Hazarika	Director (film)
1993	Majrooh Sultanpuri	Songwriter
1994	Dilip Kumar	Actor
1995	Rajkumar	Actor, playback singer
1996	Sivaji Ganesan	Actor
1997	Kavi Pradeep	Songwriter
1998	B. R. Chopra	Director (film), Producer (film)
1999	Hrishikesh Mukherjee	Director (film)
2000	Asha Bhosle	Playback singer
2001	Yash Chopra	Director (film), Producer (film)
2002	Dev Anand	Actor, Director (film), Producer (film)
2003	Mrinal Sen	Director (film)
2004	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Director (film)
2005	Shyam Benegal	Director (film)
2006	Tapan Sinha	Director (film)
2007	Manna Dey	Playback singer
2008	V. K. Murthy	Editor
2009	D. Ramanaidu	Producer (film), director (film)
2010	K. Balachander	Director (film)
2011	Soumitra Chatterjee	Actor
2012	Pran Krishan Sikand	Actor
2013	Gulzar	Songwriter
2014	Shashi Kapoor	Director
2015	Manoj Kumar	Actor
2016	Kasinathuni Viswanath	Film director, screenwriter
2017	Vinod Khanna	Actor
2018	Amitabh Bachchan	Actor
2019	Rajinikanth	Actor

Covid-19 Vaccine & Relief measures

India records highest single-day vaccine coverage

- Of the 36,71,242 vaccine doses, 33,65,597 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 51,215 sessions for the first dose and 3,05,645 beneficiaries received the second dose of vaccine, the Health ministry said in a statement.
- More than 36.7 lakh COVID-19 **vaccine doses** were administered in the last 24 hours, the highest single-day coverage till now, the **Union Health ministry** said.
- Of the 36,71,242 vaccine doses, 33,65,597 beneficiaries were vaccinated across 51,215 sessions for the first dose and 3,05,645 beneficiaries received the second dose of vaccine, the **Health ministry** said in a statement.
- The ministry said this is the highest single-day vaccine coverage till now.

India surpasses US to become the fastest Covid-19 vaccinating country in world

- India has surpassed the United States to become the fastest Covid-19 vaccinating country in the world with an average daily rate of 30,93,861 vaccine doses, the Union Health Ministry said.
- According to the ministry, the cumulative number of coronavirus vaccine doses administered in the country has crossed 8.70 crores.

NPPA directs reduction in Remdesivir price

- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has asked manufacturers of Covid drug Remdesivir to implement the revised MRP through a voluntary reduction of prices.
- Prices of Remdesivir injection have been voluntarily curtailed by various drug companies on the intervention of the government, National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) said.
- Drug companies like Cadila Healthcare, Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Cipla have cut the prices of their respective brands of remdesivir injection (100 mg/vial). The antiviral drug is used in the treatment of Covid-19.
- According to the details shared by the NPPA, Cadila Healthcare has reduced the price of its REMDAC (Remdesivir 100 mg) injection to Rs 899 from Rs 2,800 earlier. Similarly, Syngene International has cut the price of its brand RemWin to Rs 2,450 from Rs 3,950 earlier.
- Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories has cut the price of REDYX, which used to cost Rs 5,400 earlier to Rs 2,700 now. Similarly, Cipla has reduced P of its CIPREMI brand to Rs 3,000 from Rs 4,000 earlier.
- Mylan has also reduced the price of its brand from Rs 4,800 to Rs 3,400. Similarly, Jubilant Generics has cut the price of its remdesivir brand to Rs 3,400 from Rs 4,700 earlier.
- Hetero Healthcare has also cut the price of its brand COVIFOR from Rs 5,400 to Rs 3,490 now.



Centre exempts customs duty on vaccines, oxygen for 3 months

- Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, the union government decided to grant full exemption from basic customs duty and health cess on import of oxygen-related equipment for a period of three months with immediate effect.
- "The decisions were taken at a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said the government.
- Everyone over the age of 18 is allowed to get the corona vaccine from May 1st.

Govt to provide Rs 4,500cr booster to vaccine manufacturers for ramping up capacity

- The government has approved a payment of about Rs 4,500 crore as advance to vaccine makers like Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech against future supplies, sources said.
- Sources said the finance ministry has relaxed rules to allow advance payment without bank guarantee to help the vaccine makers ramp up production. SII will get Rs 3,000 crore in advance and Bharat Biotech about Rs 1,500 crore.

Bharat Biotech to produce 70 crore doses of Covaxin annually

- The Bharat Biotech said manufacturing scale has been ramped up and is being carried out in a stepwise manner across multiple facilities at Hyderabad & Bangalore.
- Covaxin has received emergency use authorizations (EUA) in several countries outside India. It is hoping to have access to over 60 countries in near future.
- Countries which have already given EUA for Covaxin include Mexico, Philippines and Iran, while those where EUA is under process include the US and some European countries.
- The Bharat Biotech will be supplying Covaxin to these countries after it signs separate EUA deals with them at prices ranging \$15-20 per dose.

70 crore Sputnik-V vaccine: Produced by 6 Indian companies

- The central government has said that 6 crore companies will manufacture 70 crore Sputnik-V vaccines annually.
- Currently 3 corona vaccines are allowed for emergency use in India. Apart from these, Bharat Biotech's injectable vaccine, Zydus Cadila, Bio-E, Genoa's vaccines are in various stages of testing.
- The Federal Department of Biotechnology provided advice, technology and funding to those companies during the initial stages of developing them. The central government is providing about Rs 400 crore in funding for the current work on the vaccine.

Government withdraws customs duty on imports of Remdesivir

- A notification to this effect was issued by the Finance Ministry.
- The government banned the export of the injection and its active ingredients on April 11, following a spike in demand for the drug amidst the second wave of COVID-19 infections.

Canada to provide Rs 60 crore to India to combat COVID-19 second wave

- The Canadian government has announced to provide help of 10 million Canadian dollars (about Rs 60 crore) to India to fight the second wave of coronavirus that has resulted in a grim situation.
- Canadian minister Karina Gould took to microblogging website Twitter night to confirm the development.

Russia to fly in assistance including oxygen generators, concentrators

- Russia is planning to fly special planes with a wide range of COVID-related assistance including oxygen generators and concentrators as well as drugs needed for the treatment of the coronavirus that is ravaging many parts of India, but may have to hold off sending the drug Remdesivir owing to U.S. patent violations.
- Russia is planning to fly special planes with a wide range of COVID-related assistance including oxygen generators and concentrators as well as drugs needed for the treatment of the coronavirus that is ravaging many parts of India.
- However, Russia may have to hold off sending the drug Remdesivir owing to U.S. patent violations.
- Exports of Remdesivir have run into trouble with U.S. licensing laws invoked by Remdesivir developer, California-based **Gilead Sciences Inc.**
- Remdesivir, that was cleared for COVID-19 treatment by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in October 2020, is being made in Russia after the government in Moscow decided to defy the international patent held by Gilead, and issued an ordinance allowing Russian company Pharmasintez to manufacture the drug under a **“compulsory licence”**.

Google pledges Rs 135 crore in funding to help India fight Covid-19

- Amid an unprecedented surge in coronavirus cases in India, Google will be providing funding of ₹135 crore for medical supplies and to help communities in general, informed CEO Sundar Pichai.



Panacea Biotech to make 100 million doses of Sputnik V vaccine

- Vaccine and pharma major Panacea Biotech has joined a growing list of Indian firms cleared to produce Sputnik V, the Russian vaccine against COVID-19.
- The firm will produce 100 million doses per year of Sputnik V, Russia's sovereign wealth fund RDIF (Russian Direct Investment Fund), announcing its fifth such partnership with vaccine makers in India. The RDIF, however, did not mention when the firm is likely to begin production of the two-dose adenoviral-based vector vaccine, with a reported efficacy of 91.6%.
- Registered in 59 countries, Sputnik V in India awaits emergency use authorisation from the subject expert committee (SEC) that advises the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).

Sputnik V



- The Drugs Controller General of India has approved emergency use authorisation of the Russian Vaccine, Sputnik V.
- It has now become the third vaccine to get emergency use authorisation from the drug regulator after Covishield and Covaxin.
- It was discussed in the meeting of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC).
- It was chaired by VK Paul, Member (Health), Niti Aayog.
- Sputnik Vaccine was developed by Russia in the last year.
- India is the most populated country to register the Russian vaccine.
- India has now become the 60th country to approve Sputnik V.
- India is also the leading production hub for Sputnik V.
- The Hyderabad based Indian pharma company Dr Reddy's Lab has also inked an agreement with Russia for the supply of this vaccine in India.
- Russia is the first country in the world to register a vaccine against Coronavirus (August 2020).

Remdesivir drug

- The Government of India prohibits the exports of Remdesivir drug.
- Remdesivir has been considered a key anti-viral drug in the fight against Coronavirus.
- It was created in 2014 to treat Ebola.
- Later it was used to treat SARS and MERS.

COVIRAP



- IIT Kharagpur (Kgp) has successfully commercialized its flagship healthcare product - COVIRAP.
- This novel diagnostic technology will be useful for infectious diseases including COVID-19 and beyond.
- The COVID-19 diagnostic test can be conducted directly from human swab samples in the portable device.

SpO2 oxygen system

- Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed a SpO₂-based supplemental oxygen delivery system for soldiers serving in extremely high-altitude areas & COVID-19 patients.
- This automatic system delivers supplemental oxygen based on the SpO₂ (blood oxygen saturation) levels & prevents the person from sinking into a state of hypoxia, which is fatal in most cases.
- Hypoxia is a condition in which the amount of oxygen reaching the tissues is inadequate to fulfil all the energy requirements of the body.

Pulse Oximeter



- It is a **test used to measure the oxygen level** (oxygen saturation) of the **blood**.
- The device measures the saturation of oxygen in **red blood cells** (RBCs) and can be attached to a **person's fingers, toes, nose, feet, ears or forehead**.
- The method is **easy and painless** and the device can be reused or disposed of after use.
- It is generally used to check the health of patients with known conditions that affect blood oxygen levels like heart and lung conditions

Virafin

- The Drug Controller General of India recently provided "Restricted Emergency Use Approval" for the use of "Virafin".
- Virafin is used to treat Hepatitis B and C.
- Now it is to be used to treat moderate COVID-19 infections.
- A single dose of Virafin during the early stage of infection, will help COVID-19 patients recover faster.
- It will help to reduce the need for oxygen support.
- Virafin improves recovery time in moderate cases of COVID-19.
- According to Zydus 91.15% of adult patients treated with Virafin tested negative using RT-PCR in seven days.
- Zydus is also working on COVID-19 Vaccine ZyCoV-D.

Centre bans export of Remdesivir

- Centre has prohibited the exports of injection Remdesivir and Remdesivir Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) in an order issued stating that there has been a sudden spike in demand for injection Remdesivir used in treatment of COVID patients.
- "India is witnessing a recent surge in COVID cases and there is a potential of further increase in demand for injection Remdesivir in the coming days," said the Centre in a statement.

India produces 85 crore Sputnik-V vaccines a year

- The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has registered the vaccine under the emergency use authorisation procedure.
- The vaccine has been approved for use in countries with a total population of 3 billion people or about 40 per cent of the global population, and India has become the 60th country to approve Sputnik V, RDIF, Russia's sovereign wealth fund, said in a statement.
- Sputnik will be the third vaccine to be used in India against coronavirus. In January, DCGI had given the emergency use authorisation for two COVID-19 vaccines -- Covaxin of Bharat Biotech and Covishield of Oxford-AstraZeneca manufactured by Serum Institute of India in Pune.

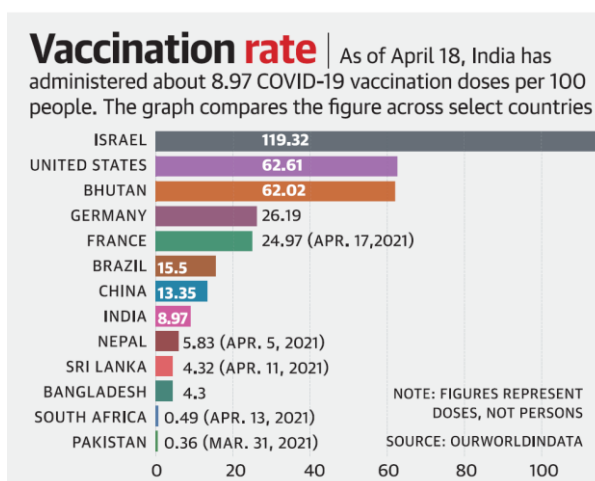
Govt fast-tracks applications to scale up remdesivir production

- The central government has fast-tracked approvals for seven companies to manufacture the critical covid-19 drug remdesivir in India, allowing them to more than double their combined capacity to around 7.8 million vials per month.
- Junior chemicals minister Mansukh Mandaviya gave a fast-track approval to six manufacturers to set up seven additional sites that could scale up the production capacity of remdesivir by 1 million vials per month.

Vande Bharat becomes one of top civilian evacuations

- **Vande Bharat Mission (VBM)** has become one of the largest evacuation missions of civilians by a country.
- **Vande Bharat Mission** started in May 2020 to bring back Indians stranded abroad due to COVID-19 and the resultant lockdowns.
- **The first phase** of the **Vande Bharat** mission aimed at destinations with a high concentration of Indians.
- **Currently, into the middle of Phase 10**, the mission surpasses the large-scale airlift of 1.1 lakh people in 1990 at the onset of the Gulf War.

Vaccines for all above 18 from May 1; States can buy directly

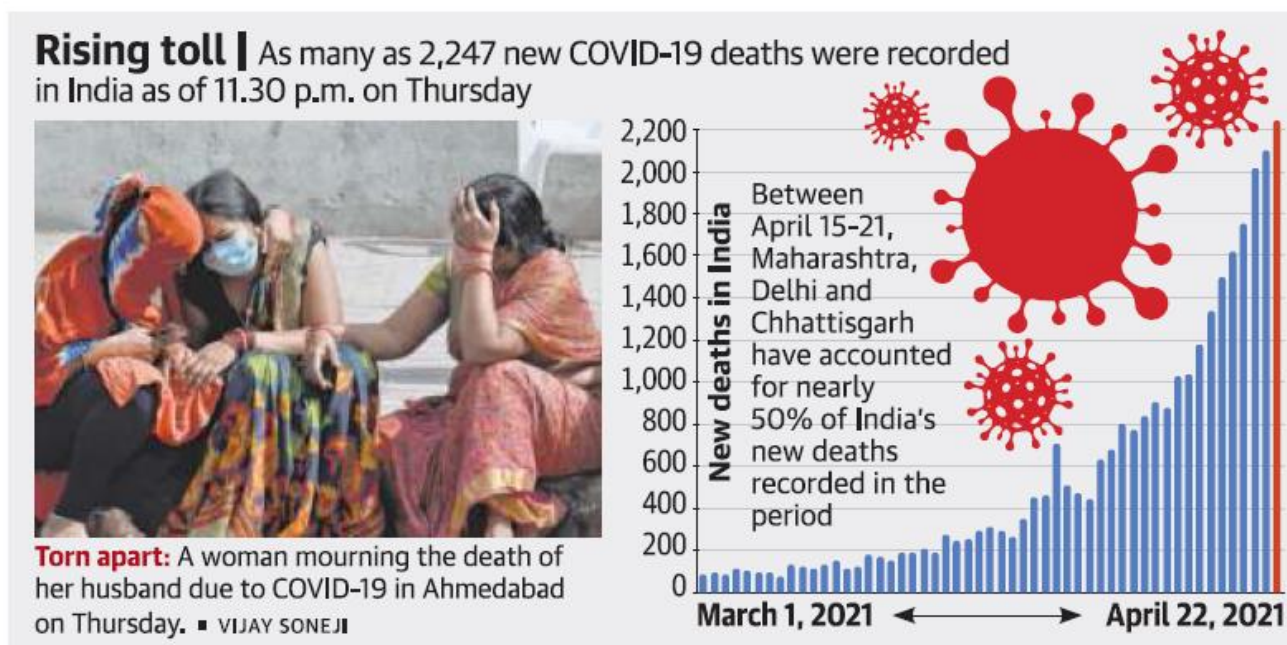


- Amid a virulent second wave of COVID-19 infections, the government has allowed vaccination of all persons above the age of 18 from May 1.
- The decision announced followed a meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with pharma companies, doctors, Cabinet ministers in charge of health, drugs and officials spanning multiple nodal ministries.

Oxygen Express

- The Indian Railways will run 'Oxygen Express' trains transporting liquid medical oxygen and oxygen cylinders across the country via green corridors to meet growing demand from states.
- Green corridors are being created to ensure fast movement of these trains

SC asks Centre to show 'national plan' on oxygen supply, vaccination method



- As the country grapples with the current wave of COVID-19 pandemic, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the prevailing grim situation and said it wanted a "national plan" on issues, including supply of oxygen and essential drugs for treatment of patients infected with the virus.
- Taking suo motu cognisance of the prevailing grim situation across the country, a Bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde said it would also consider the matter pertaining to the method and manner of COVID-19 vaccination in the country.

Centre to provide 5 kg free food grains to 80 crore people in May, June

- The Centre said it will provide 5 kg of food grains free-of-cost to around 80 crore Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY) beneficiaries during May and June 2021 amidst the second wave of COVID-19 cases.

PM CARES Fund to be used for setting up 551 oxygen plants

- The Centre allocated money from the PM CARES Fund to install 551 dedicated **Pressure Swing Adsorption Medical Oxygen Generation (PSAMOG)** plants at the premises of public health facilities
- The PM CARES Fund approved the allocation of funds for the installation of 551 dedicated Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) medical oxygen generation plants inside public health facilities in the country.

COVID-19 vaccine: Mexico approves Bharat Biotech's Covaxin



- Mexico's health regulator COFEPRIS (Comisión Federal para la Protección contra Riesgos Sanitarios) has granted approval for emergency use to India's Covid-19 vaccine, Covaxin.
- The news of the approval was tweeted by Mexico's foreign minister Marcelo Ebrard. "Very timely decision by COFEPRIS to authorise the emergency use of the COVAXIN vaccine manufactured in India.
- The options for vaccination against COVID-19 in Mexico are expanded," said the post by Ebrard, a translated version of which was retweeted by the Twitter handle of the Indian Embassy in Mexico.

Denmark says it's permanently stopping use of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

- Denmark became the first country to plan to permanently stop administering the AstraZeneca vaccine, a month after suspending its use following reports that a small number of recipients had developed a rare but serious blood-clotting disorder.
- The director general of the country's health authority, Soeren Brostroem, said Denmark was able to halt use of the vaccine because it had the pandemic under control and could rely on two other vaccines, from Pfizer and Moderna.

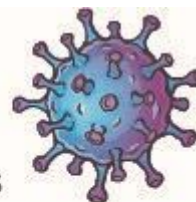
AFMS to import oxygen generation plants from Germany to tide over current surge in COVID-19 cases

- Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) has decided to import oxygen generation plants and containers from Germany, amid shortage of oxygen in the hospitals during the second wave of Covid-19 across the country. Twenty-three mobile oxygen generation plants are being airlifted from Germany that will be deployed in AFMS hospitals catering to the COVID patients.
- Each plant has a capacity to produce 40 litres of oxygen per minute and 2,400 litres an hour. At this rate, it can cater to 20-25 patients round the clock. The advantage of these plants is that they are easily portable. These oxygen generating plants are expected to arrive in India within a week.
- In another important decision, Ministry of Defence is giving extension to Short Service Commissioned Doctors in AFMS till December 31, 2021 to tide over the current surge in medical services. This will augment the strength of AFMS by 238 more doctors.

Rising prevalence of U.K. strain in Delhi:

Variants of concern

The Indian SARS-CoV-2 Consortium on Genomics (INSACOG) has conducted genomic sequencing of over 15,000 samples



■ The relative proportion of the known variants of concern (VOCs namely the U.K., South Africa and Brazil variants) was found to be around 11% of the samples collected

■ Prevalence of the U.K. strain was the highest in Punjab, followed by Delhi

■ Of the **553** sequences of the VOCs analysed in Punjab, **551** belonged to the U.K. strain while two belonged to the South African strain

■ In Delhi, **415** out of the **438** sequences analysed belonged to the U.K. strain

■ The South African variant accounted for **57** of the **227** sequences analysed from Telangana

- The proportion of the **U.K. variant (B.1.1.7)** in genome samples sequenced from COVID-19 cases in Delhi has risen from 28% in the second week of March to 50% last week.
- The U.K. variant has a mutation **N501Y** that is reported to increase the transmission of the virus, leading to more numbers and a knock-on consequence of increasing disease severity and mortality.

