

GSSCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

Target PT 2020 *in* **100 DAYS**

Snippets

DAY 1 - 15

GS SCORE

An Institute for Civil Services

IAS PRELIMS 2020

Target PT 2020

COMPLETE REVISION
through
4000⁺ MCQs

BATCH-4 STARTS

27 JANUARY
2020

Test Timings:
9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Class Timings:
10:00 AM onwards

BATCH-5 STARTS

12 FEBRUARY
2020

Test Timings:
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
Class Timings:
4:30 PM onwards

45 Concept cum Revision
Classes with Daily Test



15 Prelims Current Affairs
Classes + Tests



Special Classes on
Economic Survey & Budget



Special Classes on
India Year Book & Mapping



Prelims Mock
Test Series



Prelims Study Material



- This programme covers the complete syllabus including - History, Geography, Polity, Economy, Science, Environment and Current Affairs with the correct mix of Fundamental and Advance level of study to cover micro detailing of sub-topics & current developments.
- 45 Concept cum Revision Classes (4-5 Hrs.) for covering basic concepts. In each session there will be a test of 50 questions (based on the topics given in schedule) followed by Class to cover basic aspects of each topic and approach to handle questions.
- The idea behind taking test before classes is that, first students should brainstorm on the given topics through the test to find their strong and weak areas. Then a class on same topics will provide a conceptual clarity that helps to revise the topics twice on the same day.

- 15 Current Affairs classes covering last 2 years current topics/issues, updates on Indian Year Book (IYB), PIB, Budget and Economic Survey supplemented by notes.
- Current Affairs Classes will also include updates on Indian Year Book (IYB), PIB, Budget and Economic Survey.
- Special Classes on Mapping (World & Indian Geography).
- Prelims Test Series including 20 Mock Test and 8 Current Affairs Tests.
- Complete Prelims Study Material & Prelims Current Affairs Material will also be provided (It will cover Current Affairs of past 2 years).

Office: 1B, 2nd Floor, Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005 (Adjacent to Karol Bagh Metro Gate No. 8)



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- Basavanna
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- **WhatsApp Launches Tip Line to curb Fake News**
- **India evacuates peacekeeping CRPF contingent from Libya**
- **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide**
- **Delimitation**

■ Day 13

- **Software giant Infosys got UN Global Climate Action Awards**
- **Burning of Amazon Forest**
- **Bt Cowpea cultivation approved in Nigeria**
- **'Dead Zone' found in The Gulf Of Mexico**

- **Climate Change Emergency declared by UK parliament**

■ Day 14

- **Globalization 1.0 to 4.0**
- **Statement of Guiding Principles**
- **Ease of Doing Business**
- **Global Competitiveness Index**
- **Kolam Tribe**

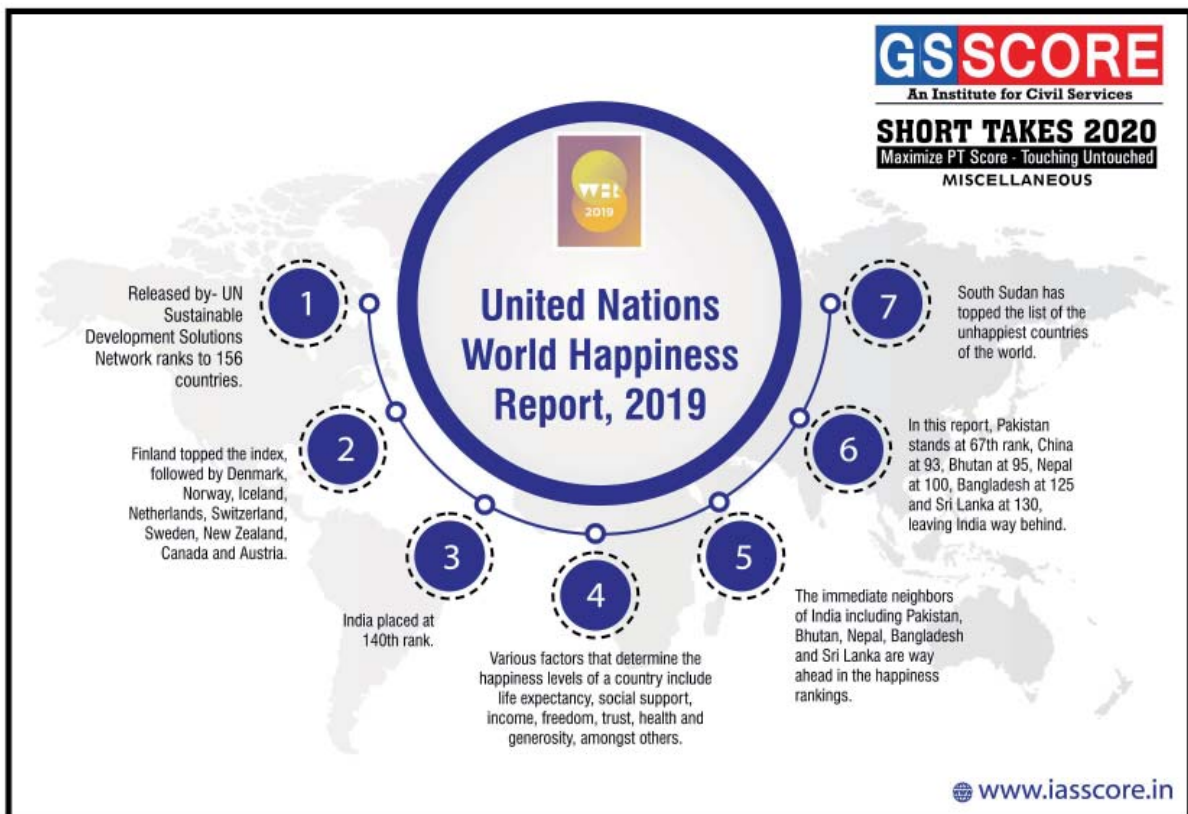
■ Day 15

- **New State of Matter Discovered**
- **Thermal Battery Plant**
- **Erode Turmeric**
- **AUSINDEX**
- **MH 60R Multi Mission Helicopters**

One Nation One Ration Card

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SHORT TAKES 2020
Maximize PT Score - Touching Untouched
MISCELLANEOUS



01

The biggest festival of Tripura people was celebrated with full devotion and fervour.

02

The major rituals include the sacrifice of fowls and especially eggs of duck and hen, the symbol of fertility, to please the deities.

03

This is basically Ganesha puja, which first harvest of the year is sacrificed to Ganesha, and it used to be performed by royal priest from immemorial.

04

Both Bengali non-tribal and the tribal community people jointly celebrate this festival.

Garia Festival

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Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

On 13th April, 2019- the 100th year of Jallianwala Bagh Massacre was marked.

General Reginald Edward Harry Dyer ordered to fire upon the large crowd indiscriminately which gathered on the occasion of Baisakhi, for the peaceful protest against the confinement of Satya Pal and Saifuddin Kitchlew.

Around 500 to 600 people were killed and more than three times people got injured.

General Dyer was designated as "The butcher of Amritsar" and in protest Rabindranath Tagore denounced his knighthood.

Hunter Commission was set up to inquire into the matter and in response the Rowlatt Act was repealed in 1922.

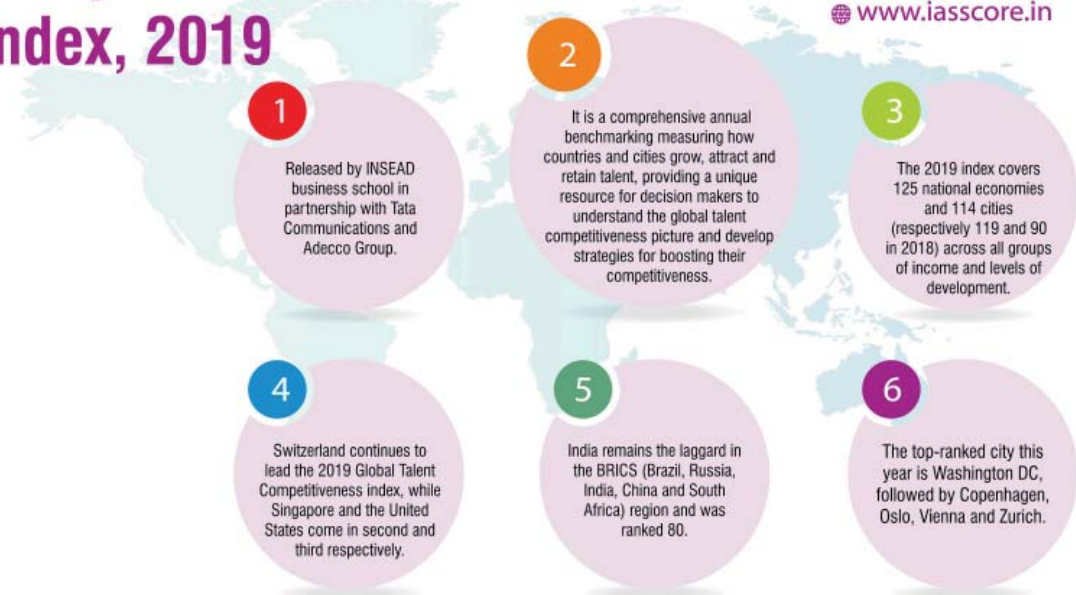
Global Talent Competitiveness Index, 2019

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POLITY

Atal Ranking on Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) Awards



In 2019, apart from NIRF ranking, there is Atal Ranking on Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA). Both these rankings have been issued by MHRD.

