

Abhyaas Newsboard...

For the quintessential test prep student

1. Assam Assembly Bill to Protect Heritage Sites



As per the latest update, Assam Assembly passes bill to protect to protect various heritage sites of the state.

More On This:

The Assam Heritage (Tangible) Protection, Preservation, Conservation and Maintenance Bill, 2020 was passed by the state assembly to protect, preserve and restore tangible heritage, which are currently not covered under any national or state law.

The Bill was passed in the 4-day Assembly Session that commenced from 31st August 2020.

- Following the passage of the bill, State Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal termed as a 'historic' step towards implementing the Clause 6 of Assam Accord. The bill has been drafted by the Directorate of Archaeology, under the guidance of State Cultural Affairs (Archeology) Minister Keshab Mahanta.

What is Clause 6 of Assam Accord?

- According to the Clause 6 of Assam Accord, the state government is empowered to take necessary steps to ensure constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

2. Bhagat Singh



113th birth anniversary celebrated on 28th September, 2020.

More On This:

Born in September, 1907.

Gandhi's influence: Initially, he supported Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement. However, when Gandhi withdrew the movement in the wake of the Chauri Chaura incident, Bhagat Singh turned to revolutionary nationalism.

Associations he was associated with:

- In 1924 in Kanpur, he became a member of the Hindustan Republican Association, started by Sachindranath Sanyal a year earlier.

- In 1925, Bhagat Singh returned to Lahore and within the next year he and his colleagues started a militant youth organisation called the Naujawan Bharat Sabha.
- In 1928, he was associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA) along with Sukhdev, Chandrashekhar Azad and others.
- Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev also organized the Lahore Students Union for open, legal work among the students.

3. Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru



Kesavananda Bharati, the man who lent his name to an iconic case as the petitioner, died on Sunday. The landmark ruling in which the Supreme Court announced the basic structure doctrine was in the case of His Holiness Kesavananda Bharati Sripadagalvaru and Ors v State of Kerala.

More On This:

He was the head seer of the Edneer Mutt in Kasaragod district of Kerala since 1961. He left his signature in one of the significant rulings of the Supreme Court when he challenged the Kerala land reforms legislation in 1970. The case was primarily about the extent of Parliament's power to amend the Constitution.

- First, the court was reviewing a 1967 decision in Golaknath v State of Punjab which, reversing earlier verdicts, had ruled that Parliament cannot amend fundamental rights.
- Second, the court was deciding the constitutional validity of several other amendments. Notably, the right to property had been removed as a fundamental right, and Parliament had also given itself the power to amend any part of the Constitution and passed a law that it cannot be reviewed by the courts.
- Politically, the case represented the fight for supremacy of Parliament led by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

4. Plea for 'legal entity' status to animals



The Supreme Court has agreed to examine a petition seeking "legal entity" status to the entire animal kingdom.

More On This:

The demand is to give animals a "legal personality". This means bestowing on animals, by judicial direction, the capacity to sue and be sued in courts of law. This mainly stems from SC's interpretation of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution, with the effect the word "life" includes "all forms of life, including animal life, which are necessary for human life."

- While referring to recent reported incidents of cruelty on animals in the country, the plea has said that such incidents have enraged many and raised a question as to whether existing laws are sufficient enough to protect animals from possible abuse and cruelty.
- It alleged the rights of animals exist only on paper due to their lack of implementation and enforcement.
- Besides, the plea said that legal status has been accorded to animals in two recent verdicts rendered by the Punjab and Haryana High Court and the Uttarakhand High Court.

5. 10-member biodiversity council



The Jammu and Kashmir government on September 2, 2020 set up a 10-member biodiversity council to document the biodiversity of the union territory. The council will maintain a Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) with the help of representatives from local governance bodies.

More On This:

The biodiversity council will function in consultation with National Biodiversity Authority, as per an order issued by General Administration Department (GAD). The process to maintain a Peoples Biodiversity Register will be initiated in every Panchayat and municipal committee.

- A series of meetings are being organized in almost all Panchayats of Jammu and Kashmir for the same.
- Biodiversity Council-Composition
- The biodiversity council will comprise 10 members including five ex-officio members and five non-official members. The council be headed by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests of Jammu and Kashmir, Mohit Gera.
- Jammu and Kashmir's Forest Research Institute Director will serve as the member secretary of the council. The other members of the council will include the chief wildlife warden, a Forest Department representative and others.

