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**WEEKLY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

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International

Palau



This has become 76th signatory country to join the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an alliance of more than 122 countries initiated by India, most of them being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn, now extended to all members of UN.

The agreement of the International Solar Alliance was open for signature during the COP22 at Marrakech on November 15, 2016. The signatories of the agreement include India, France, Australia, UAE, UK, Japan amongst others.

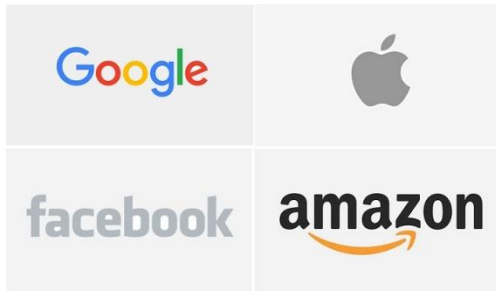
TMT



It stands for Thirty Meter Telescope is a proposed astronomical observatory with an extremely large telescope (ELT). It is an international project being funded by scientific organisations of Canada, China, India, Japan and USA. The Planned location is Mauna Kea on the island of Hawaii in the US state of Hawaii. The TMT is designed for near-ultraviolet

to mid-infrared observations, featuring adaptive optics to assist in correcting image blur. TMT will enable scientists to study fainter objects far away from us in the Universe, which gives information about early stages of evolution of the Universe. It will give us finer details of not-so-far-away objects like undiscovered planets and other objects in the Solar System and planets around other stars.

France



The country which recently introduced GAFA Tax. It is a legislation — dubbed the GAFA tax — an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon – passed recently by France Parliament. With this, France has become the first major economy to impose a tax on digital giants. The new law aims at plugging a taxation gap that has seen some internet

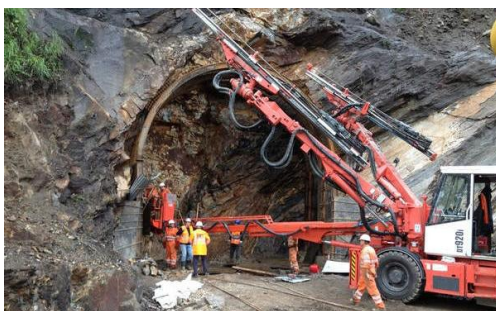
heavyweights paying next to nothing in countries where they make huge profits. The law will levy a 3 per cent tax on total annual revenues of the largest tech firms providing services to French consumers.

NASA



They recently carried out a successful test of a Launch-Abort System (LAS) for the Orion capsule designed to take U.S. astronauts to the Moon. It is designed to activate in the event of a rocket malfunction, on the pad or in flight. The LAS consists of three different types of solid-fuel rocket motors that will work in synchrony with one another. In case of a launch-pad or in-flight failure, the abort tower rocket provides 400,000 pounds of thrust, pulling the crew capsule away. The Orion spacecraft is a major component of NASA's newly-named Artemis program, which aims to return U.S. astronauts to the lunar surface in 2024.

Bhutan



The country where the Mangdechhu hydroelectric project is located. It is a 720MW run-of-river power plant built on the Mangdechhu River in Trongsa Dzongkhag District of central Bhutan. Mangdechhu is one of the ten hydroelectric projects planned under the Royal Government of Bhutan's initiative to generate 10,000MW hydropower by 2020 with

support from the Indian Government.

The Henley Passport Index (HPI)



It is a global ranking of countries according to the travel freedom for their citizens. Henley Passport Index 2019 which was released recently is based on data provided by the International Air Transport Authority (IATA) and covers 199 passports and 227 travel destinations. It started in 2006 as Henley & Partners Visa Restrictions Index (HVRI) and was modified and renamed in January 2018. The HPI consists of a ranking of passports according to how many other territories can be reached 'visa-free'. India is ranked at 86 with a mobility score of 58. India's rank has improved from the earlier position of 79th in January 2019. The score points out that Indian passport holders can access 58 countries around the world without a prior visa. India shares the 86th position with Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

International Court of Justice (ICJ)



It has directed Pakistan to review conviction order of Kulbushan Jadhav and, until then, put his death sentence on hold. ICJ has also asked Pakistan to allow India consular access at earliest. Key observations made by the ICJ: Islamabad has violated Article 36 of Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, 1963, by not informing India about Jadhav's arrest immediately after Pakistan Army had taken him into custody. India had been deprived of 'right to communicate with and have access to Jadhav, to visit him in detention and to arrange for his legal representation'. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial body of the UN.



