

Week 3 Current Affairs Update

15th- 21st November 2020

EVENTS

NATIONAL

SPORTS

INCENTIVES UNDER KHELO INDIA INITIATIVE



Date: 16th November 2020

The Union Minister of Sports, Kiren Rijiju announced that the Ministry of Sports will be providing incentives to private academics under Khelo India initiative.

Key Points:

- Around 500 such private academics will be provided with incentive support.
- For this purpose, the private academics are to be graded into different categories based on the quality of achievement of the players.
- Initially, under this initiative, monetary assistance will be provided to 14 Olympic sports disciplines.
- The 14 priority disciplines which are selected for excellence in the Olympics 2028 are eligible to receive support.
- The incentive will help private academics to improve their resources, infrastructure and Sports Sciences.

SOCIAL

PM MODI UNVEILED 'STATUE OF PEACE'



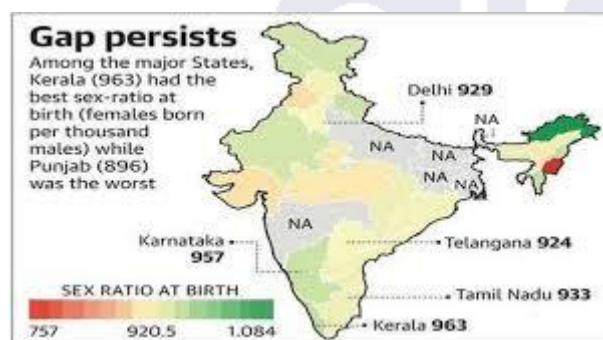
Date: 16th November 2020

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled 'Statue of Peace' The 'Statue of Peace' is unveiled to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Jain Acharya Shree Vijay Vallabh Surishwer Ji Maharaj.

Key Points:

- The statue is installed at Vijay Vallabh Sadhana Kendra, Jetpura, in Pali, Rajasthan.
- The 151 inch tall statue has been made from Ashtadhatu(octo-alloy) i.e. 8 metals, with Copper being the major constituent
- Acharya Vijay Vallabh was a Jain Acharya of the 19th century. He was the founder of Shri Parshwanath Jain Vidyalaya in Pali district of Rajasthan.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH RECORDS THE BEST SEX RATIO



Date: 18th November 2020

The three north-eastern states top the 2018 report on "Vital statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)".

Key Points:

- The report has been prepared by The Registrar General & Census Commissioner of India.
- Arunachal Pradesh has recorded the best sex ratio in India with 1,084 females born per 1000 males.
- It is followed by Nagaland at 965 females and Mizoram at 964.

- The sex ratio is the number of females per 1000 males. It is an important indicator to map the gender gap of a population.
- Lowest sex ratio has been reported by Manipur (757), Lakshadweep (839) and Daman & Diu (877), followed by Punjab (896).

HEALTHCARE

SAANS CAMPAIGN BY MOHFW



Date: 17th November 2020

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a three-month SAANS campaign.

Key Points:

- The SAANS signifies Social Action and Awareness to Neutralize Pneumonia Successfully.
- This campaign is launched to reduce death because of pneumonia in children.
- Under this campaign, people will be made aware of symptoms of childhood pneumonia.
- The aim of this campaign is to reduce less than 5 deaths due to pneumonia, per 1000 live births, to less than 3 deaths by 2025.

AGRICULTURE

WORLD FISHERIES DAY



Date: 21st November 2020

The World Fisheries Day is observed on the 21st November every year.

Key Points:

- The day is observed to draw attention to overfishing, habitat destruction and other serious threats to the sustainability of marine and inland resources.
- The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying presented the Fisheries Sector Award on the occasion of the 'World Fisheries Day'.
- The awards were given to recognize the achievements in the associated field and their contribution to the growth of the fisheries sector.
- The Department of Fisheries under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying awarded best performing States, Organisations and Districts for 2019-2020.
- Category of Top States: Odisha (Marine States), Uttar Pradesh (Inland States) and Assam (Hilly and NE states).