6. Lifetime ban on convicted and charge sheeted MPs/ MLAs from contesting elections



The Supreme Court on September 10, 2020 sought centre's stand on a plea seeking a lifetime ban on convicted criminals contesting any elections.

More On This:

The apex court bench was headed by Justice NV Ramana, who is the next Chief Justice of India designate when SA Bobde demits office.

The plea filed by BJP leader Ashwini Upadhyay seeks a lifetime ban on convicted and chargesheeted MPs/ MLAs from contesting elections. He also sought a similar ban on the entry of convicted criminals either in the judiciary or the executive. The centre has been asked by the top court to respond to the plea within six weeks.

- The petition comes at a time when the Supreme Court is already dealing with a plea on expediting trials in all serious cases involving elected leaders of both Houses.
SC to fast-track trials of sitting MPs/MLAs:
- The Supreme Court had earlier passed several orders to fast-track trials involving sitting MPs and MLAs facing charges so that they can get a quick decision from the courts and contest elections after getting their name cleared or face early conviction.
- However, the order does not cover candidates who want to contest elections for the first time. The fresh petition has urged the court to pass orders that would prevent any convicted criminal from contesting elections.

7. The Parliament passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020



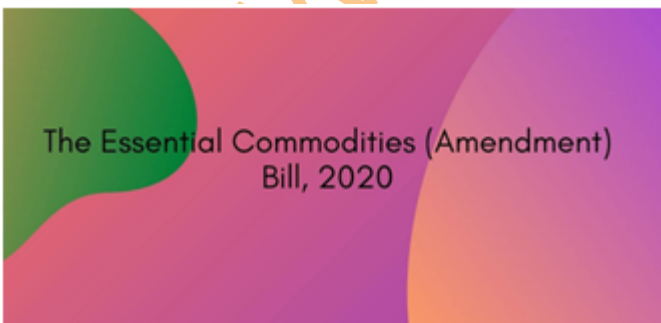
The Parliament passed Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15, 2020 after it was approved by the Rajya Sabha.

More On This:

The Lok Sabha had passed the bill earlier on March 17th. The bill seeks to amend the Aircraft Act, 1934 and convert three existing regulatory bodies under the Civil Aviation Ministry including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) into statutory bodies.

- The three regulatory bodies include the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, Aircraft Accidents Investigation Bureau and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. The bill has proposed each of the bodies to be headed by a Director General who will be appointed by the centre. Significance
- The Aircraft (Amendment) Bill, 2020 aims to enable the three regulatory Aviation bodies to become more effective, which will, in turn, increase the level of security and safety in the aircraft operations of the nation.

8. Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020



Lok Sabha passed the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 on September 15, 2020. The bill, which will replace the ordinance, provides that the stock limits can be imposed on the agricultural produce only if there is a steep price rise.

More On This:

The Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020 allows the central government to regulate the supply of some food items only under extraordinary circumstances which include famine, war, the natural calamity of grave nature, and extraordinary price rise.

The bill passed in the Lok Sabha seeks to amend the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and empowers the government in terms of supply, production, trade, distribution, and commerce of certain commodities.

- What will change with the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020?
- The latest bill will empower the central government to designate certain commodities including fertilizers, food items, and petroleum products as the essential commodities.
- Supply of certain food items including pulses, cereals, onions, potato, oils, and edible oilseeds can be regulated by the central government under the extraordinary circumstances as per the provisions of this bill.

9. Rajya Sabha on India-China border issue

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in his statement today in the Rajya Sabha on India-China border issue said that China continues to be in illegal occupation of approx 38,000 sq. kms in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

More On This:

He confirmed that China also claims approximately 90,000 sqkm of Indian territory in Arunachal Pradesh. In addition to this, the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh added that under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 sqkm of Indian territory in PoK to China.