Right to Religion

- In a recent case, the Supreme Court has said people are free to choose their religion.
- People have a right under the Constitution to profess, practise and propagate religion (Article 25).
- Religious faith is a part of the fundamental right to privacy.
- The Constitution Bench judgment has already upheld inviolability of the right to privacy, equating it with the rights to life, of dignity and liberty.

Little Guru

- A Sanskrit learning app 'Little Guru' has launched in Bangladesh by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC) of the High Commission of India.
- This Sanskrit learning app is part of the campaign being run by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- It is world's first Gamified Sanskrit learning application.
- This App aims to promote the Sanskrit language among students, religious scholars, Indologists and historians across the world.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020



- It is drawing to a close with the translocation of two one-horned rhinos to Manas National Park, Assam.
- Under the IRV 2020 program, at least 22 rhinos have been translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (12) and Kaziranga National Park (10) to Manas National Park within Assam since 2008.



- Launched in 2008, IRV was a joint programme of the Assam Forest Department, Worldwide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India), Bodoland Territorial Council, and the International Rhino Foundation.
- It was designed by Rhino Task Force 2005 with a target to achieve rhino population to 3,000 by establishing populations in seven protected areas in Assam by 2020.
- The Seven protected areas are Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary and Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary.
- Rhinos are now found in four Protected Areas in Assam: Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.
- Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.

Disc-footed bat



- Meghalaya has yielded India's first bamboo-dwelling bat with sticky discs.
- It was recorded in Meghalaya's Nongkhylllem Wildlife Sanctuary.
- The disc-footed bat has raised Meghalaya's bat species count to 66, the most for any State in India.

Union Cabinet approves Bangalore Metro Rail Project phase 2A, 2B

- **Phase 2A is from Central Silk Board Junction to K.R. Puram; and Phase 2B is from K.R. Puram to Airport via Hebbal**
- The city has taken another step towards realising its dream of metro connectivity to the airport. The Union Cabinet finally approved Namma Metro's Phase 2A (ORR Line) and Phase 2B (Airport Line) totalling a length of 58.19 km at an estimated cost of ₹14,788.1 crore.
- While the State government had given its approval for the two crucial lines for transit in Bengaluru two years ago, the delay in Union government clearance had held up the project. If all goes as planned, the project will be completed in five years. The proposal was included in the 2021-22 Union Budget and was accorded Cabinet approval.

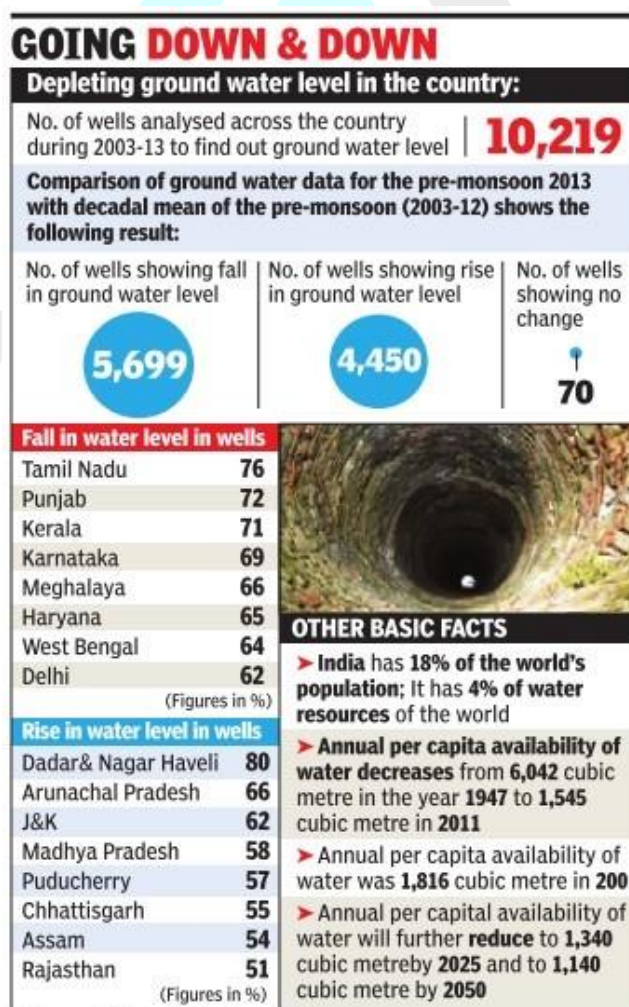
India elected to three bodies of the UN

- India was recently elected to the three bodies of the United Nations which operates under United Nations Economic and Social Council.
- They were the,
- Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ),
- Executive Board of the UN Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and
- Executive Board of the World Food Programme (WFP).
- India was elected to all these three bodies by acclamation.
- Electing a member country through acclamation does not use a ballot.
- However, other member countries were elected through secret ballot to these bodies.

Election by Acclamation:

- When a member with clean slate is presented for an election in the United Nations, the vote takes place through acclamation.
- Clean Slate means there is no history of evidence of any problems or broken rules.

Groundwater depletion may reduce winter cropping intensity by 20% in India





- Water is indispensable for life, but its availability at a sustainable quality and quantity is threatened by many factors, of which climate plays a leading role.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines climate as “the average weather in terms of the mean and its variability over a certain time-span and a certain area” and a statistically significant variation of the mean state of the climate or of its variability lasting for decades or longer, is referred to as climate change.
- The researchers studied India’s three main **irrigation types** on winter cropped areas: dug wells, tube wells and canals.
- The researchers also analysed the groundwater data from the **Central Ground Water Board**.
- **Wheat, barley, peas, gram and mustard** are grown in winter.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana

- The GOI recently announced that it will provide five kilo grams of free food grains under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana till June 2021.
- The free food grains are being provided to around eighty crore beneficiaries under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- PMGKAY was launched in March 2020 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

Impact Rankings 2021 - 3rd edition

- The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings are the only global performance tables that assess universities against the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Tamil Nadu became the only Indian University to make it to the list of World’s Top 100 Educational Institutions for sustainability (81st rank).
- Other two Indian Universities namely Karnataka-based JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research and Punjab-based Lovely Professional University were ranked in the list with a place in the 100-200 grouping.
- At the global level, University of Manchester (UK), University of Sydney (Australia) & RMIT University (Australia) grabbed the top 3 places.
- Russia is the most represented Country in the rankings with 75 institutions, followed by Japan with 73.

E-2025 initiative

- The World Health Organisation recently identified twenty-five countries with the potential to eradicate malaria by 2025.
- This is called the E-2025 initiative.
- The WHO is to provide technical guidance and specialised support to these countries under the initiative.
- Three of the identified countries were from Africa
- They were namely Eswatini, Botswana and South Africa.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

3. IMPORTANT EVENTS

Events like awards, celebrations, etc...

Assembly elections | Peaceful polling in T.N., Kerala, Puducherry, Assam and Bengal

- The Election Commission has said polling in the **Kerala, Tamil Nadu** and **Puducherry** Assembly elections and voting in phase three of the Assam and West Bengal elections went off peacefully and under COVID-19 protocols, with the turnout ranging from 71% to 79% as of 7 p.m.
- Polling was conducted at 1,53,538 polling stations across 475 Assembly constituencies in the four States and the Union Territory of Puducherry, the EC said.
- **Tamil Nadu recorded 71.79% turnout**, the lowest among the four States. **Kerala witnessed 77.02% turnout**, while **Puducherry saw 81.88%** of the electors cast their ballots. In phase three of polling in Assam and West Bengal, turnout was 82.28% and 77.68% respectively. However officials said the figures could be revised.

- TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTERS: 6.29 crore
- TOTAL NUMBER OF Polling Stations: 88,937
- LARGEST CONSTITUENCY: SHOLINGANALLUR 6.99 lakh voters
- SMALLEST CONSTITUENCY: HARBOUR 1.76 lakh voters
- TOTAL NUMBER OF EVMS: 91,180
- NUMBER OF POLLING PERSONNEL: 4.18 lakh
- TOTAL NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
In 2021: 3,998 In 2016: 3,728
- NUMBER OF WOMEN CANDIDATES
In 2021: 411 In 2016: 320
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CANDIDATES
KARUR In 2021 :77 DR. RADHAKRISHNAN NAGAR In 2021 :45

கடந்த தேர்தல்களில் பதிவான வாக்கு சதவீதம்	
2001	59.07
ஆண்கள்	61.30
பெண்கள்	56.83
2006	70.82
ஆண்கள்	72.41
பெண்கள்	68.75
2011	78.01
ஆண்கள்	77.53
பெண்கள்	78.51
2016	74.24
ஆண்கள்	74.16
பெண்கள்	74.33

மாவட்ட வாரியாக வாக்குப் பதிவு சதவீதம் (தேராயமாக)

திருவள்ளூர்	68.73
சென்னை	59.40
காஞ்சிபுரம்	69.47
வேலூர்	72.31
கிருஷ்ணகிரி	74.23
தருமபுரி	77.23
திருவண்ணாமலை	75.63
விழுப்புரம்	75.51
சேலம்	75.33
நாமக்கல்	77.91
ஈரோடு	72.82
தலிசி	69.24
சேவை	66.98
திண்டுக்கல்	74.04
கரூர்	77.80
திருச்சி	71.38
பெரம்பலூர்	77.08
கடலூர்	73.67
நாதப்பட்டினம்	69.62
திருவாரூர்	74.90
தஞ்சாவூர்	72.17
புதுச்சேரி	74.47
சிவகங்கை	68.49
மதுரை	68.14
தேனி	70.47
விருதுநகர்	72.52
ராமநாதபுரம்	67.16
தூத்துக்குடி	70.00
திருநெல்வேலி	65.16
கன்னியாகுமரி	68.41
அரியலூர்	77.88
திருப்பூர்	67.48
கள்ளக்குறிச்சி	78.00
தென்காசி	70.95
செங்கல்பட்டு	62.77
திருப்பத்தூர்	74.66
ரணிப்பேட்டை	74.36

2021 OVERALL PROVISIONAL TURNOUT (IN%)

Tamil Nadu 70.46%	Kerala 72.39%	Puducherry 81.64%	Assam 82.39%	W.B. 77.68%
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Poll turnout | Of all the States that went to the polls on Tuesday, Tamil Nadu had the least voter turnout and Assam (phase 3) the most. A look at the provisional turnout

TOP AND BOTTOM 3 SEATS IN TERMS OF 2021 VOTER TURNOUT %

TAMIL NADU		KERALA	
Seat	Turnout	Seat	Turnout
Veerapandi	80.59	Payyannur	78.75
Kulithalai	80.58	Dharmadam	78.14
Viralimalai	79.35	Kuttiadi	77.32
Velachery	37.22	Thiruvananthapuram	58.77
Sholinganallur	46.6	Kanjirappally	60.32
Egmore	46.91	Thiruvalla	61.4

PUDUCHERRY		ASSAM		W.B.	
Seat	Turnout	Seat	Turnout	Seat	Turnout
Nettapakkam	80.5	Gauripur	90.2	Goghat	84.71
Oupalam	80.25	Salmara South	89.82	Pursurah	82
Kalapet	79.94	Dhubri	89.3	Uluberia Dakshin	81
Raj Bhavan	70.11	Gauhati East	69	Uluberia Uttar	72.59
Thattanchavady	72	Dispur	72	Baruipur Purba	73.2
Karaikal South	72.09	Palasbari	76	Amta	73.27

1 Five more phases of polling are remaining in West Bengal. Counting for all the States/UT will be held on May 2

2 The turnout figures are provisional and may be updated by the ECI further

SOURCE: ELECTION COMMISSION OF INDIA VOTER TURNOUT APP
















Indian and Russian foreign ministers meet for bilateral talks



- India and Russia's foreign ministers met for talks to strengthen bilateral and defense ties, before discussing "in great detail" the Afghan peace talks with the Taliban.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's two-day visit to New Delhi aims to lay the ground for a bilateral summit between President Vladimir Putin and Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the Indian capital later this year.
- The two nations' annual gathering was called off last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- So far 20 annual summit meetings have taken place alternatively in India and Russia.
- Russia has been a time-tested partner for India and the country has been a key pillar of New Delhi's foreign policy.

ARWU Ranking 2020

Academic Ranking of World Universities 2020

Top 1000 Methodology Statistics			
World Rank	Institution*	By location India	National/Regional Rank
501-600	Indian Institute of Science		1
601-700	Indian Institute of Technology Madras		2-4
601-700	University of Calcutta		2-4
601-700	University of Delhi		2-4
701-800	Indian Institute of Technology Delhi		5-7
701-800	Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur		5-7
701-800	Jawaharlal Nehru University		5-7
801-900	Aligarh Muslim University		8-9
801-900	Vellore Institute of Technology		8-9
901-1000	All India Institute of Medical Sciences		10-15
901-1000	Anna University		10-15
901-1000	Bharathiar University		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee		10-15
901-1000	Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs)		10-15

- 15 Indian universities have made it to the Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2020.
- This is also known as Shanghai Ranking.
- All the Indian institutes participated in this were placed in the category of 501-600.

About ARWU

- The ARWU ranking is prepared by the Shanghai Ranking consultancy.
- It is an independent organisation that is dedicated to research on higher education, intelligence and consultation.
- The consultancy has been publishing the Academic Ranking of World Universities since 2009.

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021 report

- A report 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-Covid-19 resilient economies' has been released recently.
- The report is released by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP).
- According to the report, India is estimated to record an economic growth of 7% in 2021-22,
- The previous fiscal witnessed a contraction of 7.7% on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.

UNESCAP

- The UNESCAP is the regional development arm of the United Nations for the Asia-Pacific region.
- It has 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members from Asia-Pacific Region including India.

Renewable Capacity Statistics Report 2021

- The Renewable Capacity Statistics 2021 report was released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).
- It said that 260 gigawatts (GW) of new renewable energy capacity was added worldwide in 2020.
- More than 80% of all new electricity capacity added in 2020 was renewable, with solar and wind accounting for 91% of new renewables.
- China, the world's largest market for renewables, added 136 GW of renewables last year,
- The United States installed 29 GW.
- Share of renewables in energy generation worldwide stands at 30%.
- Nations are switching from fossil fuels to renewables in an effort to meet the long-term goal, agreed under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane attends 'Army Chiefs' Conclave' in Bangladesh



- Indian Army chief Gen MM Naravane attended the Army Chiefs' Conclave held here on the sidelines of a multinational military exercise.
- Gen Naravane, who is here on a five-day official tour, delivered a keynote address on "**Changing Nature of Global Conflicts: Role of UN Peacekeepers**", the Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADG PI) tweeted.

Air Force Commanders' Conference April 2021



- Honourable Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the biannual IAF Commanders' Conference (AFCC-21) on 15 April 21 at Air Headquarters. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria PVSM AVSM VM ADC Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) welcomed the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Gen Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and other senior officials from the MoD.
- During his address the Raksha Mantri expressed happiness that the conference coincides with the birth anniversary of the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh, DFC. The RM congratulated IAF for ensuring a timely and befitting response to the sudden developments in Eastern Ladakh. He advised the Commanders to draw up long term plans and strategies for capability enhancement to counter future threats. He appreciated the critical focus of IAF towards reorienting for the future.
- The Commanders' Conference conclude on 16 April 21. The status of strengthening current combat capabilities and the action plan for making IAF a future-ready combat force would be examined. Issues pertaining to systems, reforms and restructuring for ensuring more efficient processes across all domains and optimised operational training will also be discussed.

E9 initiative

- The Minister for Education (India) addressed the consultation meeting of Education Ministers of E9 countries.
- The meeting was on E9 initiative: Scaling up digital learning to accelerate progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 - Quality Education.
- Spearheaded by the United Nations (UN), the E9 Partnership was first established in 1993.
- **E9 Countries include Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Pakistan.**
- The initiative aims to advance the Sustainable Development Goal 4 agenda.
- It is done by driving rapid change in education systems in three of the 2020 Global Education Meeting priorities, namely,
 - Support to teachers;
 - Investment in skills; and
 - Narrowing of the digital divide.

AICTE Lilavati Awards 2020

- Six higher education institutions have been awarded the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) Lilavati Awards 2020.
- It is based on the theme 'women empowerment'.
- The award has been named after the 12th century book called "Lilavati".
- The book was written by the mathematician Bhaskara II.
- Lilavati was the daughter of Indian Mathematician Bhaskara II.

Winners

- The SWEAT (Sona Women Entrepreneurship and Training) from Sona College of Technology, Tamil Nadu won the contest in the 'Women Entrepreneurship' sub-theme.
- The runner-up award was given to Bharatiya Vidyapeeth, under the 'Digital Literacy' sub-theme.
- Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development Pune won the award under the sub-theme 'Literacy'.
- Also, the WIT Women Health Coalition from Walchand Institute of Technology, Maharashtra, won the award under the 'Women's Health' sub-theme.
- Apart from these, Ms Radiant Seetha from Thiagarajar Polytechnic College won the contest in the 'Legal Awareness' whereas Ms Paritrana from St. Joseph's College of Engineering, Tamil Nadu won the award for the 'Self Defense.'

BAFTA Awards 2021



- The British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs) for the year 2021 has been announced by the British Academy of Film and Television Arts.
- The awards, the British equivalent of the Oscars, honour the best in national and international cinema.
- Best Film: Nomadland
- Best Director: Chloe Zhao (Nomadland)

Oscars 2021



- **Best picture:** Nomadland
- **Best actress:** Frances McDormand
- **Best actor:** Anthony Hopkins
- **Best supporting actress:** Yuh-Jung Youn
- **Best supporting actor:** Daniel Kaluuya
- **Best director:** Chloe Zhao
- **Best original screenplay:** Promising Young Woman
- **Best adapted screenplay:** The Father
- **Best animated feature:** Soul
- **Best documentary feature:** My Octopus Teacher
- **Best international feature:** Another Round
- **Best original song:** "Fight for You" from Judas and the Black Messiah
- **Best original score:** Soul
- **Best cinematography:** Mank
- **Best visual effects:** Tenet
- **Best film editing:** Sound of Metal
- **Best costume design:** Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
- **Best sound:** Sound of Metal
- **Best production design:** Mank
- **Best make-up and hairstyling:** Ma Rainey's Black Bottom
- **Best live action short:** Two Distant Strangers
- **Best animated short:** If Anything Happens I Love You
- **Best documentary short:** Colette
- **Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award:** Tyler Perry

The Climate Summit

- Around 40 world leaders participated in the virtual summit hosted by the US.
- PM Modi said that India's per capita carbon footprint is 60% lower than the global average.
- Also the India-US climate and clean energy Agenda 2030 partnership was launched.
- India will deploy 450 GW of renewable power under the partnership with the US.

N.V. Ramana: 48th Chief Justice of India



- Justice **N V Ramana**, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court after Chief Justice S A Bobde, was appointed as the next Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24.
- “In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana, Judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from April 24, 2021,” said a Ministry of Law and Justice notification.
- As the 48th Chief Justice of India, Justice Ramana will have a tenure of over sixteen months – until August 26, 2022.

T. M. Kaliannan voted for the 38th time



- T. M. Kaliannan, a 101-year-old senior Congress leader from Tiruchengode, has cast his vote for the 38th time in the legislature.
- T. M. Kaliannan, a native of Tiruchengode, Namakkal District. Eva, a Congressman, was a member of the Constituent Assembly in 1947. Thereafter, he won the assembly elections in 1952, 1957 and 1962, twice in Rasipuram and once in Tiruchengode constituency.