ARIIA has been released for the first time.

Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) is an initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Govt. of India to systematically rank all major higher educational institutions and universities in India on indicators related to "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development" amongst students and faculties.

Major Indicators for consideration:

- Budget & Funding Support.
- Infrastructure & Facilities.
- Awareness, Promotions & support for Idea Generation & Innovation.
- Promotion & Support for Entrepreneurship Development.
- Innovative Learning Methods & Courses.
- Intellectual Property Generation, Technology Transfer & Commercialization.
- Innovation in Governance of the Institution.

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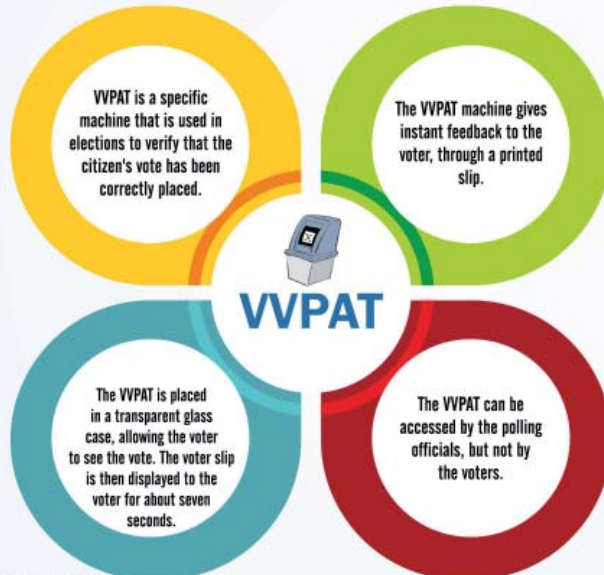
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POLITY



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Q WHAT IS VVPAT?

A. Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) helps voters to physically confirm the choice they have made. It consists of:

- A printer that gives a record of voters' selection.
- A display unit that shows any error.



Q HOW IT WORKS?

A. The printed VVPAT slip is displayed for 7 seconds before it is automatically cut and delivered to a sealed ballot compartment.

Q WHAT THE VVPAT SLIP CONTAINS?

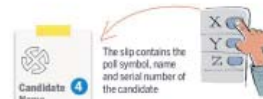
A.

- A candidate serial number
- Name of the candidate
- Corresponding symbol.

VVPAT paper roll is designed for printing **1,500** ballot slips for each election.

How do VVPAT machines work?

When a voter presses a button in the EVM, a paper slip is printed through the VVPAT



It allows the voter to verify his/her choice. After being visible to the voter from a glass screen for 7 secs, the ballot slip will be cut and dropped into the box and a beep will be heard. VVPAT machines can be accessed by polling officers only.



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POLITY

CENSUS 2021

1 The 2021 census will be conducted through a mobile phone application. This is for the first time that the mobile app will be used for the census exercise.

2 The census will have its reference date as March 1, 2021, but for snow-bound Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand it will be October 1, 2020.

3 The data for the National Population Register (NPR), a list of usual residents of the country, will also be collected, along with the census exercise.

4 The responsibility of conducting the decennial Census rests with the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

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National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)

1	2	3	4
<p>The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) has released the NIRF Ranking 2019 and ARIIA Awards.</p> 	<p>NIRF outlines a methodology to Rank Institutions across the country.</p>	<p>Parameters in NIRF Rankings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching Learning & Resources: These parameters are related to the core activities of any place of learning. • Research and Professional Practice: Excellence in teaching and learning is closely associated with the scholarship. • Graduation Outcome: This parameter forms the ultimate test of the effectiveness of the core teaching/learning. • Outreach & Inclusivity: The Ranking framework lays special emphasis on the representation of women. • Perception: The ranking methodology gives significant importance to the perception of the institution. 	<p>Categories in NIRF Ranking 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIRF rankings are given under 8 categories excluding overall ranking. • The categories for NIRF rankings are: Overall, Universities, Engineering, Medical, Management, Law, Architecture, Pharmacy and Colleges.

ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GUARD CORPS AS FTO

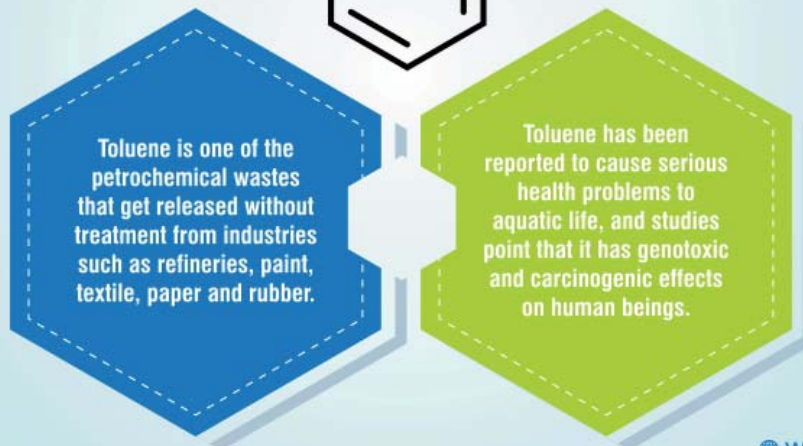
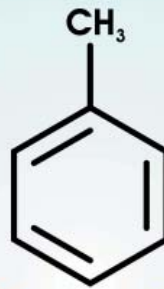
		
<p>The USA administration announced to officially designate Iran's military unit, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), as a foreign terrorist organization (FTO).</p>	<p>By definition, terrorists are non-state actors — so this designation for a foreign government's military is a major first on the international stage.</p>	<p>To be designated as FAO the suspected terrorist group must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Be a Foreign Organization, ➔ Engage in or retain the capability and intent to engage in terrorism, and ➔ Threaten the Security of U.S. Nationals or the National Defense, Foreign Relations, or the Economic interests of the United States.

Connect4Climate



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Toluene



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EARTH DAY 2019



Nandhaur Wildlife Sanctuary



Neelakurinji



In Munnar, one can view this great sight from Kovilur, Kadavari, Rajamala and Eravikulam National Park.

6

Strobilanthes kunthiana, kurinji or neelakurinji, is a shrub that is found in the shola forests of the Western Ghats in South India.

1

Neela' literally translates to 'blue' and kurinji is the name given to it by the tribals of the area.

5

Nilgiri Hills, which literally means the blue mountains, got their name from the purplish blue flowers of Neelakurinji that blossoms only once in 12 years.

2

4

3

Neelakurinji or 'Strobilantheskunthianum' blooms in 40 or so varieties, a majority of them being blue in colour.

Other kurinji species, such as *Strobilanthes cuspidatus*, bloom once every seven years, and then die.

Convertibility of Currency

1 Currency convertibility refers the ease with which a country's currency can be converted into gold or another currency in global exchanges. It indicate. the extent to which the regulations allow inflow and outflow of capital to and from the country.

2 Current Account- Indian rupee can be converted to any foreign currency at existing market rates for trade purposes for any amount.

3 Capital Account- It means that ease with which, the foreign investors will be able to buy Indian assets such as bonds, equity and Indian citizens will be able to buy foreign financial assets.

4 Capital Account Convertibility benefits

- Creating overseas assets- currently is seen as a measure of dividend earning, rather it could be looked as value enhancement.
- Acquisition of assets- which are of strategic and economic importance, such as coalfields, oilfields etc. can bring long term dividends

Foreign Exchange Transactions

However, capital account transactions were not made fully convertible.

6

India initiated reforms in foreign transactions and allowed full current account convertibility in 1994.

5

In the early nineties, India's foreign exchange reserves were so low that these were not enough to pay for a few weeks of imports.

4

3

The Capital Account records the net change of assets and liabilities which include external lending and borrowing, foreign currency deposits of banks, external bonds issued by the Government of India, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Foreign Portfolio Investments in India (FPI) etc.

2

The Current Account represents a country's current transactions which include exports, imports, interest payments, private remittances and transfers.

Foreign exchange transactions are mainly classified into two types: Current account transactions and Capital account transactions.

1

Indian Statistical System

India's modern statistical system was shaped even before independence under the leadership of Prof PC Mahalanobis who was also known as 'father of Indian Statistical System'.

The Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) was created in 1999 and the National Statistical Commission (NSC) was set up in 2005 to oversee the entire range of official statistics.

The Ministry has two wings, one relating to Statistics and the other Programme Implementation. The Statistics Wing called the National Statistical Office (NSO) consists of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) and the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO).

The statistics produced by CSO are GDP, Index of Industrial Production, Energy Statistics, Infrastructure Statistics, National Income Accounting, Conduct of Annual Survey of Industries, Consumer Price Indices for Urban Non-Manual Employees, Human Development Statistics, Gender Statistics, Imparting training in Official Statistics.