On Galwan Clash

- Speaking on the Galwan Valley clash on June 15, Defence Minister said that Col Santosh Babu along with his 19 brave soldiers made the supreme sacrifice in Galwan Valley towards the cause of defending the territorial integrity of India.
- Rajnath Singh reiterated that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had himself visited Ladakh to boost morale of our forces. Armed Forces maintained 'Sayyam', equally displayed 'Shaurya'.
- The Defence Minister praised the forces by saying that the conduct of the armed forces throughout these incidents showed that while they maintained 'Sayyam' in face of provocative actions, they also equally displayed 'Shaurya' when required to protect territorial integrity of India. Chinese actions reflect disregard of bilateral agreements. Rajnath Singh noted that the Chinese actions reflect a disregard of our various bilateral agreements.

10. Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020



The Lok Sabha on September 17, 2020 passed two farm bills amid protests from the opposition parties and a section of farm organisations.

More On This:

The two bills include the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020 and the Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement of Price Assurance and Farm Services Bill, 2020.

- The Lok Sabha had also passed a bill amending the Essential Commodities Act on September 15, 2020. These three bills will replace the existing ordinances.
- Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Bill, 2020: Key Provisions
- The bill aims to create an ecosystem where farmers and traders will enjoy the freedom to sell and purchase farm produce outside registered 'mandis' under the states' APMCs.
- The bill's provisions promote barrier-free inter-state/ intra-state trade of farmers' produce. It will reduce marketing and transportation costs and help farmers in getting better prices. It will also provide a framework for electronic trading.

11. POSHAN Abhiyaan



The Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) on September 20, 2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of AYUSH to join efforts to eradicate malnutrition as a part of POSHAN Abhiyaan.

More On This:

Shripad Naik, Minister of State for AYUSH, while speaking on the event mentioned that the integration of the AYUSH Ministry and WCD Ministry will go a long way in eliminating malnutrition, which was one of the main reasons for infant mortality below the age of 5.

- The MoU between both the ministries was signed in the presence of Shripad Naik, Smriti Irani, and Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, Prof. K Vijay Raghavan, among many others.
- On the occasion, Shripad Naik acknowledged that the signing of the MoU between the two ministries will go a long way. He added that the WCD ministry has working hard to ensure the good health of lactating mothers and the AYUSH Ministry has been working to promote healthy well-being, especially amid the pandemic. Both the ministries are now coming together to ensure growth and proper nutrition for every child in the country.
- The Union Minister also stressed that the ayurvedic medicinal plants have been commonly in every household in the past and the active involvement of the ministry in the initiative will greatly improve the health status of the children.

12. US Open 2020



Sumit Nagpal on September 1, 2020, created history by becoming the first Indian to win a singles' main draw match at a grand slam in the last 7 years. The 23 years old successfully stormed into the second round of the ongoing US Open.

More On This:

Sumit Nagpal defeated Bradley Klahn of USA 6-1, 6-3, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the US Open in order to progress further into the tournament.

Earlier in 2013, Somdev Devvarman had reached the second round of the Australian Open, US Open, and French Open. Sumit Nagpal who is world number 122 will now be facing either Spain's Jaume Munar or Austria's Dominic Thiem.

Winning the game and creating history:

- According to the reports, Sumit Nagpal came out blasting in the initial two sets of the match against Bradley Klahn as he registered the successive wins of 6-1, 6-3. However, the third set saw Klahn coming back to defeat Nagpal which lead the match for an intense finish. But Nagpal once again rose to the top in the fourth set and gained a 5-0 lead in a set.
- Bradley Klahn was able to win one game, but in the end, Sumit Nagpal wrapped up the match in a comprehensive fashion.

13. Australia-India-Japan virtual meeting



Australia-India-Japan Economic Ministers' Joint Statement on Supply Chain Resilience was held on 1st September.

More On This:

The virtual meeting comprised of India's Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Australia's Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Senator Simon, and Japan's Minister of Economy, Trade, and Industry, Kajiyama Hiroshi.

- India-Japan-Australia has agreed to launch an initiative to build a resilient supply chain in the Indo-Pacific region. The aim is to create a free and transparent trade & investment environment.
- The Ministers reaffirmed their agreement to take a lead in delivering a free, fair, transparent, inclusive, non-discriminatory, predictable, and stable trade and investment environment and in keeping their markets open.
- During the meeting, the Ministers shared their intention to work toward the launch of a new initiative to achieve the objective through cooperation. GoI had taken the call at the highest levels to become part of the global supply chain and is emerging as an alternative to China.