National

Kartarpur Corridor project



Often dubbed as the “Road to Peace” – will connect Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan’s Kartarpur with Dera Baba Nanak shrine in India’s Gurdaspur district. The construction of the corridor will allow visa-free access to pilgrims from India. The proposal for the corridor has been on the table since 1988, but tense relations between the two countries led

to the delay. The Union Cabinet has already approved the building and development of the Kartarpur corridor from Dera Baba Nanak in Gurdaspur district to the international border, in order to facilitate pilgrims from India to visit Gurdwara Darbar Sahib Kartarpur on the banks of the Ravi river, in Pakistan, where Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji spent eighteen years. The Kartarpur corridor will be implemented as an integrated development project with Government of India funding, to provide smooth and easy passage, with all the modern amenities.

Jalyukta Shivar



It is the flagship programme of the Maharashtra government launched in December 2014 with the aim to make 5,000 villages free of water scarcity. The scheme targets drought-prone areas by improving water conservation measures in order to make them more water sustainable. The scheme envisages to arrest maximum run-off water,

especially during the monsoon months, in village areas known to receive less rainfall, annually. Under the scheme, decentralised water bodies were installed at various locations within villages to enhance the groundwater recharge. It also proposed to strengthen and rejuvenate water storage capacity and percolation of tanks and other sources of storage.

2008



It is the year in which the National Translation Mission (NTM) scheme was launched which is being implemented through the Central Institute of Indian Languages (CIIL), Mysore. The objective of the scheme was to establish translation as an industry in general and to facilitate higher education by making knowledge texts accessible to students and academics in Indian languages. Under the scheme, the books of knowledge texts mostly text books of various subjects prescribed in Universities and Colleges are being translated in all Languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Internet Saathi



It is joint initiative of Google India and Tata Trusts. It aims to facilitate digital literacy among women in rural India. The programme aims to train Saathis in villages that can in turn help educate other women from their village in the use of the internet. Google India and Tata Trusts are set to expand their 'Internet Saathi' digital literacy programme for rural women to villages in Punjab and Odisha. Currently, the programme has reach of 2.6 lakh villages across 18 states. On adding Punjab and Odisha the programme will now extend its reach to 20 states in India.

Sagarmala project



Seeks to develop a string of ports around India's coast. The objective of this initiative is to promote "Port-led development" along India's 7500 km long coastline. It aims to develop access to new development regions with intermodal solutions and promotion of the optimum modal split, enhanced connectivity with main economic centres and beyond through expansion of rail, inland water, coastal and road services. The Union Ministry of Shipping has been appointed as the nodal ministry for this initiative.

BSF



It stands for Border Security Force (BSF) has launched a massive exercise, code named as Operation Sudarshan, to fortify Anti-Infiltration Grid along Pakistan border in Punjab and Jammu.



Indian polity

PM-SYM



It stands for Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana PM-SYM is a voluntary and contributory pension scheme that will engage as many as 42 crore workers in the unorganised sector. Benefits: Minimum Assured Pension: Each subscriber under the scheme will receive minimum assured pension of Rs 3000 per month after

attaining the age of 60 years. In case of death during receipt of pension: If the subscriber dies during the receipt of pension, his or her spouse will be entitled to receive 50 percent of the pension as family pension. This family pension is applicable only to spouse. In case of death before the age of 60 years: If a beneficiary has given regular contribution and dies before attaining the age of 60 years, his or her spouse will be entitled to continue the scheme subsequently by payment of regular contribution or may even exit the scheme. The subscriber is required to contribute the prescribed contribution amount from the age of

joining the scheme till the age of 60 years. The subscriber can contribute to the PM-SYM through 'auto-debit' facility from his or her savings bank account or from his or her Jan-Dhan account. Under the PM-SYM, the prescribed age-specific contribution by the beneficiary and the matching contribution by the Central Government will be made on a '50:50 basis'.