ENVIRONMENT

INDIA ADDS TWO MORE RAMSAR SITES



Date: 17th November 2020

India has recently added two more Ramsar sites.

Key Points:

- One is Lonar lake in Maharashtra which is the only crater lake of India.
- The other is Sur Sarovar, also known as Keetham lake in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ramsar Convention was signed on 2nd February, 1971.
- Objective: To preserve the ecological character of their wetlands of international importance.
- It is named after Ramsar, the Iranian city where the treaty was signed.

- Places chosen for conservation under it are given the tag 'Ramsar site'.

INDIA'S FIRST GREEN ENERGY CONVERGENCE PROJECT



Date: 18th November 2020

India's first convergence project to generate green energy for rural and agriculture consumption is set to come up in Goa.

Key Points:

- Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) and Goa government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the same.
- It focuses on energy solutions that lie at the confluence of renewable energy, electric mobility and climate change.
- It seeks to connect seemingly independent sectors like Solar Energy, Energy Storage and LED lights to provide solutions, which can enable in decarbonisation and affordable energy access.
- EESL is offering convergent interventions, which solve multiple gap areas in the energy ecosystem.
- Solutions such as solarised agriculture feeders, LED street lights in local villages and battery energy storage systems.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WORLD WIDE RADIO NAVIGATION SYSTEM



Date: 19th November 2020

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) has been accepted as a component of the World Wide Radio Navigation System (WWRNS) for operation in the Indian Ocean Region by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Key Points:

- This will enable merchant vessels to use IRNSS for obtaining position information similar to GPS and GLONASS to assist in the navigation of ships in ocean waters within the area covered by 50°N latitude, 55°E longitude, 5°S latitude and 110°E longitude.
- IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system developed by India.
- It is designed to provide accurate position information service to assist in the navigation of ships in Indian Ocean waters.
- India has become the fourth country in the world to have its independent regional navigation satellite system recognised by the IMO as a part of the WWRNS.
- The other three countries that have its navigation systems recognised by the IMO are the US, Russia and China.

INDIA SET TO LAUNCH DEEP SEA MISSION



Date: 20th November 2020

India will soon launch an ambitious 'Deep Ocean Mission'. Required approvals are being obtained for the mission.

Key Points:

- The mission proposes to explore the deep ocean similar to the space exploration started by ISRO about 35 years ago.
- The focus of the mission will be on deep-sea mining, ocean climate change advisory services, underwater vehicles and underwater robotics related technologies.
- Two key projects planned in the 'Deep Ocean Mission' report include a desalination plant powered by tidal energy and a submersible vehicle that can explore depths of at least 6,000 metres.

- The mission will give a boost to efforts to explore India's vast Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.
- The plan will enable India to develop capabilities to exploit resources in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB).

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

PROMULGATION OF ORDINANCE TO BAN ONLINE GAMES IN TN



Date: 19th November 2020

Tamil Nadu Governor promulgated an ordinance that bans online gaming in the state, with a fine up to Rs 5,000 and imprisonment of up to six months.

Key Points:

According to the Governor, due to online gaming, innocent people, mainly youngsters, are being cheated, and some people committed suicide.

The decision to ban online gaming was taken to avoid such incidents of suicide and protect the innocent people.

Any form of wagering or betting in cyberspace by using computers or any other communication device, common gaming houses, and any electronic transfer of funds to distribute winnings or prize money has also been banned.

This effectively means that players in the state will not be able to purchase any add-on for the games they play, go to gaming arcades or participate in online gaming tournaments.

POLICIES & SCHEMES

SAFAIMITRA SURAKSHA CHALLENGE



Date: 20th November 2020

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs launched Safaimitra Suraksha Challenge across 243 Cities to ensure that no life of any sewer or septic tank cleaner is ever lost again owing to the issue of 'hazardous cleaning'.

