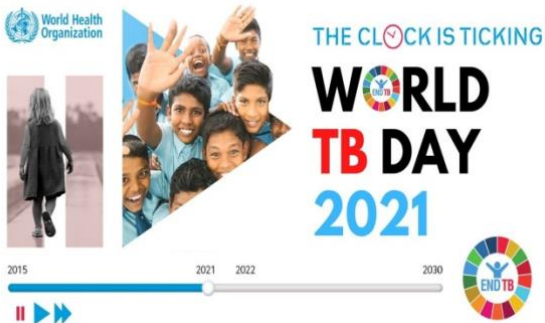


The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

1. World Tuberculosis Day 2021.



- Each year, we commemorate World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on March 24 to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. The date marks the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB, which opened the way towards diagnosing and curing this disease.
- TB remains one of the world's deadliest infectious killers. Each day, nearly 4000 lose their lives to TB and close to 28,000 people fall ill with this preventable and curable disease. Global efforts to combat TB have saved an estimated 63 million lives since the year 2000.
- **The theme of World TB Day 2021 - 'The Clock is Ticking'** – conveys the sense that the world is running out of time to act on the commitments to end TB made by global leaders. This is especially critical in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic that has put End TB progress at risk, and to ensure equitable access to prevention and care in line with WHO's drive towards achieving Universal Health Coverage.

2. National Health Mission (NHM) during Financial Year 2019-2020.



- The Union Cabinet was apprised on the progress under National Health Mission (NHM) during Financial Year 2019-2020 including accelerated decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) and Total Fertility Rate (TFR).
- It also noted the progress in respect of various diseases programmes like Malaria, Kala-Azar, Dengue, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, Viral Hepatitis among others.
- The implementation strategy of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under NHM is to provide financial and technical support to States and Union Territories (UTs) enabling them to provide accessible, affordable and effective healthcare upto District Hospitals (DHs), especially to the poor and vulnerable sections.
- The implementation of NHM in 2019-20 lead to engagement of 18 thousand 779 additional Human Resources which includes General Duty Medical Officers, Specialists, ANMs, Staff Nurses and AYUSH Doctors.
- Its implementation also led to further strengthening of Public Health system which also enabled effective and coordinated Covid-19 response.
- Under Five Mortality Rate in India has declined from 52 in 2012 to 36 in 2018 and the percentage annual rate of decline in it during 2013-2018 has accelerated to 6 per cent from 3.9 per cent observed during 1990-2012.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio of India has declined by 443 points from 556 per one lakh live births in 1990 to 113 in 2016-18. A decline of 80 per cent has been achieved in MMR since 1990, which is higher than the global decline of 45 per cent.
- There has been acceleration in decline of Maternal Mortality Ratio, Under Five Mortality Rate and the Infant Mortality Rate since the launch of the mission and at the current rate of decline, India should

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

able to reach its Sustainable Development Goal target of MMR-70 and U5MR-25 much before the due year 2030.

3. PRANIT.



- The central PSU named Power Grid Corporation of India has established an e-Tendering Portal called PRANIT. This portal will help in maintaining the less paperwork, ease of operation and making the tendering process more transparent. The portal has been certified by the Standardisation, Testing and Quality Certification Directorate (STQC) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The POWERGRID is the only organization in India which have an e Procurement solution on the SAP Supplier Relationship Management which also comply with all the applicable requirements related to the security and transparency.
- It is an Indian central public sector unit and a Maharatna company. The company is owned by Ministry of Power. It is headquartered in Gurugram, India. The company is engaged mainly in the Transmission of Power. The company transmits around 50 percent of the total power generated across India through its transmission network. The former subsidiary company of the POWERGRID called "Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)" is engaged in the power management for the National Grid and all state transmission utilities. The company also operates the telecom business called POWERTEL. The current chairman and managing director of the company is Shri Kandikuppa Sreekant.
- Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO)
- It is a wholly owned Government of India enterprise working under the Ministry of Power. The organisation is responsible for ensuring the integrated operation of Grid in a reliable, secure and efficient manner. It comprises of 5 Regional Load Despatch Centres (RLDCs) and a National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC).