Seva Bhoj Yojana



It is the name of the scheme launched by Union Ministry of Culture – a scheme to reimburse central share of CGST and IGST on food, prasada, langar or bhandara offered by religious and charitable institutions. Eligibility: The charitable religious institutions including temples, gurudwara, mosque, church, dharmik ashram, dargah, monasteries,

which fulfill the following criteria are eligible for the grant: The institutions that have been in existence for at least five years before applying for financial assistance/grant. The institutions that serve free food to at least 5000 people in a month. The institutions covered under Section 10(23BBA) of the Income Tax Act or those registered as Society under Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860) or as a Public Trust under any law for the time being in force of statutory religious bodies constituted under any Act or institutions registered under Section 12AA of Income Tax Act.

Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga



It is a gas pipeline project which aims to provide piped cooking gas to residents of Varanasi and later to millions of people in states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. According to GAIL, with the Urja Ganga project, 20 lakh households will get PNG connections. GAIL has built a network of trunk pipelines covering the

length of around 11,000 km. With Urja Ganga project, this number will further increase by 2540 km.

NSAP



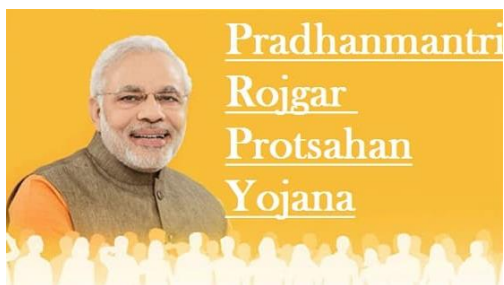
It stands for National Social Assistance Programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under the Ministry of Rural Development. It came into effect from 15th August,1995. It represents a significant step towards the fulfilment of the DPSP in Article 41 of the Constitution. In particular, Article 41 of the Constitution of India directs the State to provide public assistance to its citizens in case of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement and in other cases of undeserved want within the limit of its economic capacity and development. It aims to provide financial assistance to the elderly, widows and persons with disabilities in the form of social pensions. It currently covers more than three crore people who are below the poverty line (BPL), including about 80 lakh widows, 10 lakh disabled and 2.2 crore elderly.

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna



It aims to financially support those who lost their jobs or rendered jobless for whatsoever reasons due to changing employment pattern. The Employee's State Insurance (ESI) has approved this scheme for Insured Persons (IP) covered under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948. Its beneficiaries will be insured persons covered under Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 for period of two years continuously. Under the scheme, relief will be payable in cash directly to bank account of insured persons in case of unemployment. This financial assistance will be given to insured persons even while they search for new engagement. Beneficiary insured workers will be paid money, from their own contribution towards ESI scheme, in cash through bank account transfer. Under this scheme, workers will be able to draw 47% of their total contributions towards ESIC after remaining unemployed for at least three months from date of leaving their previous jobs. They can choose to receive the cash at one go or in instalments. It will be applicable to all factories and establishments employing at least 10 workers.

PMRPY



It stands for Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana is to promote employment generation. The scheme was announced in the Budget for 2016-17. The scheme is being implemented by the Ministry of Labour and Employment. Under the scheme employers would be provided an incentive for enhancing employment by reimbursement of the

8.33% EPS contribution made by the employer in respect of new employment. The PMRPY scheme is targeted for workers earning wages up to Rs. 15,000/- per month.

The Lok Sabha has passed the National Investigation Agency (Amendment) Bill 2019. Key features of the Bill



The Bill amends the NIA Act, 2008 and provides for a national-level agency to investigate and prosecute offences listed in a schedule (scheduled offences). It allows for the creation of Special Courts for the trial of scheduled offences which include offences under Acts such as the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. As per

the Bill, the NIA will now have the power to investigate the following offences, in addition: (i) human trafficking, (ii) offences related to counterfeit currency or bank notes, (iii) manufacture or sale of prohibited arms, (iv) cyber-terrorism, and (v) offences under the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. Jurisdiction: The officers of the NIA have the same powers as other police officers in relation to the investigation of such offences, across India. In addition, officers of the NIA will have the power to investigate scheduled offences committed outside India, subject to international treaties and domestic laws of other countries.

Rajasthan High Court



It resolved to censure the salutations “My Lord” and “Your Lordship” from courtroom protocol – a practice that has been inherited from British rule. As the words “My Lord” and “Your Lordship” are relics of a Colonial past, it is proposed to incorporate the above rule showing respectful attitude to the Court.