Key Points:

- The Challenge was launched on the occasion of World Toilet Day.
- Aim: Preventing 'hazardous cleaning' of sewers and septic tanks and promoting their mechanized cleaning.
- Representatives from 243 cities across the country took a pledge to mechanize all sewer and septic tank cleaning operations by 30th April 2021.
- The initiative is in line with the core of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U)
- The actual on-ground assessment of participating cities will be conducted in May 2021 by an independent agency and results of the same will be declared on 15 August 2021.

INTERNATIONAL

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

15TH EAST ASIA SUMMIT 2020



Date: 16th November 2020

The Union Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S Jaishankar attended the 15th East Asia Summit.

Key Points:

- The summit was chaired by Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyen Xuan Phuc.
- The Indian side expressed their view on enhancing cooperation in order to tackle the post COVID period.
- The Union Minister also highlighted to increase international cooperation in order to fight terrorism, climate change and pandemics.

8TH BRICS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION MINISTERIAL MEETING



Date: 16th November 2020

The 8th BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Ministerial Meeting was held virtually. The Indian side was represented by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan.

Key Points:

- The meeting helped to strengthen science and technology cooperation among BRICS nations.
- The meeting was chaired by the Russian Federation as Russia is the chair holder for BRICS 2020.
- The meeting observed the adoption of BRICS STI Declaration 2020.
- While addressing the meeting, Dr Harsh Vardhan mentioned his view to developing cooperation to tackle COVID-19 pandemic.
- He also highlighted that 'COVID 19 pandemic has been a test, demonstrating that multilateral cooperation is the key to overcoming such global challenges.
- He assured that India will also support scientific activities under BRICS MoU on Science, Technology and Innovation.

3RD ANNUAL BLOOMBERG NEW ECONOMY FORUM



Date: 19th November 2020

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 3rd Annual Bloomberg New Economy Forum via video conference.

Key Points:

- The forum was held to discuss ways to restore the economy which has been affected due to pandemic COVID-19.
- The inaugural part of the forum was held in Singapore, followed by a second edition in Beijing.
- The dignitaries discussed global economic management, trade and investment, technology, urbanisation, capital markets, climate change and inclusion.
- Other speakers who addressed the forum were: Director-general of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, former UK Prime Minister Tony Blair, former US President Bill Clinton, Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres.

APEC VIRTUAL MEET



Date: 23rd November 2020

Recently, a virtual meeting of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum was held. The meeting was hosted by Malaysia.

Key Points:

- With growth in the Asia-Pacific region expected to decline by 2.7% this year, APEC's focus was on accelerating economic recovery and developing an affordable vaccine.
- Focus Areas: Trade and investment, Digital Economy and Technology, Structural Reform, Economic and Technical Cooperation and Thematic and institutional matters.
- APEC leaders adopted the Putrajaya Vision 2040, a new 20-year growth vision to replace the Bogor Goals where leaders agreed in 1994 to free and open trade and investment.
- They also recognised the importance of a free, open, fair, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable trade and investment environment to drive economic recovery at such a challenging time (Covid-19).

15TH G20 SUMMIT



Date: 23rd November 2020

The 15th edition of the G20 Summit was held through video conference.

Key Points:

- The summit was held under the chairmanship of Saudi Arabia. King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud chaired the summit.
- The Indian side was addressed by PM Narendra Modi.
- The summit held the focus on developing an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future by safeguarding the planet.
- PM Narendra Modi addressed by highlighting the need for economic recovery in the Post COVID-19 era. He mentioned the importance and adoption of effective global governance.
- He also highlighted the importance of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals.
- He mentioned India's agenda to follow 'Reform-Perform-Transform' strategy.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)



Date: 17th November 2020

The 10 members of the ASEAN and FTA partners China, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand to sign the 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)'.

