

Week 3 Current Affairs Update

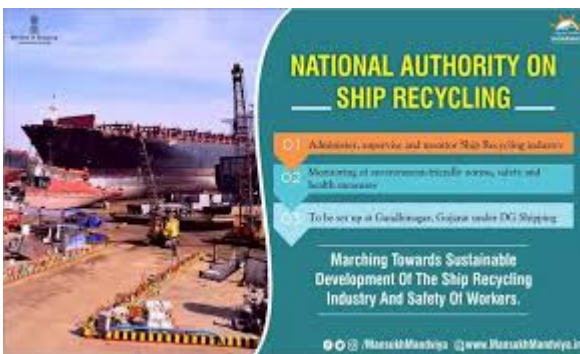
15th - 21st October 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR RECYCLING OF SHIPS



Date: 16th October, 2020

Government of India has notified Directorate General (DG) of Shipping as National Authority for Recycling of Ships.

Key Points:

- The DG Shipping has been notified with the designation with apex authority for ship recycling industry of India under Recycling of Ships Act 2019.
- Being the apex authority, DG Shipping will administer, supervise and monitor activities related to ships recycling, as it will be responsible for sustainable development of the ship recycling industry of India.
- DG shipping will be the final authority for approvals required by ship recycling yard owners and state governments.
- In this regard, the office for the National Authority of Ship Recycling will be set up in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

SARAL JEEVAN BIMA



'सरल जीवन बीमा पॉलिसी'



Date: 16th October, 2020

The guidelines for 'Saral Jeevan Bima' have been released by IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India).

Key Points:

- IRDAI has made mandatory the offering of this insurance policy by all life insurance companies from 1st Jan 2021.
- The 'Saral Jeevan Bima' will be non-linked non-participating individual pure risk premium life insurance plan and has no maturity benefit.
- The insurance plan offers optional accident benefit and permanent disability riders. The sum assured will be paid to the nominee in case of death of the holder of the policy.
- The minimum amount for 'Saral Jeevan Bima' is Rs 5 lakh and maximum amount is up to Rs 25 lakhs. Policy term is from 5 to 40 years.
- The policy offers three premium payment options: Regular Premium, Limited premium payment term for 5 years, 10 years and Single Premium.

DAY-NRLM SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR J&K AND LADAKH



Date: 16th October, 2020

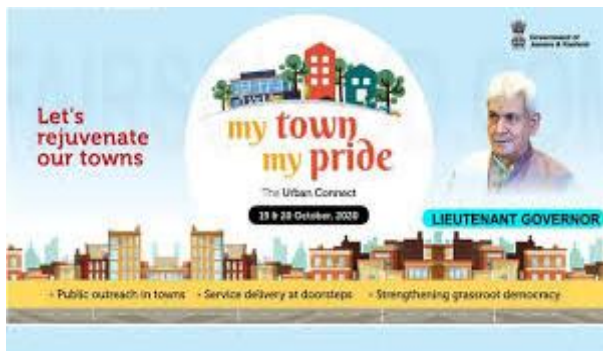
The Union Cabinet approved a special package worth Rs. 520 crore in the Union Territories (UTs) of J&K and Ladakh for a period of five years under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).

Key Points:

- The Centre aims to universalise all centrally sponsored beneficiary-oriented schemes in J&K and Ladakh in a time-bound manner.
- The package has been approved for a period of five years till 2023-24.

- It has been decided to ensure funding on a demand-driven basis without linking allocation with poverty ratio during the extended period.
- Around two-third rural women from the UTs will be covered and 10.58 lakh women will get the benefit from the special package.
- DAY-NRLM is a centrally sponsored programme of the Ministry of Rural Development to eliminate rural poverty through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.

‘MY TOWN MY PRIDE’ PROGRAMME



Date: 19th October, 2020

Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir announced a programme called ‘My Town My Pride’.

Key Points:

- The programme is basically an urban connect programme which aims to provide governance facilities at the doorsteps in urban areas of J&K.
- Objectives of ‘My Town My Pride’ Programme: (a) To strengthen grassroots democracy (b) Public outreach in towns (c) To offer service delivery at doorsteps.
- ‘My Town My Pride’ Programme will look after on-the-spot addressing of grievances redressals, offer immediate service delivery to people and offer ground speedy execution of people centric schemes and projects.
- The programme also aims to offer time-bound delivery of documents like caste certificates, revenue and income certificate, old-age and physically handicapped pension registration, ration card updation, Aadhaar card enrolments, etc. at doorsteps.
- It will ensure immediate delivery of benefits like government schemes like pensions, scholarships, PMAY, health golden cards, Ladli Beti, etc.