12



The number of beaches in India which have been selected by the Union Environment Ministry to vie for a 'Blue Flag' certification, an international recognition conferred on beaches that meet certain criteria of cleanliness and environmental propriety. These beaches are at Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Bhogave (Maharashtra), Ghoghla (Diu), Miramar (Goa),

Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka), Kappad (Kerala), Eden (Puducherry), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Rushikonda (Andhra Pradesh), Golden (Odisha), and Radhanagar (Andaman & Nicobar Islands). The Blue Flag Programme for beaches and marinas is run by the international, non-governmental, non-profit organisation FEE (the Foundation for Environmental Education). It started in France in 1985 and has been implemented in Europe since 1987, and in areas outside Europe since 2001, when South Africa joined. Japan and South Korea are the only countries in South and south-eastern Asia to have Blue Flag beaches. Spain tops the list with 566 such beaches; Greece and France follow with 515 and 395, respectively. There are nearly 33 criteria that must be met to qualify for a Blue Flag certification, such as the water meeting certain quality standards, having waste disposal facilities, being disabled- friendly, have first aid equipment, and no access to pets in the main areas of the beach. Some criteria are voluntary and some compulsory.

The 10th Schedule of the Constitution



This is also known as the Anti-defection Act. The Tenth Schedule was inserted in the Constitution in 1985 by the 52nd Amendment Act. It lays down the process by which legislators may be disqualified on grounds of defection by the Presiding Officer of a legislature based on a petition by any other member of the House. The decision on question as

to disqualification on ground of defection is referred to the Chairman or the Speaker of such House, and his decision is final. The law applies to both Parliament and state assemblies.

NSDF



It stands for National Skill Development Fund was incorporated on 23rd December, 2008 as a trust under the Indian Trust Act, 1882. It is fully owned by the Government, to act as a receptacle for financial contributions from Governmental sources, bilateral/

multilateral and other agencies and other private sector donors who would prefer to provide funds through the Government. Its main objective is to enhance, stimulate and develop the skills of Indian youth force by various sector specific programmes.

Six



The number of Public Libraries which are there under administrative control of Ministry of Culture namely National Library, Kolkata, Central Reference Library, Kolkata, Central Secretariat Library, New Delhi, Delhi Public Library, Delhi, Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna and Rampur Raza Library, Rampur. Public libraries function under the administrative control of the respective State/UT library authority.

PMBJP



Stands for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana' is a campaign launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. Of India, to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the masses through special kendra's known as Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra. Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) is the implementing agency of PMBJP. BPPI (Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India) has been established under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India, with the support of all the CPSUs.

Lashay



It stands for Labour room Quality improvement Initiative which is an initiative of Government of India to improve quality of care in labour room and maternity operation theatres in public health facilities. Lashya is a multipronged approach focused at Intrapartum and immediate postpartum period. The aim is to reduce preventable maternal and new-born mortality, morbidity and stillbirths associated with the care around delivery in Labour room and Maternity Operation Theatre and ensure respectful maternity care.

Science & technology

Generic medicines



They are unbranded medicines which are equally safe and having the same efficacy as that of branded medicines in terms of their therapeutic value. The prices of generic medicines are much cheaper than their branded equivalent. Since the manufacture of these generic drugs do not involve a repeat of the extensive clinical trials to prove their safety and efficacy, it costs less to develop them. Generic drugs are, therefore, cheaper. However, because the compounds in the generic versions have the same molecular structure as the brand-name version, their quality is essentially the same. Since they are cheap, people who can afford branded drugs don't buy them believing them to be of inferior quality. Chemists have to hand out exactly what's written on the prescription and most doctors except in government hospitals don't hand out generic drugs.

Sahiwal



This cattle is considered to be one of the best milch cattle breed of India. The breed derives its name from Sahiwal area in Montgomery district of Punjab in Pakistan. These animals are also known as "Lambi Bar", "Lola", "Montgomery", "Multani" and "Teli".

SPL



It stands for Spent pot lining from the aluminium industries is produced by the smelting plants. It contains high level of cyanide and fluoride and is carcinogenic in nature and must be scientifically utilised or detoxified. It has also been classified as hazardous waste under the Schedule to the Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2016.

September 2008



In this month the Chandrayaan-2 mission was approved by the government for a cost of Rs 425 crore. The Chandramana 2 launch has been cancelled due to a technical snag. New dates will be announced in a few days. It was India's second mission to the moon and aimed to explore the Moon's south polar region. It was to be launched onboard India's most powerful launcher – GSLV MK-III. The mission is an important step in India's plans for planetary exploration, a program known as Planetary Science and Exploration (PLANEX).

