



MADE EASY

India's Best Institute for IES, GATE & PSUs

**MADE EASY
WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

WEEK-4

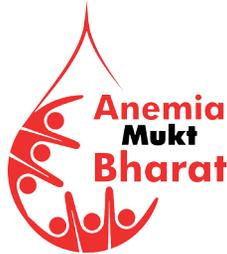
22nd October to 31st October

Targeted Examinations:
**CSE, ESE, PSUs, State Exams,
SSC and Banking Exams**

22nd OCTOBER 2020

Anemia Mukht Bharat Index

- Haryana has recently emerged as the best state in the Anemia Mukht Bharat (AMB) Index among all the states in the country. Haryana has an AMB Index of 46.7.
- The state has also achieved 93% of immunization in the year 2019-2020 for the first time.



About Anemia Mukht Bharat

- It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and UNICEF. The scheme has been launched in order to reduce the prevalence of Anemia across India.
- The programme is aimed at achieving the target of anemia reduction under the POSHAN Abhiyan.

Wildlife Institute of India (WII)

- The Union Government is planning to divest the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) of its status as an independent entity of the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- The major responsibility of WII is to provide advice to Ministry based on scientific information on policy and management of the country's Wildlife Resources.
- The Autonomous Bodies or independent entities are set up whenever it is felt that certain functions need to be discharged independently without day-to-day interference of the Governmental machinery.
- These are set up by the Ministries/Departments concerned with the subject matter and are funded through grants-in-aid, either fully or partially.

23rd OCTOBER 2020

COVIRAP

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has approved a low cost COVID-19 test 'COVIRAP', which is developed by IIT Kharagpur.
- The kit provides close test results similar to RT-PCR and gives the results in less than an hour.
- This testing kit consists of three mixtures to confirm the presence of virus in the body. This test is up to 93% sensitive and up to 98% specific.
- The kit costs around Rs. 5000. The cost per test using the kit is around 500 to 600 rupees.



INS Kavaratti



- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kavaratti was recently transferred to the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.
- It is one of the four indigenous anti-submarine warfare corvettes designed under the Project 28 (Kamorta-class Corvettes).

Key Highlights:

- The ship was designed by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.
- INS Kavaratti has state-of-the-art weapons. It also comprises a sensor suite which is capable of detecting and prosecuting submarines.

Peru's Nazca Lines

Context:

The Peruvian archaeologists have recently discovered a 37-metre long cat drawing on the famous Nazca Lines, an UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Peru.



Key Highlights

- The recently discovered cat geoglyph is older than 2000 years.
- The cat drawing is 37 metres long. It dates back to the Paracas Era of 500 BC to 200 AD. The drawing can be seen entirely while flying over them.
- The Geoglyphs in the region are still there and being discovered because of the dry climate in the region.
- The region has also uncovered figures of Pelican, monkey, hummingbirds, Andean Condor, spiders, Trapezoids, Triangles and spirals.

About Nazca Lines

- Nazca Lines are a group of several gigantic geoglyph dating back to more than 2000 years.
- These have been made on the ground using elements of landscape including the gravel, stones dirt or lumber.
- It was discovered in 1927 and declared the UNESCO Heritage site in 1994.
- The people of Paracas era used to mummified the dead body that remains intact for long time mainly because of dry climate of the region as a result of Peruvian Ocean Current or the Humboldt Current which flows along the Western coast of South America.

24th OCTOBER 2020

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)

- Union Ministry of Rural Development recently declared Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh at first rank among the 30 districts of the country to effectively introduce the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Mandi district has received top position for constructing roads of maximum length in 2020-21.



About PMGSY

- PMGSY is a national scheme initiated in the year 2000, which aims at delivering all-weather road access to unconnected villages.
- In 2015, it was agreed that the project will be financed by both the Central Government (60 percent) and the states (40 per cent) on the recommendation of the then 14th Finance Commission.

Life in Miniature Project

- The Ministry of Culture has launched the "Life in Miniature" project, which is a collaboration between the National Museum (Delhi), Ministry of Culture and Google Arts & Culture.

Key Highlights:

- The project uses a range of technologies, such as artificial learning, virtual reality and high-definition robotic camera digitalisation.
- Under this initiative, people from all over the world will be able to connect with hundreds of miniature paintings online from the National Museum or Google Arts and Culture.

25th OCTOBER 2020

No Tolerance Fortnight

- The Mizoram Government to follow 'COVID-19: No Fortnight Tolerance' to take stern action against rising COVID-19 cases.