Key Points:

- The RCEP is the world's largest trading bloc and the world's biggest free trade deal.
- This was signed on the sidelines of the 37th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit (Hosted by Vietnam).
- RCEP is basically an agreement between ASEAN members and FTA.
- This agreement will help to create an integrated market with 15 countries, which will enable the availability of products and services of each country within the agreement available across the region.
- RCEP will focus on trading activities, investments, intellectual property, dispute settlement, e-commerce, SMEs and economic cooperation.
- Also, the nations in this agreement will have to ratify and analyze the RCEP within 2 years in order to make it effectively work.

RECIPROCAL ACCESS AGREEMENT (RAA)



Date: 23rd November 2020

Japan and Australia have signed a landmark defence deal in a bid to counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and over the Pacific island nations.

Key Points:

- Reciprocal Access Agreement (RAA) comes weeks after foreign ministers of the Quad alliance, which includes the US and India, met in Tokyo.
- The pact allows Japanese and Australian troops to visit each other's countries and conduct training and joint operations.
- Australian Prime Minister said that the treaty will strengthen their security ties and facilitate cooperation between defence forces.
- The two sides also agreed on the need for a framework to allow Japanese military to protect Australian forces if needed.

INDIA-LUXEMBOURG SUMMIT



Date: 23rd November 2020

Recently the first-ever India-Luxembourg Virtual Summit was held.

Key Points:

- Luxembourg is a founding member of the EU.
- In this context, the two countries exchanged views on further strengthening India-EU relations including forward movement on India-EU trade agreements and investment agreements.
- The Luxembourg Prime Minister conveyed the intention of Luxembourg to join the International Solar Alliance.
- Indian PM also invited Luxembourg to join the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.
- The leaders looked forward to the 17th Joint Economic Commission between India and the Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union to review the economic and trade relations.

SECURITY

BRICS NATIONS ADOPTED COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY



Date: 18th November 2020

The BRICS Nations has adopted the counter-terrorism strategy with an aim to tackle effectively terrorism in the nations.

Key Points:

- The objective of BRICS counter-terrorism cooperation is to complement and strengthen the existing bilateral and multilateral ties among the BRICS countries, and to make a meaningful contribution to the global efforts of preventing and combating the threat of terrorism.
- The new counter-terrorism strategy adopted is based on principles like Respect to the sovereignty of BRICS Nations, Commitment to International Laws, Coordinate roles of UN, Consideration of members countries' priorities and national interests and to adopt and follow proper approach to tackle terrorism.
- The strategy will work to achieve goals like:
 - To implement UNSC Resolutions,
 - To broader counter-terrorism operation with G20 and FATF,
 - To counter global threats on UN Charter and
 - To increase sharing of information about the terrorist organisations which are listed by UNSC.

DEFENCE

30TH INDO-THAI CORPAT

30th Indo-Thai CORPAT, Coordinated Patrol held



Date: 22nd November 2020

The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was held between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy.

Key Points:

- It was conducted in the Andaman sea close to the Strait of Malacca.
- India was represented by INS Karmuk.
- Thailand was represented by Frigate HTMS Kraburi and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft.
- Aim of CORPAT is to keep the Indian Ocean safe and secure for the purpose of commercial shipping and international trade.

- India and Thailand have been carrying out CORPAT along their International Maritime Boundary Line twice a year since 2005.

SITMEX-2020



Date: 22nd November 2020

The SITMEX-2020 is the trilateral naval exercise conducted by India, Singapore and Thailand in the Andaman sea.

Key Points:

- The exercise followed a 'non-contact, at sea only format' because of the pandemic COVID-19 and to follow the restrictions related to social distancing for the same.
- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Karmuk and INS Kamorta.
- The Singapore Navy was represented by RSS Intrepid and RSS Endeavour.
- The Thailand Navy was represented by a Chao class frigate HTMS Kraburi.
- The SITMEX 2020 aims to consolidate interoperability between the three navies of India, Singapore and Thailand.