The statistics produced by NSSO are primarily data are collected through nation-wide household surveys on various socio-economic subjects, Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). Also collects data on rural and urban prices, crop statistics.



Ways & Means Advances

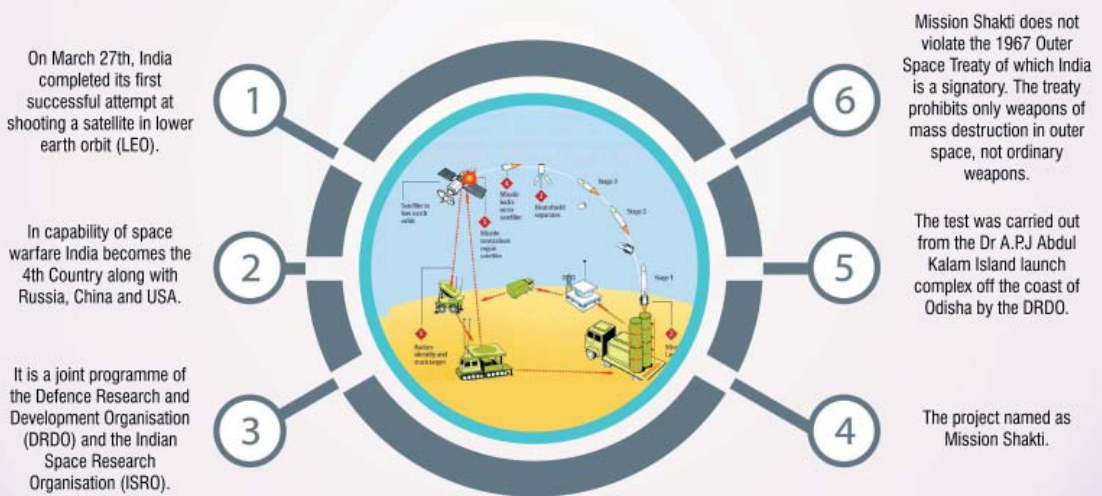


5G



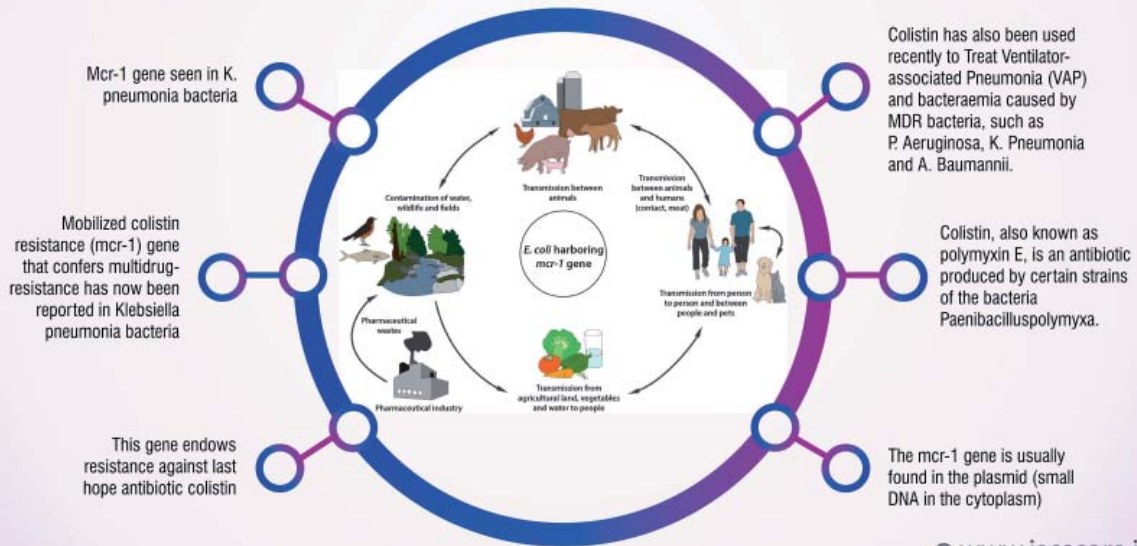
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ANTI SATELLITE TEST (ASAT)



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MCR 1 Gene



INDIA GETS SURVEILLANCE SATELLITE

Pride of place
PSLV-C45, carrying EMISAT and 28 international satellites, marked the first mission of PSLV-QL, a new variant of PSLV with four strap-on motors.

EMISAT is a satellite built around ISRO's Mini Satellite-2 bus. It is intended for electromagnetic spectrum measurement.

436 kg	748 km	800 W
Lift-off weight	Altitude	Power

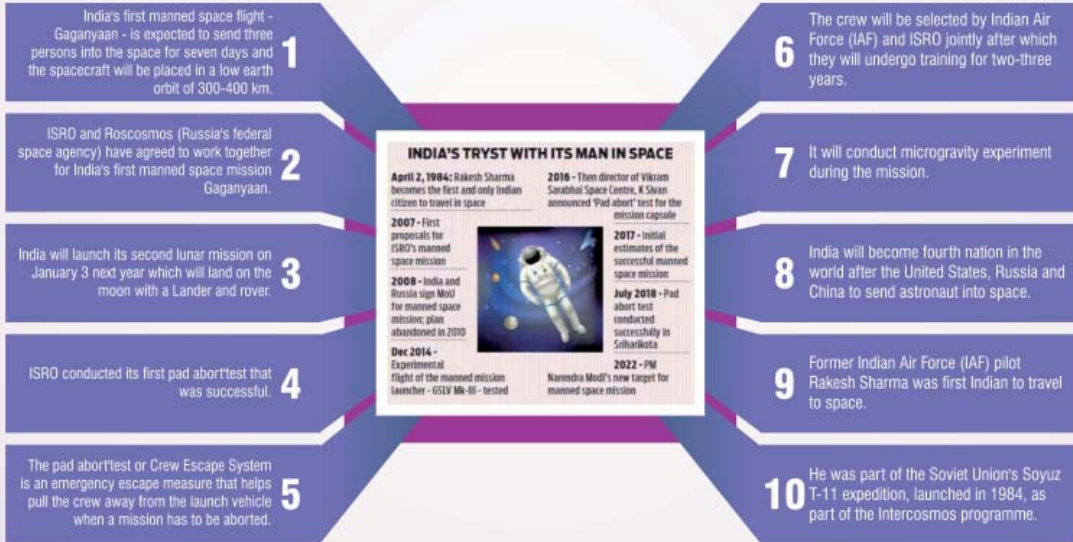
NEXT MILESTONES
PSLV-C46 will launch INSAT-3B in May 2019

PAYLOADS The payloads carried by PSLV-C45 are Automatic Identification System from ISRO, Automatic Packet Repeating System from AMSAT, India, and Advanced Retarding Potential Analyzer for ionospheric studies from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology

CUSTOMER SATELLITES		
Country	Name	No. of satellites
Lithuania	BlueWalker1	1
	M6P	1
Spain	Aistechsat-3	1
Switzerland	Astrocast-2	1
U.S.	Flock-4A	20
	LEMUR	4

- India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C45) launched EMISAT weighing about 436 kg and 28 international customer satellites from SatishDhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Srihankota (DRDO).
- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-C45 was launched on 1 April 2019
- It is the 47th mission of the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) program.
- This flight marked the first mission of PSLV-QL, a new variant of PSLV with four strap-on motors.
- The 28 international customer satellites, together weighing about 220 kg, are from four countries, namely, Lithuania (2), Spain (1), Switzerland (1) and USA (24). These foreign satellites were launched as part of commercial arrangements.
- ISRO launched the country's first electronic surveillance satellite, EMISAT.
- With EMISAT, India just forayed into the realm of space-based electronic intelligence (ELINT).
- ELINT will add teeth to situational awareness of the Armed Forces as it will provide location and information of hostile radars placed at the borders.

Gaganyaan



State of World Population Report, 2019

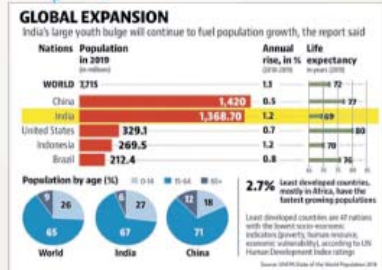
- 1** Released by- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- 2** Theme- 'Unfinished Business: the pursuit of rights and choices for all'
- 3**



4 India's findings:

- The country accounts for over one-sixth of the world's population in 2019 (1.37 billion out of 7.71 billion) and has grown at an average of 1.2 per cent annually between 2010 and 2019, more than double the annual growth rate of China.
- While 67 per cent of the country's population was in the 15-64 age bracket, 6 per cent of the country's population was of the age 65 and above.
- The total fertility rate per woman declined from 5.6 in 1969 to 2.3 in 2019.
- While India's life expectancy at birth is lower than the world's (69 years to 72), it scores higher than the global average in terms of access to healthcare during childbirth, and also has a much lower adolescent birth rate.

- Major highlights:**
- The world's population rose to 7.715 billion in 2019, up from 7.633 billion the year before, with the average life expectancy remaining 72 years.



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IIT-BOMBAY ONE RANK DOWN

What is NIRF? National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) was launched in 2015. It is the only national ranking framework for institutes & univs in India.

