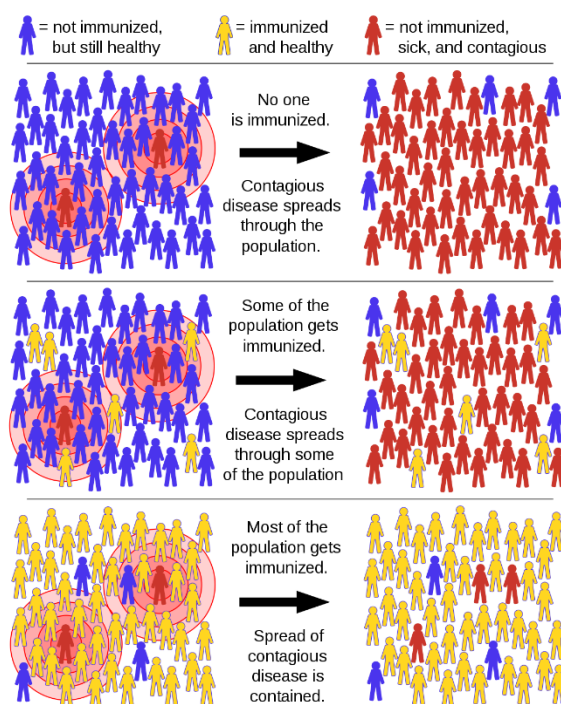


## 1. Herd immunity

As Europe was declared the epicenter of the novel coronavirus outbreak last week, Britain announced Herd immunity, a different strategy to tackle the situation.

### About Herd immunity

- It is also referred to as community immunity or herd protection.
- Herd immunity is when a large number of people are vaccinated against a disease, lowering the chances of others being infected by it.
- This is the government’s strategy to minimize the impact of COVID-19 i.e. to allow the virus to pass through the entire population so that we acquire herd immunity
- When a sufficient percentage of a population is vaccinated, it slows the spread of disease.
- World Health Organization (WHO) explains it as herd protection of the unvaccinated occurs when a sufficient proportion of the group is immune.



### Effects

- The decline of disease incidence is greater than the proportion of individuals immunized because vaccination reduces the spread of an infectious agent by reducing the amount and/or duration of pathogen shedding by vaccines, retarding transmission.”

Topic- GS Paper 2 –Health and issue

Source- PIB

## 2. Madhya Pradesh Governor orders floor test

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Madhya Pradesh Governor has recently ordered a floor test in the state Assembly to allow the State Government to prove its majority.

#### **About floor test**

- A floor test is primarily taken to know whether the executive enjoys the confidence of the legislature.
- It is a constitutional mechanism under which a Chief Minister appointed by the Governor can be asked to prove majority on the floor of the Legislative Assembly of the state.
- As per the Constitution, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the state.
- When a single party secures the majority of the seats in the house, the Governor appoints the leader of the party as the Chief Minister.
- In case the majority is questioned, the leader of the party which claims majority has to move a vote of confidence and prove majority among those present and voting.
- The Chief Minister has to resign if they fail to prove their majority in the house.
- This happens both in the parliament and the state legislative assemblies.
- In situations, when there are differences within a coalition government, the Governor can ask the Chief Minister to prove majority in the house.

#### **Composite floor test**

- It is the test which is conducted only when more than one person stakes claim to form the government.
- When the majority is not clear, the governor might call for a special session to see who has the majority.
- The majority is counted based on those present and voting. This can also be done through a voice vote where the member can respond orally or through division voting.
- Some legislators may be absent or choose not to vote.
- In division vote, voting can be done through electronic gadgets, ballots or slips.
- The person who has the majority will form the government.
- In case of tie, the speaker can also cast his vote.

**Note:** When no party gets a clear majority, the governor can use his discretion in the selection of chief ministerial candidate to prove the majority as soon as possible.

**Topic- GS Paper 2 –Governance**

**Source- PIB**

### **3. Demand and Import of Oil**

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas has informed about the Demand and Import of Oil in the Lok Sabha.

**Some Statistics**



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- The consumption of petroleum products in the year 2018-19 was 213.2 MMT.
- The percentage of Import Dependency on Oil based on consumption of petroleum products during the 2018-19 was about 83.8%.

### Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited

It is a Government of India Special Purpose Vehicle, has established Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) facilities with total capacity of 5.33 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) at 3 locations, namely

1. Vishakhapatnam
2. Mangaluru
3. Padur (Karnataka)



- As per the consumption pattern of 2017-18, the total capacity is estimated to provide for about 9.5 days of crude oil requirement.
- Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) currently have stock for 64.5 days. Hence, total capacity storage of petroleum products is 74 days.

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- Government has given 'in principle' approval for establishing two additional SPR facilities with total storage capacity of 6.5 MMT at two locations namely
  1. Chandikhol in Odisha (4 MMT)
  2. Padur in Karnataka (2.5 MMT).

## **Topic- GS Paper 1 –Economic Geography**

### **Source- PIB**

#### **4.Efforts to Boost Defence Sector**

The efforts made by Government to boost country's defense sector during the last two years are as follows:

##### **(i) Foreign direct investment**

- Recently the FDI Policy has been revised and under the revised policy.
- Foreign Investment is allowed under automatic route upto 49% and above 49% through government route, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology or for other reasons to be recorded.

##### **(ii) Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP)**

- Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) was revised in 2016.
- A new category of procurement 'Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}' has been introduced in DPP-2016 to promote indigenous design and development of defence equipments.
- This category has been accorded top most priority for procurement of Capital equipment.
- Besides this, preference is being given to 'Buy (Indian)' and 'Buy & Make (Indian)' categories of capital acquisition over 'Buy (Global)' & 'Buy & Make (Global)' categories.

##### **(iii) "Make" Procedure**

- In February, 2018 a separate procedure for 'Make-II' sub-category has been notified wherein a number of industry friendly provisions have been introduced.
- This effort of the Government to promote industry participation in indigenous development of defence items has yielded extremely encouraging response.
- Make-II Procedure for implementation at OFB/DPSUs has also been notified in February 2019.

##### **(iv) Innovations for Defence Excellence Framework**

- This framework was launched with the aim to achieve self-reliance and to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace Sector by engaging Industries including MSMEs, startups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia.

##### **(v) Indigenisation policy**

- Government has notified a Policy for indigenisation of components and spares used in Defence Platforms in March, 2019.



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- The objective is to create an industry ecosystem which is able to indigenize the imported components (including alloys & special materials) and sub-assemblies for defence equipment and platforms manufactured in India.

**(vi) Defence Corridors**

- Government has decided to establish two defence industrial corridors to serve as engines of economic development and growth of defence industrial base in the country.
- They span across Chennai, Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Chitrakoot and Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh.

**(vii) Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti**

- This framework aims to provide boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry.

**Topic- GS Paper 3 –Defence**

**Source- PIB**

**5. Mission Solar Charkha**

The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) has launched the Mission Solar Charkha in 2018-19 for implementation of 50 Solar Charkha Clusters across the country.

**Objective:**

- To ensure inclusive growth by generation of employment, especially for women and youth and sustainable development through solar charkha cluster in rural areas.
- To boost rural economy and help in arresting migration from rural to urban areas.
- To leverage low-cost, innovative technologies and processes for substance.

**Project Coverage**

- The target is to cover 50 solar clusters across the country, whereby approx. 1,00,000 artisans/beneficiaries are to be covered under the various scheme components.
- The scheme shall be implemented in all States of India.
- The geographical distribution of the clusters throughout the country, with at least 10% located in the North Eastern Region (NER), J&K and hilly states, will also be kept in view.
- Special focus will be given to 117 aspirational districts for soliciting project proposals under the scheme.

**Current Status**

- Till date, 10 projects have been approved under Mission Solar Charkha.
- One Solar Charkha cluster has been identified in Andhra Pradesh.



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- The scheme envisages generating direct employment to nearly one lakh persons.

### **Project Intervention**

One cluster of Solar Charkha would involve a maximum subsidy of Rs. 9.599 crore. The scheme would cover three types of project interventions:

- (i) **Capital Subsidy for individual and for Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)**
- (ii) **Interest subvention for Working Capital:** It is proposed to have a ceiling of 8% of interest subvention on working capital irrespective of the interest rates being charged by the Banks/Financial Institutions for a period of six months.
- (iii) **Capacity building**

### **Topic- GS Paper 2 –Important Scheme**

**Source- AIR**

#### **6. Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females**

Union Minister for Human Resource Development informed Lok Sabha about Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females.

