



An Initiative by **अमरउजाला**

## National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation

- ▶ विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग के अंतर्गत 'राष्ट्रीय एटलस एंड थिमेटिक मानचित्रण संगठन' (National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation-  
NATMO) ने एक डैशबोर्ड की शुरुआत की है जो देश में COVID-19 की स्थिति का विश्लेषण करके जानकारी देता है।

NATMO, भारत सरकार के विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय (Ministry of Science & Technology) के अधीनस्थ विभाग 'विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग' के अंतर्गत कार्य करता है।

PCSE (+)  
UPSC

RT-PCR - Covid-19

## Raman Spectroscopy

- ▶ Researchers have turned to **Raman Spectroscopy** to detect RNA viruses present in saliva samples.
- ▶ Raman Spectroscopy is a **non-destructive chemical analysis technique** which provides detailed information about chemical structure.

Antibody  
↳ Speed ++

- ▶ However, in case of COVID 19 pandemic, **it can be used only for screening**. Because, the RNA virus detected could be a common cold virus as well or any other RNA virus such as HIV. It doesn't look for COVID-19 viral-specific signature.
- ▶ But, the main benefit here is that this whole process of data acquisition and analysis **can be performed within a minute**. Since no additional reagent is needed there is no recurring cost.

~~CAG~~ (X) → **PM CARES is separate from NDRF: govt** (X)  
↳ RTI (X)

- ▶ The government, in responding to a writ petition filed by an NGO that said contributions to PM CARES should be transferred entirely to the NDRF, said that funds like PM CARES were “separate, different, distinct” from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- ▶ The Ministry also outrightly rejected a plea to credit the amounts received by PM CARES for fighting the COVID-19 pandemic into the NDRF.



# Australia ends HK extradition treaty

1997 ⊕ Basic Law  
Soyan  
Pearl River Δ

- ▶ Australia said that it was suspending its extradition treaty with Hong Kong in response to a new security law imposed there and announced measures to attract businesses from the Asian financial hub.

Britain

Ⓢ - 10

club

- ▶ Australia's Prime Minister has said that the law introduced in Hong Kong was a fundamental change of circumstances and Australia would suspend the extradition agreement.
- ▶ By doing so, Australia has offered an immigration pathway for residents fleeing Hong Kong, after several Western countries aligned with the US, including Canada and Britain, introduced similar measures to confront China's security crackdown in the city.



59

## Country of origin tag a must

CHINA

- ▶ The Union (Ministry of Consumer Affairs) has sent out a reminder to all e-commerce portals to ensure that the “country of origin” of the products being sold by them should be mentioned as part of mandatory declarations.

- ▶ The Ministry in its reminder invoked the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.
- ▶ These rules make it mandatory for all manufacturers to declare the package name and address of the manufacturer, common and generic name of the commodity, net quantity, month and year of manufacturing, MRP and consumer care details.

- ▶ In addition to these, in 2017, new provisions were added for e-commerce websites, making it compulsory for them to display this information along with “declaration of country of origin or manufacture or assembly” and a clear mention of the expiry date.
- ▶ There are punitive provisions in the law including fines and also a jail term of one year.

## Govt. notifies draft rules on wages Act =

- ▶ The Union Labour and Employment Ministry has published the draft rules framed for the implementation of the Code on Wages Act, 2019, that guarantees minimum wages to all and defines how the wages will be calculated.

- ▶ The **Code on Wages** is the first of the four codes proposed by the government, as a part of its labour law reforms, that was passed by Parliament in August 2019; **Code on Industrial Relations, Social Security and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions** being the other three.