4. India abstains in U.N. Human Rights Council vote on Sri Lanka.



- India on Tuesday abstained from a crucial vote on Sri Lanka's rights record at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.
- The resolution on 'Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka' was, however, adopted after 22 states of the 47-member Council voted in its favour.
- Sri Lanka, which had earlier deemed the resolution "politically motivated", was quick to reject the UN move to collect and preserve evidence of war crimes in the country, committed by the armed forces and the LTTE.
- The Sri Lanka resolution was the first to be voted on using the extraordinary e-voting procedures established for the UNHRC 46th Session, which has been held virtually.

Important Info :

- UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)?
- What is it? The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations system.
- Location: It meets at the UN Office at Geneva.
- Establishment: It was founded in 2006. It replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR) that had been strongly criticised for allowing countries with poor human rights records to be members.
- Functions: It investigates allegations of breaches of human rights in UN member states.

Membership:

- The Council is made of 47 Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution.
- Members of the Council serve for a period of three years and are not eligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- India has been elected to the UNHRC for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019. India had previously been elected to the UNHRC for the 2011-2014 and 2014-2017 terms.

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974

5. Indus water panel holds meeting



- After a gap of more than two and half years Indian and Pakistani delegations on Monday began the 116th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission here. The meeting which coincided with the National Day of Pakistan is being viewed as part of the broader process of normalisation of bilateral ties between the two neighbours.
- The two-day meeting of the Commission is being led on the Indian side by Indus Water Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Saxena. The Pakistani delegation is led by Pakistan's Commissioner for Indus Waters Syed Mohammad Mehr Ali Shah. The last meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission was held on August 29, 2018.
- Hours after the conclusion of the first day's meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind greeted Pakistan on the occasion of its National Day which marks the March 23, 1940 Lahore Resolution which paved the way for the creation of Pakistan.
- **Why is the Indus Waters treaty important for Pakistan?**
- Indus, Chenab and Jhelum are the lifelines of Pakistan as the country is highly dependent on these rivers for its water supply. Since these rivers do not originate from Pakistan but flow to the country through India, Pakistan fears the threat of drought and famine.
- While Chenab and Jhelum originate from India, Indus originates from China, making its way to Pakistan via India.

6. No plan to introduce Panchayat system in Assam tribal areas.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) informed the Lok Sabha that



“presently, there is no proposal to implement Panchayat system in Sixth Schedule areas of Assam

- The Sixth Schedule of the Constitution protects tribal populations and provides autonomy to the communities through creation of autonomous development councils that can frame laws on land, public health, agriculture and others.
- As of now, 10 autonomous councils exist in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- Mr. Reddy said, “There is no Panchayat system in Sixth Schedule areas of Assam. Presently, there is no proposal to implement Panchayat system there.
- On January 23, 2019, the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had approved amendments to increase the financial and executive powers of the autonomous councils. The Constitution (125th Amendment) Bill, 2019 was subsequently introduced amid din in the Rajya Sabha on February 6, 2019 that provides for elected village municipal councils. The Bill that is still active proposes that The State Election Commissions will hold elections to the autonomous councils, village and municipal councils. The Bill was introduced in the Upper House so that the legislation remains active even as the House was adjourned sine die before the 2019 general elections. The Bill would have lapsed if it was introduced in the Lok Sabha as its life would have been co-terminus with that of the Lower House.
- Mr. Reddy replied that no such list of schemes run by the Central and State government in these areas is maintained by the MHA.
- It said a special development package of ₹1,500 crore (₹750 crore each by the Centre/State) has been agreed for the Bodoland Territorial Council in Assam.

7. INS Jalashwa

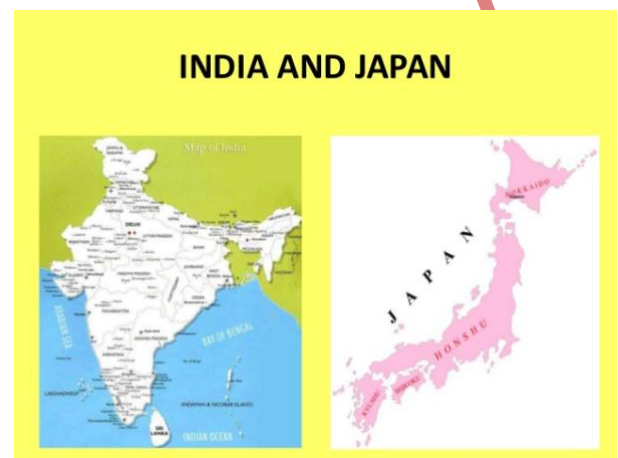
The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974