Key Highlights:

- The condition of COVID-19 in Mizoram is rising at a faster pace due to local transmission. Thus, the zero-tolerance drive has been adopted in the state for 14 days.
- This local transmission chain may be broken if the unlocking guidelines, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and the Mizoram Containment and Prevention of COVID-19 Laws, 2020 are strictly enforced by citizens and administration.

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

Context:

The third phase of the National Supercomputing Mission (NSM) will kickstart in January 2020, taking computing speed to around 45 petaflops.

About NSM

The NSM is jointly steered by the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) and implemented by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Pune and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Objective of the Mission

- The Mission envisages empowering national academic and R&D institutions spread over the country by installing a vast supercomputing grid comprising of more than 70 high-performance computing facilities.
- These supercomputers will also be networked on the National Supercomputing grid over the National

Knowledge Network (NKN) which connects academic institutions and R&D labs over a high-speed network.

Recent Developments

- The first supercomputer assembled indigenously, called Param Shivay, was installed in IIT BHU.
- Similarly, Param Shakti and Param Brahma were installed at IIT-Kharagpur and IISER, Pune. They are equipped with applications from domains like Weather and Climate, Computational Fluid Dynamics, Bioinformatics, and Material science.
- Rudra, an indigenous server has been developed, which can meet the High-Performance Computing (HPC) requirements of all governments and PSUs.

General Consent to CBI

Context:

The Maharashtra Government has recently withdrawn 'General Consent' provision given to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to probe cases in the state.

Issue:

- As per the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, through which CBI governs, the consent of a State government is mandatory for conducting investigation in that state.
- It simply means that CBI officers will lose all powers of a police officer as soon as they enter the state unless the state government has allowed them.
- The decision means the CBI will now have to get consent from the state government for every case it registers in Maharashtra.

NOTE:

The CBI would still have the power to investigate old cases registered when General Consent existed. Also, cases registered anywhere else in the country, but involving people stationed in states which have withdrawn consent, would allow CBI's jurisdiction to extend to these states.

26th OCTOBER 2020

Ganga Dolphin Safari

The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) recently launched Dolphin-based ecotourism programme including Dolphin Safari in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.



Key Highlights:

- The Ganga Praharis - the trained volunteers from the local community working for cleanliness of Ganga, will take the tourists on boat rides to view Dolphin in the Ganga river.
- Besides, a new campaign, 'My Ganga My Dolphin' was also launched to conduct Dolphin Census in 250 km stretch from Bijnor to Narora.
- India celebrates October 5 every year as the 'Ganga River Dolphin Day' as on this day Gangetic Dolphins were declared as National Aquatic Animal in 2010.

National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the National Conference on Vigilance and Anti-Corruption which aims to bring policy makers and practitioners on a common platform.

- The conference enables them to combat the corruption through systemic improvements and preventive vigilance measures.
- The theme for the conference was 'Vigilant India, Prosperous India'.
- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) organises this Conference along with the 'Vigilance Awareness Week'. The conference is observed every year from 27th October to 2nd November in India.

Sudan-Israel Deal

Context:

Sudan recently recognized the Israel by signing diplomatic deal with it. It has become the latest country to



recognize Israel after UAE and Bahrain.

Key Highlights

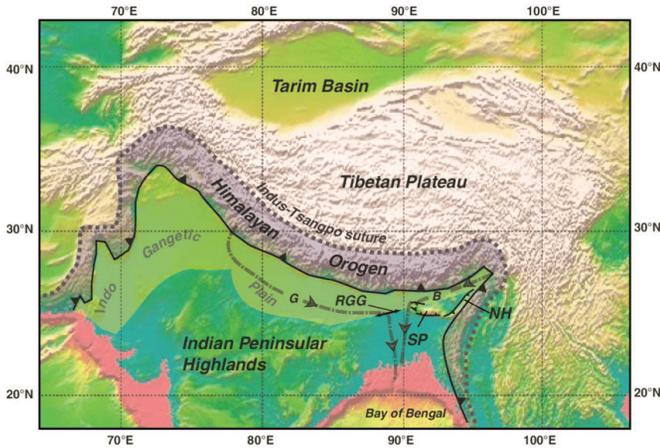
- Egypt was the first Islamic country to recognise Israel.
- After Egypt, Jordan recognised Israel by establishing peace deal with Israel.
- UAE signed a peace deal with Israel recently after 26 years, becoming the third country to do so.
- Bahrain became the fourth country to sign a peace deal with Israel.

Background

- The USA recently made Israel, UAE and Bahrain to sign an agreement recognizing Israel as an independent state.
- To comply with the agreement UAE, Bahrain and Israel signed the first peace agreement called as the 'Abraham Accord'.