Tarun Bajaj appointed revenue secretary; Ajay Seth new DEA secretary

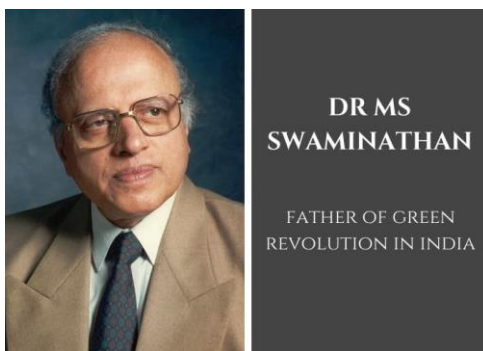
- The government has appointed 1987-batch Karnataka cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer **Ajay Seth** as economic affairs secretary in the finance ministry.
- **Tarun Bajaj**, a 1988-batch Haryana cadre IAS officer, who is currently secretary in the department of economic affairs, will take over as **revenue secretary** in the finance ministry.
- In other changes, **Jatindra Nath Swain**, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed secretary in the department of fisheries by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- **Ali Raza Rizvi**, special secretary and financial adviser in the ministry of information and broadcasting, will be secretary in the department of public enterprises, a notification from the ministry of personnel, public grievances and pensions said.
- **Indevar Pandey**, a 1988-batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre, currently special secretary in the ministry of development of North-Eastern region, has been appointed secretary in the department of administrative reforms and public grievances and department of pensions and pensioners welfare.
- **Anjali Bhawra**, special secretary in the corporate affairs ministry, has been appointed secretary in the department of empowerment of persons with disabilities, in the ministry of social justice and empowerment, the notification said.
- **Gyanesh Kumar**, additional secretary in the department of home, will take over as secretary in the ministry of parliamentary affairs upon superannuation of R. S Shukla on April 30. **Anil Kumar Jha**, special secretary in the revenue department, has been appointed as secretary in the ministry of tribal affairs.

Selvakumar appointed TANUVAS Vice-Chancellor



- Governor and Chancellor Banwarilal Purohit appointed K.N. Selvakumar as the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS).
- Mr. Selvakumar, the seniormost serving professor of the university, will have a tenure of three years. He has a teaching experience of around 32 years and is currently Dean of the Madras Veterinary College.

M.S. Swaminathan felicitated for work towards TB eradication



- Eminent agricultural scientist M.S. Swaminathan was felicitated for his contribution towards eradication of tuberculosis.
- REACH, a Chennai-based non-profit organisation working towards eradicating TB for over two decades, organised a virtual event at which Professor Swaminathan, who was its founding chair, was felicitated. Since the organisation's inception in 1998, he has instilled the need for a more holistic approach to TB by engaging communities and the private sector, a press release said.
- Speaking at the event, Professor Swaminathan pointed out the three steps to tackle an issue as crucial as TB – the first was to identify the problem, then to understand the nature of the issue and third, to mobilise and organise people to work together towards the common goal of TB elimination.
- Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist, World Health Organization, said that TB eradication needed more than a biomedical approach; nutrition, gender and livelihood issues also need to be addressed.

Britain's Prince Philip passes away at 99



- Prince Philip, husband of Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom has passed away.
- He was aged 99.
- Prince Philip had been a leading figure in the British royal family for almost seven decades.
- He was officially known as the Duke of Edinburgh.

Santhosh Kumar is law varsity V-C

- N.S. Santhosh Kumar was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of the Tamil Nadu Dr. Ambedkar Law University.
- He will hold the post for three years with effect from the date of his assumption of office. Mr. Kumar, who has about 26 years of teaching experience, is serving as the Director of Legal Studies for seven years now.
- He has authored two books and held several administrative posts, such as the Principal of the Madras Law College; Government Law Colleges at Coimbatore, Tiruchi and Tirunelveli; and Chairman, Vice-Chancellor Convener Committee of the TNDALU.
- Mr. Purohit handed over the appointment letter to Mr. Kumar in Raj Bhavan.

Marappa Gounder



- Marappa Gounder was born in 1916 in Karupparayanpalayam in Coimbatore district.
- He has been a regular voter since 1952.
- Tamil Nadu elected its first ever government in 1952, when it was Madras State.
- The Indian National Congress won the election.
- C Rajagopalachari (1952-1954) and K Kamaraj (1954-1957) were the Chief Ministers of the state in that term.
- As Tamil Nadu queues up to elect its 16th Legislative Assembly, 105-year-old Marappa Gounder walked his way to his 16th Assembly election.
- He has voted in all Assembly elections since the creation of Tamil Nadu as a separate state.

Kalinga Ratna Samman

- Odisha-born Andhra Pradesh Governor Biswabhusan Harichandan received the Kalinga Ratna Samman for 2021.
- The prestigious award was conferred to him in Cuttack on the occasion of the 40th annual day of the Sarala Sahitya Sansad at the Sarala Bhawan.
- 'Matrubhasa', 'Bhasa Jhalaka', 'Rana Pratap', 'Astasikha Manasi' and 'Sangrama Sarinahi' are some of his contributions to literature.

GD Birla Award for Scientific Research

- Professor Suman Chakraborty has been selected for the 30th GD Birla Award for Scientific Research.
- He is awarded for his outstanding contribution to engineering science and its applications in developing technologies for affordable healthcare.
- He is a faculty member at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur's department of mechanical engineering.
- GD Birla Award for Scientific Research recognises eminent Indian scientists below the age of 50 for their original and outstanding contributions to any branch of science or technology.

Turing Award 2020

- Alfred V. Aho has won the 2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) A.M. Turing Award.
- Aho shares the award with his long-time collaborator Jeffrey David Ullman.
- The Turing Award carries a \$1 million prize, with financial support provided by Google, Inc.

Sushil Chandra appointed new Chief Election Commissioner



- Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra was appointed as the new Chief Election Commissioner. He replaces Sunil Arora who has retired.
- Chandra, the senior-most Election Commissioner, will assume charge as CEC.
- President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Chandra as 24th CEC.
- Chandra was appointed as an Election Commissioner on February 14, 2019, ahead of the Lok Sabha elections and worked for the successful conduct of the general elections.

New Member for NGT



- The Former Tamil Nadu chief secretary Girija Vaidyanathan has been appointed as an expert member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone in Chennai.
- The serving expert member in the Southern Bench Saibal Dasgupta has been sent to Eastern Zonal Bench in Kolkata.
- They were appointed by the principal bench of the NGT in New Delhi
- The Appointments Cabinet Committee of the Union Government approved this appointment.
- However, the Madras High Court ordered an interim stay on this appointment.
- The Court observed that she did possess administrative experience, but not five years of experience in dealing with environmental issues.
- The NGT Act prescribes a minimum of administrative experience of 15 years including five years in dealing with environmental matters in the Central or a State government.
- Poovulagin Nanbargal, an NGO fighting on issues related to environment headed by Sundarrajan, approached the High Court in this regard.

NGT

- The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 is an Act of the Parliament of India.
- It enables the creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.
- It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision (Article 21 Protection of life and personal liberty).
- The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- The Principal Bench of the NGT is in New Delhi.
- It has regional benches in Pune (West), Bhopal (Central), Chennai (South) and Kolkata (East).
- The Chairperson of the NGT is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court.
- Each bench of the NGT will comprise at least one Judicial Member and one Expert Member.

Two Guinness World Records



- Indian Army's Lieutenant Colonel, **Bharat Pannu** has earned two Guinness World Records.
- This is for his fastest solo cycling feats from October 2020.
- The first record was created when Lt Col Pannu cycled from Leh to Manali (472 km distance) on October 10, 2020, in just 35 hours and 25 minutes.
- Lt Col Pannu created a second record when he cycled the 5,942 km long 'Golden Quadrilateral' route in 14 days, 23 hours and 52 minutes.
- Golden Quadrilateral' route connects Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata.

Chennai-based doc named in top 100 women ophthalmologists



- Chennai, City-based **ophthalmologist Dr Soosan Jacob**, has been named in the Power List - 2021, a list of top 100 most influential women ophthalmologists in the world, according to a release here.
- Dr Jacob is Director and Chief, Refractive and Cornea Foundation and Senior Consultant, Cataract and Glaucoma Services at Dr Agarwal's Group of Eye Hospitals here.
- "The prestigious Power List is compiled every year by The Ophthalmologist, a premier international publication dedicated to the field of ophthalmology and selection is on the basis of national and international recognition among peer ophthalmologists," the release added. PTI SA BN BN.

Raul Castro Resigns As Cuba's Leader



- Raul Castro (89) steps down from leadership of the ruling Cuban Communist Party.
- Raul's departure ends a near six-decade family hold on power in Cuba that started in 1959.
- Thus, for the first time in six decades, Cuba's socialist government will not have a Castro in top leadership.
- After serving two terms as Cuba's president, Raul Castro stepped down from that office in 2018.
- He handed over the presidency to Miguel Diaz-Canel, 60, in 2018.
- Díaz-Canel will likely be elected as the new secretary-general of the Communist Party.

Background

- Fidel Castro led Cuba for five decades.
- He dethroned the dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959 along with his brother Raul.
- He was the world's third longest-serving head of state, after Britain's Queen Elizabeth and the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej.
- Raul succeeded Fidel Castro as the head of the Communist Party in 2011.
- He led the Cuban socialist government to make deals with US President Obama in 2014.
- It opened up the Cuban economy to the US for the first time since 1960.

Ganjam Venkatasubbiah



- He recently passed away at the age of 107.
- He was a Veteran Kannada writer.
- He was commonly known as a walking encyclopaedia of Kannada language and culture.

Rajesh Vivekanandan takes over as Assistant Solicitor General

- Rajesh Vivekanandan has been appointed as the Assistant Solicitor General appointed to represent the Central Government in cases in the Chennai Magistrate's Court.
- Rajesh Vivekanandan has been appointed Assistant Solicitor General to represent the Central Government in cases in the Chennai Magistrate's Court. The order was recently issued by the Central Government. Following this, Advocate Rajesh Vivekanandan assumed duties as Assistant Solicitor General in the presence of Additional Solicitor General Sankaranarayanan.

Priyanka Mohite



- Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has scaled Mt Annapurna,
- She becomes the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.
- Mt Annapurna is the 10th highest mountain peak in the world.
- Mount Annapurna is considered to be one of the toughest mountains to climb.

PM Modi to participate in climate summit on April 22



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will join other global leaders to participate in the Leaders' Summit on Climate, a virtual event which will reflect the concerns of U.S. President Joe Biden regarding climate change.
- President Biden had called for the summit in March saying that the event will reflect the "urgency" to stop climate change.
- "Nearly 40 other world leaders are participating in the summit.

Krithi Karanth becomes first Indian woman to be chosen as a 'Wild Innovator'



- **Dr. Krithi K Karanth**, Chief Conservation Scientist at Bengaluru-based Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), has been chosen as the first Indian and Asian woman for the 2021 '**WILD Innovator Award**'.
- This award given by the '**WILD ELEMENTS Foundation**' brings together a coalition of innovators, advocates and partners to "disrupt the status quo and identify solutions to global sustainability and conservation," a CWS statement said.
- The Foundation's distinctive approach to addressing climate change is the "**Power of Three**," recognising the interconnectedness of animalkind, humankind, and plantkind for the future planetary wellness of our shared home
- As part of its flagship programme the Foundation has partnered with '**WILD Innovators**', premier science and conservation experts, driving cutting-edge work in the field around the world, and '**WILD Advocates**', celebrities and influencers who value and promote the importance and vital interdependence of people, animals, plants, and our shared environment, the statement said.

Chinese Defense Minister pays 2-day visit to Sri Lanka

- Chinese Defence Minister Gen. Wei Fenghe called on Sri Lankan **President Gotabaya Rajapaksa** and **Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa** and discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties, including defence cooperation and post-pandemic economic recovery.
- The Chinese defence minister arrived here along with a high-level delegation on a two-day official visit after he made a brief trip to Bangladesh.

Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021



- **Rumana Sinha Sehgal** won the Nelson Mandela World Humanitarian Award 2021 by the Diplomatic Mission Global Peace.
- She is a Software engineer turned entrepreneur from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- She was awarded for her contribution to the field of developing innovative and functional green products by recycling varied materials and non-biodegradable materials.

Oscars 2021 - First Asian woman



- Chloe Zhao is the first Asian woman and second woman ever to win best director at the Academy Awards.
- The Chinese-born Zhao not only directed *Nomadland*, but also wrote the screenplay and edited the film.
- Kathryn Bigelow was the first woman to win the Oscar for Best Director.
- She won in 2010 for *Hurtlocker*.



5. ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

About Financial ups and downs

India's 2021 economic output likely to remain below 2019 level: UN report

- Maintaining low borrowing costs while keeping NPAs in check would be a challenge; China's swift, effective response to Covid-19 made it the only major global economy to achieve positive annual economic growth rate in 2020
- India's economic output in 2021 is expected to remain below the 2019 level despite roll-out of the vaccine to deal with the menace of the coronavirus pandemic, said a report by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) released.
- India, according to the 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2021: Towards post-Covid-19 resilient economies', is estimated to record an economic growth of 7 per cent in 2021-22, over a contraction of 7.7 per cent witnessed in the previous fiscal on account of the pandemic's impact on normal business activity.
- The report forecasts that on an average, developing Asia-Pacific economies are expected to grow 5.9 per cent in 2021 and 5 per cent in 2022, after having experienced an estimated contraction of 1 per cent in 2020.

World Bank raises India's growth projection to 10% in FY22

- The World Bank upgraded its gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for the Indian economy to 10% within a band of 2.5 percentage points from 5.4% estimated in October last year, highlighting uncertainty about the second wave of coronavirus infections, the trajectory of the vaccination drive and its resultant impact on the contact-intensive sectors in the economy.
- "The infrastructure focus of Union budget 2021-22 is expected to aid the growth momentum and revive domestic demand. Given the significant uncertainty pertaining to both epidemiological and policy developments, real GDP growth for FY21/22 can range from 7.5% to 12.5%, depending on how the vaccination campaign proceeds, whether new restrictions to mobility are required and how quickly the world economy recovers. Over the medium term, growth is projected to stabilize within a 6-7% range," the lender said in its latest South Asia Economic Focus released.
- UNESCAP has projected the Indian economy to grow at 7% in 2021, while Fitch Ratings upgraded India's growth projection for FY22 to 12.8% on a stronger carry-over effect, a looser fiscal stance and better virus containment.

Bharti Airtel sells spectrum worth ₹1,497 crore to Reliance Jio

- As per the agreement, which is subject to statutory approvals, Reliance Jio will acquire right to use spectrum in the 800MHz band in Andhra Pradesh (3.75 MHz), Delhi (1.25 MHz) and Mumbai (2.50 MHz) circles through spectrum trading.
- Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) said it had signed a definitive agreement with Bharti Airtel to acquire the right to use spectrum in the 800-megahertz (MHz) band in Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, and Mumbai circles through spectrum trading.
- Jio will acquire 3.75 MHz in Andhra Pradesh, 1.25 MHz in Delhi, and 2.5 MHz in Mumbai. "The aggregate value for the right to use this spectrum is Rs 1,497 crore, inclusive of present value of associated deferred payment liability of Rs 459 crore, subject to any transaction-related adjustments," Jio said in a statement.

RBI keeps policy rates unchanged, projects GDP growth of 10.5%

Status quo

Highlights from the RBI's latest monetary policy statement

■ Repo, reverse repo & bank rates remain unchanged at 4%, 3.35%, 4.25%

■ Accommodative stance to spur growth to continue

■ Vows to keep inflation within target

■ FY22 GDP growth projection retained at 10.5%

■ Headline inflation testing the upper tolerance level

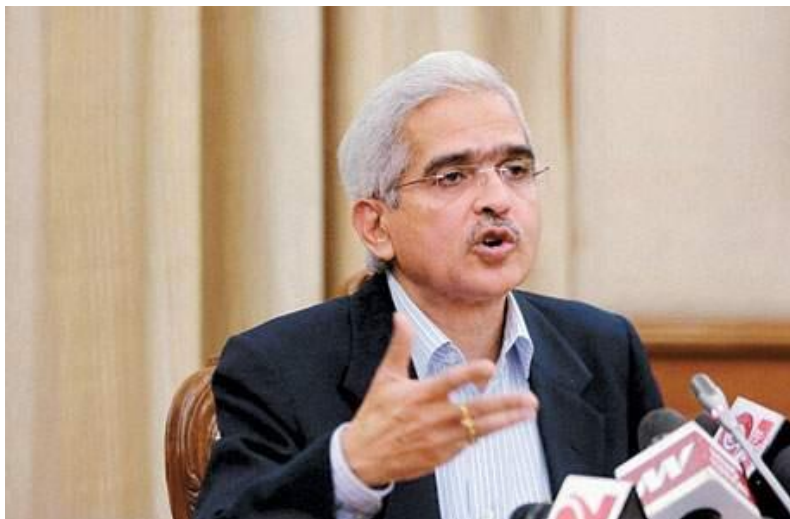
■ Projection for CPI inflation revised to 5% in Q4 FY21; 5.2% for Q1 FY22, 5.2% for Q2 FY22; 4.4% for Q3 FY22; and 5.1% for Q4 FY22, with risks broadly balanced



Surge in COVID-19 cases adds uncertainty to growth outlook

- **The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** voted unanimously to leave the policy repo rate unchanged at 4%, Governor Shaktikanta Das announced.
- Mr. Das said the Reserve Bank is optimistic about a pick-up in demand and expansion of business activity into financial year 2021-22.
- The RBI Governor said that while headline inflation at 5.0% in February 2021 remained within the tolerance band, some underlying constituents were testing the upper tolerance level.
- Taking into consideration various factors, RBI has revised the projection for CPI inflation to 5.0% in Q4: 2020-21; 5.2% in Q1:2021-22; 5.2% in Q2; 4.4% in Q3; and 5.1% in Q4, with risks broadly balanced, he said.

There is no need to defer the loan installment



- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has said that there is no need to defer the payment of installments to customers for loans obtained from banks as a general freeze has been implemented in some states.
- The TLTRO scheme is being extended by 6 months, up to September 30, 2021

Loans of Rs 14.96 lakh crore sanctioned since launch of PM Mudra scheme

- More than 28.68 crore loans for an amount of Rs 14.96 lakh crore have been sanctioned by banks, **Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** and **Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs)** since the launch of **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**, according to the Centre.
- "A key initiative towards this is Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), which has given wings to the dreams and aspirations of millions, along with a feeling of self-worth and independence," the statement added.
- The PMMY was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 8, 2015, for providing loans upto Rs 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small or micro-enterprises.

In a 1st, RBI to buy Rs 1 lakh crore bonds in Q1



- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a government securities acquisition programme (G-SAP 1.0) where it has committed to buy bonds worth Rs 1 lakh crore in the first quarter.
- This unprecedented step has been taken by the central bank to keep interest rates in check as part of its efforts to support growth, which RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said was paramount.

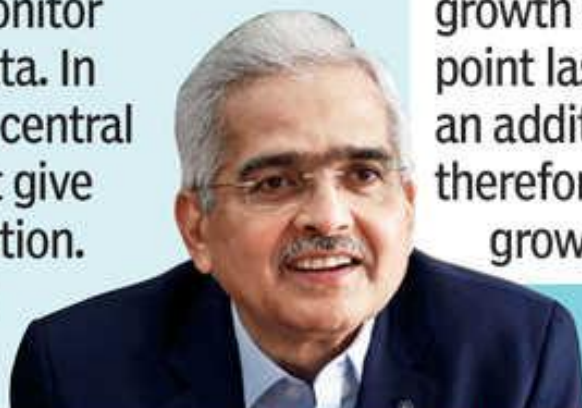
GROWTH IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE

“ For the time being and at the current juncture, growth is of paramount importance, while of course keeping in mind inflation targeting is also important. The primary goal of the monetary policy is to maintain a certain level of inflation

“ In today's conditions, there is no need for a moratorium..