TRADE & COMMERCE

GUJARAT TO SET UP WORLD’S BIGGEST ZINC SMELTER PROJECT



Date: 17th October, 2020

The Government of Gujarat has announced the setting up of the World's biggest Zinc Smelter Project. For this purpose, the state government has signed MoU with Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL).

Key Points:

- The project will be set up in Dosawada in Tapi district of Gujarat.
- For this project, the HZL, makers of zinc, will be investing up to Rs 10,000 crore.
- The first phase of the plant will be in operation within 3 years and will satisfy the needs of domestic as well as global need by increasing exports.
- The project will be utilising zero discharge technology and automation and is said to generate 5000 jobs opportunities directly and indirectly.

EDUCATION

‘KAPILA’ KALAM PROGRAM



Date: 17th October, 2020

The Union Education Minister virtually launched the ‘KAPILA’ Kalam Program to mark the Intellectual Property Literacy and Awareness campaign.

Key Points:

- The ‘KAPILA’ Kalam Program signifies ‘Kalam Program for Intellectual Property and Awareness Campaign’.
- It is launched to mark the 89th Birth anniversary of former President and Scientist Late Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam.
- Through this program, GOI will spread the awareness and importance of patenting and inventions.

- Also, it is decided to mark 15th Oct to 23rd Oct 2020 as ‘Intellectual Property Literacy Week’.
- During this week, awareness about the Intellectual Property and its process to apply will be promoted via various activities like debates, posters, quiz and community meets.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

GOV TECH THON 2020



Date: 18th October, 2020

Gov Tech Thon 2020 will be jointly organized by National Informatics Centre (NIC), IEEE Computer Society and Oracle Corporation.

Key Points:

- Gov Tech Thon 2020 is a pan India 36 hours virtual hackathon.
- It will be commencing from 30th Oct to 1st Nov 2020.
- This virtual hackathon will be organized under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- In the hackathon, students, working professionals, teaching faculty, freelancers and other IT service professionals can take participation.
- The experts from NIC, Oracle and IEEE Computer Society will provide mentorship to the participants. Also, experts from the ministry of agriculture, education and transport departments under the Union Government will provide guidance to the participants.

GHAR TAK FIBRE SCHEME



Date: 19th October, 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'Ghar Tak Fibre' scheme in Bihar.

Key Points:

- The scheme will provide at least five fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) connections per village and at least one Wi-Fi hotspot per village.
- Aim is to connect all 45,945 villages of Bihar with high-speed optical fibre internet by 31st March 2021.
- The Scheme will lead digital services including e-Education, e-Agriculture, Tele-Medicine, and other social security schemes in Bihar.
- It shall boost the local employment generation with the implementation of Bharat Net initiative which will be done by recruiting local workers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

India's First-ever Multi-Modal Logistic Park



Date: 19th October, 2020

The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stone for India's first-ever multi-modal logistic park (MMLP) in Assam.

Key Points:

- The 1st such MMLP is being made by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) in Jogighopa of Assam.
- The Rs. 694 crore park will provide direct connectivity to air, road, rail and waterways to the people.
- It will be developed under the ambitious Bharatmala Pariyojana of the Government of India.

DEFENCE

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED BRAHMOS MISSILE



Date: 19th October, 2020

India successfully carried out a test-firing operation of BrahMos missile.

Key Points:

- BrahMos is a supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia).
- It was test-fired from an indigenously developed stealth destroyer of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea. The stealth destroyer was the INS Chennai, from which it was fired.
- The missile performed extremely complex manoeuvres and hit the target with pinpoint accuracy.
- BrahMos missile is a prime striking operation missile which ensures warship invincibility. It engages naval surface targets at long ranges.
- The BrahMos name of the missile is given after Brahmaputra river and Moskva.
- BrahMos can be launched from submarines, ships, aircrafts and land platforms.