SATAT



It which stands for Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation is a developmental effort that would benefit both vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. Compressed Bio-Gas plants are proposed to be set up mainly through independent entrepreneurs. CBG produced at these plants will be transported through cascades of cylinders to the fuel station networks of OMCs for marketing as a green transport fuel alternative. The entrepreneurs would be able to separately market the other by-products from these plants, including bio-manure, carbon-dioxide, etc., to enhance returns on investment. This initiative is expected to generate direct employment for 75,000 people and produce 50 million tonnes of bio-manure for crops. There are multiple benefits from converting agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste into CBG on a commercial scale.

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Economics

30th November, 2019



It is the period up to which Cabinet recently approved extension of the term of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under article 280 of the Constitution, mainly to give its recommendations on distribution of tax revenues between the Union and the States and amongst the States themselves. Two

distinctive features of the Commission's work involve redressing the vertical imbalances between the taxation powers and expenditure responsibilities of the centre and the States respectively and equalization of all public services across the States.

KVIC



It stands for Khadi and Village Industries Commission has distributed over 1.10 lakh beehives across India in last one and half years under its Honey Mission. This has created over 11,000 new jobs for the farmers, unemployed youths and tribal people; 430 metric tonnes of honey worth Rs 4 crore has been extracted through these beehives only.

Honey Mission was launched in August 2017. Under this mission KVIC provides beekeepers: Practical training about examination of honeybee colonies. Acquaintance with apicultural equipment's. Identification and management of bee enemies and diseases. Honey extraction and wax purification. Management of bee colonies in spring, summer, monsoon, autumn and winter seasons. Loans for setting up processing units, packaging units and labelling units for honey.

\$5-trillion



It is the level to which Indian economy is expected to be taken by 2024 by the present government. In 2014, India's GDP was \$1.85 trillion. Today it is \$2.7 trillion and India is the sixth-largest economy in the world. If India grows at 12% nominal growth (that is 8% real GDP growth and 4% inflation), then from the 2018 level of \$2.7 trillion, India would reach the

5.33 trillion mark in 2024. India must keep growing at a rapid pace to attain this target.

Zero Budget Natural Farming



It is a method of farming where the cost of growing and harvesting plants is zero. This means that farmers need not purchase fertilizers and pesticides in order to ensure the healthy growth of crops. It is, basically, a natural farming technique that uses biological pesticides instead of chemical-based fertilizers. Farmers use earthworms, cow dung,

urine, plants, human excreta and such biological fertilizers for crop protection. It reduces farmers' investment. It also protects the soil from degradation. As both a social and environmental programme, it aims to ensure that farming – particularly smallholder farming – is economically viable by enhancing farm biodiversity and ecosystem services. It reduces farmers' costs through eliminating external inputs and using in-situ resources to rejuvenate soils, whilst simultaneously increasing incomes, and restoring ecosystem health through diverse, multi-layered cropping systems. Cow dung from local cows has proven to be a miraculous cure to revive the fertility and nutrient value of soil. One gram of cow dung is believed to have anywhere between 300 to 500 crore beneficial micro-organisms. These micro-organisms decompose the dried biomass on the soil and convert it into ready-to-use nutrients for plants.

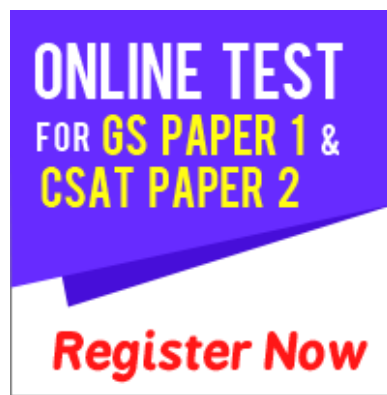
Environment & Climate

Meghalaya



The state which recently approved the State Water Policy to address water usages, issues of conservation and protection of water sources in the State. With this, Meghalaya will become the 1st state in India to ensure conservation of water and have its own State Water Policy. The policy's objective is to recognise water resources as a

common pool resource, to provide hygienic water for drinking, domestic needs, sanitation and livelihood development. The policy includes measures like building check dams to conserve rainwater, rainwater harvesting systems, controlling inappropriate use of groundwater and maintaining the quality of water.