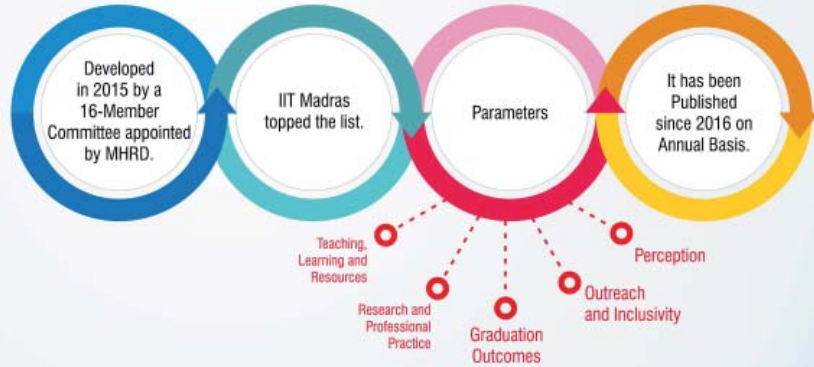
How Mumbai Institutes fare?

Institute/Univ	2019	2018	2017
IIT-Bombay	4	3	3
ICT	27	30	41
Homi Bhabha National Institute	30	41	35
TISS	56	49	49
Narsee Monjee Institute of Mgmt Studies	83	82	NA
Mumbai University	101-150	NA	NA

University	2019	2018	2017
ICT	15	19	25
Homi Bhabha National Institute	17	26	21
TISS	35	32	31
Narsee Monjee Institute of Mgmt Studies	57	55	98
Mumbai University	81	151-200	101-150

Engineering Institutes in Mumbai	2019	2018	2017
IIT-Bombay	3	2	2
ICT	12	10	14
National Institute of Industrial Engg	66	44	36
Veemata Jijabai Technological Institute	105	95	101-150
Sardar Patel Institute of Technology	114	101-150	101-150
Narsee Monjee Institute of Mgmt Studies	110	101-150	NA
KJ Somaiya College of Engineering	151-200	NA	NA

National Institutional Rankings Framework, 2019



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Global Food Policy Report-2019

- Released by International Food Policy Research Institute.
- This year's Global Food Policy Report highlights the urgency of rural revitalization to address a growing crisis in rural areas.
- Theme for 2019- Rural Revitalisation.
- Rural population account for 45.3 per cent of the world's total population and at least 70 per cent of the world's population remain extremely poor.
- Besides being the most vulnerable and marginalised, rural population suffers from rapid population growth rates, inadequate job and enterprise creation, poor infrastructure, scarce financial services. In addition, rural communities bear the brunt of climate change impacts.

TRACKING CHANGE Food Policy Indicators

- Agricultural Science and Technology Indicators
- Statistics on Public Expenditures for Economic Development
- Food Policy Research Capacity Indicators
- Agricultural Total Factor Productivity
- Projections of food production, consumption, and hunger



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Kafala (Sponsorship) System

- 1 As per UN's International Labour Organization, Qatar is all set to abolish its controversial Exit visa system for all foreign workers by the end of 2019.
- 2 The Kafala system emerged in the 1950's to regulate the relationship between employers and migrant workers in many countries in West Asia.
- 3 Under this system a migrant worker's immigration status is legally bound to an individual employer or sponsor (kafeel) for their contract period.

THE KAFALA SYSTEM Despite the reforms underway, employers still have powers over migrant workers to:

- 1 SPONSOR THEIR VISA AND ISSUE THEIR RESIDENCE PERMIT
- 2 STOP A WORKER CHANGING JOBS WHILE IN CONTRACT, OFTEN FOR UP TO 5 YEARS
- 3 REPORT WORKERS AS HAVING "ABSCONDING", LEADING TO ARREST OR DEPORTATION
- 4 CONTROL WHETHER DOMESTIC WORKERS AND OTHERS CAN LEAVE THE COUNTRY BY ISSUING EXIT PERMITS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2019

- Released by UNESCAP with title titled "Survey 2019: Ambitions beyond Growth".
- About UNESCAP
 - It is the regional development arm of the United Nations in Asia and the Pacific, with a membership of 62 Governments, including 58 from the region.
 - Established in 1947 with its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand.
 - UNESCAP serves as the highest intergovernmental regional platform to promote cooperation among member States for creating a more interconnected region working to achieve inclusive and sustainable economic and social development.

To realize the dreams of **4.3 billion people** in Asia and the Pacific, it will cost an additional **\$1.5 trillion per year** ≈ \$1 per person per day

What can a dollar a day buy?

For South Asia and Least Developed Countries **\$2 to \$3 per person per day**

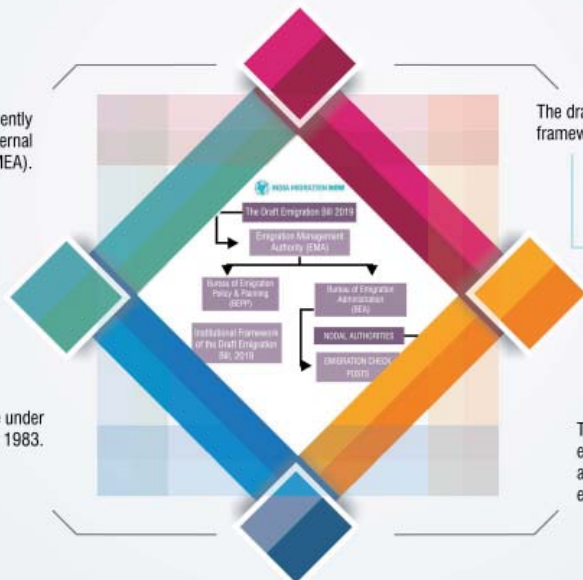
It's affordable, if we all work together!

UNESCAP

EMIGRATION BILL 2019

The draft Emigration Bill 2019, recently released by the ministry of external affairs (MEA).

It is set to replace the extant one under the Emigration Act of 1983.



The draft bill proposes a three-tier institutional framework, with the MEA as the nodal ministry.

- At the top, a central Emigration Management Authority (EMA) has been proposed for policy guidance and supervision.
- In the middle, a Bureau of Emigration Policy and Planning, and a Bureau of Emigration Administration shall handle day-to-day operational matters and oversee the welfare of emigrants.
- At the bottom, nodal authorities in states and union territories shall coordinate aspects of management related to both emigrants and returnees.

This could allow vertical policy coherence on emigration matters particularly in promoting and managing safe, orderly and regular emigration.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC)