27th OCTOBER 2020

Indus Suture Zone



- The Himalayan or the Indus Suture Zone in the Ladakh region has been found to be tectonically active. Until now, it was supposed to be a locked zone.
- This new study will have major implications on the earthquake study, prediction, understanding the seismic structure of the mountain chains and its evolution.
- This study was conducted by a group of scientists from Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG) in Dehradun.

Suture Zone

- When two fault zones join together, it forms the Suture zone. It is usually found in mountain ranges.
- The Himalayan Suture Zone or the Indus Suture Zone or Indus Yarlung Tsangpo Suture Zone is the zone of collision between Indian Plate and Ladakh Batholith.

Industry 4.0 Technology

IIT Kharagpur and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) have jointly developed Industry 4.0 Technology which is aimed at stimulating innovations in advanced manufacturing in order to boost capital goods sector.

Key Highlights:

- The Industry 4.0 Technology will provide real-time quality correction during industrial production in order to deliver quality output at low costs.

- It will help in achieving the standardised production quality goals, reducing batch rejections and lowering costs.
- It is under the aegis of the Fourth Industrial Revolution which bridges the gap between the digital, physical and biological worlds.

28th OCTOBER 2020

Lost River traced in Thar Desert

- Researchers have found the evidence of a lost river that ran through the Central Thar Desert, near Bikaner, as early as 172 thousand years ago, and may have been a life-line to human populations enabling them to inhabit the region.
- The findings, published in the journal Quaternary Science Reviews, represent the oldest directly dated phase of river activity at Nal Quarry in the Central Thar Desert.
- These findings predate evidence for activity in modern river courses across the Thar Desert as well as dried up course of the Ghaggar-Hakra River.
- The researchers used a method called luminescence dating to understand when quartz grains in the river sands were buried.

Aenigmachanna gollum

- Aenigmachanna Gollum, an old family of fish, also known as dragon snakeheads, has been spotted recently in Kerala.



- The name has been inspired from the character Gollum, who always stays underground, in the movie 'Lord of the Rings'.
- It lives in underground aquifers.
- It is assumed that they originated in the Gondwanaland which later split into the continents of Asia and Africa.

France-Turkey Controversy

Context:

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recently urged his countrymen to stop buying French goods in response to what he described as French President Emmanuel Macron's "anti-Islam" agenda.



Background:

- Recently, a school teacher Samuel Paty was killed by an 18-year-old Chechen refugee after former had shown caricatures of Prophet Mohammed to his students.
- Aftermath of incident, Macron spoke of an "Islamist separatism" within the country, and the need to counter it through the rules and values of the Republic, to build a French version of Islam, an "Islam of Enlightenment" that would integrate French Muslim citizens better with the French way of life.

France-Turkey Trade Relations

- The recent boycott call by Turkey is likely to test relations between the two countries, which count each other as major trade partners with a total trade volume of about 14 billion (\$16.6 billion) per year.
- Turkey is France's 13th-largest global supplier and the 12th-largest customer, while France is Turkey's sixth-largest customer, receiving 4.3% of its exports.
- Planes, helicopters and automobile spare parts are among the main imports from France to Turkey, while Turkey mainly sells cars and other vehicles to France. French autos are among the highest selling cars in Turkey, which is the eighth-biggest market for Renault.

SOFIA

Context:

NASA's Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA) has recently confirmed the presence of water on the surface of the Moon.



Key Highlights:

- SOFIA has detected water molecules (H₂O) in Clavius Crater, which is one among the largest craters on Moon that is visible from Earth. It is located in the Moon's Southern Hemisphere.
- This indicates that water is not only limited to cold shadowed place but could be distributed across the lunar surface.
- Earlier observations of the Moon's surface detected some form of hydrogen; however, they were unable to distinguish between water and its close chemical relative called hydroxyl (OH).
- The genesis of SOFIA's results lies in the presence of water on the moon that was observed by Apollo astronauts in 1969.

About SOFIA

- SOFIA is a modified Boeing 747SP aircraft, which allows astronomers to study the solar system and beyond.
- The observatory's mobility allows researchers to observe from almost anywhere in the world, and enables studies of transient events that often take place over oceans where there are no telescopes.
- It flies at an altitude of 45,000 feet. It has a 106-inch diameter telescope.
- SOFIA reaches above 99% of the water vapor in Earth's atmosphere in order to get a clear view of the infrared universe.

29th OCTOBER 2020**Vivad se Vishwas Scheme**

The Union Government has recently extended the deadline for making payment under the Vivad se Vishwas scheme till March 31, 2021.