Sports

Jofra Archer



The England's bowler who bowled the Super Over in their first ever victory in World Cup. England won the World Cup for the first time as they beat New Zealand in a Super Over after a nerve-shredding final ended in a tie at Lord's.

Novak Djokovic



He saved two match points to clinch a fifth Wimbledon title and 16th major on Sunday, shattering Roger Federer's bid to become the oldest Grand Slam champion in the longest final ever played at the tournament. At 4 hours and 57 minutes, it was the longest Wimbledon final ever played and settled by a final set tiebreak for the first time. Djokovic is the first man in 71 years to win the title from match points down.

People in News

Bibek Debroy



He headed the committee set up to suggest ways to mobilise resources for the Indian Railways and restructure the Railway Board. It has favoured privatisation of rolling stock: wagons and coaches. Key recommendations made by Debroy committee: Link increase in passenger fares to better passenger services. Create a separate company for railway infrastructure. Open access for any new operator who wishes to enter the market for operating trains. Separate suburban services and run them as joint ventures with state

governments. Private entry into running both freight and passenger trains in competition with Indian Railways. Separation of rail track from rolling stock

Places in News

Sikkim



The state whose proposal for reservation of seats for Limboo and Tamang communities in Legislative Assembly is under consideration of the Government of India. Article 371F(f) and Article 332 of the Constitution of India govern reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim and the issue of seat reservation for Limboo and Tamang communities is being considered under these provisions of Constitution of India. The Limbu are Kirati people indigenous and native to the Himalayan Limbuwan region of the Indian subcontinent, in what is now modern-day Eastern Nepal, Northern Sikkim, India and Western Bhutan.

India



The country where the number of poor people fell by more than 271 million within 10 years between 2005-6 and 2015-16 as per Global MPI 2019 Report prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative. In the 101 countries assessed– 31 low income, 68 middle income and 2 high income –about 1.3 billion people are “multi-dimensionally poor”. Multi-dimensional poverty defines poor not only on the basis of income, but on other indicators, including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence. Incidence of multidimensional poverty halved in India due to faster progress among the poorest in the country. Among states, Jharkhand had the greatest improvement, with Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, and Nagaland only slightly behind. However, Bihar was still the poorest state in 2015- 16, with more than half of its population living in poverty. In 2015-16, the four poorest states – Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh – were home to 196

million multidimensional poor people – over half of all the people living in multidimensional poverty in India.

Tripura



The state where the famous Kharchi Puja is celebrated. The annual “Kharchi Puja” and festival is meant to cleanse the sins of mortal souls. Originally a Hindu tribals’ festivity, it is now observed by all communities and religions. The festival features 14 deities – Shiva, Durga, Vishnu, Laxmi, Saraswati, Kartik, Ganesha, Brahma, Abadhi (God of water), Chandra, Ganga, Agni, Kamdev and Himadri (Himalaya).

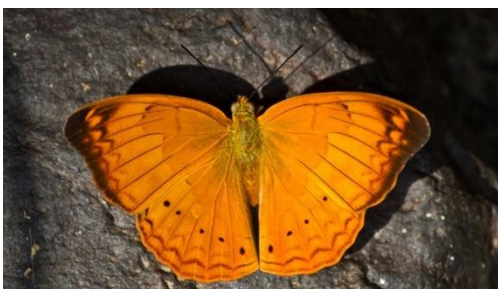
Delhi and Vijayawada



AADHAAR SEVA KENDRA

The places where the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) recently operationalized 1st ‘Aadhaar Seva Kendra’ (ASKs) in ASKs seek to provide more touch points to public for availing Aadhaar enrolment and updation services. UIDAI is now a statutory authority under the provisions of Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 under the aegis of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Tamil Nadu



The state which for the first time declared its state butterfly. Tamil yeoman (*Cirrochroa thais*) butterfly species endemic to Western Ghats has been declared the state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. Uniformly orange in colour with a dark brown outer ring, Tamil Yeoman is among the 32 butterfly species found in the Western Ghats. This butterfly

species moves in groups in large numbers, but only in a few places. Also known as Tamil Maravan, which means warrior, these butterflies are found mainly in the hilly areas. For the first time Tamil Nadu has declared its state butterfly and only fifth in the country to do so. Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern bird wings) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).

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