ENVIRONMENT

TRISTAN DA CUNHA



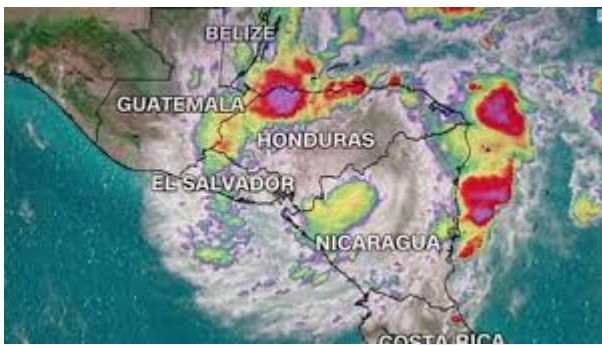
Date: 22nd November 2020

Tristan da Cunha was declared the largest fully protected marine reserves in the Atlantic Ocean.

Key Points:

- Tristan da Cunha is also home to the world's most remote human settlement.
- It is an isolated UK Overseas Territory.
- It is a remote group of volcanic islands in the South Atlantic Ocean.
- It has its own constitution.
- It is also home to tens of millions of seabirds and several unique land birds.
- It is also home to the World Heritage Site of Gough and Inaccessible Islands, which is one of the most important seabird islands in the world.

HURRICANE IOTA



Date: 23rd November 2020

Hurricane Iota has made landfall in Nicaragua in Central America and has developed into a category five storm.

Key Points:

- The Atlantic Hurricane season runs from June to November and covers the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico.
- The Eastern Pacific Hurricane season runs from May 15 to November 30.
- Tropical cyclones or hurricanes use warm, moist air as fuel, and therefore form over warm ocean waters near the equator.
- Hurricanes are categorised on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which rates them on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed.
- Hurricanes that reach category three or higher are called 'major hurricanes' because of their potential to cause devastating damage to life and property.



PEOPLE

NATIONAL

APPOINTMENTS

NITISH KUMAR



Date: 17th November 2020

Why in news: Again sworn in as Chief Minister of Bihar.

Key Points:

- Janta Dal (United) chief, Nitish Kumar has been sworn in as the Bihar Chief Minister for the 7th time.
- This is the fourth consecutive term that he is being appointed to the post.
- He was first sworn in as CM in 2000.
- Tarkishore Prasad and Renu Devi have also been sworn as the Deputy Chief Ministers of Bihar.

YASHVARDHAN KUMAR SINHA



Date: 23rd November 2020

Why in news: Appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.

Key Points:

- Yashvardhan Kumar Sinha was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC).
- Before the appointment, he has been serving as an Information Commissioner (IC) in the Central Information Commission since January 2019.

- The post of CIC chairman had been vacant for several months after Bimal Zulka retired.
- The President has also appointed Heeralal Samariya as the Information Commissioner.

AWARD & HONOURS

SONU SOOD



Date: 17th November 2020

Why in news: Appointed as state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India.

Key Points:

- Actor Sonu Sood has been appointed as the state icon of Punjab by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- The decision of honouring Sonu Sood with the title comes after his humanitarian work during the lockdown.
- Sonu has been helping migrant workers reach their hometowns amid the coronavirus pandemic.
- He also helped people by giving them face masks, food, mobile phones and more.

OBITUARY

TARUN GOGOI



Date: 23rd November 2020

Tarun Gogoi, Ex-Chief Minister of Assam passed away.

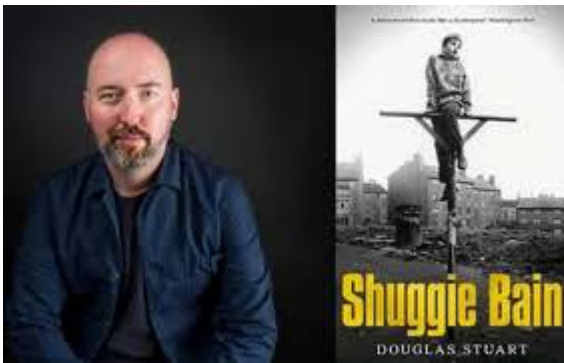
Key Points:

- Tarun Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam passed away due to post covid-19 complications.
- He was then administered with the plasma therapy.
- Gogoi was the three-time Chief Minister of Assam from the Congress Party.
- He served as the Chief Minister of Assam from 2001 to 2015.
- He was the longest-serving Chief Minister of Assam.