14. Japan emergency support loan to India



Japan has announced an emergency support loan of up to 50 billion yen (over Rs.3,500 crore) to support India's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

More On This:

The loan will be used for the implementation of health and medical policies and the development of hospitals equipped with ICUs.

- Government of India has taken several measures, including health sector reforms, in response to the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak. It should be noted that this the largest amount of financial assistance announced by any country so far to support India's response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- As per the terms & conditions of the loan, an interest rate of 0.01% per annum (pa) and a redemption period of 15 years, including a four-year grace period.
- Japan also exchanged notes for the provision of grant aid worth 1 billion yen under Japan's Official Development Assistance scheme for India's Economic and Social Development Programme.

15. Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020



India has ranked 48th position in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020. India has jumped to four places since 2019.

More On This:

The index was compiled by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) along with Cornell University and the INSEAD business school, presents the latest global innovation trends and annual innovation ranking of 131 economies. Switzerland topped the GI ranking. It is followed by Sweden, the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.

- As per the Index, India became the third most innovative lower-middle-income economy in the world. It is attributed to newly available indicators and improvements in various areas of the GI.
- China is the only middle-income economy that ranked among the top 30 and currently holds the 14th place.
- India:
- India ranked in the top 15 in indicators such as ICT services exports, graduates in science and engineering, government online services, and R&D intensive global companies.

16. International Literacy Day



International Literacy Day is observed on 8 September. The day is aimed to spread awareness about the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies. The day also aims to promote the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.

More On This:

The theme for International Literacy Day 2020 is "Literacy teaching and learning in the COVID-19 crisis and beyond". The theme focuses on the role of educators and changing pedagogies. The theme focuses on youth and adults and highlights literacy learning in a lifelong learning perspective.

- In 1966, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated 8th September to remind the international community of the importance of literacy for individuals, communities, and societies, and the need for intensified efforts towards more literate societies.
- The issue of literacy is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the United Nation's (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The UN's Sustainable Development Agenda was adopted by world leaders in September 2015. The agenda promotes universal access to quality education and learning opportunities throughout people's lives.

17. World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)



World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is observed on 10 September. The Day aims to create awareness about suicide prevention and help the loved ones to fight suicidal thoughts.

More On This:

The day aims to raise awareness of the risks of suicide and to fund suicide prevention activities. World Suicide Prevention Day 2020 is celebrated virtually this year by spreading information about suicide prevention via social media platforms.

- The theme for World Suicide Prevention Day 2020 is "Working together to prevent suicide". This theme has been used for the third year in a row for WSPD. It focuses on a specific aspect of suicide.
- The theme is aimed to make suicide prevention more effective globally. The theme suggests that all the people have a role to play and the challenges presented by suicidal behaviour in society can be addressed together.
- World Suicide Prevention Day was initiated by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) along with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). World Suicide Prevention Day is being observed since 2003.

18. Global Economic Freedom Index 2020



India has ranked 105th position on the Global Economic Freedom Index 2020. India has fallen 26 spots as it stood at the 79th spot in last year's rankings. Hong Kong topped the rankings. It was followed by Singapore.

More On This:

The report stated that the increasing economic freedom in India depend on next generation reforms in factor markets and in greater openness to international trade. The rankings are done based on various parameters and the scores are given for 10, which indicates a higher level of economic freedom.

- India reported marginal decrease in size of government from 8.22 to 7.16, freedom to trade internationally from 6.08 to 5.71, legal system and property rights from 5.17 to 5.06, and regulation of credit, labour and business from 6.63 to 6.53.
- Top 10 countries:
- Hong Kong, Singapore, New Zealand, Switzerland, US, Australia, Mauritius, Georgia, Canada and Ireland.

19. International Democracy Day



International Democracy Day is observed on 15 September every year worldwide. The day aims to raise awareness among people about democracy.

More On This:

Despite the major social, legal and political challenges that happened globally due to Covid-19, the world states have upheld the rule of law, respect and protect international standards and basic principles of legality, and the right to access justice, remedies, and due process.

- Democracy is a process that will happen only with the full participation of and support by the international community, national governing bodies, civil society, and individuals. Democracy is a two-way street that is built on a constant dialogue between civil society and the political class.
- In Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG-16) democracy has been addressed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. According to SDG, democracy is the indivisible link between peaceful societies and effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.