We regularly monitor asset quality data. In any situation, a central bank should not give a knee jerk reaction. And we will not take it either

“ The current surge is not likely to impact growth so much as it did at this point last year. The vaccine is an additional factor. We have therefore reiterated our 10.5% growth projection for FY21



Shaktikanta Das |
GOVERNOR, RBI

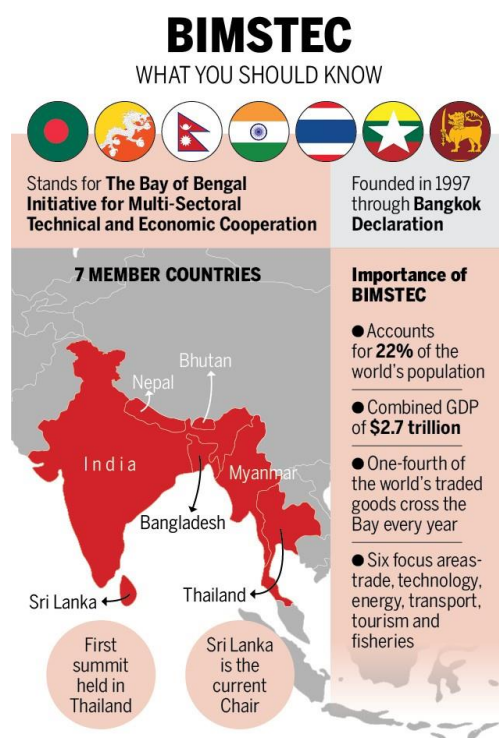
Forbes' Annual Billionaire list



RANK ▲	NAME	NET WORTH	AGE	COUNTRY / TERRITORY
1.	Jeff Bezos	\$177 B ▲	57	United States
2.	Elon Musk	\$151 B ▲	49	United States
3.	Bernard Arnault & family	\$150 B ▲	72	France
4.	Bill Gates	\$124 B ▲	65	United States
5.	Mark Zuckerberg	\$97 B ▲	36	United States
6.	Warren Buffett	\$96 B ▲	90	United States
7.	Larry Ellison	\$93 B ▲	76	United States
8.	Larry Page	\$91.5 B ▲	48	United States
9.	Sergey Brin	\$89 B ▲	47	United States
10.	Mukesh Ambani	\$84.5 B ▲	63	India

- The Amazon.com Inc founder, **Jeff Bezos has topped Forbes' annual world's billionaires list for the fourth consecutive year.**
- India's richest billionaire **Mukesh Ambani ranked at 10th** position with a total net worth of USD 84.5 billion.
- The 35th edition Forbes World's Billionaires list was released on April 06, 2021, comprising a record-breaking 2,755 billionaires.
- The list is prepared based on the wealth using stock prices and exchange rates from March 5, 2021.

17th BIMSTEC Ministerial meet



- Recently, the External Affairs Minister of India participated in the 17th Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Ministerial Meeting.
- The meeting, chaired by Sri Lanka, was held in virtual mode.
- BIMSTEC comprises seven countries.
- Five of these seven countries - India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Bangladesh - are from South Asia.
- The remaining two, Thailand and Myanmar, are from Southeast Asia.

India leads in Digital Payments

- The UK based payments system company ACI recently released a report on digital payments.
- According to this report, India has the highest number of real-time online transactions in 2020.
- The Digital payment market of India is led by Paytm, PhonePe, BharatPe, Pine Labs, etc.
- The UPI (Unified Payment Interface) transaction increased by 18.7% in March 2021 as compared to February 2021.
- In February 2021, the UPI transaction was Rs 4.25 lakh crores.
- And in March 2021, it was Rs 5.05 lakh crores.
- India was ahead of China, US, South Korea, UK, Thailand in number of online transactions.
- According to this report, the share of electronic transactions in India will exceed 50% by 2024.

Small Savings Schemes

- The National Savings Institute operating under the Ministry of Finance recently announced that West Bengal is the top contributor to the Small Savings Scheme in the country.
- The state contributes 15% of the total corpus.
- It has so far collected Rs 90,000 crores under the Small Savings Scheme.
- West Bengal was followed by Uttar Pradesh.
- The state of Uttar Pradesh has collected Rs 69,660 crores.
- Maharashtra was ranked third.
- The state of Maharashtra contributed 10.57%, which is Rs 63,026 crores.
- Gujarat was ranked fourth.
- Gujarat contributed 8.16%, that is Rs 48,645 crores.
- Tamil Nadu ranked fifth contributing 4.8%, which is Rs 28,598.

India's Debt Ratio

- The International Monetary Fund recently announced that the debt to GDP ratio of India increased from 74% to 90% due to COVID-19 crisis.
- This is to increase to 99% in 2021.
- The international financial organisation has also stated that this is to reduce to 80% after economic recovery.
- The Debt to GDP ratio is the ratio between the debt of the Government measured in the units of its currency to the GDP measured in the same unit.
- When the Debt to GDP ratio is low, it means that the country produces and sells goods and services that are sufficient to pay back debts without incurring further debts.
- The Debt to GDP ratio of India has remained 70% since 1991.
- The Public Debt in India is the total liability of the Union Government that must be paid from the Consolidated Fund of India.

WPI inflation spikes to over 8-year high of 7.39% in March

- WPI - Wholesale Price Index
- The wholesale price-based inflation shot up to over 8-year high of 7.39 % in March on rising crude oil and metal prices.
- Also, the low base of March last year, when the data was computed with a low response rate due to the nationwide lockdown, contributed to a spike in inflation in March 2021.
- The WPI inflation was 4.17 % in February and 0.42 % in March 2020.

RBI sets up "Regulations Review Authority 2.0"

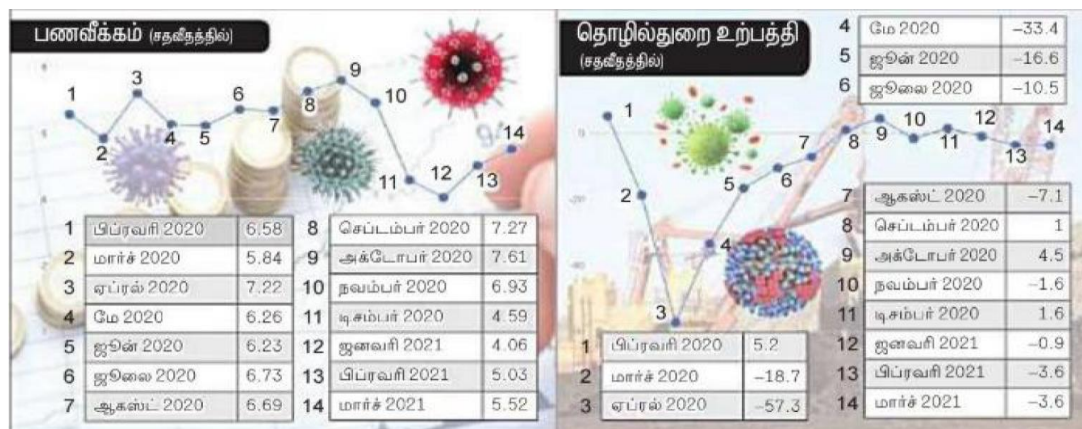
- Recently, the Reserve Bank of India(RBI) announced the setting up of a new Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0).
- **Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0)** will streamline the regulatory instructions, reduce the compliance burden of the entities under regulations. The RRA 2.0 will achieve this by simplifying procedures and reduce reporting requirements wherever possible.
- **Headed by:** M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor of RBI has appointed as the head of the Regulations Review Authority 2.0.
- **Duration:** The authority will be set up for a period of one year from May 1. But, RBI can extend its tenure.

Terms of Reference of RRA 2.0: The terms of reference of RRA 2.0 include:


- **Firstly, making regulatory and supervisory instructions** more effective by removing redundancies and duplications.
- **Secondly, to obtain feedback from regulated entities** on simplification of procedures and enhancement of ease of compliance.
- **Thirdly, RRA will reduce the compliance burden on regulated entities** by streamlining the reporting mechanism; revoking obsolete instructions if necessary.
- **Fourthly, to examine and suggest the changes** required in the dissemination process of RBI circulars/ instructions.
- **Sixthly, to engage internally as well as externally** with all regulated entities and other stakeholders to facilitate the process.

Rising inflation; Collapsing industrial production!

- The country's economy has been hit hard by the spread of the corona epidemic. Economic activity gradually recovered after the general freeze was announced. The purchasing power of the people also gradually increased. The country's inflation also began to come under control.
- Inflation plays an important role in ensuring the purchasing power and economic stability of the people. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set a target of keeping it at 2 to 6 per cent. Despite the inflation target, inflation has started to rise again due to lower petrol and diesel prices, lower production of pulses and oilseeds.



Tamil Nadu sees over twofold jump in investments



Fund flow

Tamil Nadu shines amid the pandemic gloom

- Project investments in T.N. surge from **₹47,833 crore** in 2019-20 to **₹1,02,652 crore** last fiscal
- State's ranking on fresh investments improves from 12th in 2018-19 to second in 2020-21
- Investments in T.N. surpassed traditionally stronger Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- Maharashtra records most investments for second year in a row; U.P. jumps to fifth place

- Fresh investments into Tamil Nadu more than doubled to over ₹1,00,000 crore during the pandemic-hit 2020-21, with the southern State witnessing the second highest investment outlay among all the States. Maharashtra, which got the highest investments in 2019-20, remained on top in 2020-21 as well.

All India Bank Employees Association

- AIBEA stands for All India Bank Employees Association. It is the oldest as well as the largest union of bank employees in India. It was established on 20th April 1946 in Kolkata.
- In the 1940s, the wages and working conditions of the bank employees were very poor and it was extremely risky to start a union in the banks as the bank management was highly vindictive to such actions and ideas.

COVID-19 impacts 82% of small businesses, shows survey

- 'Market and credit access, productivity remain challenges'
- More than 82% of businesses have suffered a negative impact on account of COVID-19 and 70% expect it will take almost a year for demand to recover to pre-pandemic levels, a survey showed.
- About 60% of the companies surveyed by Dun & Bradstreet said they would require more support measures, including government initiatives, to withstand the adverse impact.

Farm exports up 16.88 per cent in April- February FY21

- India exported agricultural commodities worth Rs 2.74 lakh crore till February of the 2020-21 fiscal, up by 16.88 per cent from Rs 2.31 lakh crore in the year-ago period, notwithstanding the pandemic, the agriculture ministry said.
- Similarly, imports of agriculture and allied commodities increased by 3 per cent to Rs 1,41,034 crore during April-February period of 2020-21 from 1,37,014 crore in the year-ago period.
- During April-February of the 2020-21 fiscal, the country exported agri-commodities worth Rs 2.74 lakh crore as against Rs 2.31 lakh crore in the same period of the previous year.

Electric vehicle sales tumble by 25% in pandemic-stricken FY21

- Electric vehicle (EV) sales declined by a quarter during the pandemic-stricken financial year ended 31 March despite a surge in sales in recent months.
- About 237,000 EVs were sold during FY21 – a 25% decline over FY20. EVs accounted for just 1.2% of the overall vehicle sales in the country with about 18.8 million vehicles with combustion engines sold during the same period.
- EV sales included about 143,800 electric two-wheelers, which is a decline of 6% over the previous year. Of these, 40,800 were in the high-speed category that requires registration with regional transport authorities. The remaining 103,000 were low-speed scooters.
- Electric three-wheeler sales declined by 60% to just 88,400 units. Meanwhile, four-wheeler sales improved by 35% on a low base to 4,588 units.

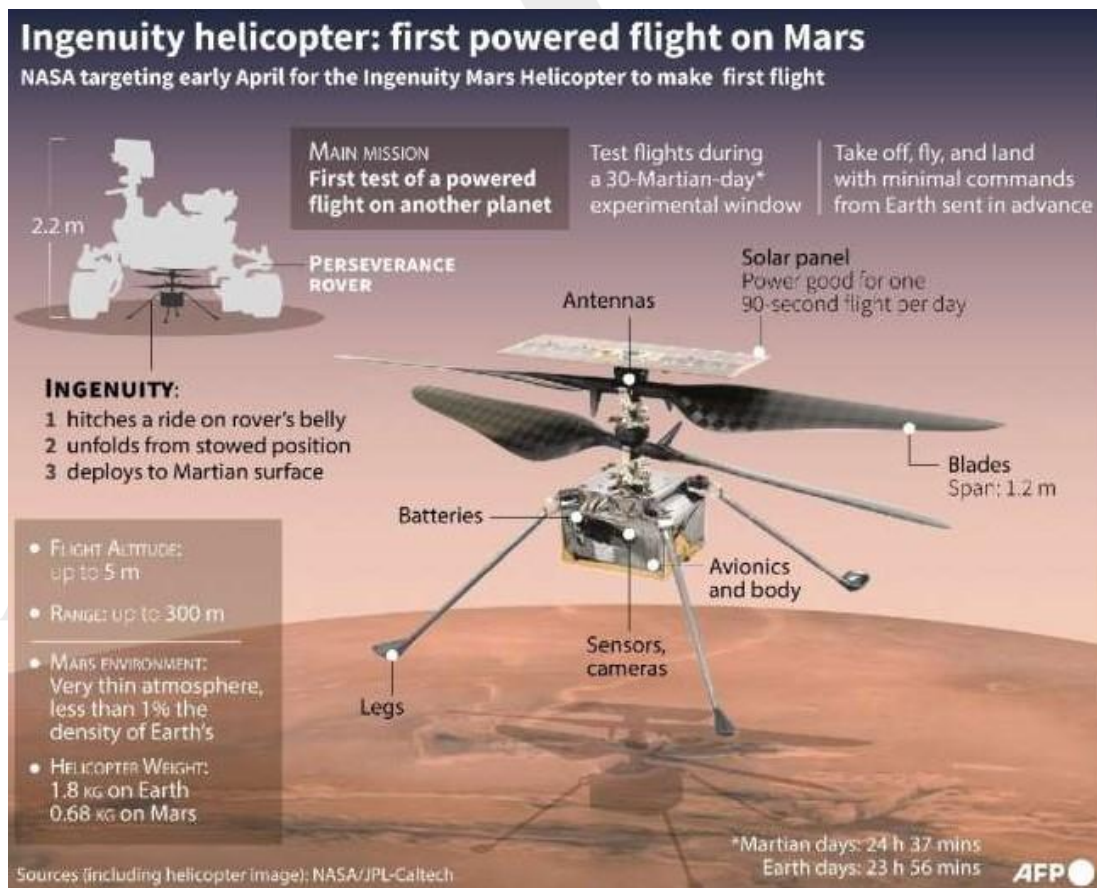
27 percent increase in the export of processed food products

- The exports of processed food products during April-February 2020-21 grew by 26.51%.
- Their exports amounted to Rs 43,798 crores during this period.
- The export of processed vegetables and alcoholic beverages increased by 40% in 2020-21.
- According to APEDA, the exports of processed food products is to continue in 2021-22.
- This is mainly because the demand for processed fruits and vegetables, pulses are increasing in markets such as middle east, US, UK.

India, US agree to revamp strategic energy partnership

- India and the United States have agreed to revamp their strategic energy partnership to focus on greater collaboration in cleaner energy sectors such as biofuels, and hydrogen production, the government said in a statement.
- The statement was issued after a virtual meeting of oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan and US energy secretary Jennifer Granholm. The two countries will intensify efforts to take advantage of advanced US technologies and India's rapidly growing energy market, it said.
- The United States overtook Saudi Arabia as India's second biggest oil supplier after Iraq last month.

Ingenuity Helicopter



- NASA's Ingenuity mini-helicopter has been dropped on the surface of Mars.
- The ultra-light aircraft had been fixed to the Perseverance rover, which touched down on the Red Planet on February 18.
- Ingenuity will be attempting to fly in an atmosphere that is one percent the density of Earth's atmosphere.
- This will make it lift harder, but will be assisted by gravity that is one-third of our planet's.
- Ingenuity will be taking high-resolution photography as it flies.

Touch-sensitive watch for the visually impaired

- This will be useful for the visually impaired people to sense time accurately.
- The watch was developed by prof Siddhartha Panda and Vishwaraj Srivastava of IIT Kanpur.

About the watch

- The user has to touch and scan the touch-sensitive watch's hour indicators.
- With the help of different vibration patterns, the watch communicates back the time information that is easily perceived by the user.
- This way, the person is able to read the time.

Plant-Insect Gene Transfer



- The Chinese scientists have recently identified the transfer of genes from plants to insects.
- Usually transfer of genes happen among the same family.
- Here the insect called whiteflies has incorporated a portion of DNA from plants into their genome.
- The incorporated gene found was BtPMT1.
- The whiteflies use this gene to neutralise the toxic compounds produced by the plants against them.

Note

- The transfer of gene from one family to another is referred to as horizontal gene transfer.

Three banded Rosefinch



- A team of scientists from the Bombay Natural History Society recorded a new species of bird.
- It has been identified as the three banded Rosefinch.
- The new bird species was identified while exploring the high-altitude coniferous forests of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Three Branded Rosefinch belongs to the finch species of birds.
- Finch birds have worldwide distribution except for Australia and polar regions.

'Healthy diet, physical activity can reduce risk of cancer'

- **Cancer is detected early only in 30% of patients, say doctors**
- Healthy dietary habits, regular physical activity, and staying away from tobacco and drinking alcohol can help reduce the risk of cancer to a large extent, Dr. Jagadesh Chandra Bose, senior consultant, surgical oncology, Dr. Rela Institute and Medical Centre (RIMC), said.

Skymet forecasts 'healthy normal' monsoon in 2021

- Private weather forecast company, Skymet Weather, has said monsoon this year is likely to be 103% of the Long Period Average (LPA).
- The agency classified it as a "healthy normal" in a press conference.
- The LPA refers to the average all India monsoon rainfall of 88 cm, which is a 50-year mean.
- The monsoon that concluded in 2020 was unique in that, with monsoon 2019, it was only the third time in a century that India saw back-to-back years of above normal rainfall, which is defined as rainfall that's 5% above normal (105%).

The story of 220-million-year-old rat-like creatures via microfossils



- The Tiki Formation in Madhya Pradesh, considered a treasure trove of vertebrate fossils, has now yielded a new species and two genera of cynodonts.

Details:

- The researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, who studied about 10 teeth samples collected from **Tihki, Madhya Pradesh**, have announced the finding of a new species, naming it **Rewaconodon indicus**.
- The team has also identified **two new genera under the cynodont species**. The first was named **Inditherium floris** and the second was named **Tikiodon cromptoni**.

Rare lunar occultation of Mars



- A rare sight awaits astro-enthusiasts when the crescent moon comes directly between Earth and Mars, leading to a rare occultation. Around 5 pm, sky gazers can notice a tiny shining dot – Mars, very close to the Moon. Within minutes, Mars will disappear, with the Moon hiding it.
- This lunar occultation of Mars will be visible in India only.
- The event started at 5.55 pm on the 17th and lasted till 7.30 pm.

'Whitest ever' paint



- US engineers have created the whitest ever paint.
- The ultra-white paint is made up of barium sulphate.
- That makes it whiter.
- It can also cool surfaces 8 degrees Fahrenheit below their surroundings under strong sunlight during noon hours.
- The paint can keep surfaces 19 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than their ambient surroundings at night.
- This paint may be the closest equivalent to the blackest black paint called "Vantablack".
- That is able to absorb up to 99.9 per cent of visible light.

Luna Space Mission

- The Russian Space Agency 'Roscosmos' is to launch its spacecraft 'Luna 25' on October 2021, towards the icy South pole of the Moon.
- The last spacecraft 'Luna 24' was launched in August 1976 by the Soviet Union.
- They are taking up the project to study the water beneath the surface at the South pole of the Moon.

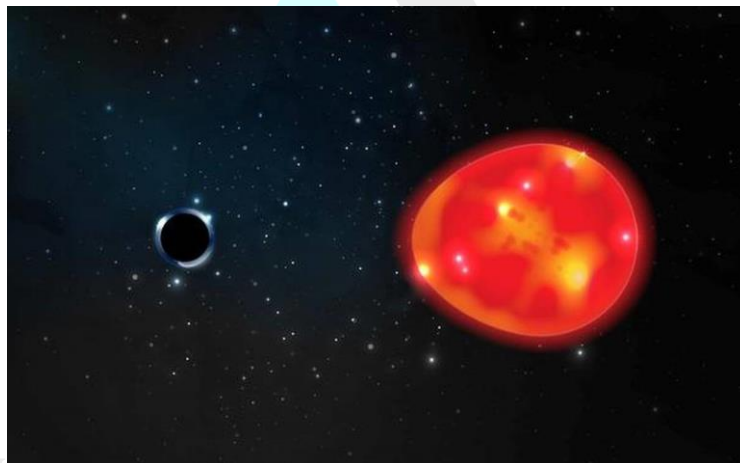
Tiangong space station

- China has successfully sent the first section of its own space station - the Tianhe core module cabin - into preset orbit.
- It was sent via a Long March-5B Y2 carrier rocket from Wenchang spaceport.
- The Tianhe core module houses life support equipment and a living space for astronauts.
- The Tiangong space station means “**Heavenly Palace**”.