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY TEST-FIRED ‘SANT’ MISSILE



Date: 21st October, 2020

India successfully test-fired the SANT Missile (Standoff Anti-Tank Missile) from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast.

Key Points:

- It was tested from a rooftop launcher of the ground-based platform.
- SANT Missile is developed by DRDO and is the upgraded version of anti-tank missile named HeliNa (Helicopter Launched Nag).

- It is additionally equipped with the advanced nose-mounted seeker.
- It is equipped with Lock-on After Launch and Lock-on Before Launch capabilities.
- It can hit the target from a range of 15 to 20km away.

AGRICULTURE

AYUSHMAN SAHAKAR SCHEME



Date: 20th October, 2020

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched Ayushman Sahakar Scheme.

Key Points:

- The scheme is drafted by National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC).
- This Ayushman Sahakar scheme is a unique way which will assist cooperatives to play a vital role in creating healthcare infrastructure in India.
- For this purpose, NCDC will extend term loans to cooperatives by Rs. 10,000 crores.
- Also, NCDC will provide interest subvention of 1% to cooperatives where the majority of women is higher.
- The scheme will provide working capital and margin money which will meet the operation requirements to set up healthcare infra in the country.

ASAFOETIDA (HEENG) CULTIVATION TO BE INTRODUCED IN INDIA



Date: 21st October, 2020

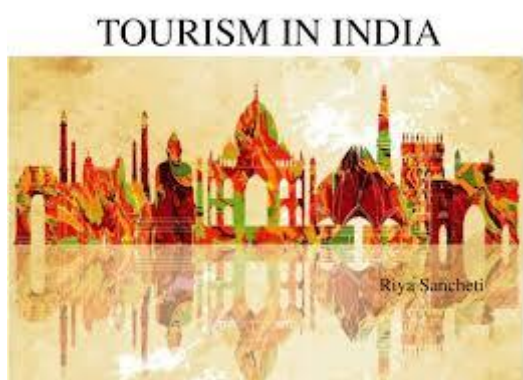
CSIR's Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT), Palampur, made history by introducing asafoetida (Heeng) cultivation in Indian Himalayan region.

Key Points:

- The cultivation shall take place in the Lahaul valley in Himachal Pradesh.
- India imports about 1200 tonnes of raw asafoetida annually from Afghanistan, Iran and Uzbekistan and spends approximately 100 million USD per year.
- CSIR-IHBT has now introduced six accessions of seeds from Iran through ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (ICAR-NBPGR), New Delhi.
- In the past thirty years, this has been the first attempt for introduction of asafoetida (*Ferula assa-foetida*) seeds in the country.

REPORTS & INDICES

INDIAN TOURISM STATISTICS 2020 REPORT



Date: 22nd October, 2020

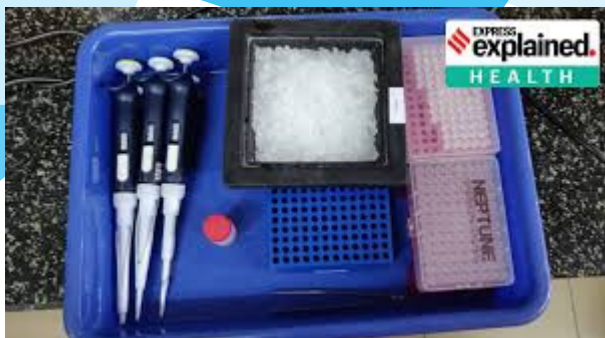
The Ministry of Tourism has released Indian Tourism Statistics 2020 report.

Key Points:

- As per the report, Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting a large number of Indian tourists in the state in 2019.
- Around 53.6 crores domestic tourists visited UP in 2019. This estimation contributes to 23.1% of total travellers.
- The second and third position is marked by Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh respectively in the domestic visitors' list category.
- However, Tamil Nadu has topped in the list of attracting foreign visitors in the state in 2019. Nearly, 68 lakh foreigners visited Tamil Nadu in 2019.
- The second and third position is marked by Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh respectively in Foreign visitors list category.

HEALTHCARE

‘COVIRAP’: COVID-19 TEST KIT



Date: 23rd October, 2020

Researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed a low-cost COVID-19 test kit named as 'COVIRAP'.