20. World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020



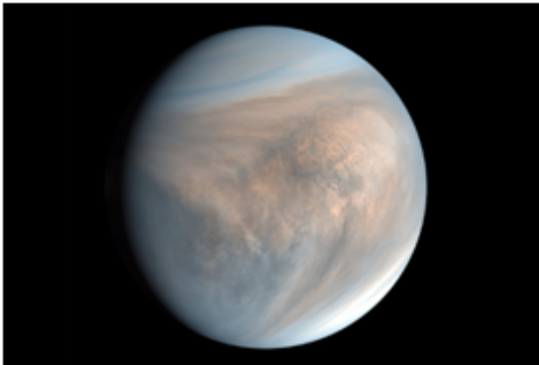
India has ranked 116th position in the latest edition of the World Bank's annual Human Capital Index 2020. Last year, India ranked 115 out of 157 countries. The index benchmarks key components of human capital across countries.

More On This:

The Human Capital Index 2020 update included health and education data for 174 countries up to March 2020. It covered around 98% of the world's population.

- The analysis showed that pre-pandemic, most countries made steady progress in building the human capital of children. It also stated that the biggest strides made in low-income countries.
- India's score increased to 0.49 from 0.44 in 2018, as per the Human Capital Index report released by the World Bank.
- The index also stated that there has been a major decline in remittances and total income is going down by 11 or 12%.

21. Sign of life in the atmosphere of Venus



Astronomers have recently found a potential sign of life in the atmosphere of Venus. Two telescopes in Hawaii and Chile have spotted the chemical signature of phosphine in the thick Venutian clouds. This has given a hint that there may be bizarre microbes living in the sulfuric acid-laden clouds of Venus.

More On This:

The researchers first used the James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (JCMT) in Hawaii to detect the phosphine. Then, they used the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA) in Chile.

- Both the facilities observed Venus at a wavelength of about 1 millimeter at a high altitude.
- It has been speculated high clouds on Venus could offer a home for microbes.
- The detection of phosphine molecules, which consist of hydrogen and phosphorus, could point to this extra-terrestrial aerial life.
- Phosphine can be found only in rocky planets like Earth and Venus. This gas can only be made by life like human or microbe. Phosphine can be manufactured as well.

22. Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)



DRDO successfully test-fired Laser-Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) from MBT Arjun Tank at KK Ranges, Armoured Corps Centre and School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar on 22 September 2020.

More On This:

The missile has been developed with multiple-platform launch capability. The ATGM is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the gun of MBT Arjun.

- Laser Guided Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM):
- ATGM was developed by Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) Pune in association with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) Pune, and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) Dehradun.
- During the test, ATGM successfully defeated a target located at 3 km. Using Laser designation, the Laser guided ATGMs lock and track the targets to ensure precision hit accuracy.
- The missile employs a tandem high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.

23. BrahMos LACM



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight testes BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile.

More On This:

The missile was tested for designated range on 30 September 2020 from ITR, Balasore in Odisha. The test is a more major step in enhancing the indigenous content.

- BrahMos LACM:
- The BrahMos Land-Attack Cruise Missile (LACM) cruise at a top speed of Mach 2.8.
- The Missile featured indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other Made in India sub-systems.
- This successful launch has paved the way for the serial production of the indigenous booster and other indigenous components of the powerful BrahMos Weapon System. It is in line with Atmanirbhar Bharat.

24. Humanitarian Action Award by the UN



Bollywood actor, Sonu Sood has been conferred the prestigious SDG Special Humanitarian Action Award by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on 28 September 2020 during a virtual ceremony.

More On This:

He has received the award for selflessly extending a helping hand and sending lakhs of migrants, stranded students across geographies abroad, back to their homes.

- Besides that, he has also been providing free education and medical facilities to young children and has been creating free employment opportunities to the needy in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- With this prestigious honour, Sood joins the likes of Angelina Jolie, David Beckham, Leonardo DiCaprio, Emma Watson, Liam Neeson, Cate Blanchett, Antonio Banderas, Nicole Kidman and Priyanka Chopra who have been similarly honoured by different UN bodies.

25. Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV)



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully demonstrated the hypersonic air-breathing scramjet technology with the flight test of the Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV) from Dr.APJ Abdul Kalam Launch Complex at Wheeler Island, Odisha on 7th September.

More On This:

HSTDV was launched using a proven solid rocket motor at an altitude of 30 km.