RESPOND programme

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced that it will support eight joint research projects mooted by the Space Technology Cell (STC), IIT-Delhi.
- The ISRO has extended support to the projects under its RESPOND programme.
- ISRO started the RESPOND (Research Sponsored) programme in the 1970s.

Unicorn Black Hole



- Scientists have discovered the smallest-known black hole in the Milky Way galaxy.
- It is the closest to our solar system.
- They named it 'the Unicorn.'

MOXIE

- The Perseverance rover of Mars 2020 Mission of NASA recently converted carbon dioxide into oxygen.
- This is the first time this has been achieved in another planet.
- This was achieved by MOXIE (Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment), an instrument placed in the front side of the rover.
- MOXIE is also called “Mechanical Tree”.
- This is because; it uses electricity and chemistry to split carbon molecules into carbon and oxygen.
- It produces carbon monoxide as a by-product.

SHIELDS Mission

- NASA recently launched the SHIELDS Mission from the White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.
- The Mission is to study light from interstellar particles in the heliosphere.
- SHIELDS is Spatial Heterodyne Interferometric Emission Line Dynamics Spectrometer.
- It will fly to a height of 300 kilo metres.
- At this height SHIELDS can see light from particles beyond the solar system.

Gaganyaan mission: India, France sign agreement for cooperation



- The Indian space agency, ISRO has signed an agreement with the space agency of France CNES for cooperation in its first human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- CNES will train Indian flight physicians and CAPCOM mission control teams at French facilities.

Mustard cultivation

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare recently announced that it is to bring nine million tonnes of land under mustard cultivation.
- This will increase mustard production to 17 million tonnes by 2025-26.
- Currently, Rajasthan, the highest mustard producing state in the country produces 40.82% of total mustards in India.

CCSCH - 5th session

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) inaugurated the fifth session of the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH).
- CCSCH was established under Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).
- CCSCH was established to develop and expand worldwide standards for spices and culinary herbs.
- It was formed in 2013 with India as the Host and Spices Board India serving as the secretariat of Committee.

Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC)

- It was set up in 1963.
- It is an intergovernmental body established jointly by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO).



ARUL IAS ACADEMY



7. NATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up in India during April 2021

ICG Ship Vajra

- The Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vajra' was commissioned at Kattupalli in Chennai.
- The 98-meter ship has been designed and built by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ltd at Kattupalli, Chennai.
- The Ship is equipped with state-of-the-art facility and is designed to carry one twin-engine helicopter and four high speed boats.
- The vessel can also be used in Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol.
- It is also capable of carrying Pollution Response Equipment for oil spill response at Sea.
- **Commerce ministry makes import registration compulsory for host of aluminium, copper products**
- The **commerce ministry** has made **import** registration compulsory for 46 **copper** and 43 **aluminium** items under non-ferrous metal import monitoring system, a move which could discourage inbound shipments of such goods and promote their local manufacturing.
- According to a notification of the **department of commerce**, under the import monitoring system importers would have to submit advance information in an online system for inbound shipments of these products and obtain an automatic registration number by paying specified fee.
- The importer can apply for registration not earlier than 60th day and not later than 5th day before the expected date of arrival of import consignment.
- The system will be effective from April 12 this year and the facility of online registration will be available with effect from April 5.

PLI Scheme

- The Union Cabinet approves Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights).
- The scheme is expected to attract global investments, generate large scale employment opportunities and enhance exports substantially.
- The PLI Scheme for White Goods shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for a period of five years to companies engaged in manufacturing of Air Conditioners and LED Lights.

#PLIforAatmanirbharBharat

Government approves

PRODUCTION LINKED INCENTIVE SCHEME FOR AIR CONDITIONERS AND LED LIGHTS



Incentive of ₹6,238 crore over 5 years for manufacturing in India



Production worth ₹1.68 lakh crore & Exports worth ₹64,400 crore estimated



Creation of 4 lakh direct & indirect jobs in 5 years

Amendment of patent rules

- The federal government has made amendments to the patent-related rules.
- A statement from the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry said: In an environment where technologies are evolving, amendments have been made to ensure that there are no impediments to the implementation of patent rules.
- Changes have been made to the rules for publishing patented magazines. Accordingly, the requirement to publish the relevant journals in the Government has been removed.
- Amendments have been made to the rules to ensure transparency and credibility in the matter of royalty payments. Permission is granted to use e-money transfer system for collection and distribution of royalties.
- The opportunity to consider a patent application has been increased to 180 days. The report states that the federal government will be able to review patent applications in more detail.

INS Viraat 40% dismantled, can't convert it into museum, says SC



- The Supreme Court cited that 40 per cent of the India's decommissioned aircraft carrier INS Viraat has been dismantled and dismissed a plea by a private firm seeking to convert it into a museum.
- A bench headed by Chief Justice S.A. Bobde and comprising Justices A.S. Bopanna and V. Ramasubramanian told the counsel representing private firm Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd, "You are too late 40 per cent of the ship is already dismantled, how will you make it a museum." The firm's counsel argued that it can seek services of a reputed firm and conduct a survey and get to the top court in the matter.

e-SANTA

- The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the e-SANTA platform for marine products.
- This platform will provide more opportunities, freedom, and options to the fish and aqua farmers.
- Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal inaugurated e-SANTA.
- e-SANTA is an **electronic marketplace providing a platform to connect aqua farmers and buyers.**
- e-SANTA will act as an alternative marketing tool between farmers and buyers by **eliminating middlemen.** The term e-SANTA stands for **Electronic Solution for Augmenting NaCSA farmers' Trade in Aquaculture.**
- National Centre for Sustainable Aquaculture (NaCSA) is an extension arm of the Marine Products Export Development Authority

NABARD-funded watershed projects to regenerate 8,000 hectares of land

- **NABARD - National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development**
- Eight watershed projects in the district with NABARD grant assistance will together regenerate about 8,000 hectares of land covering 55 villages and benefit more than 10,800 farmers.
- While four watershed projects at Kilikudi, Alangudi, Avvaiyarpatti and Amburapatti villages with grant assistance of ₹1.52 crore have been completed, two other watershed projects at Mambatti and Odukkur villages and a couple of climate proofing watershed projects with grant assistance of ₹86.85 lakh are ongoing. All projects together would regenerate about 8,000 hectares of land benefitting farmers.
- NABARD had promoted four farmer producer companies (FPCs) in the district with more than 4,000 small and marginal farmers from 172 villages with a grant support of ₹38.68 lakh.
- Two more FPCs have been sanctioned with grant assistance of ₹17.98 lakh for fishermen of Manamelkudi and dairy farmers of Kunnandarkoil block in February and March.

Agri Min inks pact with Microsoft for a pilot project to boost farmers' income

- The Ministry of Agriculture has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Microsoft to run a pilot programme for 100 villages in 6 states. The program will help the farmers in reducing their input costs and will boost income.
- **The Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar** was also present at the signing ceremony. Microsoft has entered into an agreement with the Agriculture Ministry along with its associate Crop Data Technologies.

Ashok Leyland supplies bullet proof vehicle to Indian Air Force



- Hinduja Group's commercial vehicle maker **Ashok Leyland Ltd** said it has delivered the first light bullet proof vehicle to **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- According to Ashok Leyland, the light bullet proof vehicle is an adopted version of Lockheed Martin's Common Vehicle Next Gen (CVNG).

Indian expedition to Antarctica returns to Cape Town

- The 40th Indian Scientific Expedition to Antarctica (40-ISEA) hosted by the Ministry of Earth Sciences successfully returned to Cape Town on 10 April, after completing a journey of around 12 thousand nautical miles in 94 days, including stopovers.
- This achievement concludes four successful decades of India's scientific endeavour in Antarctica. The 40-ISEA comprised Indian scientists, engineers, doctors, and technicians, who began their journey from the Mormugao Port of Goa to Antarctica on 7 January, 2021.
- The team reached its destination station Bharati on 27 February, 2021, and Maitri on 8 March, 2021. Bharati and Maitri are India's permanent research base stations in Antarctica. The stations are approachable only during the austral summer season between November and March.

Pressure Swing Adsorption (PSA) Oxygen Plants

- The Health Ministry said that 162 Pressure Swing Adsorption, PSA oxygen plants have been sanctioned by Government of India for installation in public health facilities in all States and these will augment medical oxygen capacity by over 154 Metric Tonnes.
- Pressure swing adsorption (PSA) is a technology used to separate some gas species from a mixture of gases under pressure according to the species' molecular characteristics and affinity for an adsorbent material.

Rural Health Statistics Report 2019/20

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently released the Rural Health Statistics Report.
- According to the report, there is an overall shortage of specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres.
- There is an overall shortfall of 76.1% specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres in rural areas.

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- It aims to provide financial assistance to start-ups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.
- It was announced in the 'Prarambh: StartupIndia International Summit' that marks the five-year anniversary of the Startup India initiative.
- The SISFS will Secure seed funding, inspire innovation, support transformative ideas, facilitate implementation, and Start start-up revolution.
- The government has approved Rs. 945 Crore corpus for the fund, which will be divided over the next 4 years.
- The scheme is expected to support an estimated 3,600 startups through 300 incubators.
- **Nodal Department:** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

8. INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Activities which held up out of Nation

Joe Biden to announce massive \$2 trillion infrastructure plan

- U.S. President Joe Biden will visit Pittsburgh to announce a massive \$2 trillion infrastructure plan, which will, over eight years, rebuild much of America's infrastructure - from roads and bridges to high speed internet infrastructure and water pipes.
- The legislation, called the American Jobs Plan, is being pitched by the White House as America's response to the climate crisis and "the ambitions of an autocratic China" and is expected to be financed by corporate taxes.

India contributes \$300,000 to UN Women to support gender equality

- India has contributed USD 300,000 to the United Nations agency for gender equality and women empowerment, a contribution lauded by the UN entity.
- India made the contribution to UN Women, the world organisation's entity for gender equality and women's empowerment.
- "#India contributes USD 300,000 to @UN_Women for 2021, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti tweeted.
- He said India reaffirms its support for gender equality and women empowerment, describing UN Women as a valued partner in our progress from women's development to #women-led development.
- Assistant-Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women Anita Bhatia thanked India for the contribution and its support to UN Women and said in a tweet that Women-led development envisions women as agents of change driving measurable impact in the lives of women & girls.

No trade with India under current circumstances: Pakistan PM Imran Khan

- Prime Minister Imran Khan decided that Pakistan cannot go ahead with any trade with India under the current circumstances after holding consultations with key members of his Cabinet on importing cotton and sugar from the neighbouring country, a media report said.
- The prime minister after consultations instructed the Ministry of Commerce and his economic team to immediately take steps to facilitate the relevant sectors, value added, apparel and sugar, by finding alternative cheap sources of import of the needed commodities, the Dawn newspaper quoted sources as saying.
- In May 2020, Pakistan lifted the ban on the import of medicines and raw material of essential drugs from India amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

PM to launch vessel for the Seychelles

- Prime Minister of India handed over a fast patrol vessel to the Seychelles Coast Guard.
- The handing over is a part of a high-level virtual interaction between the Indian leader and the President of Seychelles.
- The African archipelago nation has been a steady part of India's policy for the Indian Ocean region.
 - India gifted similar vessels to Seychelles in 2005, 2014 and 2016.
- The fast patrol vessel PS Zoroaster will help Seychelles in carrying out anti-piracy operations.
- The vessel was built by the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineering Limited.
- India also gifted 50,000 doses of the Covishield vaccine to Seychelles.

'All options open on South China Sea'

- The Philippines defence department said that it was keeping its options open as a diplomatic row with Beijing grows over hundreds of Chinese vessels in the contested South China Sea.

Details:

- Tensions over the resource-rich waters have spiked in after over 200 Chinese boats were detected at Whitsun Reef in the Spratly Islands.
- Both China and the Philippines have rival claims in the Spratly Islands.
- While Manila says that the Chinese boats unlawfully entered its exclusive economic zone, China has refused repeated appeals by the Philippines to withdraw the vessels.
- In this backdrop, the Philippines said that it has kept its options open in managing the situation, including leveraging its partnerships with other nations such as the United States.
- Recently, the United States reminded China of Washington's treaty obligations to the Philippines in the event of an attack in the waters.

Indian Army chief General Naravane meets Bangladesh's armed forces' chiefs; holds talks to bolster defence ties

- Army Chief of Staff MM Naravane held consultations with the Commanders of the Bangladesh Air Force and Navy on security cooperation between the two countries.
- Naravane, who is on a five-day visit to the country, paid tribute to the heroes who sacrificed their lives in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Bangladesh, Naravane accepted the invitation of the country's army chief Aziz Ahmed to further strengthen military cooperation between the two countries.

Biden orders gun control actions - but they show his limits

- President Joe Biden has put on a modest White House ceremony to announce a half-dozen executive actions to combat what he called an “epidemic and an international embarrassment” of gun violence in America.
- But he said much more is needed. And while Biden had proposed the most ambitious gun-control agenda of any modern presidential candidate, his moves underscored his limited power to act alone on guns with difficult politics impeding legislative action on Capitol Hill.
- Biden’s new steps include a move to crackdown on “ghost guns,” homemade firearms that lack serial numbers used to trace them and are often purchased without a background check.

India protests against U.S. naval exercise sans consent

- India said it has protested the U.S. decision to conduct a patrol in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in the western Indian Ocean, rejecting the U.S.’s claim that its domestic maritime law was in violation of international law.
- Defending its actions, the Pentagon said it was in compliance with the international law. “I can tell you that the *USS John Paul Jones*, a Navy destroyer, asserted navigational rights and freedoms in the vicinity of the Republic of the Maldives by conducting innocent passage through its territorial sea in normal operations within its exclusive economic zone without requesting prior permission,” Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby told reporters.

China, Pakistan to back each other’s ‘core interests’ at UN

- China and Pakistan have pledged to back each other’s “core and major interests” in the United Nations after holding bilateral consultations on UN affairs.
- Beijing will back the Kashmir issue at the UN Security Council and Islamabad will back China on Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

Concern for India:

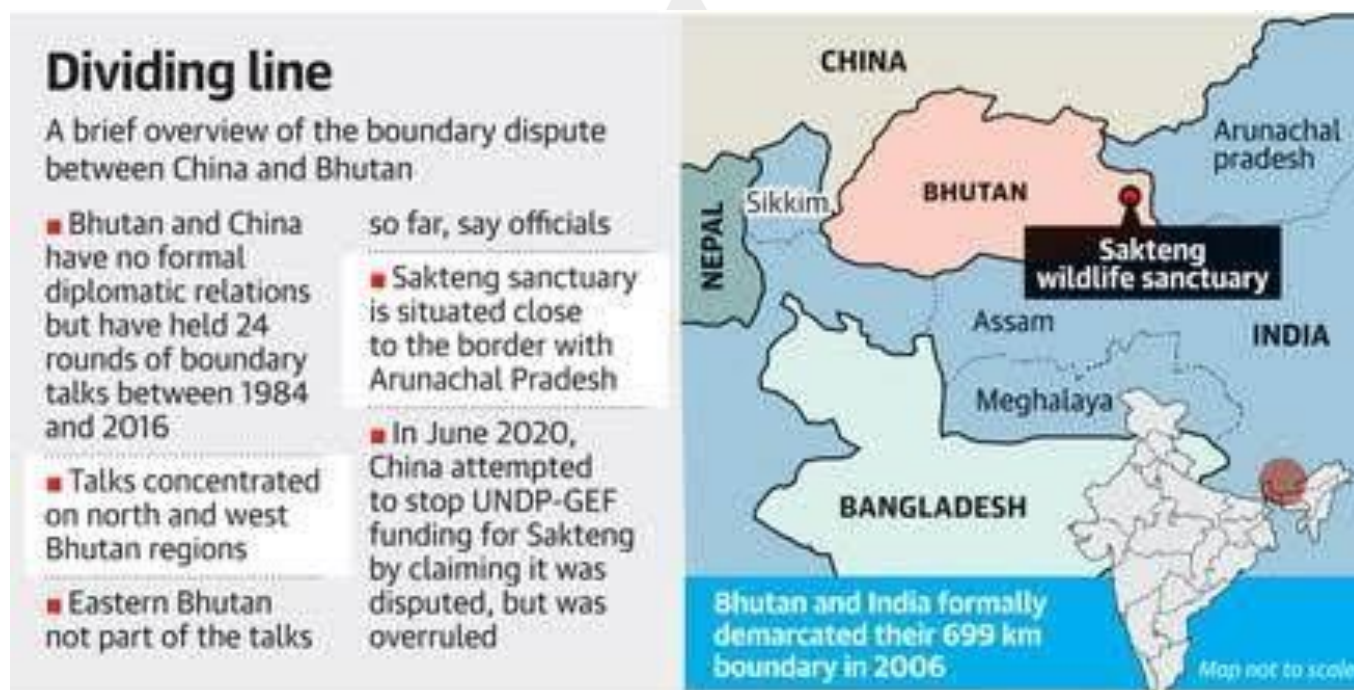
- China- Pakistan describe their relationship officially as one of “all-weather partners” and “iron brothers”. They have in recent months stepped in to provide crucial support to the other on issues they see as sensitive.
- This development comes amid heightened Chinese criticism of what it calls United States-led “selective multilateralism”, aimed particularly at the India, U.S., Australia and Japan Quadrilateral framework, as well as the “rules-based order” advocated by the Quad.
- China in 2019 and 2020 raised the Kashmir issue at the UNSC on at least three occasions, calling for discussions in the wake of India’s dilution of **Article 370**, reorganisation of Jammu and Kashmir and revocation of special status.

Bhutan, China to schedule boundary discussions

- Bhutan and China have agreed to hold boundary talks between them “as soon as possible” and discuss a roadmap for expediting the boundary resolution.
- The upcoming talks, the 25th round of the boundary talks mechanism, will be the first since the Doklam standoff in 2017, and the first since China made new claims on Bhutan’s eastern boundary bordering Arunachal Pradesh in June 2020.

Disputed areas:

- The talks have thus far focused on **two areas of dispute: Pasamlung and Jakarlung valleys** to the North of Bhutan and **Doklam** to the West of Bhutan, along the tri-junction with India. However, at a UN environmental meeting in June 2020, China raised an objection to a grant for Bhutan’s **Sakteng Sanctuary** to the East frontier as well, saying that it was disputed as well.



Concerns for India:

- China’s new territorial claim is a part of the larger Chinese tactics of putting pressure on India’s smaller neighbours, to punish them for any closeness to India.
- In 2017 China had intruded into Doklam plateau, which is claimed by Bhutan, leading to a standoff between Indian and Chinese Armies.

India's South Asian opportunity

- *India-Pakistan relations weigh down heavily on the SAARC. This affects the economic development of the region.*
- *The highlight opportunity for India and Pakistan to separate politics from economics.*

Economic integration

- There is a growing, but unstated, realisation that neither India nor Pakistan can wrest parts of Kashmir that each controls from the other.
- A fair peace between India and Pakistan is not just good for the two states but for all the nations constituting the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).
- While SAARC has facilitated limited collaborations among its members, it has remained a victim of India-Pakistan posturing.
- World Bank publication titled '**A Glass Half Full**' conclude that there is explosive value to be derived from **South Asian economic integration**.

Important role of India

- Collectively with a population of slightly over 1.9 billion, South Asia has a GDP (PPP) of \$12 trillion.
- However, India's enjoys an overwhelming '**size imbalance**' in South Asia.
- The shares of India in the total **land area, population, and real GDP** of South Asia in 2016 are **62%, 75%, and 83%, respectively**.
- The two other big countries in South Asia are Pakistan and Bangladesh with shares in regional GDP of only **7.6% and 5.6%**, respectively.