Key Points:

- The COVIRAP diagnostic machine is successfully validated by ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) because of efficient features.
- The results provided by the COVIRAP machine are similar to RT-PCR and give results in less than an hour.
- The cost of testing using this machine is around Rs 500.
- COVIRAP is a cuboid-shaped portable machine whose developing cost is around Rs 5000.
- Along with the coronavirus test, other tests like influenza, malaria, dengue, tuberculosis can also be performed using COVIRAP.

ECONOMY

CPI-IW BASE YEAR REVISED TO 2016



Date: 23rd October, 2020

The Ministry of Labour and Employment released the new series of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Worker (CPI-IW) with base year 2016.

Key Points:

- The new series of CPI-IW with base 2016 has replaced the existing series with base 2001.

- The CPI-IW is mainly used for determining dearness allowance (DA) paid to central/ state government employees and workers in the industrial sectors besides measuring inflation in retail prices, fixation and revision of minimum wages in scheduled employments.
- CPI-IW is compiled and maintained by the Labour Bureau, an attached office of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- The new series with base year 2016 covers the latest consumption pattern of the target population.
- It gives more weightage to spending on health, education, recreation and other miscellaneous expenses, while reducing the weight of food and beverages.

INTERNATIONAL

SOCIAL

WORLD FOOD DAY 2020



Date: 16th October, 2020

World Food Day is celebrated annually on 16 October, across the globe to honour the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Key Points:

- World Food Day is celebrated by several organisations that are concerned with food security like the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Program, etc.
- This day generates awareness globally for those who suffer from hunger and to ensure the need for food security and nutritious diets for all.
- The main focus of this day is that food is a basic and fundamental human right.
- This year the World Food Day 2020 theme is "Grow, nourish, sustain. Together. Our actions are our future".
- This year marks the 75th anniversary of FAO.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

WEBINAR AND EXPO BETWEEN INDIA AND KAZAKHSTAN



Date: 17th October, 2020

A Webinar and Expo for India-Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation was held.

Key Points:

- The theme for this webinar and expo was ‘Make in India for the World, India-Kazakhstan Defence Cooperation: Webinar and Expo’
- The webinar was organized by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through FICCI.
- This webinar was conducted to be one of the parts of a series of webinars which are conducted with friendly foreign countries to boost defence exports and achieve export target of \$5 billion in 5 years.

7TH MEET OF MINISTERS OF JUSTICE OF SCO



Date: 16th October, 2020

The 7th meeting of Ministers of Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held through video conference.

Key Points:

- The meet was hosted by India and was addressed by Minister of Justice, Ravi Shankar Prasad.
- In the meet, he discussed the initiatives adopted by India to provide affordable and easy access to justice.

- He also highlighted Pro Bono Legal Services to provide free legal aid to the marginalized section of Indian society.
- He also mentioned the impact of tele-law service launched in India in 2017. He mentioned that until now, 3 lakh and 44 thousand free legal consultations have been given to the economically lower class of people.
- Also, he highlighted that during COVID-19 situation, around 25 lakh hearings took place through video conferences at various courts of India, out of which 9000 virtual hearings were conducted by the Supreme Court.

9TH INDIA-OMAN JOINT COMMISSION



Date: 21st October, 2020

The 9th session of India and Oman Joint Commission was held virtually.

Key Points:

- The 9th session focused on reviewing the current activities and developments in trade and investment during the pandemic state of COVID-19.
- Both India and Oman assured to work coordinately in expanding bilateral trade and investment activities with each other.
- Also, both nations assured to work coordinately in sectors like agriculture, food security, tourism, IT, MSMEs, Space and Aviation, Renewable Energy, education, Mining and Culture.
- They also discussed and agreed to expedite the process of signing and ratification of protocol amending India-Oman Double Taxation Agreement and conclusion of India-Oman Bilateral Investment Treaty.

18TH MEET PROSECUTORS GENERAL OF SCO



Date: 22nd October, 2020

The 18th meeting of Prosecutors General of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was held virtually.

Key Points:

- The meet was organised by the General Prosecutor's Office of Uzbekistan from Tashkent.
- India was represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.
- The dignitaries discussed about the strengthening cooperation to combat corruption, develop mutual legal assistance and exchange of regulatory legal acts.