- As part of Mission Sagar - IV, Indian Naval Ship Jalashwa arrived at Port Ehoala, Madagascar on Monday to deliver a consignment of one thousand Metric Tonne of rice and one lakh Hydroxychloroquine tablets in response to an appeal made by Madagascar for assistance to deal with natural calamities.
- An official ceremony for handing over the aid from the Government of India to Government of Madagascar was held today.
- The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Madagascar Christian Ntsay while the Indian side was represented by Mr Abhay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Madagascar and Captain Pankaj Chauhan, Commanding Officer INS Jalashwa.
- The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister of Madagascar Christian Ntsay while the Indian side was represented by Mr Abhay Kumar, Ambassador of India to Madagascar and Captain Pankaj Chauhan, Commanding Officer INS Jalashwa.
- Ministry of Defence in a statement said that this is the second visit of an Indian Navy ship to the island country within a span of one year.
- Earlier, as part of Mission Sagar-I, In May-June 2020, the Indian Navy had delivered essential medicines to the nation.
- The outreach by the Government of India aims to help Madagascar tide over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and severe drought that they have been facing.
- 'Mission Sagar' builds on the excellent relations existing between the two countries to battle the natural calamities and its resultant difficulties.
- The deployment also resonates the vision of Prime Minister of Security and Growth for All in the Region 'SAGAR' and highlights the importance accorded by India to relations with the countries in the IOR.

8. Cabinet approves MoC signed between India & Japan in Water Resources field .



- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) which was signed between India and Japan for bilateral cooperation in the field of water resources. This will help in increasing exchange of information, knowledge and technology.

Highlights

- According to official statement, memorandum of cooperation was signed in between 'Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation' under 'Ministry of Jal Shakti' of government of India and 'Water & Disaster Management Bureau' under 'Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport & Tourism' of government of Japan.

Significance of the MoC

- MoC was signed with the objective of developing a long-term cooperation in the field of water and Delta management. It would also help in developing cooperation in the field of water technology. The cooperation would increase exchange of knowledge, technology and information. This will also help in exchanging scientific allied experience and implementation of joint projects between both the countries. It will also help in achieving water security, improved irrigation facility and sustainability across the water resources development.

9. Athletics Federation of India (AFI)

The Achievers IAS Academy

Patliputra colony, Near: Tennis Court; Patna. Contact: 8434931877, 7250667974



- The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Tuesday nominated Olympians Gurbachan Singh Randhawa and PT Usha as chairpersons of senior and junior selection committees, respectively.
- Announcing the members of selection committees, Adille J Sumariwalla, AFI President, said, "AFI is proud to have so many legendary athletes who are always willing to help the federation in all its important decisions. The role of each and every member of the selection committee is very important and hence, we have included former athletes who have plenty of experience for this important role."
- The AFI president Sumariwalla, secretary Ravinder Chaudhry, chief coach P Radha Krishnan Nair and chairman- Planning Committee Lalit Bhanot will be ex-officio members of the committees.

10. Fitch Ratings revises India's growth estimate to 12.8% for next fiscal.



- American credit rating agency Fitch has revised India's GDP growth estimate to 12.8% for next fiscal from the previous 11% on the back of a stronger carryover effect, a looser fiscal stance, and better virus containment.
- The ratings agency, in its latest Global Economic Outlook GEO, anticipates the level of the country's GDP to remain well below its pre-pandemic forecast trajectory. Fitch also expects GDP growth to ease to 5.8% in Fiscal Year 2023.
- In a report it said, India's recovery from the depths of the lockdown-induced recession in the second quarter of 2020 has been swifter than expected. GDP surpassed its pre-pandemic level in the fourth quarter of current fiscal.
- It also added that High-frequency indicators point to a strong start to 2021. The manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index PMI remained elevated in February, while the pickup in mobility and a rise in the services PMI point to further gains in the services sector.
- The ratings agency notes that it no longer expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to cut its policy rate, owing to a brighter short-term growth outlook and a more limited decline in inflation than it had forecast.