Fukushima Nuclear Accident

- The Japanese Government recently approved a plan to release more than 1 million tonnes of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.
- According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the release of the water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant is similar to disposing wastewater from nuclear plants elsewhere in the world.
- Japan has planned to filter the contaminated water leaving only tritium.
- Tritium is less harmful as compared to other radioactive wastes.
- It does not emit enough energy to penetrate human skin.
- In 2011, there occurred a nuclear disaster in the plant due an earthquake and tsunami.
- It was the most severe nuclear accident that was classified as Level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

S-400 Triumf SA-21 Growler



- The Russian Government has agreed to deliver set of S-400 Triumf SA-21 Growler Air Defence System to India.
- It is a long-range surface-to-air missile system.
- China was the first country to buy the defence system.
- Following China, the other countries such as Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey and Belarus have now acquired the system.

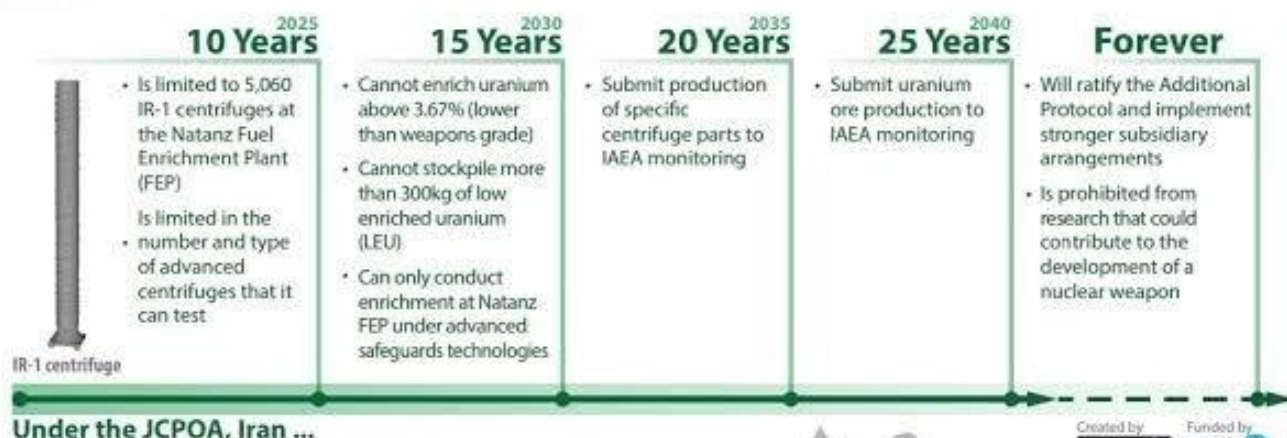
Egypt seizes Suez ship 'Ever Given', demands \$900 million compensation



- The megaship which blocked Egypt's Suez Canal and crippled world trade for nearly a week has been "seized" on court orders until the vessel's owners pay \$900 million, canal authorities.
- The 200,000-tonne MV Ever Given got diagonally stuck in the narrow but crucial global trade artery in a sandstorm on March 23, triggering a mammoth six-day-long effort by Egyptian personnel and international salvage specialists to dislodge it.

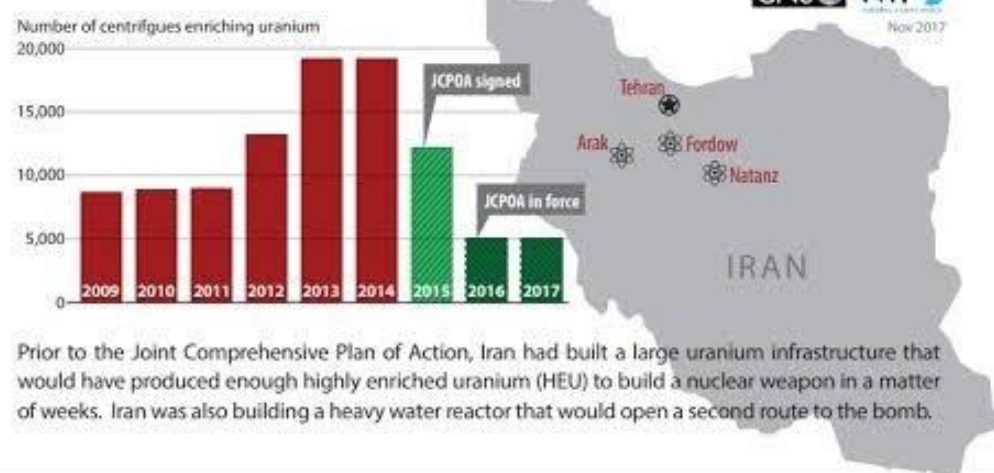
Iran Nuclear Program

The Iran Nuclear Deal: Blocking Iran's Path to the Bomb



With No JCPOA, Iran has the:

- Ability to build an unlimited number of centrifuges at an unlimited number of sites
- Ability to enrich uranium to any level and stockpile as much as it chooses
- Ability to develop and test more advanced centrifuges without restriction

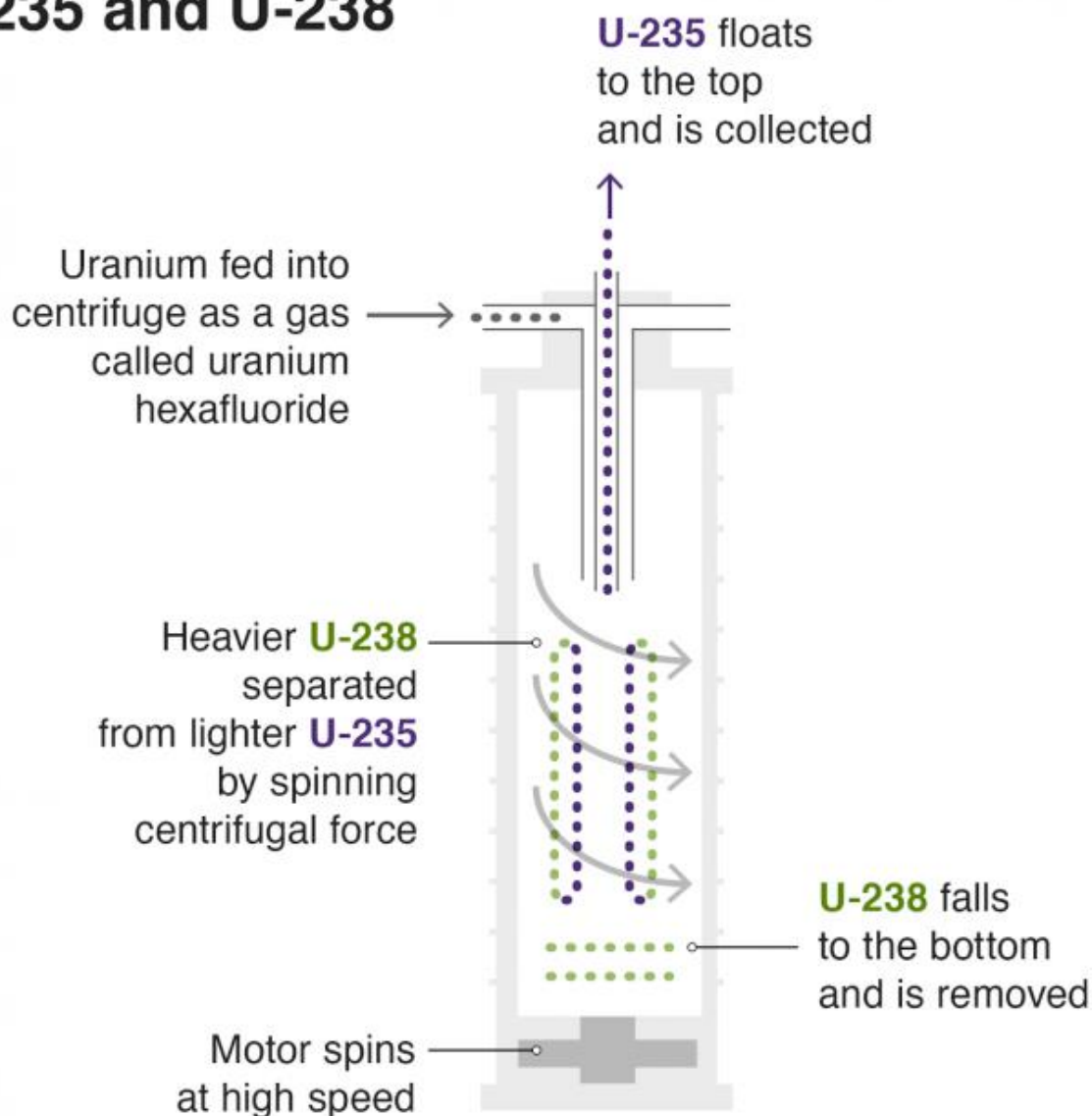


- Iran recently launched Advanced Nuclear Centrifuges at the Natanz Nuclear Plant to mark its National Nuclear Technology Day.
- Iran has started enriching its uranium supply to 60 percent purity.
- Iran has never come to this level for the first time.
- It is the closest level needed for a weapon.
- Under the Joint comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), also known as the 2015 Nuclear Agreement, Iran is restricted to use only certain number of Uranium enrichment centrifuges.
- However, in May 2018, the US Government under Donald Trump abandoned the agreement and reimposed sanctions on Iran.
- The current US Government under Joe Biden has pledged to return to JCPOA.

Centrifuge

- It is used to separate particles suspended in a medium.
- In a Nuclear Centrifuge, Uranium-235 is separated from Uranium-238.
- The Nuclear Fuel used in nuclear reactor must have higher concentration of Uranium-235 isotope than that of its natural form, that is, Uranium-238.
- The Uranium-235 is more radioactive than Uranium-238.

How a centrifuge separates uranium atoms, U-235 and U-238



Source: Nuclear Threat Initiative

BBC

Hong Kong to amend election laws in favour of pro-Beijing camp

- Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam announced amendments to voting laws that critics say favour pro-Beijing candidates by redrawing constituency boundaries, creating more electoral districts, and criminalising calls for voters to leave ballots blank.
- Having become Hong Kong's least popular Chief Executive in the near quarter century since the handover from British colonial rule, it remains unclear whether Ms. Lam will seek re-election. She faced anti-government protests in 2019 after proposing a Bill to allow extraditions to China.
- Legislative Council, known as LegCo, elections are set for December 19, while the Chief Executive elections are set for March 27, 2022.

Impact of Climate Change: Impact on India by the Mistakes of Other Countries



- **Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar** said that the world and India have been affected by climate change due to the wrongdoings of other countries.
- The effects of climate change that we are experiencing are due to the wrong actions taken 100 years ago. He attributed this to the fact that Europe, the United States and China have been emitting the largest amounts of greenhouse gases in the last 30 years.

No annuity rider, NPS subscribers get ₹5 lakh exit option

Positive returns

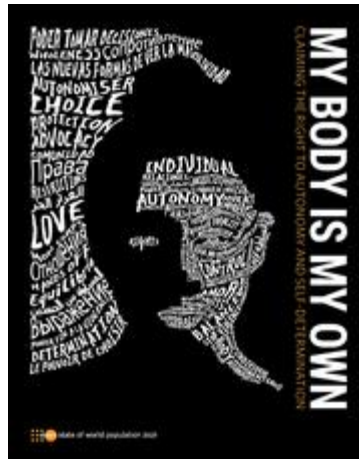
Excerpts from the reforms announced for subscribers:

- Soon, NPS savings upto ₹5 lakh can be withdrawn entirely at retirement
- For those with higher savings, the mandate to annuitise 40% of the corpus is being reviewed
- Members can opt to retain 40% of the corpus in NPS and withdraw over 15 years
- Decisions taken as low annuity rates and high inflation translated into negative returns for pensioners

■ First Guaranteed Return plan expected this year

- The National Pension System (NPS) will no longer compel investors to convert 40% of their accumulated retirement corpus into an annuity, as poor yields on annuities and high inflation are translating into negative returns, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Chairman, Supratim Bandyopadhyay.
- The regulator will issue fresh rules to soon allow those saving up to ₹5 lakh in the NPS to take the whole amount at retirement, up from ₹2 lakh at present. The pension fund regulator is also hoping to launch the first guaranteed return NPS scheme in the coming year.

World Population Report 2021



- Recently, The United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Flagship State of World Population Report 2021 titled 'My Body is My Own' was launched.
- This is the first time a United Nations report has focused on bodily autonomy.
- Nearly half the women from 57 developing countries do not have the right to make decisions regarding their bodies.
- It also includes using contraception, seeking healthcare or even on their sexuality.
- Only 75% of countries legally ensure full and equal access to contraception.

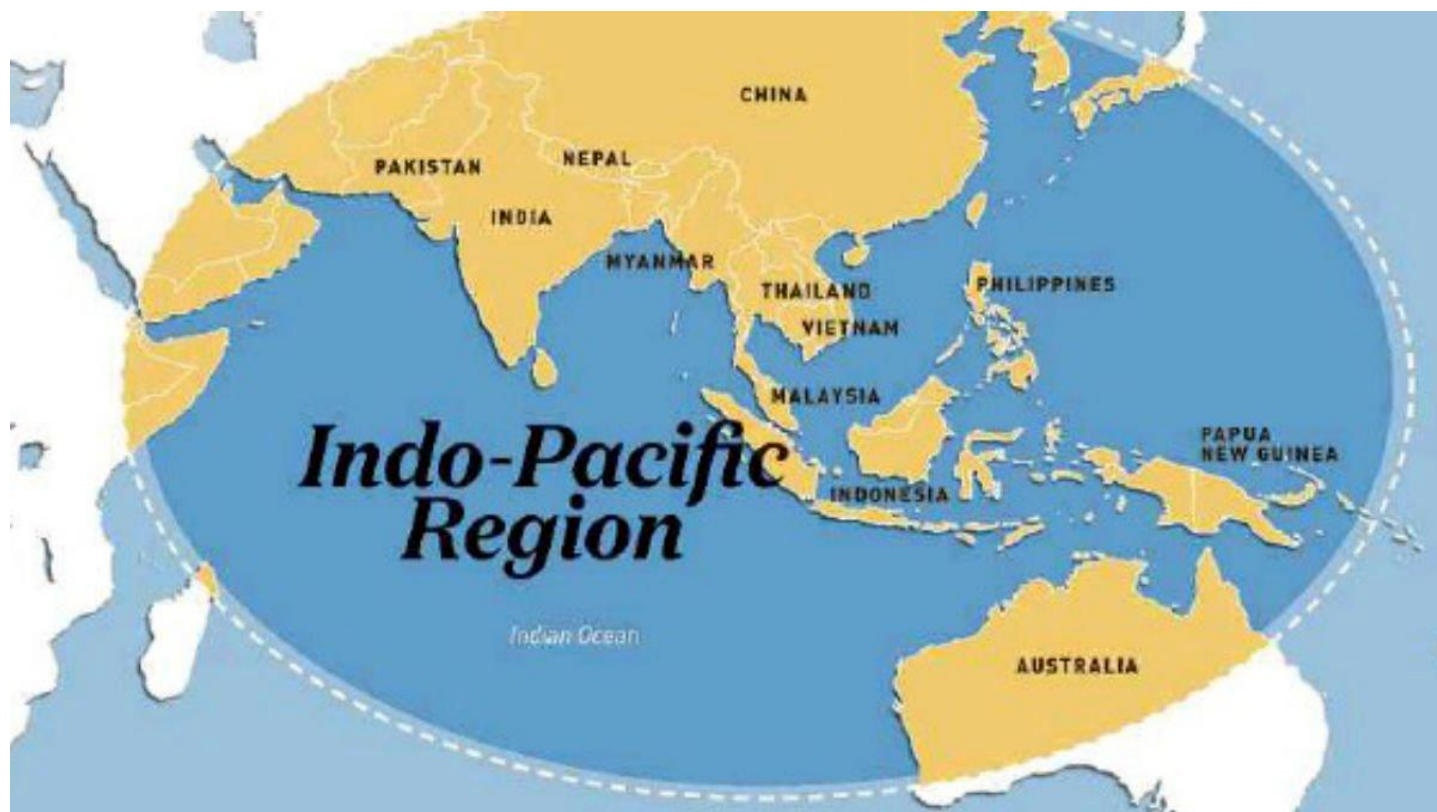
U.S., China agree to cooperate with urgency on climate crisis

- The world's two biggest carbon polluters, the U.S. and China have agreed to **cooperate to curb climate change with urgency**. Their cooperation is key to the success of global efforts to curb climate change.

Details:

- The pact comes ahead of **Biden's summit with world leaders**.
- 40 world leaders including the Chinese President have been invited to the summit.
- The U.S. and other countries are expected to announce more **ambitious national targets for cutting carbon emissions** ahead of or at the meeting, along with pledging **financial help for climate efforts by less wealthy nations**

EU & Indo-Pacific



- **European Union (EU) approved conclusions on a European Union strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.**
- **The renewed EU commitment to the Indo-Pacific will have a long-term focus and will be based on upholding democracy, human rights, the rule of law and respect for international law.**
- **Indo-Pacific is a region spanning from the east coast of Africa to the Pacific island states.**
- **Intense geopolitical competition adding to increasing tensions on trade and supply chains as well as in technological, political and security areas.**
- **Human rights are also being challenged. These developments increasingly threaten the stability and security of the region and beyond, directly impacting on the EU's interests.**

Artificial Islands

- **Maldives government is developing at least three artificial islands to tide over the rising sea-levels due to climate change.**
- **Maldives is one of the world's most low-lying terrains.**
- **About 80% of the archipelago's coral islands are at less than 1 metre above sea level.**

World Press Freedom Index 2021

- The Reporters Without Borders, a not-for-profit body recently published this.
- It ranked 180 countries.
- **India was ranked 142 in the index.**
- India was at the same position in 2020 as well.
- Norway topped the index followed by Finland and Denmark.
- The index was topped by Norway in 2020 as well.
- Eritrea received the last rank in the index.
- China ranked 177th out of 180 countries.
- North Korea was at rank 179 and Turkmenistan was at rank 178.
- The report classified India under “BAD” category along with Brazil, Russia and Mexico.
- The report has named India as one of the world’s most dangerous countries for journalists.

Prevention of Marine Litter

- It was signed between Republic of India and Federal Republic of Germany in 2019.
- It will help India achieve the goal of phasing out single use plastics by 2022
- India and Germany recently signed agreement on ‘Cities combating plastic entering the marine environment’.
- Marine litter threatens ecosystems and adversely affects fishery and tourism industries around the globe.
- It affects public health with increased concerns about micro-plastic and risk of particles entering the food chain.
- The project is to be implemented mainly in the states of Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- It will mainly support cities such as Port Blair, Kochi and Kanpur.
- India is the twelfth largest source of marine litter in the world.
- By 2025, it is expected to become the fifth largest source of marine litter.
- It is estimated that 15-20% of all plastics are entering oceans via riverine ecosystems of which 90% are contributed by 10 of the world’s most polluting rivers.
- Two of these river systems are located in India, namely Ganga and Brahmaputra.

State of the Global Climate 2020 Report

- The World Meteorological Organisation recently released this report.
- 2011-2020 was the warmest decade in record.
- 2020 is one of the three warmest years on record.
- The Cyclone Amphan is the costliest tropical cyclone on record in the North Indian Ocean.
- The Cyclone made a landfall in May 2020 near India-Bangladesh border.

India joins search for the submarine

- A deep submergence rescue vessel (DSRV) was dispatched by Indian navy from Visakhapatnam to support the Indonesian Navy in the search and rescue efforts for its submarine KRI Nanggala that went missing with 53 personnel aboard.

Joe Biden tells world leaders U.S. will cut emissions by up to 52% by 2030



- **U.S. President tells world leaders that there is 'an extraordinary engine' of job creation in the climate response**
- U.S. President Joe Biden announced that the U.S. would cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 50%-52% by 2030 relative to 2005 levels, in a clean break with the Trump administration policies on climate action.
- Mr. Biden also announced that the U.S. would double, by 2024, its annual financing commitments to developing countries, including a tripling of its adaptation finance by 2024.

U.S.-backed Afghan peace conference in Turkey postponed over Taliban no-show

- Washington-backed Afghan peace conference in Turkey has been postponed over non-participation by the Taliban, three sources told *Reuters*.
- The meeting was scheduled for April 24 to fast-track an agreement between the Taliban insurgents and the Afghan government in light of the announcement by Washington that foreign troops would leave Afghanistan by Sept. 11.
- "The Istanbul meeting is not happening on the given date because the Taliban refused to attend," a senior Afghan government official told *Reuters*.