RUSSIA PROPOSES TO EXTEND NEW START TREATY



Date: 23rd October, 2020

The Russian President has proposed to extend the New START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) by one year.

Key Points:

- New START is a Treaty between the USA and Russia expiring in February 2021.
- It is a treaty on measures for the further reduction and limitation of strategic offensive arms.
- It came into force on 5th February, 2011.
- It is a successor to the START framework of 1991 (at the end of the Cold War) that limited both sides to 1,600 strategic delivery vehicles and 6,000 warheads.
- It continues the process of verifiably reducing the USA and Russian strategic nuclear arsenals by limiting both sides to 700 strategic launchers and 1,550 warheads.

AGRICULTURE

14TH INDIA-INTERNATIONAL FOOD & AGRI WEEK 2020



Date: 18th October, 2020

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar virtually inaugurated the 14th session of India-International Food and Agri Week.

Key Points:

- The India-International Food and Agri Week is observed from 16th Oct to 22nd Oct 2020.
- CII in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and farmers welfare; the Ministry of fisheries and animal husbandry and the Ministry of food processing industries has organized its first-ever CII Agro and food tech: India International Food and Agri on CII HIVE.
- The aim of this India-International Food and Agri Week is to create a platform for the benefit of the stakeholders in Agri and allied sectors.
- This event focused on the usage of technology in the food and agri sectors so as to increase farmers' income.
- International Relations

DEFENCE

INS SINDHUVIR DELIVERED TO MYANMAR NAVY



Date: 17th October, 2020

India delivered a Kilo Class submarine INS Sindhuvir to Myanmar Navy as part of defence cooperation.

Key Points:

- This is the first submarine of the Myanmar Navy.
- Cooperation in the maritime domain is an important part of India's enhanced engagement with Myanmar.
- It is in accordance with India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and in line with build capacities and self-reliance in all the neighbouring countries.
- Kilo class refers to diesel-electric attack submarines that were designed and built in the Soviet Union.

SLINEX 2020 NAVAL EXERCISE



Date: 19th October, 2020

Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy jointly conducted annual joint exercise SLINEX 2020.

Key Points:

- The naval exercise was conducted off the Trincomalee coast.
- Indian Navy was represented by the indigenously built ASW Corvettes Kamorata and Kiltan.
- Indian Navy Advanced Light Helicopter, Chetak Helicopter and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft also participated in this exercise.
- The Sri Lankan Navy was represented by SLN Ships Sayura and Gajabhau.

REPORTS & INDICES

GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2020



Date: 19th October, 2020

The Global Hunger Index of 2020 has been released.

Key Points:

- India has marked the rank position of 94th among 107 countries in this index.
- As per the report, India comes under 'serious category' with a score of 27.2.
- A score of India in each assessment category: For child stunting, rate is 37.4%. Wasting rate is 17.3%, undernourishment rate is 14% and under 5 mortality rate is 3.7%.
- Other neighbouring countries of India which are under serious category are Bangladesh (75th), Myanmar (78th) and Pakistan (88th).
- Nepal (73rd) and Sri Lanka (64th) are in the moderate category in Global Hunger index 2020.

ASIA POWER INDEX 2020



Date: 20th October, 2020

Sydney based Lowy Institute has released the Asia Power Index 2020.

Key Points:

- As per the index rankings, India has been ranked at 4th spot with a score of 39.7 out of 100.
- The index shows the ranking for 26 countries and territories on the basis of an analytical tool which ranks the countries based on what resources they have and the way they utilise their resources for the upliftment of their respective country in each sector.
- The index is topped by the United States with a score of 81.6.
- The second and third position is marked by China (76.1 score) and Japan (41 score) respectively.

44TH OECD INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION OUTLOOK 2020 REPORT



Date: 21st October, 2020

The report on the 44th edition of OECD International Migration Outlook 2020 has been released.

Key Points:

- As per this report, India has marked the 2nd rank position in terms of migrants going to OECD countries and acquiring citizenship of those countries.
- China has marked the first rank in this ranking.
- The third position is marked by Romania.
- From India, 3.3 lakh migrants moved to OECD which is an increase of 10% compared to last edition report analysis.

STATE OF GLOBAL AIR 2020



Date: 23rd October, 2020

State of Global Air 2020 was released by the Health Effects Institute (HEI).