Key Points

- The Vivad se Vishwas scheme was introduced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2020-21. The scheme has been aimed to settle down the pending direct tax cases.
- The scheme covers the disputes pending at the level of Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, High Court, IT commissioner, Supreme Court and international arbitration.
- The Scheme also withdraws the penalty and interest of the taxpayers who paid their pending taxes by March 31, 2020.

UN Global Climate Action Award 2020

The Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) has won the prestigious Global Climate Action Award 2020 for its efforts to combat climate change amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Key Highlights

- Global Himalayan Expedition is an Indian organisation that open up the tourism and technology in order to help remote communities to access solar energy.
- The organisation uses the portion of the expedition fee to fund the capital cost of the hardware, transportation, installation and training of village-scale solar micro-grids. The micro-grid infrastructure is owned and operated by the community.
- GHE has so far solar electrified approximately 131 villages in India.

30th OCTOBER 2020**GIFT City**

- The United Kingdom has entered into a strategic partnership to develop GIFT City (Gujarat International Finance Tec-City), India's international financial services centre.
- It has also agreed to set up a new Fund of Funds, which will be managed by the State Bank of India (SBI) group.
- GIFT City is located in Gandhinagar and has been promoted by the Government of Gujarat as a greenfield project.

Rythu Bharosa scheme

- The Andhra Pradesh government has released funds under the Rythu Bharosa scheme, which is a welfare scheme for farmers.
- Under the second phase of the scheme, Rs. 4,000 would directly be credited into the bank accounts of each of the 50.47 lakh farmers.
- Under this scheme, the government provides financial assistance of Rs 13,500 to the farmers every year.
- Rs 13,500 aid also includes Rs 6,000 per year as a component of the Centre's PM Kisan scheme.

F-18 Naval Fighter Jets

- The USA to provide F-18 naval fighter jets to Indian Navy aircraft carriers to strengthen its relations with India.
- This announcement came during the 2 + 2 ministerial negotiations recently held in New Delhi.
- The F-18 fighter jet is a twin-engine, supersonic, all-weather, carrier-capable and multi-role jet.
- It was planned as both a fighter and an attack aircraft. The jet is also used by air forces from a variety of other countries.

New Land Laws in UT of J&K

Context:

The Union Government has notified new land laws for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, ending the exclusive rights enjoyed by the local population over land under the now-diluted Article 370.

Key Highlights

- Recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs introduced UT of J&K Reorganisation (Adaptation of Central Laws) Third Order, 2020, which resulted in the repeal of land laws, including the J&K Big Landed Estates Abolition Act.
- Under the newly introduced J&K Development Act, the term 'being permanent resident of the State' as a criterion has been 'omitted', paving the way for investors outside J&K to invest in the UT.
- No land used for agriculture purposes shall be used for any non-agricultural purposes except with the permission of the district collector.
- The government may now allow transfer of land in favour of a person or an institution for the purpose of promotion of healthcare or senior secondary or higher or specialized education in J&K.
- An Army officer not below the rank of Corps Commander can declare an area as 'Strategic Area' within a local area, only for direct operational and training requirements of the armed forces.

Arguments for such move

- The Union Government has been arguing that Article 370 hampered development in the Jammu and Kashmir as investors were unable to purchase land prior to August 5, 2019.

31st OCTOBER 2020

Ekta Diwas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the Ekta Diwas celebrations in Kevadia, Gujarat, on the 145th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, which falls on October, 31.

Key Points

- Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day is held every year on the 31st of October, on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, also known as Iron Man of India.
- The celebrations were attended by Central Reserve Armed Forces, Gujarat State Police Forces, Indo Tibetan Border Police Forces, Central Industrial Security Forces and National Security Guards.

Operation Meri Saheli

Indian Railways has launched 'Meri Saheli' initiative which focuses on action of the security of women across all zones. This is an initiative of Railway Protection Force (RPF).

Key Highlights:

- The primary goal of the project is to ensure safety and security for lady passengers travelling by train for their entire trip from the source station to the destination station.
- Under the initiative, the approach is to communicate with lady passengers, particularly those travelling on their own.
- A team of young lady RPF personnel will be engaging with the lady passengers at the source station.

National Productivity Council (NPC)

- National Productivity Council (NPC) has recently been granted accreditation in compliance with ISO 17020:2012 by the National Accreditation Board for Certification Body (NABCB) under Quality Council of India (QCI).
- Accreditation was granted for the inspection and audit work of the undertaking in the field of the Food Safety Audit and Scientific Storage of Agricultural Products.
- This accreditation shall be valid for a term of three years.
- NPC was established by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 1958. It is an autonomous, multi-party and non-profit organisation