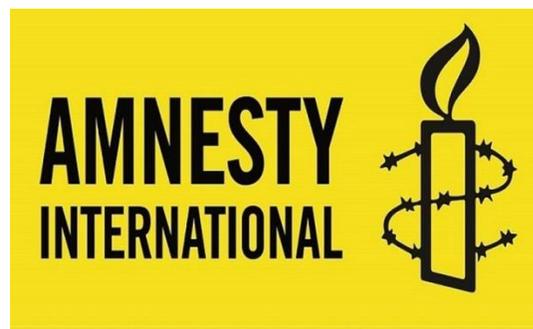


CURRENT AFFAIRS= 30-09-2020

AMNESTY INTERNATIONALz



Amnesty International India said the government had frozen all its bank accounts, leading to all of its work in the country coming to a halt.

About:

Status: Amnesty International (AI) is a non-governmental organization with its headquarters in the United Kingdom focused on human rights.

- **Mission:** Amnesty draws attention to human rights abuses and campaigns for compliance with international laws and standards.
- **Background:** Amnesty International was founded in London in 1961, following the publication of the article "The Forgotten Prisoners" in The Observer on 28 May 1961, by the lawyer Peter Benenson.
- **Awards:** The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its "defence of human dignity against torture," and the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1978.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the new logo for the Jal Jeevan Mission. He also unveiled the 'Margadarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission' (Guidelines for the Village



Panchayats and Water Committees) on the occasion.

About:

The Jal Jeevan Mission aims at providing every rural household in the country with piped-water connection. The new logo of the Mission shall continue to inspire the need to save every drop

of water.



- Referring to the Mardadarshika, the Prime Minister said that they are equally important for the Gram Panchayats, people living in rural areas as well as for the Government machinery.
- Unlike the previous programmes, Jal Jeevan Mission adopts a bottom to top approach, where the users and Paani Samitis (Water Committees) in the villages envision the whole project from its implementation to maintenance and operation.
- The mission has also ensured that at least 50% of the members of the water committee would be women.
- The Mardadarshika Guidelines released today will guide the members of the Water Committee and Gram Panchayats in taking the right decisions.

iDEX



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 4) during the iDEX event, featuring the initiatives aimed at expanding the horizons of Innovations for Defence Excellence

(iDEX) ecosystem in New Delhi.

About:

- Mr Singh also launched the **iDEX4Fauji initiative and Product Management Approach (PMA)** guidelines during the event.
- iDEX4Fauji is a first of its kind initiative, launched to support innovations identified by members of the Indian Armed Forces and will bolster frugal innovation ideas from soldiers and field formations.
- The iDEX initiative stands out as one of the most effective and well-executed defence Startup ecosystem created in the country.

CAT QUE VIRUS (CQV)



In a study published in July in the Indian Journal of Medical Research, scientists have noted the presence of antibodies

against the Cat Que virus (CQV) in two human serum samples.



About:

- The presence of the Cat Que virus has been largely reported in Culex mosquitoes in China and in pigs in Vietnam.
- For CQV, domestic pigs are considered to be the primary mammalian hosts. Antibodies against the virus have been reported in swine reared locally in China, which indicates that the virus has formed a “natural cycle” in the local area and has the ability to spread in pigs and other animal populations through mosquitoes.
- CQV belongs to the Simbu serogroup and infects both humans and economically important livestock species.

BAN ON SALE OF LOOSE CIGARETTES, BEEDIS

The Maharashtra government has banned the sale of loose cigarettes and



beedis, in a bid to reduce the consumption of tobacco and to comply with the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) 2003.

About:

- The government’s aim is to make sure that users are able to see the mandated warnings on cigarette packaging.
- Under COTPA, tobacco products need to be sold with graphic health warnings on their packaging and loose cigarettes do not comply with this rule.
- Further, India is a signatory to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, whose core tobacco demand reduction provisions include regulating the packaging and labelling of tobacco products and product disclosures. India ratified the WHO FCTC in 2004.
- Before this, Chhattisgarh had banned the sale of loose cigarettes earlier this year, while Karnataka banned the sale of loose cigarettes, beedis and chewing tobacco in 2017.
- As per the Tobacco Free Union, over 1 million people die from tobacco-related diseases in India every year.

NAMAMI GANGE MISSION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 6 mega development projects in Uttarakhand under the Namami Gange Mission.



About:

He also inaugurated the Ganga Avalokan Museum, the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Haridwar.

He released a book “Rowing Down the Ganges”. It explains

in details how the River Ganges stands as a glowing symbol of our Culture, Faith and Heritage.

- He termed the Namami Gange Mission as the largest integrated river conservation mission which not only aims at the cleanliness of River Ganga but also focuses on comprehensive upkeep of the River. Government is following a four pronged strategy to achieve this objective:
 - First- started laying a network of Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) to prevent the waste water from flowing into the Ganges.
 - Second, The STPs were built by keeping in mind the demands for the next 10 - 15 years.
 - Third - By making around hundred big towns/cities and five thousand villages along the River Ganga Open Defecation Free (ODF).
 - And Fourth - By making an all-out effort to stop the pollution in the tributaries of River Ganga.