Key Points:

- The Report highlights that air pollution is the largest risk factor for death among all health risks.
- India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Nepal are among the top ten countries with the highest PM2.5 (particulate matter) exposures in 2019.
- All these countries also experienced increases in outdoor PM2.5 levels between 2010 and 2019.
- India is also among the top ten countries with highest Ozone (O3) exposure in 2019.
- Among the 20 most populous countries, India recorded the highest increase (17%) in O3 concentrations in the past ten years.

ENERGY

1ST ISA SOLAR AWARDS 2020



Date: 20th October, 2020

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) has presented the first edition of ISA Solar Awards 2020.

Key Points:

- The awards giving ceremony took place virtually during the 3rd Assembly of ISA.
- Distinguished scientists, organisations who excelled their work in providing reliable and sustainable solar energy were awarded ISA Solar Award 2020.
- The awards were conferred in three categories:
 - (a) Visvesvaraya Award- This award was given to recognize the countries with a maximum floating solar capacity in every 4 regions of ISA.
 - (b) Kalpana Chawla Awards- This award was given to mark the outstanding contribution of scientists and engineers associated with the solar energy sector.
 - (c) Diwakar Award- This award was given to recognize institutions and organisations who are working for the benefit of differently-abled people and have increased the use of solar energy in the host country.
- Winners in each category:
 - (a) Visvesvaraya Award- Japan (Asia Pacific region) and Netherland (Europe and other regions).
 - (b) Kalpana Chawla Awards- Dr Bhim Singh (IIT Delhi, India) and Dr. Aasha Alnuaimi (UAE).
 - (c) Diwakar Award- Arpan Institute (Haryana) and Arushi Society.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INDIA INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL (IISF) 2020



Date: 22nd October, 2020

The 6th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) will be held virtually in 2020.

Key Points:

- IISF is a festival to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and technological advancements with students, innovators, technocrats, etc. from India and abroad. It was launched in 2015.
- It is organised by the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA).
- Objective is to promote Science and Technology; to demonstrate how science could lead India towards a developed nation within a short span of time.
- The 5th edition was held in Kolkata in 2019.



disha
Nurturing Ambitions

PEOPLE

NATIONAL

OBITUARY

BHANU ATHAIYA



Date: 16th October 2020

Bhanu Athaiya, costume designer and India's first Oscar winner, passes away at the age of 91.

Key Points:

- The renowned designer, who won an Academy Award for best costume design for the 1983 classic movie 'Gandhi'.
- In a career of more than 5 decades, She gave some of Bollywood's best-remembered looks which include Waheeda Rehman in 'Guide', Vyjayanthimala in 'Amrapali' and Zeenat Aman in 'Satyam Shivam Sundaram'.
- She also won two National Film Awards – for Gulzar's mystery drama "Lekin" (1990) and the period film "Lagaan" directed by Ashutosh Gowariker (2001).

PS NARAYANASWAMY



Date: 19th October 2020

Esteemed Carnatic Vocalist PS Narayanaswamy passed away at the age of 86.

Key Points:

- Shri Puliyyur Subramaniam Narayanaswamy, one among the finest gurus of carnatic music in India.

- Narayanaswamy, was a torch bearer of the Semmangudi Tradition, evolving a style of his own with ‘Manodharma Sangeetham’.
- He was the winner of many awards and titles, including the Padma Bhushan; Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Kalaimamani from the Tamil Nadu government for his contribution to Carnatic music.

AWARDS & HONOURS

AISHWARYA SRIDHAR



Date: 20th October 2020

Why in news: Became the first Indian woman to win the Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.

Key Points:

- A 23-year-old, Mumbai based girl, Aishwarya Sridhar became the first Indian woman to win the 2020 Wildlife Photographer of the Year award.
- Her image titled ‘Lights of passion’, won among 50,000 entries from over 80 countries across the world.
- Only 100 images were shortlisted and she won the award for her photograph in the Behaviour Invertebrates category.
- She is the first and youngest girl to win this prestigious award from India in the Adult category.

INTERNATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

JACINDA ARDERN



Date: 18th October 2020

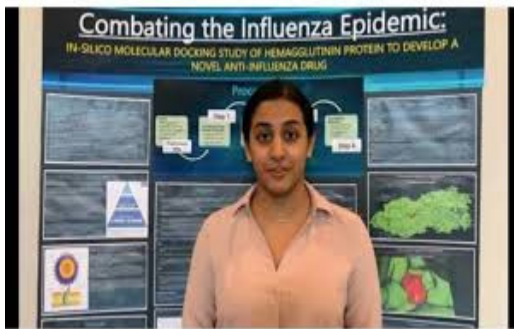
Why in news: Re-elected as the Prime Minister of New Zealand.

Key Points:

- The Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, has been re-elected for the second consecutive three-year term.
- Ardern's Labour Party has won over 49 per cent votes in the general elections, the biggest victory for the Labour Party in over 50 years.
- This will also be the first time that a party will be governing alone since New Zealand moved to the MMP (mixed-member proportional representation) electoral system in 1996.
- At 26.9 percent of the votes, the National Party is in second place.

AWARDS & HONOURS

ANIKA CHEBROLU



Date: 20th October 2020

Why in news: Won America's Young Scientist Challenge.

Key Points:

- 14 year old Indian American Anika Chebrolu, won the 2020 3M Young Scientist Challenge for a discovery that may help combat the spread of COVID-19.
- Anika developed an antiviral drug for COVID-19 by researching protein spikes in the novel coronavirus.
- She used in-silico methodology for drug discovery to find a molecule that can selectively bind to the Spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in an attempt to find a cure for the COVID-19 pandemic.
- She won a prize of \$25,000 for her discovery.



ENVIRONMENT

PARASITIC INFECTIONS IN ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS



Date: 16th October, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Recently, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) India has published a report – ‘Prevalence of Endoparasitic Infections in Free-Ranging Greater One-horned Rhinoceros’ for Assam and West Bengal.
- The report highlights the natural causes due to which these rhinos die along with poaching. These natural causes have not been studied in great detail yet.
- Since 2017, the Rhino Task Force of Assam and WWF India have been undertaking steps to study pathogens found in fresh rhino dung samples in Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- Endoparasites are parasites that live in the tissues and organs of their hosts, such as tapeworms, flukes, and protozoans of vertebrates.
- Greater one-horned (or Indian) rhino is placed in the ‘vulnerable’ category in IUCN Red List.

POLITY

EXECUTIVE - JUDICIARY TUSSELE



Date: 16th October, 2020

Key Highlights:

- There is a sudden escalation of an ongoing tussle between the judiciary and the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh.
- The conflict is based on mutual accusations that the HC is hostile to the State government, and the State government is abetting a political campaign against the judges.
- The CM of Andhra Pradesh, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, wrote a letter to the Chief Justice of India, S.A. Bobde. In that letter, he complained about the allegedly hostile attitude of the A.P. High Court (HC) against him and his government.
- By making public the details of the letter that contains allegations against a serving Supreme Court judge, the conflict is out in the open.
- The CM alleges that the HC is controlled by loyalists of his predecessor in office, and has passed a slew of orders against his regime.
- The HC has directed the CBI to investigate into the registry's complaints against allegedly defamatory social media posts against the judiciary as well as individual judges.
- It also wants the CBI to examine whether these attacks were part of a larger conspiracy.

INTERNATIONAL

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

US JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SUES GOOGLE IN ANTITRUST CASE



Date: 22nd October, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Recently, the US Justice Department sued Google. It has accused the company of illegally abusing its dominance in internet search. It has been harming competitors and consumers.
- The action against the company comes after a report by the US House of Representatives panel.
- The panel had found that Google, Facebook Inc, Apple Inc and Amazon.com Inc all abused their power as gatekeepers in the digital economy to diminish competitive threats.
- Google is illegally protecting its dominant position in the market for search and search advertising through the deals it has signed with tech companies.
- Google has contracts with smartphone makers that use its Android operating system. These require them to install its search engine as the default.
- All this stifles competition and innovation from smaller startups and harms consumers by reducing the quality of search and limiting privacy protections and alternative search options.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CHINA OBJECTS TO OFFICIAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN INDIA AND TAIWAN



Date: 23rd October, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Recently, China objected to any official exchanges between India and Taiwan.
- China also objected to India wishing Taiwan “Happy National Day” (October, 10) and referring to it as a country.
- China is also opposing inclusion of Australia in the upcoming Malabar naval exercise.