INTERNATIONAL

AWARDS & HONOURS

DOUGLAS STUART



Date: 20th November 2020

Why in news: Won the 2020 Booker Prize for Fiction.

Key Points:

- British writer Douglas Stuart has won the UK's Booker Prize for the year 2020.
- He has been awarded for his debut novel, Shuggie Bain.
- The Booker Prize for Fiction (formerly known as the Man Booker Prize), is a literary prize awarded each year for the best original novel written in the English language and Published in the United Kingdom.



ISSUES

NATIONAL

ENVIRONMENT

JOLLY GRANT AIRPORT



Date: 17th November 2020

Key Highlights:

- Environmental activists and local residents in Uttarakhand are opposing the cutting of trees for a project to expand Dehradun's Jolly Grant airport.
- Dehradun Airport is also known as Jolly Grant Airport. It is also known as the Air Gateway of Garhwal and plays an important role in the tourism of Uttarakhand.
- The Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority has proposed the expansion of Jolly Grant airport in Dehradun with the aim of upgrading it to meet international standards.
- It is proposed to take over 87 hectares of forest land in Doiwala village in Dehradun district, and another 17.41 hectares of non-forest land for the project.

DEFENCE

INDIAN ARMY REJECTS REPORT ON MICROWAVE WEAPONS



Date: 19th December 2020

Key Highlights:

- The Indian Army has rejected a report which claimed that the Chinese army had used microwave weapons to drive Indian soldiers away from their positions in eastern Ladakh.
- These are supposed to be a type of direct energy weapons.
- They aim highly focused energy in the form of sonic, laser, or microwaves, at a target.
- They use beams of high-frequency electromagnetic radiation to heat the water in a human target's skin, causing pain and discomfort.
- A number of countries are thought to have developed these weapons to target both humans and electronic systems.
- Concerns have been raised on whether they can damage the eyes, or have a carcinogenic impact in the long term.

ENVIRONMENT

KARNATAKA WANTS TO DECLASSIFY DEEMED FORESTS



Date: 21st November 2020

Key Highlights:

- Karnataka government is planning to declassify 6.64 lakh hectares of the 9.94 lakh hectares of deemed forests in the state (nearly 67%) and hand it over to Revenue authorities.
- The issue of deemed forests is a contentious one in Karnataka, with legislators across party lines often alleging that large amounts of agriculture and non-forest land are “unscientifically” classified as such.
- An expert committee constituted by the Karnataka government after the Supreme Court order (in T N Godavarman Thirumulpad (1996) Case) identified ‘deemed forests’ as “land having the characteristic of forests irrespective of the

ownership”.

- This includes:
 - Thickly wooded areas of the Revenue Department not handed over to the Forest Department.
 - Thickly wooded areas recommended to be handed over to the Forest Department.
 - Thickly wooded land distributed to grantees but not cultivated.
 - Thickly wooded plantations of the Forest Department.

INTERNATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CHINA'S RAILWAY WORK NEAR ARUNACHAL BORDER



Date: 17th November 2020

Key Highlights:

- China has begun work on a strategically significant railway line.
- It will link Sichuan province with Nyingchi in Tibet, which lies close to Arunachal Pradesh border.
- This will be the second such route linking Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) with mainland China.
- Earlier Qinghai-Tibet railway line connected Lhasa to the hinterland.
- The railway line will largely improve the efficiency and convenience of China's military personnel and material transportation and logistical supplies in the border area. Thus, China might be at an advantageous position.
- The fragile ecological environment along the project line, may have ecological

concerns for India.

