

Uttar Pradesh government launched U-RISE Portal

- Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government has launched ‘U-Rise’ (**Unified Re-imagined Innovation For Student Empowerment**) portal.
- It will guide students in various aspects like learning, career counselling, and getting employment in the state.
- This portal has been developed by **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Technical University**.
- The portal was launched by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on September 24, 2020.
- The programme will connect students with practical and technical knowledge.
- It is estimated that around 20 lakh students and other technical (indulged in vocational and technical education) experts will get benefit from this portal.
- With the help of this portal, the students can access e-content, e-library, and online courses even in the remote areas of the state.
- This portal is also helpful for students like it provides information on online exams, digital assessment, digital content, internship, digital examination papers, webinars, e-library, recorded video content as well as employment.

DRDO successfully flight tests SMART (Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo)

- Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo was successfully flight tested from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.

Note: SMART is a missile assisted release of lightweight Anti-Submarine Torpedo System for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) operations far beyond Torpedo range. The launch and demonstration are significant in establishing Anti-Submarine warfare capabilities.

The technology required for SMART has been developed by several laboratories, including the Hyderabad-based Defence Research Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Agra-based Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) and Visakhapatnam-based Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).

The Nobel Prize in Medicine 2020

- Nobel Prize in the field of Physiology or Medicine was awarded jointly to Americans Harvey J. Alter and Charles M Rice, and British scientist Michael Houghton for the discovery of the Hepatitis C virus.

Note: The Prize Money of 1,118,000 USD for the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine also comes with a gold medal.

Hepatitis: According to the WHO (World Health Organization), there are more than 70 million cases of Hepatitis in the world. Over 400,000 deaths occur due to the disease. The disease is chronic, and it causes liver inflammations and cancer. Hepatitis C is caused by the hepatitis C virus. It is a liver infection that can lead to serious liver damage.

Nobel Prize is international awards bestowed in a number of categories by Swedish and Norwegian institutions in recognition of academic, cultural, and scientific advances. The will of the Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel established the prizes in 1895. The prize ceremonies usually take place annually in Stockholm, Sweden. Each recipient, or laureate, receives a diploma, gold medal and a sum of money that has been decided by the Nobel Foundation.

On 17th November, 12th BRICS Summit to be held virtually.

- The theme of this summit is “BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth”.
- The Summit is being held under Russia's Chairmanship and aims at multifaceted cooperation between the member countries. The five-member countries have continued close strategic partnership on all the three significant pillars of peace and security, economy and finance, cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

Note: BRICS is an association of five countries: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS members are known for their significant influence on regional affairs.

MoHUA enters into MoU with Swiggy to take street food vendors online under PM SVANIDHI scheme.

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Swiggy, one of the leading food delivery platforms, to onboard street food vendors on its e-commerce platform.
- The MoU aims at giving the street food vendors online access to thousands of consumers and help them grow their businesses. The arrangement has been facilitated under the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme.
- The Ministry and Swiggy will run a pilot programme by on-boarding 250 vendors across five cities, namely - Ahmedabad, Chennai, Delhi, Indore, and Varanasi.
- The street vendors will be helped with PAN and FSSAI registration, training on technology, menu digitization and pricing along with hygiene and packaging best practices.

Note: PM SVANidhi (Pradhan Mantri Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi) scheme was launched on June 1, 2020, to help the street vendors resume their livelihood activities that were impacted by COVID-19.

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched an anti-air pollution campaign.

- Under the campaign "Yudh Pradushan ke Virudh", "Polluted air can be life-threatening in view of the COVID-19 pandemic. Both affect lungs."
- The government is also preparing a "Green Delhi" mobile application.
- "Using it, people can bring pollution-causing activities, such as garbage burning or industrial pollution."

World Space Week, 4-10 October

- By resolution of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly proclaimed World Space Week, to celebrate the contributions of space science and technology to the welfare of the human condition.
- World Space Week is the largest annual space event in the world. The weeks helps build up the workforce of tomorrow by inspiring students; demonstrates visible public support for the space programme; educates the public about space activities; and fosters international cooperation in space outreach and education.

Note: The 2020 theme is "Satellites Improve Life."

The World Space Week will show the importance of satellites in daily life and how our lives are affected by satellites such as in communications, environmental monitoring, transportation, weather forecasting, telemedicine, science, and in many other ways.

"India PV EDGE 2020" on Solar Manufacturing

To catalyze cutting-edge PV manufacturing in India, NITI Aayog, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, and Invest India, are organizing a global symposium, 'India PV EDGE 2020', on October 6, 2020.

Note: India has become the third-largest solar capacity country in the world and set an ambitious target of 450 GW of renewable capacity by 2030, in which 300 GW is of solar capacity. Cutting-edge giga-scale solar manufacturing stands on three pillars:

(i) Disruptive PV chemistries (ii) Manufacturing by custom-engineered advanced production equipment (iii) Utilization of innovative BOM components like special glasses and coatings.

That is why companies involved in all the three pillars are invited to present and engage the Indian industry in the symposium, which will catalyze the momentum for further discussions and collaborations.

India's NDC document of the Paris Agreement in 2015 called for extraordinary vision, leadership, compassion, and wisdom to combat climate change.

India to acquire Sprut light tanks for use in high altitude areas from Russia.

Government talks to Russia to acquire a newly developed light tank that could be useful in high altitude areas like the LAC (Line of Actual Control) in eastern Ladakh. India could receive almost two dozen such tanks in the first allotment.

Note: The Sprut tank, transportable by air, has commonalities with the T72 and T90s operated by India and would require minimal crew training. Tank is armed with a 125 mm gun, similar to the one on the T90, and fires all types of ammunition with the T72/90 fleet available with the Army.

'Sunidhi' project launched to digitize CMPFO services

- The government announced the launch of an information technology project 'Sunidhi' to digitize provident fund and pension related activities of the CMPFO (Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization).
- CMPFO inaugurated the -Superior New-generation Information and Data Handling Initiative (SUNIDHI) on the occasion of 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Note: CMPFO was established through an Act of Parliament in 1948 under the coal ministry to administer various schemes of provident fund, pension and deposit linked insurance for coal mine workers.

Ravi Chopra Committee: The chairman of an expert committee has alleged violations of the Supreme Court orders in the execution of the Chardham project.

- Ravi Chopra is the Chairman of the High Powered Committee (HPC) appointed by Supreme Court. Supreme Court ruled that the width of the road should not exceed the 5.5 metres that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) specified in 2018 for construction roads in the mountain.

Note: Chardham Pariyojana: The Chardham road connects the pilgrimage centres of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath. This programme is under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for connectivity improvement for Chardham in Uttarakhand. It is a 900-km, ₹12,000-crore enterprise to connect pilgrimage spots in Uttarakhand.