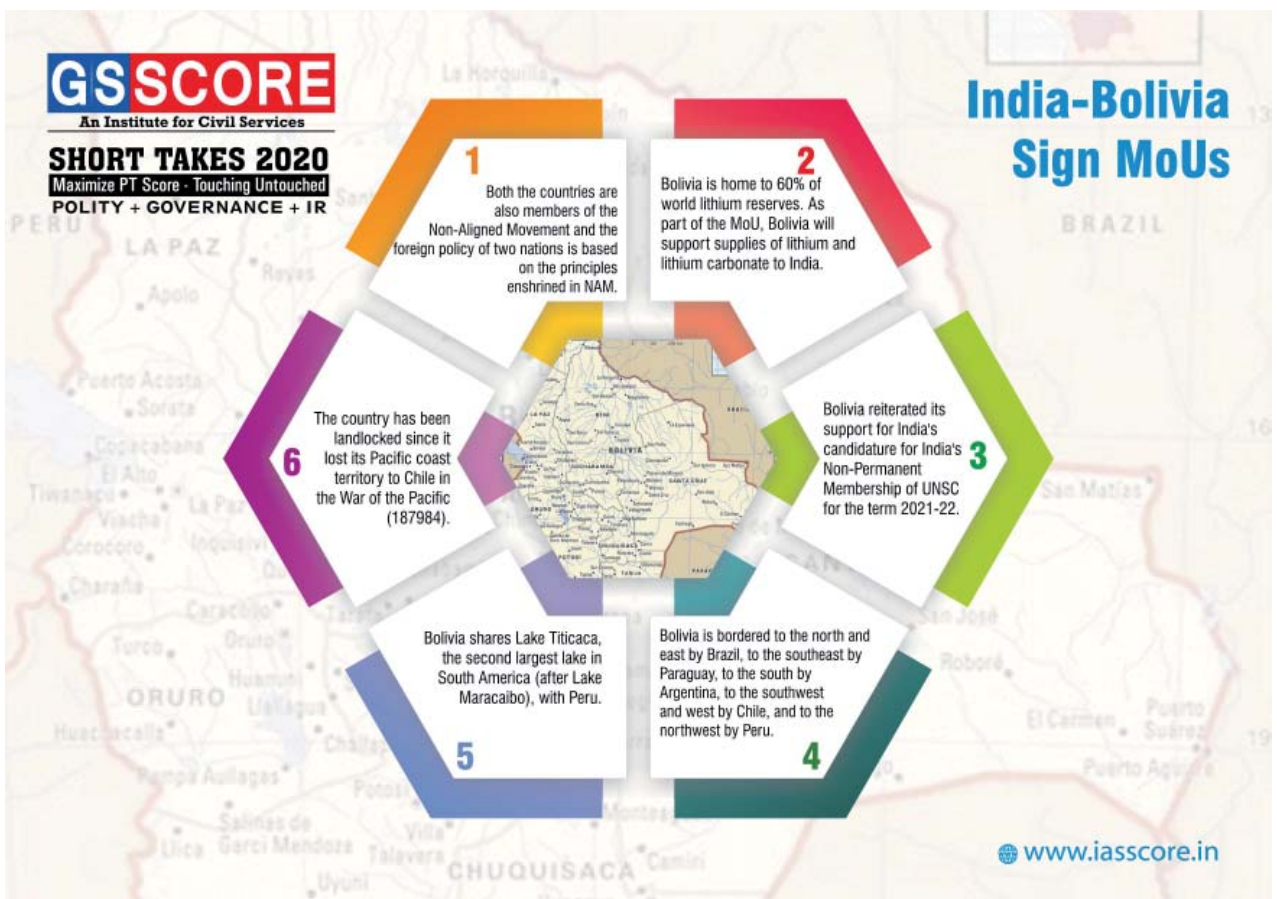


01	02	03	04
<p>IFC is a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group, the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in developing countries.</p>	<p>Although part of the Bank Group, IFC is a separate legal entity with separate Articles of Agreement, share capital, financial structure, management, and staff. Membership in IFC is open only to member countries of the World Bank.</p>	<p>The President of the World Bank Group is also President of IFC.</p>	<p>Established in 1956, IFC is owned by 185 member countries, a group that collectively determines our policies. Through a Board of Governors and a Board of Directors, the member countries guide IFC's programs and activities.</p>

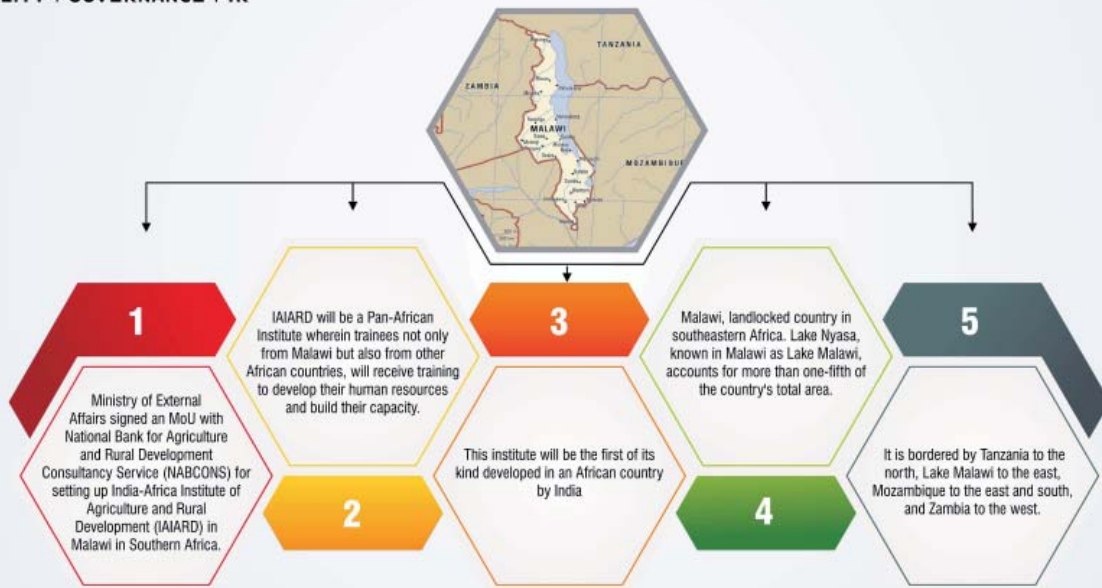
EC ROPES IN COMMUNITY RADIO STATIONS TO EDUCATE VOTERS



India-Bolivia Sign MoUs



INDIA TO SET UP AGRICULTURE INSTITUTE IN MALAWI



Bamboonomics



Latest IPCC report warns of severe threat to oceans



- 1 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released a report with title 'Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate'.
- 2 The report has underlined the significant changes which are taking place in oceans, glaciers and ice-deposits on land and sea.
- 3 It was prepared following an IPCC Panel decision in 2016 to prepare three Special Reports and follows the Special Reports on Global Warming of 1.5°C, and on Climate Change and Land (SRCCL).
- 4 The global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than 90% of the excess heat in the climate system.
- 5 Since 1993, the rate of ocean warming has more than doubled.
- 6 Marine heat waves have almost doubled in frequency since 1982 and are increasing in intensity.
- 7 Floods will become more frequent and severe in the mountainous and downstream areas of the Indus, Ganges and Brahmaputra river basins, because of an increase in extreme precipitation events.

Different International Conventions and Related Issues	International Conventions	Related Issues
	Basel Convention	Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes
	Rotterdam Convention	Transportation of Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
	Minamata Convention	Mercury Contamination
	Stockholm Convention	On Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)

Basel Ban Amendment becomes an International Law

The 1995 Basel Ban Amendment, a global waste dumping prohibition, has become an international law after Croatia (97th country to ratify) ratified it.

It was adopted by the parties to the Basel Convention in 1995.



The Basel Convention on the Control of Trans boundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal, usually known as the Basel Convention, is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to developing countries.

The amendment prohibits all export of hazardous wastes, including electronic wastes and obsolete ships from 29 wealthiest countries of the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to non-OECD countries.

It aims to protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of hazardous wastes.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) meeting in New Delhi



- 1 The 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP 14) begins in New Delhi.
- 2 Earlier, India has taken over the President's chair of the COP from China.
- 3 UNCCD was established in 1994 and has 194 member states.
- 4 It is the only legally binding international agreement which links environment and development to sustainable land management.
- 5 It is the only convention which originates from a direct recommendation of the Rio Conference's Agenda 21.
- 6 The Convention addresses specifically the arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, or the drylands, where some of the most vulnerable ecosystems and peoples can be found.
- 7 The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is the nodal Ministry for this Convention.

The portal has been developed by the National Informatics Centre (NIC).

e-Way bill

Upon generation of the E-Way Bill, on the common portal, a unique E-Way Bill number called 'EBN' is made available to the supplier, the recipient and the transporter.



E-way bill or Electronic-way bill is a document introduced under the GST regime that needs to be generated before transporting or shipping goods worth more than INR 50,000 within state or inter-state.

The physical copy of e-way bill must be present with the transporter or the person in charge of the conveyance and should include information such as goods, recipient, consignor and transporter.

It was rolled out on April 1, 2018, for moving goods from one state to another however for intra-state movement of goods it was rolled out in a phased manner.

Municipal Bonds



1 They are the debt securities issued by government or semi-government institutions that need funding for civic projects.

2 Normally, they are issued and redeemed at par and carry a fixed interest rate.

3 There are two types of municipal bonds:

- General obligation bonds are issued for enhancing civic amenities such as water, sanitation, garbage disposal, etc. They generally are not backed by revenue from a specific project.
- Revenue bonds are issued for a specific purpose such as construction of a toll road or a toll bridge.

4 Bangalore Municipal Corporation was the first urban local body (ULB) to issue Municipal Bond in India in 1997.

National Urban Policy Framework



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Indian Tea Industry

Climatic Condition suitable for Tea

- **Temperature:** 210C to 290C is ideal for Tea. The lowest temperature for the growth of tea is 160C.
- **Rainfall:** 150-250 cm of rainfall is required for tea cultivation.
- **Soil:** Tea shrubs require fertile mountain soil mixed with lime and iron. The soil should be rich in humus.
- **Land:** Tea cultivation needs well drained land. Stagnation of water is not good for tea plants.

As of 2018 India was the second largest producer of Tea in the world after China



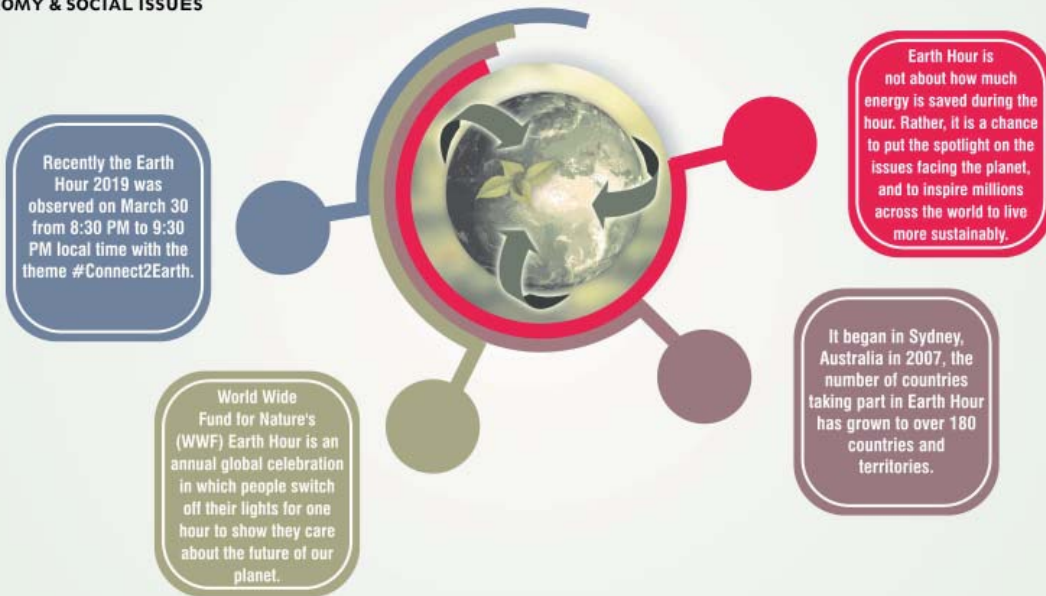
India stands fourth in terms of tea exports after Kenya, China and Sri Lanka respectively.