#### **Related Information**

- The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for females in higher education is higher than the National Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER).
- As per All India Survey of Higher Education 2018-19, females constitute 48.6% of the total enrolment in higher education and the Gross Enrolment Ratio for females in higher education at 26.4% is higher than the national GER of boys at 26.3%.
- The Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased during the last 5 years, from 0.92 in 2014-15 to 1 in 2018-19.
- As per All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) 2018-19, there are 39931 colleges in India, out of which 60.53% are located in rural areas.
- Further, majority of the colleges provide higher education to both males and females and 11.04% colleges are exclusively for females.

### **Topic- GS Paper 2 –Governance**

**Source- PIB**

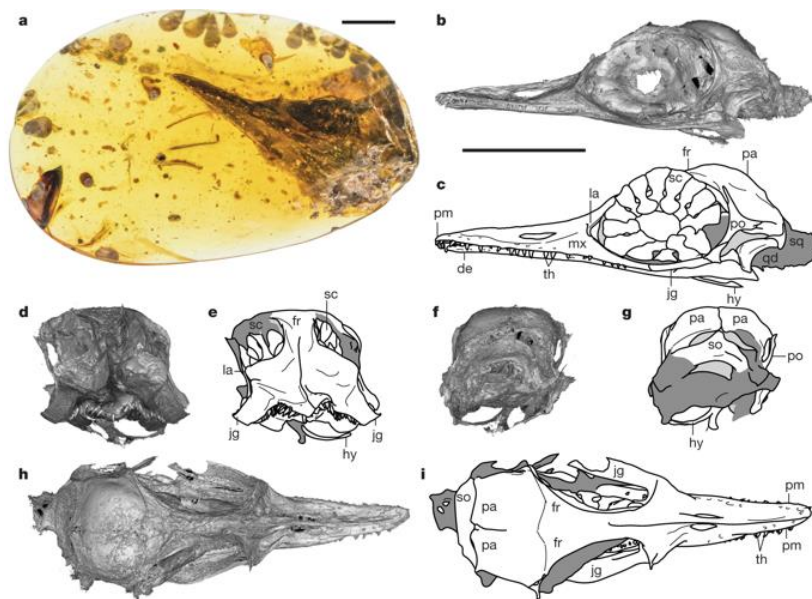
#### **7. Oculudentavis khaungraae: tiny Dinosaurs**

Scientists have identified a 100-million-year-old flying dinosaur called Oculudentavis khaungraae encased in amber in Myanmar that may be the smallest yet discovered.



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- The preserved skull is just 7.1mm (less than one-third of an inch) long.
- It would have been smaller than the smallest bird alive today, the bee hummingbird.
- Despite its minuscule size, researchers believe it hunted insects, using its sharp teeth and large eyes to home in on prey

**Topic- GS Paper 3 –Science and Technology**  
**Source- Indian Express**

**8. South India's vultures**

The South India Vulture Conservation Group has come up with a blueprint for the conservation of vulture population in five South Indian States.



**Conservation Strategy**

- Need to restrict availability of Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID) for veterinary use.
- NSAIDs had wiped out about 90 % of vulture population and disposal of cattle waste in forest peripheries was still rampant.
- To create a vulture safe zone in each south Indian State.

**Conservation Status of Indian Vultures**



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- White-backed vulture, long-billed vulture, slender-billed vulture and red-headed vulture (out of nine vulture species in India) are listed as critically endangered by the IUCN and also listed in Annexure 1 of the Convention on Migratory Species framework.
- The entire vulture is in the Schedule-1 of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- Except slender-billed vulture, the three other critically endangered species are found in the Moyar valley in the Nilgiris.

### **Topic- GS Paper 3 –Environment**

**Source- The Hindu**

#### **9. Indian Culture Portal**

Minister of State (I/c) of Culture and Tourism has informed the Lok Sabha about the Indian Culture Portal.

#### **About the Indian Culture Portal**

- Indian Culture Portal was launched on 10th December, 2019 to showcase information about the rich cultural heritage of India across the globe.
- The Indian Culture Portal is available in two languages i.e. Hindi and English.
- The portal will create awareness about both the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of India.
- The portal, which comprises mainly of rare books, e-books, manuscripts, artefacts from museums, virtual galleries, archives, photo archives, gazetteers, Indian National Bibliography, videos, detailed accounts of Indian UNESCO World Heritage site.
- It also comprises of musical Instruments of India, write-ups and beautiful pictures on cuisines, festivals, paintings, folk art and classical art from different States of India etc.

### **Topic- GS Paper 1 –Art and Culture**

**Source- PIB**



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