

# CURRENT AFFAIRS= 06-11-2020

## FAST RADIO BURST (FRB)

NASA has reported that on April 28, it observed a mix of X-ray and radio signals never observed before in the Milky Way.



Significantly, the flare-up it observed included the first fast radio burst (FRB) seen within the galaxy.

### About:

- Essentially, FRBs are bright bursts of radio waves (radio waves can be produced by astronomical objects with changing magnetic fields) whose durations lie in the millisecond-scale, because of which it is difficult to detect them and determine their position in the sky.
- The source of the FRB detected in April in the Milky Way is a very powerful magnetic neutron star, referred to as a magnetar, called SGR 1935+2154 or SGR 1935, which is located in the constellation Vulpecula and is estimated to be between 14,000-41,000 light-years away.

- Before April this year, scientists did not have any evidence to show that FRBs could be blasted out of a magnetar. Therefore, the observation is especially significant.

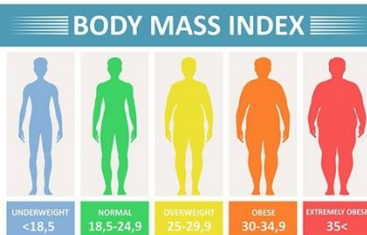
### Important Info :

#### What is a magnetar?

- As per NASA, a magnetar is a neutron star, “the crushed, city-size remains of a star many times more massive than our Sun.”
- The magnetic field of such a star is very powerful, which can be over 10 trillion times stronger than a refrigerator magnet and up to a thousand times stronger than a typical neutron star’s.
- Neutron stars are formed when the core of a massive star undergoes gravitational collapse when it reaches the end of its life.

## BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

India ranks third and fifth from the bottom respectively among countries where 19-year-old girls and boys have a low Body Mass Index (BMI), according to a study in The Lancet to be published.



### About:

- The study provides new estimates for height and BMI

trends in 2019 across 200 countries after analysing data from 2,181 studies.



- BMI is measured as the weight in kg divided by the square of the height in metres. World Health Organization guidelines define a normal BMI range as 18.5 to 24.9, overweight as 25 or higher, and obesity as 30 or higher.
- The mean BMI of 19-year-old boys is 20.1 in India, compared to a high of 29.6 in the Cook Islands and a low of 19.2 in Ethiopia. For Indian girls, the mean BMI is again 20.1, compared to a high of 29.0 in Tonga and a low of 19.6 in Timor-Leste.
- The mean height of Indian 19-year-olds is 166.5 cm for boys and 155.2 cm for girls, well below the high of Netherlands boys (183.8 cm) and girls (170 cm).

## NATIONAL WATER AWARDS



**Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is organising the 2nd National Water Awards (NWAs) 2019 Distribution Ceremony on 11th & 12th November, 2020.**

### About:

- The awards are given to motivate the individuals/organizations who are doing commendable work in the field of water resources conservation and management. The award winners in different categories will be given a citation, trophy and cash prize. The awards will be given by Department of Water Resources.

## INDIA-ITALY RELATIONS



**A Virtual Bilateral Summit between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of Italy Prof. Giuseppe Conte was held on 6th November, 2020.**

### About:

- Prime Minister Modi recalled the 2018 visit of Prof. Giuseppe Conte to India and appreciated the rapid growth in India-Italy relationship in recent past. On regional and international issues, both sides agreed to coordinate closely at multilateral fora especially G-20. Italy will assume the Presidency of G-20 in December 2021 followed by India in 2022. Together, India and Italy will be part of the G20 Troika from December, 2020.

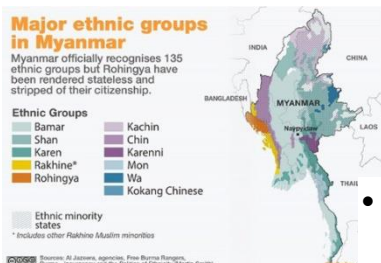
- India welcomed Italy's decision to join ISA as soon as the ratification process is completed. 15 MoUs/Agreements in various sectors such as energy, fisheries, ship building, design etc. were signed coinciding with the Summit.



### Important Info :

- India is currently India's fifth largest trading partner in the EU, and bilateral trade was worth 9.52 billion Euros in 2019. India, however, ranks 16th as country of origin for Italian imports, and experts believe there is potential for considerable growth.

### MYANMAR 1982 CITIZENSHIP LAW



**The Myanmar Army Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing has said that the issue of the citizenship of Rohingyas is solely a matter of domestic law.**

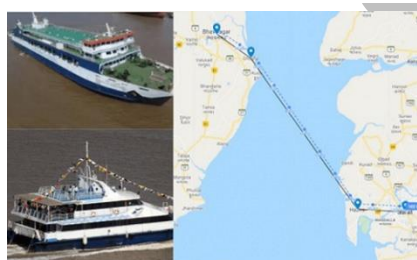
#### About:

- He said that the citizenship process in Myanmar is subject to the 1982 citizenship law which identifies only 135 indigenous ethnic groups and Bengalis or Rohingyas are

not among these.

He further said that Myanmar does not object to the Rohingyas living inside the Myanmar territory. However, the issue of citizenship, definition of indigenous people and their rights are matters of domestic law. Refusing to accept international intervention, he said Myanmar is proceeding according to its own domestic law on this issue.

### HAZIRA-GHOGHA RO-PAX FERRY SERVICE



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Ro-Pax terminal at Hazira and flag off Ro-Pax service between Hazira and Ghogha in Gujarat on Sunday.**

#### About:

- Hazira-Ghogha Ro-Pax ferry service will work as a Gateway to South Gujarat and Saurashtra region. It will reduce the distance between Ghogha and Hazira from 370 Kilometres to 90 Kilometres.
- The reduced cargo travel time will result in huge savings of fuel approximately 9000 litres per day and will lead to reduction in CO2 emission by approximately 24 million tonnes per day.