India is one of the world's largest consumers of tea, with about three-fourths of the country's total produce consumed locally.

The main tea-growing regions are in Northeast India (including Assam) and in north Bengal (Darjeeling district and the Dooars region) along with Nilgiris in south India.

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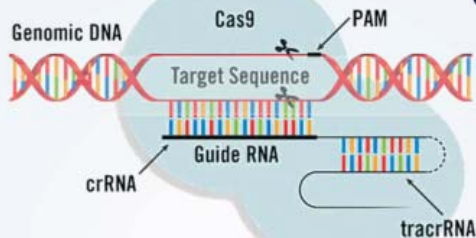
Earth Hour



Repurpose Used Cooking Oil (RUCO)



CRISPR-Cas9



1 CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) is a naturally occurring defence mechanism in bacteria.

2 Currently, there are four families of engineered nucleases which are being used 1) **Mega nucleases**, 2) **Zinc finger nucleases (ZFNs)**, 3) **Transcription activator-like effectors-based nucleases (TALEN)**, 4) **Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR)-Cas system**.

3 CRISPR-Cas9 was adapted from this naturally occurring genome editing system.

4 The bacteria capture snippets of DNA from invading viruses and use them to create DNA segments known as CRISPR arrays.

5 The CRISPR arrays allow the bacteria to "remember" the viruses (or closely related ones).

6 If the viruses attack again, the bacteria produce RNA segments from the CRISPR arrays to target the viruses' DNA. The bacteria then use Cas9 or a similar enzyme to cut the DNA apart, which disables the virus.

7 The CRISPR-Cas9 system works similarly in the lab. Researchers create a small piece of RNA with a short "guide" sequence that attaches (binds) to a specific target sequence of DNA in a genome.

8 The RNA also binds to the Cas9 enzyme. As in bacteria, the modified RNA is used to recognize the DNA sequence, and the Cas9 enzyme cuts the DNA at the targeted location.

9 Once the DNA is cut, researchers use the cell's own DNA repair machinery to add or delete pieces of genetic material, or to make changes to the DNA by replacing an existing segment with a customized DNA sequence.

Echidna



Echidnas, also known as spiny anteaters, are unique egg-laying mammals found only in Australia and New Guinea.

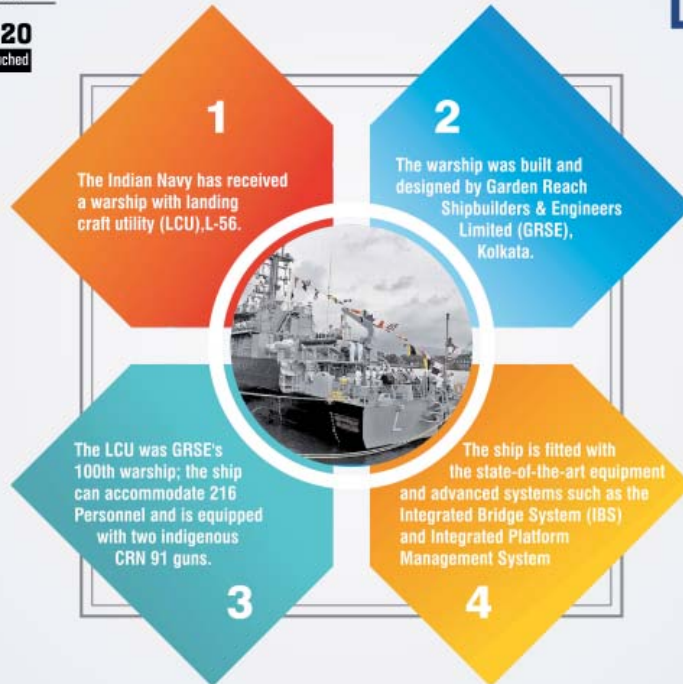
Scientists at the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CSIR-CCMB) here have isolated an anti-microbial protein found in the milk of an egg-laying mammal.

The protein promises to serve as an alternative to antibiotics used on livestock.

The milk of the echidna has a protein that can puncture the cell membranes of multiple bacterial species, thus destroying the source of infection.

It can then be used to fight infections and termed as Magic Milk.

LUC L-56



Facebook launches tools to boost Electoral Process



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MISCELLANEOUS

Sri Vedanta Desikar

1
Sri Vedanta Desikan was a Sri Vaishnava philosopher and one of the most brilliant stalwarts of Vaishnavism in the post-Ramanuja period.

2
He received other titles such as 'Kavitarikika-kesari' and 'Kavitarikika-simham', the lion amongst poets; and 'Ramanuja-daya-patram', the recipient of Ramanuja's causeless mercy, given in a laudatory verse composed by the famous Brahma Tantra Svatantra Swami.



3
He is known as Sarva-tantra-svatantra or a master of science, philosophy, arts and crafts.

4
He was the disciple of Kidambi Appullar, who was also known as Aathreya Ramanujachariar, and a master-disciple lineage that began with Ramanuja.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

1
He was as one of the pillars of Bengal renaissance who managed to continue the social reforms movement that was started by Raja Rammohan Roy in the early 1800s.

2
He brought about a revolution in the Bengali education system and refined the way Bengali language was written and taught.

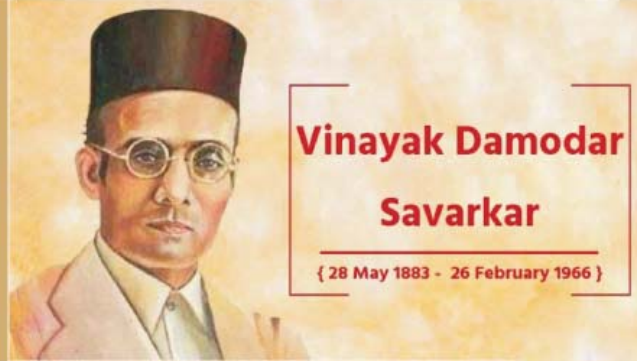


4
His book, 'Borno Porichoy' (Introduction to the letter), is still used as the introductory text to learn Bengali alphabets.

3
The title 'Vidyasagar' (ocean of knowledge) was given to him due to his vast knowledge in several subjects.

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Vinayak Damodar Savarkar



- 136th Birth Anniversary was celebrated.
- In 1911, Savarkar was sentenced to 50 years in the cellular jail of Andamans, also known as Kala Pani for revolting against the Morley-Minto reforms (Indian Councils Act 1909).
- In his book 'The History of the War of Indian Independence', he analysed the circumstances of 1857
- It was via this book that Savarkar became one of the first writers to call for India's first war for independence against the British.
- The airport at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar's capital was renamed Veer Savarkar International Airport in 2002.

Basavanna

1 Basavanna was a 12th-century philosopher, poet, statesman, Lingayat saint in the Shiva-focussed Bhakti movement, and social reformer during the reign of the Kalyani Chalukya/Kalachuri dynasty.

2 Basavanna was active during the rule of both dynasties but reached his peak of influence during the rule of King Bijjala II in Karnataka, India.



4 He is also known as Bhaktibhandari (literally, the treasurer of devotion) or Basaveswara (Lord Basava).

3 Basava literary works include the Vachana Sahitya in Kannada Language.

Pattachitra Painting



- 1** Pattachitra style of painting is one of the oldest and most popular art forms of Odisha.
- 2** Pattachitra is thus a painting done on canvas, and is manifested by rich colourful application, creative motifs and designs, and portrayal of simple themes, mostly mythological in depiction.
- 3** Some of the popular themes represented through this art form are Thia Badhia; Krishna Lila; Dasabatara Patti; Pancharukhi.
- 4** The gum of the kaitha tree is the chief ingredient, and is used as a base for making different pigments, on which diverse raw materials are mixed for diverse colours.
- 5** Powdered conch shells, for instance, are used for making a white pigment, while lamp soot is used for a black pigment.
- 6** The root of the keya plant is usually used for making the common brush, while mouse hair is used on the requirement of finer brushes, to be attached to wooden handles.

POLITY

SUAE scraps 'Profession' criteria for expats to sponsor family



WhatsApp Launches Tip Line to curb Fake News



1

The Facebook-owned company unveiled a brand new initiative, called Checkpoint Tipline that will help people verify if any information they receive is true or false.

2

Indian users, numbering more than 200 million, can now report uncertain information or rumours they have received to a WhatsApp number (+91-9643-000-888) and check its authenticity.

