

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 003/04-10-2020

ATAL TUNNEL



Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the World’s longest Highway tunnel – Atal Tunnel.

About:

The 9.02 Km long tunnel connects Manali to Lahaul-

Spiti valley throughout the year. Earlier the valley was cut off for about 6 months each year owing to heavy snowfall.

- The Tunnel is built with ultra-modern specifications in the Pir Panjal range of Himalayas at an altitude of 3000 Mtrs (10,000 Feet) from the Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The tunnel reduces the road distance by 46 Kms between Manali and Leh and the time by about 4 to 5 hours.
- Atal Tunnel is going to be a lifeline for a large part of Himachal Pradesh as well as the new Union Territory of Leh-Ladakh and would reduce the distance between Manali and Keylong by 3-4 hours.
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid the foundation of the approach road for this tunnel in 2002.

MULTI-MODE HAND GRENADES (MMHG)



The Ministry of Defence on Thursday announced it had signed a contract with a Nagpur-based private entity for supply of 10 lakh of units indigenously designed and developed Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG) to the Indian Army at a cost of over Rs 400 crore.

About:

- These grenades will be replacing the World War-II vintage ‘Mills Bomb’ type 36M hand grenades now used by the Army.
 - DRDO’s facility Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory (TBRL) which has developed the MMHG.
 - The MMHG can be used in two different structures resulting in two different modes — defensive and offensive.
 - the defensive mode grenades are to be hurled when the thrower is in a shelter or has a cover and the target is in an open area and can be harmed by fragmentation.
 - On the other hand, the offensive grenades do not fragment, and the adversary is harmed by the blast or is stunned while the thrower is safe.
- The grenades being used by the forces in India till now have been mainly the defensive mode grenades.

PAN INDIA TIME USE SURVEY

India’s first Pan India time use survey was released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.



About:

- A time use survey measures the amount of time people spend doing various activities, such as paid work, childcare, volunteering, and socialising. The primary objective of a time use survey (TUS) is to measure participation of men and women in paid and unpaid

activities. The “NSS Report- Time Use in India 2019” whose findings were revealed recently, is the first such pan India survey conducted. It is a sample survey conducted between January and December 2019.

Findings:

- The participation rate of men in paid employment — which includes jobs, farming, fishing, mining amongst other economic activities — is high at 57.3 %, compared to women whose participation rate is only 18.4 %.
- Indian men also spend more time at paid work, spending on average 7 hours 39 minutes compared to the 5 hours 33 minutes spent by women.

- Around 81.2 % women participate in unpaid domestic services spending an average 4 hours 59 minutes each day. The participation rate of men in domestic services is low at 26.1 % spending an average 1 hour 37 minutes each day.
- Contrary to popular perception, men tend to participate more in socialising and communication, community participation, and religious practice than women. Around 91.4 % of men participated in social activities, spending two hours and 27 minutes each day. The participation rate for women is just a little less at 91.3 %, and spend two hours and 19 minutes each day.
- Indians do not like to participate in unpaid volunteer work. Only 2.7 % of Indian men participate as unpaid volunteers or trainees, or participate in other unpaid work. The participation of women in volunteer work is lesser at 2 %.

DHAULASIDH HYDRO PROJECT



Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the construction of 66 MW Dhaulasidh Hydro Project at Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh.

About:

- The project is proposed on the horse shoe curve of the Beas and since there is a temple of local deity Dhaulasidh (see pic), it was named Dhaulasidh Hydro Electric Project.
- It is planned on the flow of the Beas near the temple at Amla village in Nadaun sub-division of Hamirpur district.
- The aim is to generate hydroelectricity and use water for irrigation in adjoining areas of both districts.

CHINA'S CLIMATE COMMITMENT



Speaking at the UN General Assembly, Chinese President Xi Jinping made two promises that came as a welcome surprise to climate change watchers.

About:

- First, Xi said, China would become carbon net-zero by the year 2060.
 - Net-zero is a state in which a country's emissions are compensated by absorptions and removal of greenhouse gases from the

atmosphere.

Absorption can be increased by creating more carbon sinks such as forests, while removal involves application of technologies such as carbon capture and storage.

Second, the Chinese President announced a small but important change in China's already committed target for letting its emissions "peak", from "by 2030" to "before 2030".

That means China would not allow its greenhouse gas emissions to grow beyond that point.

Xi did not specify how soon "before 2030" means, but even this much is being seen as a very positive move from the world's largest emitter.

WILDLIFE WEEK

Wild Life Week is being celebrated in India.



About:

- Wildlife Week is celebrated every year in India between October 1 and 8.
- The annual theme of the campaign is to promote the preservation of fauna – i.e.

animal life.

- Wildlife Week was conceptualized in 1952 with the overall goal of raising awareness to serve the long-term goal of safeguarding the lives of wildlife through critical action.
- In addition, the Indian Government established an Indian Board of Wild Life which works to improve awareness towards the preservation of wildlife

SWACHH BHARAT PURASKAR

The Swachh Bharat Diwas, 2020 was celebrated on occasion of Gandhi Jayanti with the distribution of Swachh Bharat Puraskar by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.

About:

- The Swachh Bharat (2020) Awards were conferred to the best performing States/UTs, districts, blocks, GPs and others in various categories marking six years of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) launch.



- The awards were given by Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS).
 - Top Awards were conferred upon Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab & others.
 - Gujarat was felicitated with the first prize in the state category; Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu as best district; Khachrod, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh as best block; and Chinnaur, (Salem) as the best Gram Panchayat for Swachh Sundar Samudayik Shauchalaya (SSSS) campaign organized from 1st Nov 2019 to 30th April 2020.
- For the week-long Gandagi Se Mukht (GMB) campaign launched by Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 8th August 2020, Telangana received the top award for maximum Shramdaan participation.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION (JJM)



The Union Minister of Jal Shakti launched a special mission mode campaign to provide potable piped water supply in all Schools & Anganwadi Centres across the nation within 100 days.

About:

- This mission was envisaged by the Prime Minister on 29th September, 2020 while releasing the 'Margdarshika' for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis for implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
- Provisions have been made under Jal Jeevan Mission for ensuring safe water through tap water connection in schools, anganwadi centres, health care centres, etc.
- National Jal Jeevan Mission has reached out to States/ UTs to ensure that during this campaign, Gram Sabhas are convened at the earliest to pass a resolution for providing safe water in all schools, anganwadi centres and other public institutions in the village in the next 100 days.

- These facilities will be operated and maintained by the Gram Panchayat and/ or its sub-committee i.e. Village Water & Sanitation Committee or Paani Samiti.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) aims at the universal coverage of provision of tap water connection to every rural home by 2024. Under the mission, special focus is on women and children.

CROSS & CLIMB