- With the onset of Ferry services, the port sector, furniture and fertilizer industries in Saurashtra and Kutch region will get a big boost.
- The benefits of enhanced connectivity through this ferry service will also result in increased inflow of tourists in the famous Asiatic lion wildlife sanctuary at Gir.

## THE ENVIRONMENT IN WAR AND ARMED CONFLICT



**International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict was observed on 6 November.**

### About:

- In 2001, the UN General Assembly declared 6 November of each year as the International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict (A/RES/56/4).
- In 2016, the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted a resolution which recognized the role of healthy ecosystems in reducing the risk of armed conflict.
- It also reaffirmed its commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals listed in General Assembly resolution entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”.

### Important Info :

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has found that over the last 60 years, at least 40 percent of all internal conflicts have been linked to the exploitation of natural resources, whether high-value resources such as timber, diamonds, gold and oil, or scarce resources such as fertile land and water.

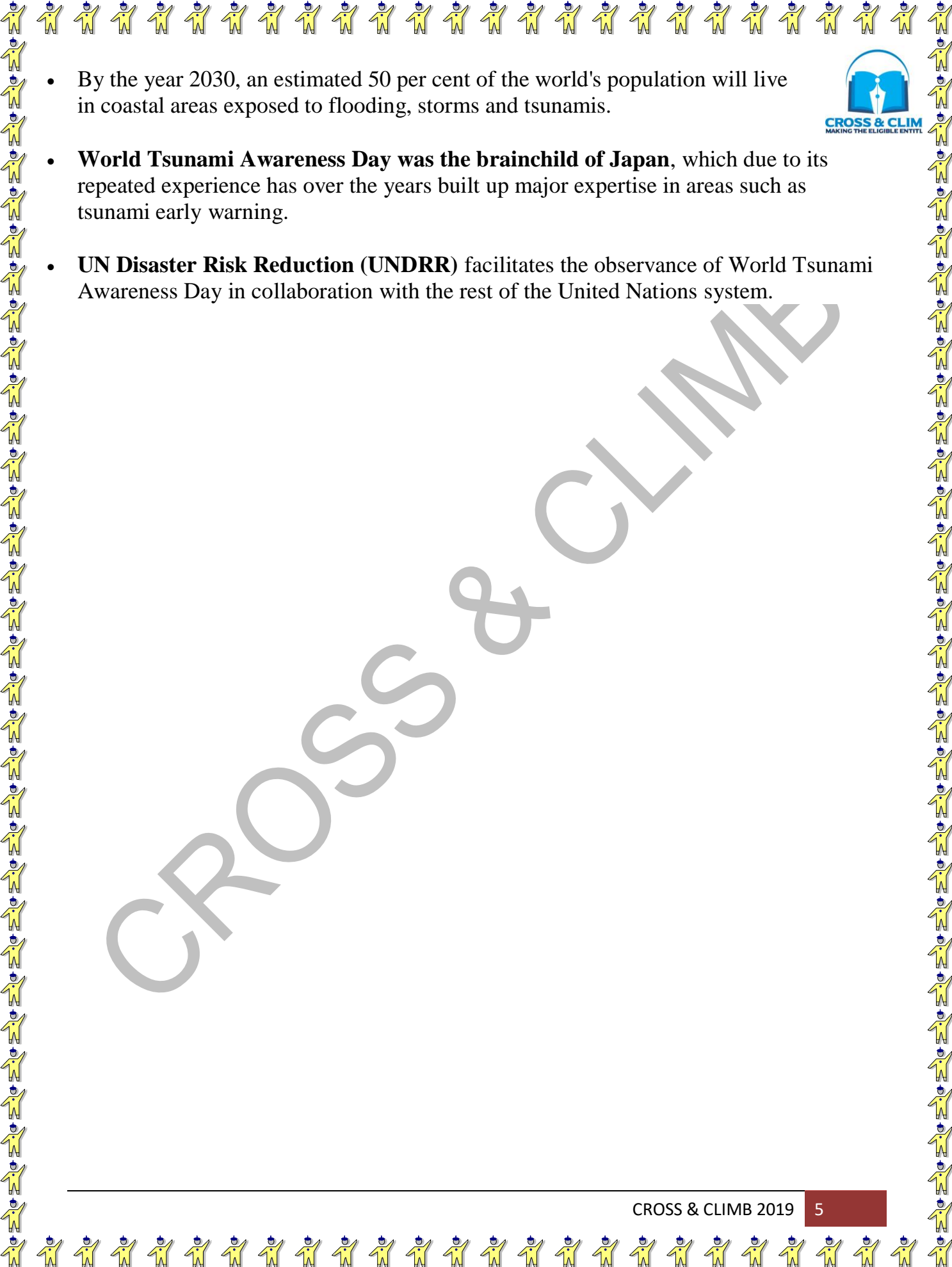

## WORLD TSUNAMI AWARENESS DAY



**World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed on 5 November.**

### About:

- In 2020, World Tsunami Awareness Day encourages the development of national and community-level, local disaster risk reduction strategies to save more lives against disasters. This year’s observance promotes “Sendai Seven Campaign,” target (e).

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- By the year 2030, an estimated 50 per cent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms and tsunamis.
  - **World Tsunami Awareness Day was the brainchild of Japan**, which due to its repeated experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning.
  - **UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)** facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system.

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