Joe Biden joining India-Swedish LeadIT climate initiative

- In a tweet, the White House said the United States is joining Sweden and India in LeadIT, an effort to promote low carbon pathways on the road to net-zero emissions for industries.
- In his address to a virtual summit on climate change, US President Joe Biden said he is looking forward to working with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a new partnership to achieve climate and energy goals, making this a core pillar of bilateral cooperation.

Biden says looks forward to working with Russia on carbon removal efforts



- U.S. President Joe Biden said he was heartened by Russian President Vladimir Putin's call for collaborative efforts on removal of carbon dioxide to combat climate change, and looked forward to working with Russia.
- Biden, speaking on the second day of a virtual summit on climate change, said great progress had already been made, but more efforts were needed by governments and the private sector to ensure a smooth transition to a clean energy future.

European Parliament approves post-Brexit trade deal with UK



- EU lawmakers backed the trade and cooperation agreement by 660 votes to five, with 32 abstentions, the parliament announced. The vote took place, but coronavirus working restrictions meant the result was not immediately known.
- Parliament's consent brings to an end over four years of acrimonious negotiations and debate and lingering mistrust as Britain ended 47 years of EU membership.
- The deal, which was finalised on Christmas Eve, had already been ratified by the UK parliament and conditionally came into force pending the European Parliament's approval, which marks the final legal hurdle.

Burqa ban to continue ...!



- Sri Lanka's cabinet has approved a proposed ban on wearing full-face veils including Muslim burqas in public, citing national security grounds, despite a United Nations expert's comment that it would violate international law.
- The proposal will now be sent to the Attorney General's Department and must be approved by parliament to become law.
- The proposal could easily be passed as the government holds a majority in parliament.
- Weerasekara has called burqas, a garment that covers the body and face worn by some Muslim women, a "sign of religious extremism" and said a ban would improve national security.
- There are currently **17 nations** that have banned the burqa including **Tunisia, Austria, Denmark, France, Belgium, Tajikistan, Latvia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Chad, Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, Netherlands, China, Morocco, Sri Lanka and Switzerland.**

9. OTHER STATE NEWS

Activities which held up in other states of India

New Butterfly species in Western Ghats

- This is the first time that a butterfly species was discovered by an all-Indian research team from the Western Ghats.
- A new taxon of Lycaenid butterfly has been discovered by researchers in the Western Ghats.
- The taxon belongs to Nacaduba genus.
- The name of the butterfly species was suggested as Ramaswami's Six Line blue and 'Ceylon Varayanneeli'.

Heatwave grips Odisha, capital city Bhubaneswar records highest temperature of 44.2 degree Celsius

- Bhubaneswar, Mar 31 (UNI) An intense heat wave condition gripped major parts of Odisha as 18 stations of the state recorded a maximum temperature of above 40 degree Celsius.
- The capital city Bhubaneswar recorded the highest maximum temperature of 44.2 degree Celsius followed by Baripada 43.6 degree Celsius. Baripada recorded the highest temperature of 44.6 degree Celsius.

Tirumala to stake claim as birthplace of Lord Hanuman

- Tirumala which houses the shrine of Lord Venkateswara is all set to stake its claim as the birthplace of Lord Hanuman with the TTD looking determined to authenticate the same with mythological, astrological, epigraphical and scientific evidences on **Ugadi, the Telugu New Year's day, on April 13.**

Dolphins in Chilika Lake

- Odisha has released the final data on the dolphin census.
- The population of dolphins in Chilika has doubled this year compared with last year.
- Forest officials sighted 188 dolphins this year in Chilika Lake, up from 163 in 2020
- Three species were recorded during the census.
- The Irrawaddy, bottle-nose and humpback dolphins were sighted this year.
- The 2021 dolphin census report also revealed that Gahiramatha is the home of the state's largest population of dolphins.
- Gahiramatha was declared a marine sanctuary in 1997 to protect the endangered Olive Ridley sea turtles in the Gahirmatha beach.
- Gahirmatha beach is the world's largest rookery of sea turtles.
- Chilika is India's largest brackish water lake.
- Dolphins have been included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, in Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), in Appendix II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and categorised as 'endangered' on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List.

First state to commission Farm-based Solar Power Project

- Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd (RRECL) commissioned India's 1st Farm-based Solar Power Project at Bhaloji Village, Kotputli in Jaipur, Rajasthan.
- It was commissioned under the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri-Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan) Scheme.

PM-KUSUM

- It was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in 2019.
- It is one of the initiatives to Double the Farmer's Income by 2022.
- It was launched with the objective of providing financial and water security.

Indus and Ganges river dolphins are two different species

About Gangetic Dolphin

- The Gangetic river system is home to a vast variety of aquatic life, including the Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*).
- It is one of five species of river dolphin found around the world.
- It is found mainly in the Indian subcontinent, particularly in Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna and Karnaphuli-Sangu river systems.
- An adult dolphin could weigh between 70 kg and 90 kg. The breeding season of the Gangetic dolphin extends from January to June.
- They feed on several species of fishes, invertebrates etc.

Indus Dolphin is the divergent specie

- Currently, they are classified as two subspecies under *Platanista gangetica*. The study estimates that Indus and Ganges river dolphins may have diverged around 550,000 years ago.
- The international team studied body growth, skull morphology, tooth counts, colouration and genetic makeup and published the findings last month in *Marine Mammal Science*.

Conservation status

- The Indus and Ganges River dolphins are both classified as 'Endangered' species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
- It is the national aquatic animal and had been granted non-human personhood status by the government in 2017.
- It is also protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act (1972).
- Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary (VGDS) in Bihar is India's only sanctuary for the Gangetic dolphin.
- It has been categorised as endangered on the Red List of Threatened Species by the IUCN
- Physical barriers such as dams and barrages created across the river, the declining river flows reduced the gene flow to a great extent making the species vulnerable.

Kashmir turning into heaven again!



- Jammu and Kashmir is once again becoming a paradise earth. Arvind Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, said that steps have been taken to promote tourism in Kashmir.
- A special program on 'Opportunities to Promote Tourism in Kashmir' titled 'One More Day in Heaven' was held in Srinagar from April 11 to 13. The special event was inaugurated by Manoj Sinha, Deputy Governor, Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory, in a manic manner.

Mullaperiyar dam: TN seeks to raise water level, signals opposition to Kerala's plan for new one...



- Kerala has decided to build the new dam at a cost of Rs 1000 crore in four years. The site for the proposed dam has been identified 366 metres downstream of the existing dam. The maximum storage capacity of the new dam will be 152 ft.
- The new dam will be constructed within the limits of the Periyar Tiger Reserve. The new dam will have eight shutters, whereas the current dam has only 13 spillway shutters. Only when the water level touches 136 ft, water can be released from the existing dam. If there are shutters, then the water level of the dam can be regulated by releasing the water at anytime.
- Kerala had proposed to build the new dam in 2011, but it was caught in a legal tussle. The estimated cost as per the old Detailed Project Report is Rs 663 crore. Kerala has again initiated the process of preparing the DPR with a complete overhaul of the old report.

Swine fever hits four Mizoram districts

- Certain areas in **four districts of Mizoram** have been declared as **epicentres of the African swine fever (ASF)**.

African swine fever (ASF):

- African Swine Fever (ASF) is **different from swine flu**. The virus **does not affect people** and there is no impact on human health.
- Swine influenza or swine flu is a **respiratory disease of pigs**, which is caused by **type A influenza virus**.
- ASF is a **severe viral disease** that affects wild and domestic pigs typically resulting in an **acute haemorrhagic fever**.
- ASF is caused by a large **DNA virus of the Asfarviridae family**.

BRO opens Zojila pass connecting Kashmir valley and Ladakh



- The pass, situated at 11,650 feet, was opened after 110 days due to winter. BRO officials said the 'strategic' pass helps in the operational preparedness of the armed forces.
 - The BRO opened the Zojila pass that provides vital road link between the Kashmir valley and Ladakh, officials said.
 - The pass normally closes by mid-November every year, with the onset of winters when the temperatures dip to subzero degrees and opens only by end April the next year, the BRO officials noted.
 - Zojila is a strategic pass at 11,650 feet that helps in operational preparedness of the Indian armed forces, they said.
 - This year, the pass was opened after a closure of 110 days, in comparison to an average period of 150 days, they said.
 - The renewed focus on infrastructure development of border areas mandated requirement of keeping the closure of Zojila pass to the minimum, they added.
- PTI DSP.

Survey puts Nilgiri tahr at Munnar

- The Nilgiri tahr Survey has commenced at Eravikulam National Park in Munnar.
- The Kerala Forest Department conducts an annual survey of the tahr here. Accordingly, 66 forest enthusiasts have participated in this year's draft survey, which began.
- Last year's survey found 723 Nilgiri tahrs and 111 newborn Nilgiri tahrs.
- The forest department said there were 98 new Nilgiri tahrs new this year. It is noteworthy that tourists are not allowed to visit Eravikulam National Park due to the increasing spread of corona infection in Kerala.



10. SPORTS NEWS

Its about sports and gaming

IPL 2021

The dug out story

As the eight teams get ready to take guard in the 14th edition of the IPL, a look at the winners' club and the architects of the success stories.

Rajasthan Royals



CHAMPION 2008	League Stage: FIRST
Matches played 14	
W 11	L 3
First Match	lost to Delhi Daredevils by 9 wickets
Semifinal	bt Delhi Daredevils by 105 runs
Final	bt CSK by 3 wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Shane Watson 15 Inns 472	Sohail Tanvir 11 Inns 22

Chennai Super Kings



CHAMPION 2010	League Stage: THIRD
Matches played 14	
W 7	L 7
First Match	lost to Deccan Chargers by 31 runs
Semifinal	bt Deccan Chargers by 38 runs
Final	bt MI by 22 runs
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Suresh Raina 16 Inns 520	Murlihan Muralitharan 12 Inns 15

Chennai Super Kings



CHAMPION 2011	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 14	
W 9	L 5
First Match	bt KKR by two runs
Qualifier 1	bt RCB by six wickets
Final	bt RCB by 58 runs
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Michael Hussey 14 Inns 492	R. Ashwin 16 Inns 20

Chennai Super Kings



CHAMPION 2018	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 14	
W 9	L 5
First Match	bt MI by one wicket
Qualifier 1	bt SRH by two wickets
Final	bt SRH by eight wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Ambaji Rayudu 16 Inns 602	Shardul Thakur 13 Inns 16

Kolkata Knight Riders



CHAMPION 2012	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 16	
W 10	L 5
First Match	lost to Delhi Daredevils by 8 wickets
Qualifier 1	bt Delhi Daredevils by 18 runs
Final	bt CSK by five wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Gautam Gambhir 17 Inns 590	Sunil Narine 15 Inns 24

Kolkata Knight Riders



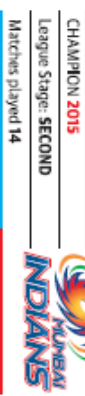
CHAMPION 2014	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 14	
W 9	L 5
First Match	bt MI by 41 runs
Qualifier 1	bt Kings XI Punjab by 28 runs
Final	bt Kings XI Punjab by three wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Robin Uthappa 16 Inns 660	Sunil Narine 16 Inns 21

Mumbai Indians



CHAMPION 2013	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 16	
W 11	L 5
First Match	lost to RCB by two runs
Qualifier 1	lost to CSK by 48 runs
Qualifier 2	bt RR by four wickets
Most Runs	Final bt CSK by 23 runs
Rohit Sharma 19 Inns 538	Harbhajan Singh 19 Inns 24*

Mumbai Indians



CHAMPION 2015	League Stage: SECOND
Matches played 14	
W 8	L 6
First Match	lost to KKR by seven wickets
Qualifier 1	bt CSK by 25 runs
Final	bt CSK by 41 runs
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Lendl Simmons 13 Inns 540	Lasith Malinga 15 Inns 24

Sunrisers Hyderabad



CHAMPION 2016	League Stage: THIRD
Matches played 14	
W 8	L 6
First Match	lost to RCB by 45 runs
Eliminator	bt KKR by 22 runs
Qualifier 2	bt Gujarat Lions by four wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
David Warner 17 Inns 848	Bhuvneshwar Kumar 17 Inns 23

Mumbai Indians



CHAMPION 2017	League Stage: FIRST
Matches played 14	
W 10	L 4
First Match	lost to Rising Pune Supergiant by 7 wickets
Qualifier 1	lost to RPS by 20 runs
Qualifier 2	bt KKR by six wickets
Most Runs	Final bt RPS by 1 run
Parthiv Patel 16 Inns 395	Jasprit Bumrah 16 Inns 20

Mumbai Indians



CHAMPION 2019	League Stage: FIRST
Matches played 14	
W 9	L 5
First Match	lost to DC by 37 runs
Qualifier 1	bt CSK by six wickets
Final	bt CSK by one run
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Quinton de Kock 16 Inns 529	Jasprit Bumrah 16 Inns 19

Mumbai Indians



CHAMPION 2020	League Stage: FIRST
Matches played 14	
W 9	L 5
First Match	lost to CSK by five wickets
Qualifier 1	bt DC by 57 runs
Final	bt DC by five wickets
Most Runs	Most Wickets
Virat Kohli 13 Inns 516	Jasprit Bumrah 15 Inns 27

- Kings XI Punjab (Kings) made it to the final in 2014 while Delhi Capitals reached the summit clash in 2020
- RCB has been a three-time finalist (2009, 11 and 16)



- In the 2009 edition held in South Africa, Deccan Chargers won the title under Gilchrist

Kudermetova wins first title at Charleston



- Her first career WTA title is new Russian champion **Veronica Kudermetova**, who won the Charleston Volvo Car Open trophy after defeating Danka Cobinic 6-4 6-2 in the final.
- After being canceled last year, the tournament was closed to the public due to a coronavirus pandemic, and the match was moved to a secondary court as the main stadium was undergoing \$ 50 million renovations.
- In the doubles final, No. 1 seeds Nicole Mericher and Demischus won titles from the United States and the Netherlands, respectively, beating unseeded Czechs Marie Boweskova and Lucy Haradeca 6-2 6-4.

Nethra Kumanan



- Nethra Kumanan became the first Indian woman ever to qualify for the Olympics in Sailing.
- She will be the 10th Indian to qualify for a sailing event in the Olympics.

2021 edition of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack

- In this edition, one cricketer from each decade ranging from 1971 to 2021 were named.
 - Kapil Dev was given the title of the ODI Cricketer of the 1980s.
 - Sachin Tendulkar was awarded the ODI Cricketer of the 1990s.
 - Muttiah Muralitharan was awarded the ODI Cricketer of the 2000s.
 - Virat Kohli was awarded the title of the Wisden Almanack's ODI Cricketer of the 2010s.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2020 had also recognized Virat Kohli as the ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Decade and ICC Male Cricketer of the Decade.
- Ben Stokes, the England all-rounder, was named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World in 2020s.
- Kieron Pollard, West Indian all-rounder, was awarded the title of the Leading T20 Cricketer in the World.

Divya clinches second Asian gold



- **Vinesh, Anshu also bag the yellow metal; Sakshi takes silver in 65kg section**
- Divya Kakran emerged as the second Indian woman to secure two gold medals in the Asian wrestling championships as women wrestlers of the country returned four gold medals in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Ravi wins Asian Wrestling Gold



- Wrestler Ravi Kumar Dahiya won a gold medal in the ongoing Asian Wrestling Championships in Almaty.
- Dahiya retained his title in the 57kg weight category after he defeated Iran's Alireza Sarlak 9-4.

Archery | Atanu and Deepika clinch gold medals



- It was a family affair as Atanu Das and his wife Deepika Kumari won the men's and women's individual recurve gold medals in the Archery World Cup Stage 1 here.
- Atanu beat Daniel Castro of Spain 6-4, while Deepika defeated Mackenzie Brown of the USA 6-5 (9-9), via the tie-breaker, in the gold medal matches.
- Atanu, who was trailing 4-2 in the third set, restored parity in the fourth before claiming victory in the fifth.

AIBA 2021



- Indian Women have created history at the AIBA 2021 Youth World Boxing Championship.
- A total of eight Indians entered the finals.
- Of this, seven were women.
- And they won gold in their categories.

11. IMPORTANT DAYS

Its about significance of special days

Guru Tegh Bahadur 400th Birth Anniversary



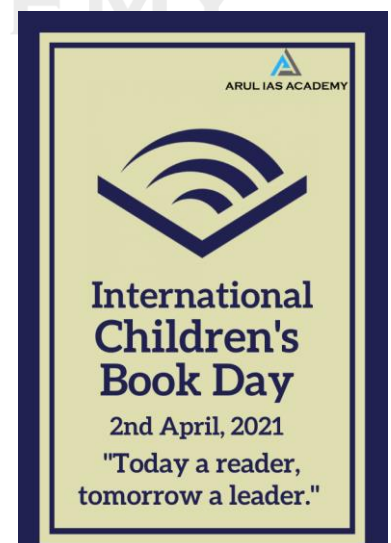
- Guru Tegh Bahadur Birth Anniversary is observed on April 1.
- He is famously known for the protection he provided to the Sikhs and the Hindus against a 17th-century law that forced them to convert to Islam.
- He is famous to have made long journeys to places such as Kashmir and Assam in the country to preach the tenets of Guru Nanak.
- He was executed in the city of Delhi on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb after he refused to embrace Islam.
- His son Guru Gobind Singh was the last Guru of the Sikhs.

Guru Tegh Bahadur

- Guru Tegh Bahadur was born as Tyaga Mal.
- The name Guru Tegh Bahadur was given to him by Guru Hargobind.

International Children's Book Day - April 02

- International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- The day is observed since 1967.
- Theme for the year 2021 is "The Music of Words".

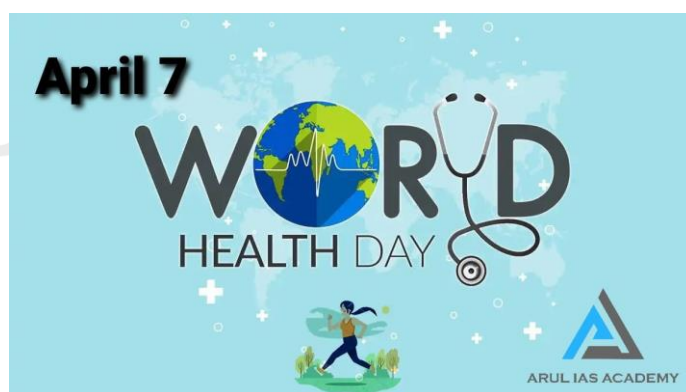


International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action - April 04



- The day is observed to spread awareness among people regarding the harmful effects of the explosive remnants of war.
- This year, the theme of International Mine Awareness Day is 'Perseverance, Partnership, and Progress'.
- On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.

World Health Day 2021 - April 07



- The day is celebrated every year to recognize the widespread contributions of our medical faculty and the success of the World Health Organization.
- Health is not just about physical well-being but also about the mental and social aspects.
- The theme for world health day 2021 is Building a fairer, healthier world.

International Romani Day - April 08



International
Romani Day
April 8

- The International Romani Day is a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of the issues facing Romani people.
- It was celebrated in honour of the first major international meeting of Romani representatives, 7–12 April 1971 in Chelsfield near London.
- Since 1990 International Romani Day is celebrated by the International Romani Union.

International Day of Human Space Flight - April 12



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

- The UN General Assembly declared that April 12 was to be celebrated as International Day of Human Space Flight.
- On 12 April 1961, 1st human space flight was carried out by Yuri Gagarin.
- He was a Soviet citizen, who became the first person to journey into outer space.
- 12 April was also the date of the 1st Space Shuttle STS-1 of Columbia launched in 1981.
- On June 16, 1963, Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman to orbit the Earth
- On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot upon the surface of the moon.
- Apollo and Soyuz were the first joint US-Russian space flight.

Ambedkar Jayanthi - April 14



- This year, Ambedkar Jayanti marks the prolific leader's 130th birth anniversary.
- Ambedkar Jayanti is observed as Equality Day in India.
- Since 2015 it has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India
- He was born on 14 April 1891 in the town and military cantonment of Mhow (now officially known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar) in the Central Provinces (now in Madhya Pradesh).
- He became the first law and justice minister of independent India (1947 to 1951).
- He is hailed as the Father of the Indian Constitution.
- He died on December 6, 1956 at Delhi.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna in 1990.
- The period between April 14, 1990 and April 14, 1991 was observed as "Year of Social Justice".
- The United Nations celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- Since 2017, 14 April is observed as Knowledge Day in the Indian state of Maharashtra.