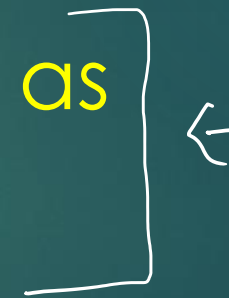
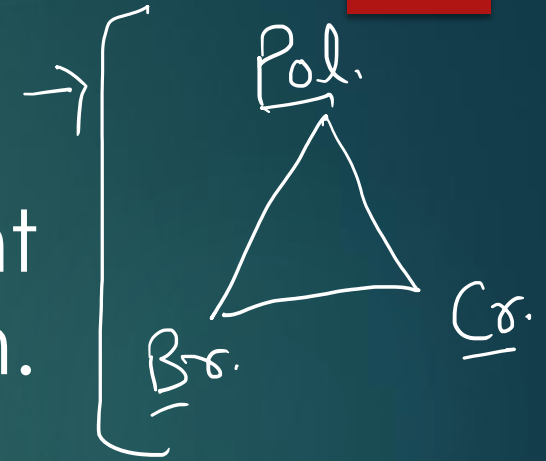
} ③

- ▶ In the new draft rules, the Centre has reduced normal working hours in a day to eight hours from nine proposed in the earlier version released in November 2019.



## Owning up to criminalisation in politics

- ▶ In 2004, 24% of the Members of Parliament had criminal cases pending against them.
- ▶ In 2009, that number went up to 30%.
- ▶ In 2014 it further rose to 34% and in 2019 as many as 43% of MPs had criminal cases pending against them.



- ▶ Worryingly, 13% of the candidates who contested the election in 2019 are accused of heinous crimes that include murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping, rape and other crimes against women.

Art - 21 =

► In 2002, Supreme Court ruled in the **Union of India (UOI) vs. Association for Democratic Reforms case**, that every candidate, contesting an election to the Parliament, State Legislatures or Municipal Corporation, has to declare their criminal records, financial records and educational qualifications.

ADR

RPA < 1950  
1951 ]

- Under **Section 8 of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, 1951**, lawmakers cannot contest elections only after their conviction in a criminal case.

2 yrs

- SC removed this statutory protection of convicted legislators from immediate disqualification Lily Thomas v. Union of India case in 2013. fication via the ver

- ▶ The incorporation of the 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option in the voting machines was a landmark step in empowering the voters to force the political parties to field better candidates, even though there are associated concerns with NOTA.

NOTA

- ▶ This was done via the 2013 judgment in People's Union for Civil Liberties vs. Union of India case.

## Solar energy will play big role in 'Atmanirbhar Bharat': PM

- ▶ A 750 MW solar power project in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated by the Prime Minister.

750mF

mp

- ▶ It was developed by the Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL), a Joint Venture Company of Madhya Pradesh UrjaVikas Nigam Limited (MPUVN), and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a Central Public Sector Undertaking.



- Solar energy would play a major role in achieving self-reliance in energy, essential for an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).

- It is in line with India's commitment to attain the target of 175 GW of installed renewable energy capacity by 2022 including 100 GW of solar installed capacity.

Largest share  
 solar  
 100 GW  
 175 GW



## Fresh push for pedal power in smart cities

- ▶ With public transport affected due to the spread of COVID-19, the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry has invited cities to come up with quick solutions for promoting cycling.
- ▶ The 'India Cycles 4 Change Challenge' and an online portal for cities to submit their proposals were launched by the Smart Cities Mission (2015) of the Ministry.

- ▶ Cities would be encouraged to create extensive cycling networks using low-cost methods like pop-up cycle lanes and non-motorised zones and set up community-led cycle rental schemes.
- ▶ Apart from the 100 cities implementing the Smart Cities Mission, cities with a population of over 5 lakh and capitals of States and Union Territories can apply.

# IAF gets last of 5 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters from Boeing

- ▶ Boeing has handed over the last of the five **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters** to the Indian Air Force (IAF).

- ▶ India contracted 22 Apache helicopters and 15 Chinook helicopters from Boeing through the Foreign Military Sales programme of the U.S. government in September 2015 under a \$3 billion deal.

Heavy lift

USA

C-17

7529

- ▶ During the India visit of President Donald Trump in February 2020, India and the U.S. signed a deal for six additional Apaches for the Army.
- ▶ Boeing's joint venture in Hyderabad, Tata Boeing Aerospace Limited, has been producing aero-structures for the AH-64 Apache helicopter for both the U.S. Army and international customers.