The aerodynamic heat shields were separated at hypersonic Mach number.

- The cruise vehicle was separated from the launch vehicle and the air intake opened as planned.
- The flight path of the vehicle is a velocity of 6 times the speed of sound that is, nearly 2 km/second for more than 20 seconds, was achieved.
- The critical events like fuel injection and auto ignition of scramjet demonstrated technological maturity.

26. Flight Lieutenant, Shivangi Singh



Flight Lieutenant, Shivangi Singh to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) September 10, 2020.

More On This:

She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF. Five Rafale Aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' on September 10, 2020, at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana). Indian Air Force Chief of the Air Staff (CAS): Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria.

The motto of the Indian Air Force: Touch the sky with Glory.

27. Global Climate Summit 2020



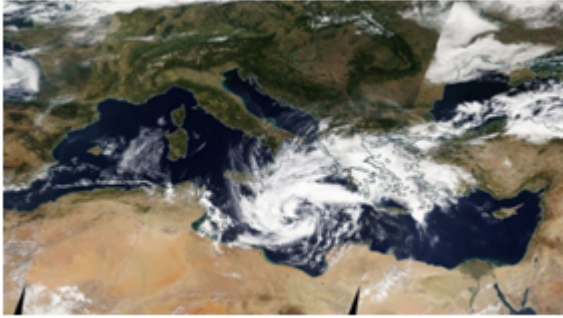
The United Kingdom and the United Nations are going to co-organise a global climate summit on December 12, 2020, to mark the fifth anniversary of the signing of the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015.

More On This:

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson will co-host the event.

- The summit will increase the momentum ahead of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26) to be held in Glasgow, Scotland in November 2021.
- The Summit will invite National governments to present more ambitious and high-quality climate plans. United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. It was founded on 24 October 1945.
- Mr Antonio Guterres is the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

28. Medicanes



The Mediterranean hurricanes are called Medicanes. The scientists have recently warned that these hurricanes have now become more frequent lately. This is mainly due to human induced climate change.

More On This:

The medicanes are usually formed during winter season. They occur once or twice a year. They occur in colder regions as compared to tropical cyclones. Also, their wind speed is lower than that of tropical cyclones. They are also smaller in diameter. The core of medicanes is colder as compared to that of the tropical cyclones.

29. India is elected as the Member of the UN Commission



India is elected as the Member of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. The 54-member the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held the first plenary meeting of its 2021 session in the General Assembly Hall.

More On This:

The principal global body held elections for two seats in the Asia-Pacific States category. Three countries namely Afghanistan, India, and China competed. Afghanistan garnered 39 votes and India won 38 votes of the 54 ballots cast. China got 27 votes failed to get the required majority of 28 votes.

- India and Afghanistan will join Austria, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Israel, Latvia, Nigeria, Turkey, and Zambia.
- The above countries were elected to the Commission on the Status of Women for a four-year term starting from 2021-2025.
- The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a functional commission of the UN's ECOSOC.
- It focuses on gender equality and women empowerment. The Commission on the Status of Women aims to promote women's rights and shape global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women worldwide.

30. Key areas to boost the MSME sector



The Government of India formed five task forces in five different key areas to boost the MSME sector in the country. The task forces will make the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) future ready. It will create concrete strategies in making the country a lead exporter.

More On This:

The Task Forces are to work for a month and have been created under different ministries. One of the key areas identified is Industry 4.0 that includes elements such as virtual reality, 3D. Also, the task forces will work in making India a global leader of Industry 4.0.

- The second is Export Promotion and Import Reduction. This will focus on key manufacturing areas and will improve quality standards, designs, packaging and technology.
- The third is re-engineering. This is to be done horizontally and vertically in the existing cluster schemes. This will help assist micro level enterprises and grass root level enterprises.
- Fourth Task Force has been created on Integrating technology Centres
- The fifth task force will work on exploring intervention and align several modernisation schemes such as LEAN, ZED (Zero Defect and Zero Effect). Also, it will focus on other schemes related to intellectual property rights and design.

News Contributors

Ram Dheeraj Appasani NALSAR(Hyderabad)

Anand Nayak Korra NALSAR(Hyderabad)

Newsboard Developed by - Achyuth Kadarla (Bonsagar Publications)