3

The response will indicate if information is classified as 'true', 'false', 'misleading', 'disputed' or 'out of scope', and include any other related information.

4

Launched by PROTO, an India-based media skilling startup, the tipline is basically aimed at creating a database of rumours.

India evacuates peacekeeping CRPF contingent from Libya



1

India has evacuated its entire contingent of 15 CRPF personnel from Tripoli after the situation suddenly worsened in Libya. The CRPF contingent was deployed as a peacekeeping force in Tripoli.

2

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) contingent was deployed as peace keeping force in Tripoli.

3

Libya is a country located in North Africa. Most of the country lies in the Sahara desert, and much of its population is concentrated along the coast and its immediate hinterland, where Tripoli (Tarabulus), the de facto capital, and Benghazi (Benghazi), another major city, are located.

4

Libya comprises three historical regions Tripolitania in the northwest, Cyrenaica in the east, and Fezzan in the southwest.

5

Libya is bounded by the Mediterranean Sea on the north, Egypt on the east, Sudan on the southeast, Niger and Chad on the south, and Tunisia and Algeria on the west.

International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide

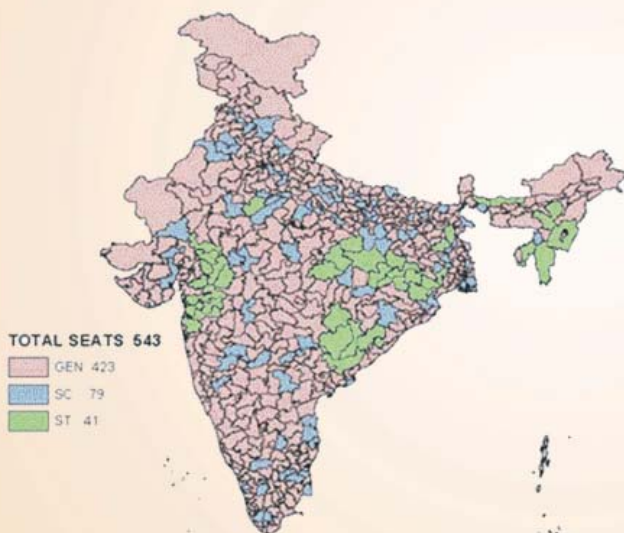
1 On 7 April, UNESCO commemorates the International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, which was established by the United Nations General Assembly (link is external) in 2003.

2 The date marks the beginning of the genocide perpetrated against members of the Tutsi minority by the Hutu extremist-led government.

3 Rwanda is bounded to the north by Uganda, to the east by Tanzania, to the south by Burundi, and to the west by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Kinshasa) and Lake Kivu.

4 Rwanda is a landlocked republic lying south of the Equator in east-central Africa.

Delimitation



- 1 Delimitation is the act of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats to represent changes in population.
- 2 Under Article 82, the Parliament enacts a Delimitation Act after every Census.
- 3 Under Article 170, States also get divided into territorial constituencies as per Delimitation Act after every Census.
- 4 In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times in 1952, in 1963, in 1973 and in 2002 under the respective Acts.
- 5 In India, such Delimitation Commissions have been constituted 4 times in 1952, in 1963, in 1973 and in 2002 under the respective Acts.
- 6 There was no delimitation after the 1981 and 1991 Censuses.

Software giant Infosys got UN Global Climate Action Awards

Global Climate Action United Nations Climate Change

- 1 These Awards are given under the 'Momentum for Change initiative' at UN Climate Change.
- 2 Those projects which are recognized as innovative solutions and not only address climate
- 3 From India, IT major Infosys has won the United Nations Global Climate Action Award (UNGCAA) in the 'Climate Neutral Now' category for "Infosys' Journey to Carbon Neutrality".
- 4 The UN Climate Change's Momentum for Change initiative is implemented with the support of The Rockefeller Foundation.
- 5 It operates in partnership with World Economic Forum (WEF), donors supporting implementation of UN Climate Change's Gender Action Plan and Climate Neutral Now.

Burning of Amazon Forest



- 1 The Amazon rainforest which is the largest rainforest in the world was burning throughout.
- 2 9,500 distinct fires were burning through its main basin.
- 3 However, fires are common in Amazon forests, but this year the crisis has been aggravated by loggers and farmers as during the summer months farmers clear vast tracts for agricultural or industrial use.
- 4 There has been an increase of at least 80% in the number of recorded fires compared to the same period in 2018. The number and intensity of the fires are closely linked to the rate of deforestation. Some reports estimate that in July 2019, the Amazon shrunk by 1,345 sq km, up 39% from the same month last year, and a historical record.
- 5 The Amazon which the world's largest rainforest is needed by the world community and humanity to survive and fight global warming.
- 6 They are called the "lungs of the planet" for its role in sucking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and adding fresh oxygen to it, this green cover which spreads over several South American countries and 60% of it is in Brazil alone. It is crucial for sustaining the human civilization.

BT Cowpea cultivation approved in Nigeria



- 1** Nigeria became the first country to approve open cultivation of genetically modified (GM) Bt cowpea.
- 2** The newly developed cow-pea is pest-resistant and can help combat malnutrition rates, especially in children.
- 3** It contains the transgene Cry1Ab, which can be toxic for human liver cells and also alter immune systems of lab animals, anti-GM groups

'Dead Zone' found in The Gulf of Mexico



- 1** Dead Zones are un-oxygenated zones which appear in water bodies wherever algae are overfed by runoff from human activities such as urbanization and agriculture by a phenomenon called Eutrophication.
- 2** Scientists have predicted that this spring's record rainfall would produce one of the largest-ever "dead zones" in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 3** The dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico is fueled by the nutrient-laden water spilling from the mouth of the Mississippi River which is the second-largest in the world.
- 4** The primary sources in causing eutrophication appear to be excess nitrogen and phosphorus, from sources including fertilizer runoff and septic system effluent to atmospheric fallout from burning fossil fuels which enter water bodies and fuel the overgrowth of algae, which, in turn, reduces water quality and degrades estuarine and coastal ecosystems.
- 5** Eutrophication can also produce carbon dioxide, which lowers the PH of seawater (ocean acidification) which slows the growth of fish and shellfish, may prevent shell formation in bivalve mollusks, and reduces the catch of commercial and recreational fisheries, leading to smaller harvests and more expensive seafood.

Climate Change Emergency declared by UK Parliament

A national climate emergency was recently declared by the UK Parliament. The United Kingdom became the first country in the world to declare such emergency.



The United Nations recently declared that humanity could have just 11 years left to limit a climate change catastrophe.

Globalization 1.0 to 4.0

Globalization 1.0 was pre-World War 1 globalization, which was launched by a historic drop in trade costs when steam and other forms of mechanical power made it economical to consume goods made faraway.

Globalization 2.0 is the post-World War II phase where trade in goods was combined with complementary domestic policies that helped share the pains and gains of globalization (and automation). The market was in charge of efficiency; the government was in charge of justice.

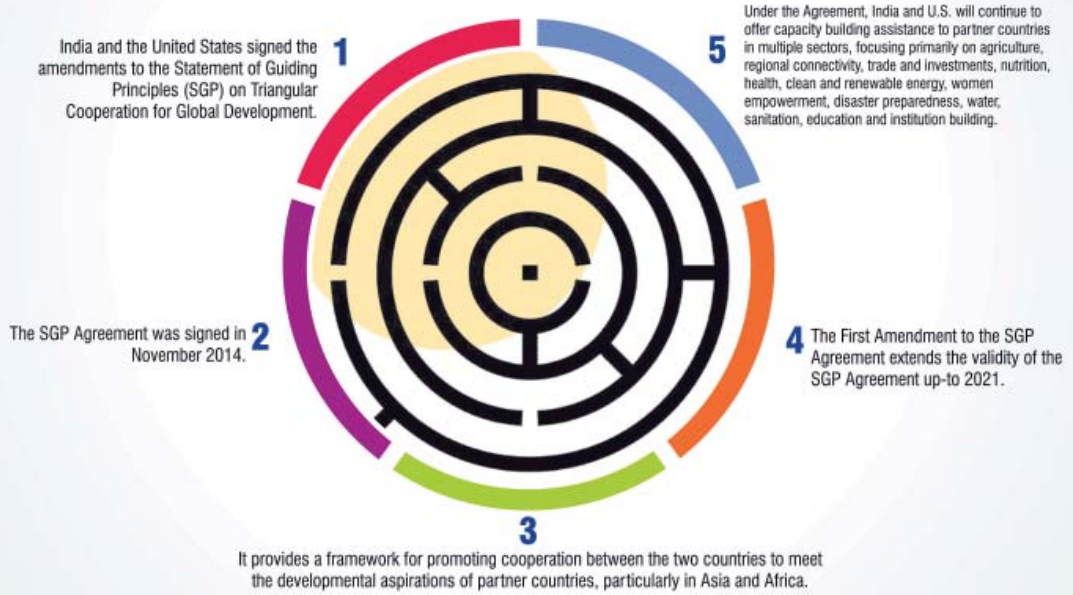


Globalization 4.0 is what I call the third unbundling. It is what will happen when digitech allows arbitrage of international wage differences without the physical movement of workers. While Globalization 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 were mainly a concern of people who made things for a living (since globalization focused on things that we made), Globalization 4.0 is going to hit the service sector.

