12 Indian Institutes ranked in top 100 globally

NATIONAL NEWS

International Internet Shutdown Report released by Access Now

- Access Now – a global non-profit organisation, working on digital rights and freedom has released its report "Shattered Dreams and Lost Opportunities" recently.
- The report lists 29 countries that has shutdown or slowed down the internet during the year 2020.
- According to this report, India has done the 70% of the total internet shutdowns globally.
- Total recorded internet shutdowns were 155, while in India is 109.
- India is followed by Yemen with six recorded shutdowns.

12 Indian Institutes ranked in top 100 globally

- The report "QS World University Rankings for the year 2021" by Subject was released by higher education consultancy Quacquarelli Symonds.
- 12 Indian institutions have made it to the top 100 in the world - IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IISC Bangalore, IIT Guwahati, IIM Bangalore, IIM Ahmedabad, JNU, Anna University, University of Delhi, and O.P Jindal University.
- Amongst these, four got into top 50 ranks
    - IIT Madras - 30th rank - Petroleum Engineering
    - IIT Bombay - 41st rank - Minerals and Mining Engineering
    - IIT Kharagpur - 44th rank - Minerals and Mining Engineering
    - University of Delhi - 50th rank - Development Studies

Ease of Living Index 2020 released

- Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban affairs announced the release of two indices
    - Ease of Living Index (EoLI) 2020 – for Cities
    - Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2020 – for Municipalities
- The Ease of Living Index (EoLI) is an assessment tool that evaluates the quality of life and the impact of various initiatives for urban development in the Quality of Life, Economic Ability, Sustainability, spanning across 13 categories.
- The Municipal Performance Index (MPI) was launched as an accompaniment to the Ease of Living Index for the first time in the country.
- Bengaluru emerged as the top performer in the City - Million+ category, followed by Pune,

Ahmedabad and Chennai.
- In the City - Less than Million category, Shimla was ranked the highest in ease of living followed by Bhubaneshwar, Silvassa, Kakinada.
- In the Million+ category, Indore has emerged as the highest ranked municipality followed by Surat and Bhopal.
- In the Less than Million category, New Delhi Municipal Council has emerged as the leader followed by Tirupati and Gandhinagar.

CSIR Floriculture Mission - launched

- Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the CSIR Floriculture Mission through virtual mode in New Delhi.
- Floriculture, or flower farming, is a discipline of horticulture concerned with the cultivation of flowering and ornamental plants for gardens and for floristry, comprising the floral industry.
- CSIR Floriculture Mission has been approved for implementation in 21 States and Union Territories of India wherein available knowledgebase in CSIR Institutes will be utilized and leveraged to help Indian farmers and industry re-position itself to meet the import requirements.
- This Mission is being implemented in collaboration with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-Directorate of Floriculture; Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC); Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Ministry of Commerce; Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Ltd. (TRIFED); Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre (FFDC), Kannauj, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Universities.
- He also launched CSIR's Societal Portal along with the Android App, developed by CSIR Team with the help of MyGov Team, to facilitate the public to submit the societal problems that can be resolved using S&T interventions.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

India, Norway to jointly work in marine spatial planning

- India and Norway have agreed to jointly work in the area of marine spatial planning in the oceanic space for the next five years.
- The two countries have decided to extend support for sustainable ocean resources utilisation to advance economic and social development in coastal areas.
- The initiative known as Marine Spatial Planning will be implemented by the Ministry of Earth Sciences through National Centre for Coastal Research for India.
- This is a part of the Indo-Norway Integrated Ocean Initiative under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in 2019.
- Lakshadweep and Puducherry have been identified as pilot sites for the project.

IMPORTANT DAYS

India commemorates Chabahar Day

- India on 4th March, 2021, commemorated the Chabahar Day during the event of India Maritime Summit 2021.
- The event was attended by Afghanistan, Armenia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Uzbekistan.
- The construction of Chabahar port by India in Iran was developed in the Trilateral Agreement to establish an International Transport and Transit Corridor signed in 2016 by India, Iran and Afghanistan.

UNGA adopts the International year of Millets

- The United Nations General Assembly has adopted the resolution by India to declare the year 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The 193-member UN General Assembly has unanimously adopted the resolution sponsored by India to declare the international year, aimed at raising awareness about the health benefits of the grain.
- It also recognises the vast genetic diversity of millets and their adaptive capacities to a range of production environments. U.N. Member States lauded India for the initiative and its leadership in facilitating negotiations on the resolution