- Taiwan – the Republic of China (ROC) is an island off the southern coast of China that has been governed independently from mainland China since 1949.
- It is not a member of the United Nations and is the largest economy outside the UN.
- China views it as a province only. It has its own democratically elected government.

POLITY

GREECE TURKEY CLASH



Date: 23rd October, 2020

Key Highlights:

- Greece (EU member) said it would be extending a wall along its border with Turkey (candidate for EU membership) to prevent potential mass crossings by migrants into its territory.
- For centuries, Turkey and Greece have shared a chequered history. In 1830, Greece won independence from modern Turkey's precursor, the Ottoman Empire.
- In 1923, the two countries exchanged their Muslim and Christian populations – a migration whose scale has only been surpassed in history by the Partition of India.
- The two nations continue to oppose each other on the decades-old Cyprus conflict, and on two occasions have almost gone to war over exploration rights in the Aegean Sea.
- Both countries are, however, part of the 30-member NATO alliance.



IDIEAS

NATIONAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

FRONTIER TECHNOLOGIES CLOUD INNOVATION CENTRE



Niti Aayog

नीति आयोग

National Institution for Transforming India



Date: 20th October 2020

NITI Aayog in partnership with Amazon Web Services launched First of its kind, a Frontier Technologies Cloud Innovation Center (CIC).

Key Features:

- The Frontier Technologies CIC is developed to address societal challenges through digital technology.
- It will address the societal challenges related to agriculture, healthcare and skill development.
- This is the first Cloud Innovation Center in India and 12th Cloud Innovation Center in the whole world.
- This Cloud Innovation Center will allow the innovators and startups to make use of emerging technologies like AI, IoT, Robotics and Blockchain to develop cloud-centric digital innovations.

HEALTHCARE

‘CURED’ PORTAL



Date: 22nd October 2020

Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched a website named as CUREd.

Key Features:

- CUREd signifies ‘CSIR Ushered Repurposed Drugs’.
- The CUREd portal will provide informational data about numerous COVID-19 clinical trials in which CSIR is engaged with other industries, ministries or governmental departments.
- The portal will also provide details about clinical trials of diagnostics and other health equipment.
- The data related to partnered institutions for developing clinical trials and other health equipment will also be provided on this portal.

INTERNATIONAL

ECONOMY

COMMERCIAL AUCTIONS

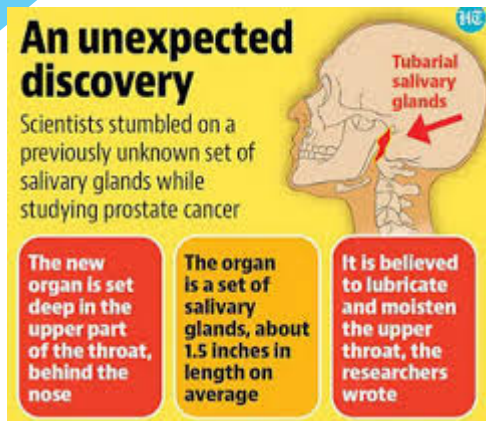


Date: 17th October 2020

Key Features:

- In 2020 U.S. economists Paul Milgrom and Robert Wilson won the Nobel Economics Prize for their work on commercial auctions, including for goods and services difficult to sell in traditional ways such as radio frequencies.
- Auction theory is a branch of economics that deals with, as the name suggests, auctions.
- Auctions are important to economists because they are the most widely used and also the most efficient mechanism to allocate scarce resources.
- In particular, auction theory deals with the various ways in which auctions can be designed to improve seller revenues, increase benefits to consumers, or even achieve both these goals at the same time.

TUBARIAL SALIVARY GLANDS



Date: 22 October 2020

Key Features:

- Scientists have discovered a potential new organ in the human throat. The discovery was made while carrying out research on prostate cancer.
- Researchers at the Netherlands Cancer Institute have identified a set of salivary glands deep in the upper part of the throat and have named them “tubarial salivary glands”.
- The discovery may be important for cancer treatment.
- Till now, this nasopharynx region (behind the nose) was thought to host only microscopic, diffuse, salivary glands.
- However, the newly discovered glands are about 1.5 inches (3.9 centimeters) in length on average.



Nurturing Ambitions