

November 2020

Centennial Foundation Day of University of Lucknow

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the celebration of Centennial (100th) Foundation Day of University of Lucknow on November 25 via video conferencing.
- The Prime Minister unveiled the University's Centennial Commemorative Coin on the occasion. He also released a special Commemorative Postal Stamp issued by India Post and its Special Cover during the event.

Pilibhit Tiger Reserve gets global award for doubling tiger population

- The Pilibhit Tiger Reserve (PTR) and the Uttar Pradesh Forest department have bagged the first-ever international award, TX2, for doubling the number of tigers in four years against a target of 10 years.
- PTR was the first to receive the award among 13 tiger range countries.
- It achieved this goal in just four years from 2014, when it had 25 tigers which went up to 65 in 2018.
- **Note:** The global target of doubling the tiger population was set in 2010 by the partners in TX2 award-UNDP, Global Tiger Forum, International Union

for Conservation of Nature, World Wide Fund for Nature, Conservation Assured/Tiger Standards and the Lion's Share.

- The *International Tiger Day* is celebrated on *July 29* every year.
- 13 tiger range countries are India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Russia, Vietnam & Thailand.

Uttar Pradesh govt. brings Vidhi Virudh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh 2020

- Recently, Uttar Pradesh Cabinet cleared a draft ordinance to check “unlawful religious conversions” and “inter-faith marriages with the sole intention of changing a girl’s religion”, with provision for jail term of up to 10 years.
- According to the “Uttar Pradesh Vidhi Virudh Dharma Samparivartan Pratishedh Adhyadesh 2020” (prohibition of unlawful religious conversion), a marriage will be declared “shunya” (null and void) if the “sole intention” was to “change a girl’s religion”.
- Those getting the conversion done in violation of the provisions of the proposed law would have to face jail term of up to 10 years.
- If it is found that the conversion is done “forcibly, through atrocity or cheating”, the offence will be non-bailable.

- The proposed law has provision for jail term of 1 to 5 years, and a minimum fine of Rs 15,000. However, in case the woman is from the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or a minor, the person can be jailed for 3 to 10 years, with a minimum fine of Rs 25,000.
- In case of mass conversions done forcibly or through cheating, the jail term would range from 3 to 10 years, with a minimum fine of Rs 50,000.
- Apart from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh have also sought to bring a law to check what they say is “love jihad”.

Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel released a 'sciencetoon' book (Bye Bye Corona) published by Vigyan Prasar of the Department of Science and Technology

- The book has been written by **Pradeep Srivastava**, former Senior Principal Scientist at CSIR-Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow.
- **Note:** The book contains comprehensive information on the COVID-19 pandemic.
- A 'sciencetoon' is a cartoon communication based on science.