S-400  
↳ Russians

## U.S. bans Pakistan's PIA over pilot licence scandal

- ▶ The United States has banned Pakistan International Airlines from operating chartered flights to the country after the carrier said nearly 150 of its pilots would be grounded over fake or dubious licences.



# First bus rolls into Swabhiman Anchal after Independence

Naxali ⊕ ←  
maoist

Odisha ⊕  
— A-P

- ▶ Swabhiman Anchal in Odisha's Malkangiri district is considered a stronghold of the CPI (Maoist).
- ▶ Situated along the Odisha-Andhra Pradesh border, Swabhiman Anchal comprising 151 villages was considered as a liberated zone by the Left ultras.

## Unexposed people may have COVID-19-specific memory T cells

- ▶ At least five studies have shown that **people unexposed to and not infected with novel coronavirus may still exhibit T cell responses specific to nCoV-19.**
- ▶ It is possible that people with a high level of pre-existing memory CD4+ T cells that recognize novel coronavirus could mount a **faster and stronger immune response** upon exposure to the virus and thereby **limit disease severity.**

- ▶ The pre-existing immunity can **reduce the immune responses** that the vaccine causes through a mechanism called the “**original antigenic sin**”. Original antigenic sin, also known as the Hoskins effect.

PCs  
⊕  
SPSC

## Govt. must prioritise healthcare spending

- ▶ At the seventh economic conclave organised by State Bank of India, economists have noted that the government can turn the COVID-19 crisis into an opportunity by investing in healthcare.)
- ▶ **India has historically under-invested in health** and the current increase in allocation for the health care sector even during the pandemic is not substantial either.





- ▶ There is the need to recognise that **economic recovery and health investments are interlinked**. The plan could involve building a 500-bed hospital each, in 250 districts, at a cost of Rs. 60,000 crore over the next two years.

SNAKE

## Assam keelback spotted for the first time in 129 years

- The Assam keelback snake has been sighted by a team from the Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun, for the first time since 1869.



- Initially known as Hebius Pealii, the Assam keelback is so far known only to inhabit Sivasagar in Upper Assam and **Poba reserved forest in Assam-Arunachal border**. As far as present knowledge goes, Assam keelback is an **endemic snake of Upper Assam**.

ए २१११५

## India's tiger census of 2018 sets a Guinness world record

- ▶ India's tiger census of 2018 has set a Guinness record for being the world's largest camera-trap wildlife survey.

m-stripe APP

- ▶ Camera traps are outdoor photographic devices fitted with motion sensors that start recording when an animal passes by.

- ▶ From these photographs, individual tigers are identified using stripe-pattern-recognition software.
- ▶ The **fourth cycle of the All India Tiger Estimation 2018** counted **2,967** tigers, which is about **75%** of the **global tiger population**.



## The Museum Of Conflicts

- ▶ **Hagia Sophia**, the sixth century Byzantine structure in Istanbul, was an Eastern Orthodox patriarchal cathedral for about 900 years, an imperial mosque for 482 years and now currently functions as a museum and a famed tourist spot.

- ▶ Hagia Sophia, a UNESCO World Heritage site, has been one of the most visited monuments in Turkey, and an emblem of Christian-Muslim co-existence.
- ▶ It is now being turned into a mosque by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. //





## ASEEM

- ▶ 10 जुलाई, 2020 को भारत सरकार के कौशल विकास एवं उद्यमिता मंत्रालय (Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) ने असीम (ASEEM) पोर्टल लॉन्च किया।

- ▶ असीम पोर्टल जो मोबाइल एप के रूप में भी उपलब्ध है, को बंगलुरु स्थित कंपनी बेटरप्लेस के सहयोग से राष्ट्रीय कौशल विकास निगम (National Skill Development Corporation) द्वारा विकसित एवं प्रबंधित किया गया है।

NSDC