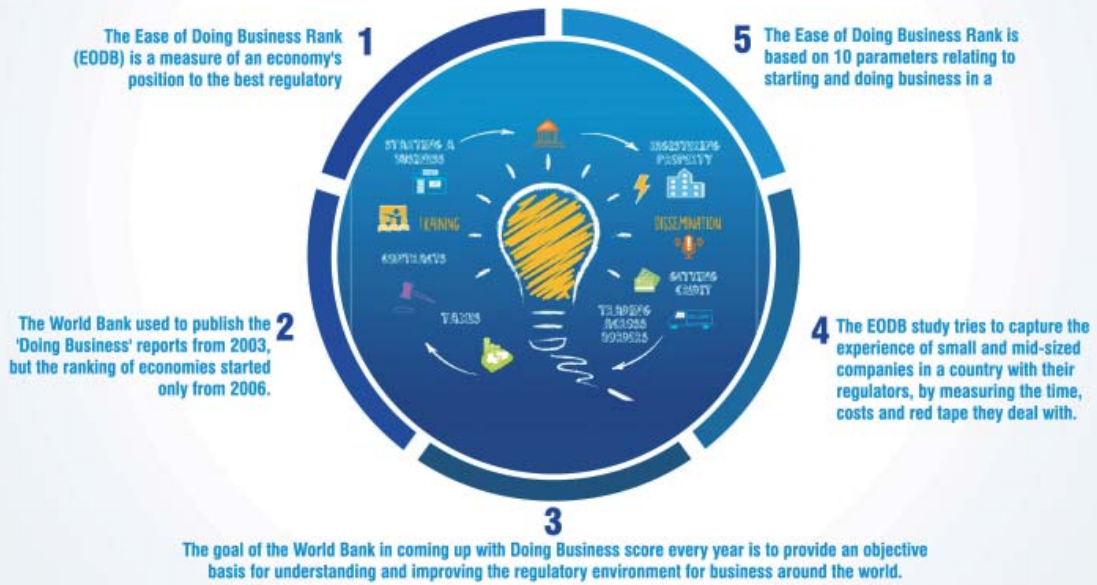
Globalization 3.0 is what I called the second unbundling, or the New Globalization. The key is that globalization now meant factories crossing borders, and - critically - the know-how of G7 firms along with them. This created a new world of manufacturing in which high-tech was combined with low wages.

Internationally, Globalization 2.0 saw the establishment of institute-based, rule-based international governance, specifically the UN, IMF, World Bank, GATT/WTO and many specialized agencies like the Food and Agricultural Organisation and International Labour Organisation.

Statement of Guiding Principles



Ease of Doing Business



Global Competitiveness Index



- 1**

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the 2019 edition of the Global Competitiveness Report which features the Global Competitiveness Index 4.0.
- 2**

The World Economic Forum introduced the new Global Competitiveness Index 4.0 in 2018. GCI 4.0 provides a detailed map of the factors and attributes that drive productivity, growth and human development in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- 3**

The GCI 4.0 covers 141 economies, which account for 99% of the world's GDP.
- 4**

A country's performance on the overall GCI is reported as a 'progress score' on a 0-to-100 scale, where 100 represents the 'frontier', an ideal state where an issue ceases to be a constraint to productivity growth.
- 5**

The latest edition of report focuses on building shared prosperity (addressing inequality) and managing the transition to a sustainable economy (addressing environmental issues) along with competitiveness and growth.
- 6**

The report is based on 12 set of factors (pillars) that determine productivity. These are: Institutions; Infrastructure; ICT adoption; Macroeconomic stability; Health; Skills; Product Market; Labour market; Financial system; Market size; Business dynamism; and Innovation capability.
- 7**

The index has been an annual edition since 1979.

Kolam Tribe



- 1**

The Kolam tribe (or in their own language, Kolavar) is a scheduled tribe of Maharashtra. They also live in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, and Madhya Pradesh.
- 2**

They have a language of their own (Kolami) which belongs, like Gondi, to the intermediate group of Dravidian languages.
- 3**

They are monogamous and Hinduism is their religion.
- 4**

The Government has identified Kalkaria (Kathodia), Kolam and Maria Gond as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the State of Maharashtra.
- 5**

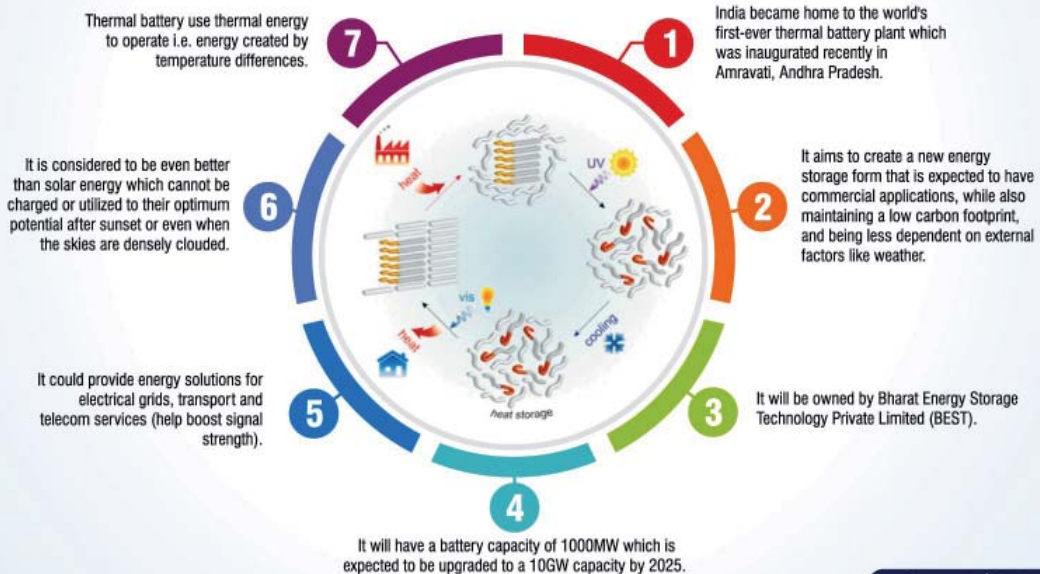
The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is administering the scheme "Development of PVTGs" for overall development of PVTGs. This scheme is flexible and enables the States to focus on areas that they consider is relevant to PVTGs and their socio-cultural environment.

New State of Matter Discovered

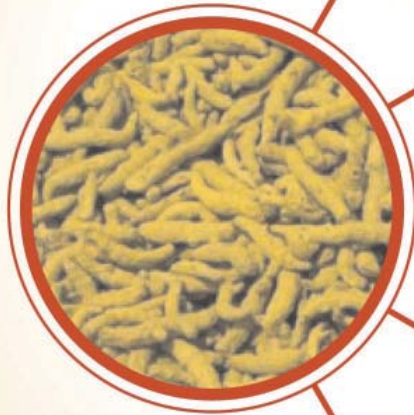


- 1 Scientist has discovered the existence of the state known as the chain-melted state.
- 2 Scientists from the University of Edinburgh (Scotland) using powerful computer simulations have discovered it.
- 3 At the chain-melted state, atoms are both solid and liquid at the same time.
- 4 It got discovered when extreme pressure and temperature are applied to potassium.
- 5 Thus it can form a state in which most of the atoms form a lattice structure but a second set is in a fluid arrangement.

Thermal Battery Plant



Erode Turmeric



1 Recently Erode's unique slender turmeric received a GI tag for its distinctive fragrance and colour.

2 It has a high curcumin content of around 3.9%.

3 The loamy red and black soil of the Erode region is believed to be the reason behind the distinctive brilliant yellow colour, as well as its characteristic sweet taste and aroma.

4 India is the world's largest producer of turmeric (*Curcuma longa*), a Perennial herbaceous plant of the ginger family.

5 Telangana is the largest grower of turmeric in the country (followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu).

AUSINDEX



1 AUSINDEX is an acronym for Australia India, Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) is the participating agencies of the exercise.

2 The exercise aims to strengthen and enhance mutual cooperation and interoperability between both nations, providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of professional views between the personnel of the two navies".

3 The exercise underscores India's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and shared objectives of the two countries towards ensuring good order in the maritime domain.

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SHORT TAKES 2020

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SCIENCE & TECH

MH 60R Multi Mission Helicopters



1

The United States Department of State has approved the sale of 24 MH-60R multi-mission helicopters to India under its Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

2

MH 60R helicopters will provide India the capability to undertake anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions.

3

These helicopters will also provide India the ability to perform secondary missions, including vertical replenishment, search and rescue, and communications relay.

4

It is to be noted that India was granted with USA's unique Major Defence Partner (MDP) designation in 2016, a step towards India accessing U.S. military technology at a level on a par with those of the U.S.'s closest allies.

5

In 2018 India was then given Strategic Trade Authorisation-1 (STA-1) status by the U.S and became the third Asian country after South Korea and Japan (and 37th country globally) to acquire it.

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