WEST BANK



Date: 20th November 2020

Key Highlights:

- Mike Pompeo makes an unprecedented visit to Israeli settlements. He became the first US secretary of state to officially visit an Israeli settlement in the occupied West Bank.
- He also issued guidelines for Israeli products made in settlements to be labelled “Made in Israel” or “Product of Israel” when imported to the United States, removing the distinction between products made within Israel and those produced in occupied territory.
- Mr. Pompeo’s visit departed from past policy that had kept top U.S. officials away from settlements, which Palestinians view as obstacles to a viable future State.
- Palestinians accused Mr. Pompeo of helping Israel to cement its control over West Bank land that they seek for a State.
- West Bank is a landlocked territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north.



IDIEAS

NATIONAL

DEFENCE

QUICK REACTION SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM



Date: 17th November 2020

Key Features:

- Recently, DRDO successfully test-fired Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile system (QRSAM).
- QRSAM is a canister-based system. It means that it is stored and operated from specially designed compartments.
- In the canister, the inside environment is controlled, thus along with making its transport and storage easier, the shelf life of weapons also improves significantly.
- The system is capable of detecting and tracking targets on the move and engaging targets with short halts.
- It is a short range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system.
- It is primarily designed to provide a protective shield to moving armoured columns of the Army from enemy aerial attacks.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ONE DISTRICT ONE PRODUCT (ODOP)



Date: 21st November 2020

Key Features:

- The Ministry of Food Processing launched the GIS One District One Product (ODOP) digital map of India.
- The digital ODOP map provides detailed information about ODOP products to all states and facilitates the stakeholders.
- The digital map also has indicators for tribal, SC, ST, and aspirational districts.
- It will enable stakeholders to make concerted efforts for its value chain development.

TRANSPORTS

MEGHALAYA INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROJECT (MITP)



Date: 20th November 2020

Key Features:

- The Government of India, the Government of Meghalaya and the World Bank signed a \$120 million project to improve and modernise the transport sector of the state of Meghalaya.
- The project will improve about 300 km of strategic road segments and stand-alone bridges by using innovative, climate resilient, and nature-based solutions.
- It will also support innovative solutions such as precast bridges to reduce both time and cost of construction.
- MITP will help Meghalaya develop reliable, climate resilient and safe roads which is crucial for the economic development of the state.
- This operation will also support the state government's "Restart Meghalaya Mission" to revive and boost development activities affected due to COVID-19 pandemic.

PARAM SIDDHI SUPERCOMPUTER



Date: 22nd November 2020

Key Features:

- India's Artificial Intelligence (AI) supercomputer Param Siddhi ranked 63rd among top 500 most powerful non-distributed computer systems in the world.
- In a non-distributed (or co-located) system, all the parts of the system are in the same physical location. In a distributed system, parts of the system exist in separate locations.
- Param Siddhi is a High Performance Computing-Artificial Intelligence (HPC-AI) supercomputer developed by Department of Science and Technology (DST) under National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) at C-DAC.
- The supercomputer has Rpeak of 5.267 Petaflops and 4.6 Petaflops Rmax.
- In high-performance computing, Rmax and Rpeak are scores used to rank supercomputers based on their performance using the LINPACK Benchmark.

INTERNATIONAL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

COPERNICUS SENTINEL-6 MICHAEL FREILICH SATELLITE



Date: 22nd November 2020

Key Features:

- NASA successfully launched the Copernicus Sentinel-6 Michael Freilich satellite.
- The satellite is launched to monitor the global sea level.
- It is developed by European Space Agency (ESA), NASA, European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (Eumetsat), the USA's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), France's National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the EU.
- It was launched in a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Space Launch Complex 4E at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.
- It will perform sea-level observations and accordingly will provide measurements on global sea-level rise.
- The satellite is named after Michael Freilich, who is an Earth scientist.