World Art Day - April 15

- It was declared by the International Association of Art (IAA), a partner of UNESCO.
- The day was celebrated for the first time in 2012.
- The date was chosen in honour of Leonardo da Vinci's birthday.
- He was an Italian painter, sculptor, architect, draughtsman, theorist, engineer and scientist.
- He was chosen as the symbol of world peace, freedom of expression and more.



World Voice Day (WVD) - April 16



- It is a worldwide annual event devoted to the celebration of the phenomenon of voice.
- It started small with a tiny celebration in Brazil in 1999.
- The theme for this year is One World Many Voices.

World Hemophilia Day - April 17



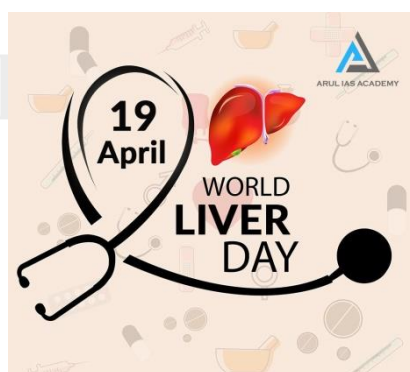
- The theme of the event this year is “Adapting to change: sustaining care in a new world”.
- It is an initiative of ‘World Federation of Haemophilia’.
- April 17 was chosen in honour of Frank Schnabel’s birthday.

World Heritage Day - April 18



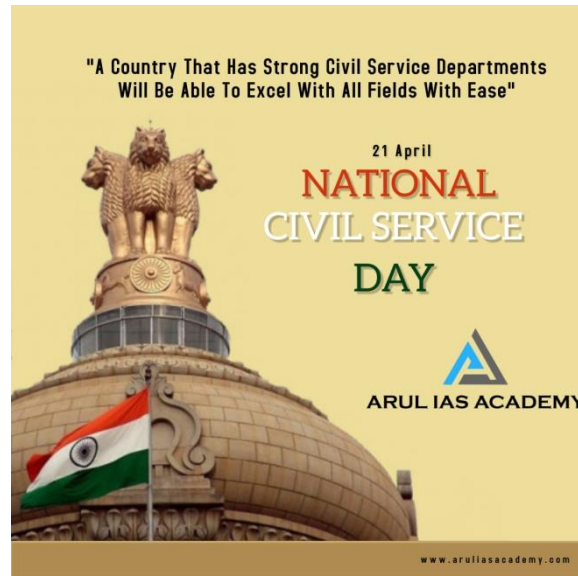
- It is also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- It was proposed by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) on 18 April 1982 and approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- The 2021 theme is "Complex Past: Diverse Futures".
- Presently, there are 38 World Heritage Sites located in India that include 30 Cultural properties, 7 Natural properties and 1 mixed site.
- The Mixed site is Khangchendzonga National Park.
- In 2019, 'Jaipur City' became the 38th addition of India to the list under Culture.
- India has the sixth largest number of sites in the world.
- So far, only China, Italy, Spain, Germany, and France have more locations on the list than India.

World Liver day - April 19



- The theme for this year is 'Keep your liver healthy and disease-free.'
- It is observed every year to spread awareness about the second largest organ in the body.
- The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.
- Liver diseases can be caused by hepatitis A, B, C, alcohol and drugs.
- Viral Hepatitis occurs due to consumption of contaminated food and water, unsafe sexual practices and drug abuse.

Civil Services day - April 21



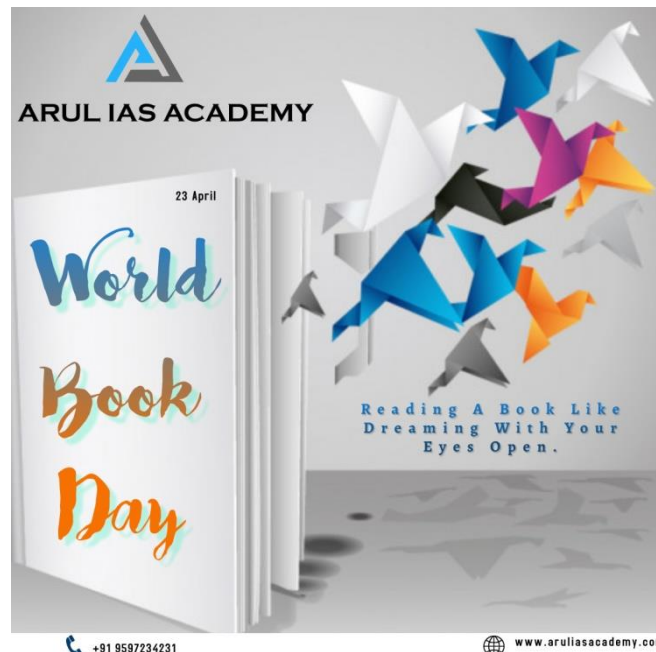
- The main aim of celebrating the day is to motivate the efforts and works of civil servants.
- The first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi on this Day.
- He referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.
- He is regarded as Father of modern All India Services.
- The All-India Services (AIS) comprises the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- The British Governor General Cornwallis (1786-93) was known as the "Father of Civil Services in India".

Earth Day - April 22



- The UN General Assembly designated this day as International Mother Earth Day in 2009.
- It is the world's largest environmental movement.
- It was first started in 1970.
- The theme of Earth Day 2021 is "Restore Our Earth".

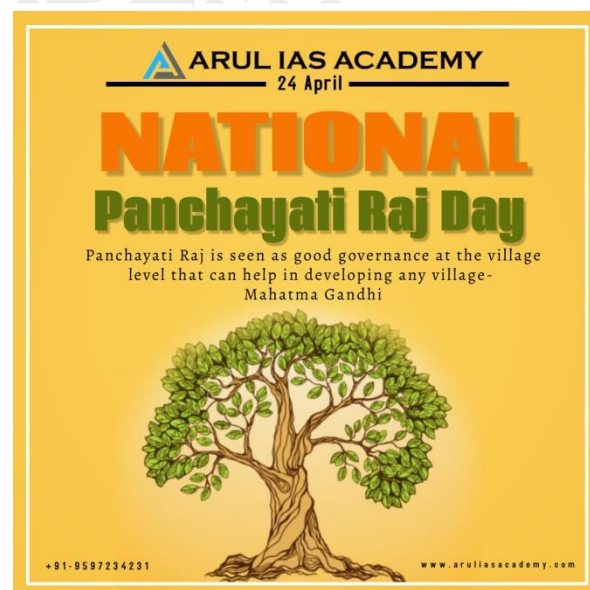
World Book and Copyright Day - April 23



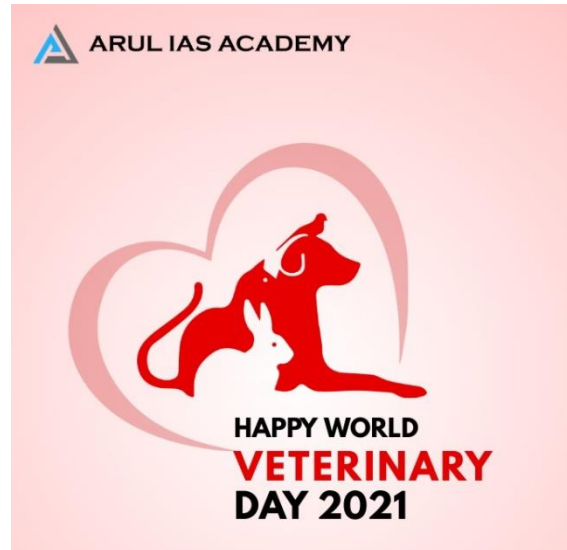
- World Book Day is celebrated by UNESCO.
- April 23 is a symbolic date for world literature.
- This is because on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.
- Hence, the day was selected to pay tribute to the great literary figures.
- Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia, has been chosen to be the World Book Capital in 2021.
- 'To share a story' would be the theme of this year's World Book and Copyright Day, keeping the pandemic in mind.
- As a celebration of this year's World's Book and Copyright Day, UNESCO has created a 'Bookface' challenge.

National Panchayat Raj Day - April 24

- The Panchayat raj is the oldest system of local government.
- In 1992 a major change in the Panchayat system of India came in the form of the passage of the Panchayati Raj Act (73rd Amendment).
- The act came into existence with effect from April 24, 1993.
- The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.
- Since then, the National Panchayat Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.

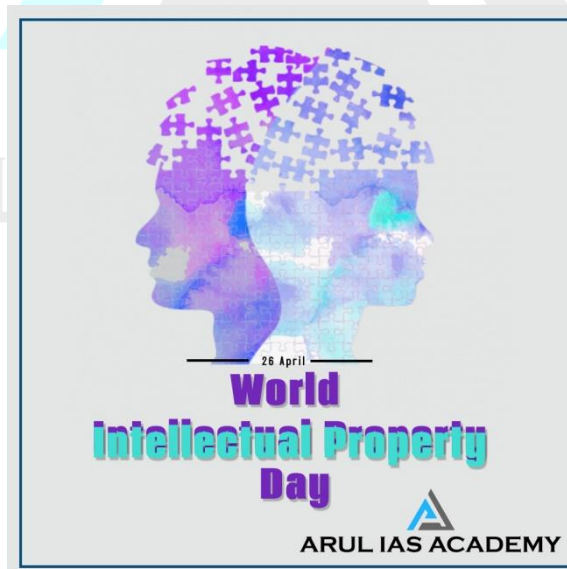


World Veterinary Day - April 24



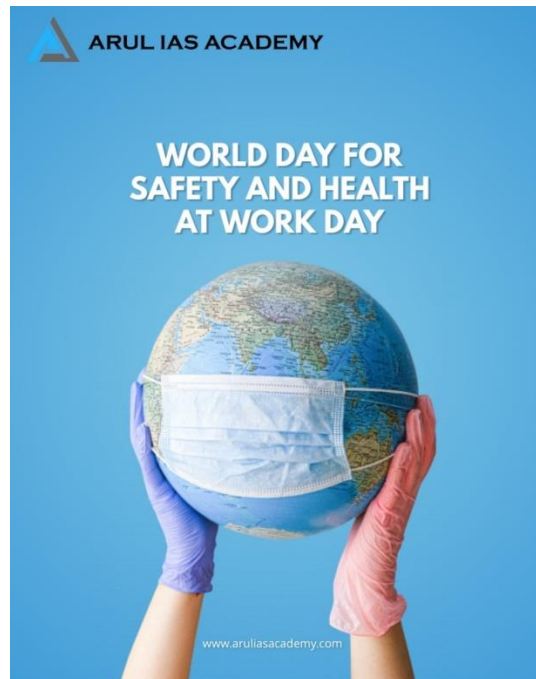
- The World Veterinary Day is observed on the Fourth Saturday of April every year.
- In 2021, the day falls on April 24, 2021.
- The theme of the 2021 World Veterinary Day is 'Veterinarian response to the COVID-19 crisis'.
- The day was created by the World Veterinary Association (WVA) in 2000.
- It celebrates the contributions of veterinarians to the health of animals and society.

World Intellectual Property Day - April 26



- This day is being observed to celebrate creativity and raise awareness about how copyright, trademarks and designs impact daily life.
- This year's theme of the Day is: 'IP and SMEs: Take your ideas to markets'.
- This is aimed at promoting the role of small and medium enterprises in economy and how they can use intellectual property rights to build stronger and more competitive businesses.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work - April 28



- This day is observed to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally and raise awareness to ensure health and safety at the workplace.
- The theme for 2021 is “Anticipate, prepare and respond to crises - Invest Now in Resilient Occupational Safety and Health Systems”.
- The day has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003.

International Dance Day - April 29



- The day celebrates the value and importance of the dance and encourages participation and education in this art form through events and festivals.
- This day has been chosen as it marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre.
- He is known as the creator of modern ballet.
- The theme of International Dance Day 2021: ‘Purpose of dance’.
- The day was created in 1982, by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO.

International Labour Day - May 01



- May Day is also called International Workers' Day or Labour Day.
- The day celebrates the struggle, dedication and commitment of the working class and is an annual public holiday in several countries.
- On 1 May 1886, Chicago and a few other cities of USA were the sites of a major union demonstration in support of the eight-hour workday demand.
- In 1889, the International Socialist Conference declared that in commemoration of the Haymarket affair, 1 May would be an international holiday for the labour force (International Workers' Day).
- The first Labour Day in India was hosted by the Labour Kisan Party, started by Singaravelu Chettiar, in Madras in 1923.
- It was initiated from the Labour Union Movement.



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

BASED ON REVISED SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC

GROUP – II/IIA PRELIMS

- △ SCHOOL BOOK TEST : 10
- △ SYLLABUS BASED : 10
- △ TOTAL TEST : 20



ARUL IAS ACADEMY

TEST SCHEDULE FOR TNPSC GROUP – II/IIA PRELIMS

MODULE 1: SCHOOL BOOK MANDATORY TEST SCHEDULE

TEST. NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
1.	CIVICS 6 TH -8 TH STD	100
2.	CIVICS 9 TH -10 TH STD	100
3.	POLITICAL SCIENCE 11 TH AND 12 TH	150
4.	GEOGRAPHY 6 TH TO 10 TH	150
5.	GEOGRAPHY 11 TH AND 12 TH	100
6.	ECONOMICS 6 TH TO 12 TH	150
7.	HISTORY 6 TH TO 8 TH STD	150
8.	HISTORY 9 TH TO 12 TH STD	150
9.	SCIENCE 6 TH TO 10 TH	200
10.	SCIENCE 11 TH AND 12 TH	150

MODULE 2: SYLLABUS BASED TEST

DATE OF EXAM: Will Be Given Individually For Students Joining Test Batch

TEST NO	TITLE	NO.OF QUES
11.	<p>UNIT-VI: INDIAN ECONOMY</p> <p>(i) Nature of Indian economy - Five year plan models - an assessment - Planning Commission and Niti Ayog. (ii) Sources of revenue - Reserve Bank of India - Fiscal Policy and Monetary Policy - Finance Commission - Resource sharing between Union and State Governments - Goods and Services Tax. (iii) Structure of Indian Economy and Employment Generation, Land reforms and Agriculture - Application of Science and Technology in agriculture - Industrial growth - Rural welfare oriented programmes - Social problems - Population, education, health, employment, poverty.</p> <p>APTITUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Highest Common Factor (HCF)✓ Lowest Common Multiple (LCM) <p>CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS	200 QUES
12.	<p>UNIT- III: GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA</p> <p>(i) Location - Physical features - Monsoon, rainfall, weather and climate - Water resources - Rivers in India - Soil, minerals and natural resources - Forest and wildlife - Agricultural pattern. (ii) Transport - Communication. (iii) Social geography - Population density and distribution - Racial, linguistic groups and major tribes. (iv) Natural calamity - Disaster Management - Environmental pollution: Reasons and preventive measures - Climate change - Green energy.</p> <p>APTITUDE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ SIMPLIFICATION AND PERCENTAGE <p>CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ JAN&FEB 2020	150 QUES
13.	<p>UNIT-VII: INDIAN NATIONAL MOVEMENT</p> <p>(i) National renaissance - Early uprising against British rule - Indian National Congress - Emergence of leaders - B.R.Ambedkar, Bhagat Singh, Bharathiar, V.O.Chidambaranar, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kamarajar, Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad,</p>	150 QUES

	<p>Thanthai Periyar, Rajaji, Subash Chandra Bose and others.</p> <p>(ii) Different modes of Agitation: Growth of Satyagraha and Militant movements.</p> <p>(iii) Communalism and partition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ RATIO and PROPORTION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ MAR&APRIL&MAY 2020</p>	
14.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT-V: INDIAN POLITY</p> <p>(i) Constitution of India - Preamble to the Constitution - Salient features of the Constitution - Union, State and Union Territory.</p> <p>(ii) Citizenship, Fundamental rights, Fundamental duties, Directive Principles of State Policy.</p> <p>(iii) Union Executive, Union legislature - State Executive, State Legislature - Local governments, Panchayat Raj.</p> <p>(iv) Spirit of Federalism: Centre - State Relationships.</p> <p>(v) Election - Judiciary in India - Rule of law.</p> <p>(vi) Corruption in public life - Anti-corruption measures - Lokpal and LokAyukta - Right to Information - Empowerment of women - Consumer protection forums, Human rights charter.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ SIMPLE and COMPOUND INTEREST</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ JUNE TO SEPT 2020</p>	200 QUES
15.	<p style="text-align: center;">UNIT - IV: HISTORY AND CULTURE OF INDIA</p> <p>(i) Indus valley civilization - Guptas, Delhi Sultans, Mughals and Marathas - Age of Vijayanagaram and Bahmani Kingdoms - South Indian history.</p> <p>(ii) Change and Continuity in the Socio - Cultural History of India.</p> <p>(iii) Characteristics of Indian culture, Unity in diversity - Race, language, custom.</p> <p>(iv) India as a Secular State, Social Harmony.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">UNIT- VIII : History, Culture, Heritage and Socio - Political Movements in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>(i) History of Tamil Society, related Archaeological discoveries, Tamil Literature from Sangam age till contemporary times.</p> <p>(ii) Thirukkural :</p> <p>(a) Significance as a Secular literature</p>	175 QUES

(b) Relevance to Everyday Life
 (c) Impact of Thirukkural on Humanity-
 (d) Thirukkural and Universal Values - Equality, Humanism, etc
 (e) Relevance to Socio - Politico - Economic affairs
 (f) Philosophical content in Thirukkural
(iii) Role of Tamil Nadu in freedom struggle - Early agitations against British Rule - Role of women in freedom struggle.
(iv) Evolution of 19th and 20th Century Socio-Political movements in Tamil Nadu - Justice Party, Growth of Rationalism - Self Respect Movement, Dravidian movement and Principles underlying both these movements, Contributions of Thanthai Periyar and Perarignar Anna.

APTITUDE

✓ TIME AND WORK

CURRENT AFFAIRS

✓ OCT TO DEC 2020

UNIT - IX : Development Administration in Tamil Nadu

(i) Human Development Indicators in Tamil Nadu and a comparative assessment across the Country - Impact of Social Reform movements in the Socio - Economic Development of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) Political parties and Welfare schemes for various sections of people - Rationale behind Reservation Policy and access to Social Resources - Economic trends in Tamil Nadu - Role and impact of social welfare schemes in the Socio - economic development of Tamil Nadu.

(iii) Social Justice and Social Harmony as the Cornerstones of Socio - Economic development.

(iv) Education and Health systems in Tamil Nadu.

(v) Geography of Tamil Nadu and its impact on Economic growth.

(vi) Achievements of Tamil Nadu in various fields.

(vii) e-governance in Tamil Nadu.

APTITUDE

✓ AREA AND VOLUME

CURRENT AFFAIRS

✓ JAN TO FEB 2021

16.

150 QUES

	UNIT-I : GENERAL SCIENCE	
17.	<p>(i) Scientific Knowledge and Scientific temper - Power of Reasoning - Rote Learning Vs Conceptual Learning - Science as a tool to understand the past, present and future.</p> <p>(ii) Nature of Universe - General Scientific Laws - Mechanics - Properties of Matter, Force, Motion and Energy - Everyday application of the basic principles of Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism, Light, Sound, Heat, Nuclear Physics, Laser, Electronics and Communications.</p> <p>(iii) Elements and Compounds, Acids, Bases, Salts, Petroleum Products, Fertilizers, Pesticides.</p> <p>(iv) Main concepts of Life Science, Classification of Living Organisms, Evolution, Genetics, Physiology, Nutrition, Health and Hygiene, Human diseases.</p> <p>(v) Environment and Ecology.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APTITUDE</p> <p>✓ REASONING</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CURRENT AFFAIRS</p> <p>✓ MARCH AND APRIL & MAY - 2021</p>	150 QUES
18.	MOCK TEST NO.1	200 QUES
19.	MOCK TEST NO.2	200 QUES
20.	MOCK TEST NO.3	200 QUES

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