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3 DST institutes among top 30 Indian Institutions in Nature Index 2020; CAS, China topped globally

2019	Institution
1	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India
2	Indian Institute of Science (IISc), India
3	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), India
4	Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI), India
5	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), India



In accordance with the Nature Index 2020 ratings, 3 autonomous institutions of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India ranked among top 30

Indian. The Nature Index 2020 ratings has been globally topped by Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China while India's **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** is on **160th position globally** but stood first among Indian institutions.

- The Indian institutions in the Nature index consist of Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER), and Research Institutions.

Following tables are proving information about Nature Index 2020 ratings:

Top 3 Institutions (Global)

Rank	Institution
1	Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China
2	Harvard University, United States of America (USA)



3	Max Planck Society, Germany	
Top 3 Indian Institutions (Global)		
Indian Rank	Global Rank	Institution
1	160	Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
2	184	Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore
3	260	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR)
Top 3 DST Institutions (Among India)		
7	376	Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science (IACS), Kolkata, West Bengal
14	*Not Available	Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) Bangalore, Karnataka
30	*Not Available	S. N. Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, West Bengal

3rd India-ASEAN youth dialogue held from June 8 to 10, 2020; youth-centric initiatives highlighted



- i. The 3rd India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) youth dialogue 2020 regarded the youth as “vehicles of change” who are playing a pivotal role by leading the fight against the pandemic.
- ii. The Central elements of ASEAN-India strategic partnership are effectively and constructively

channelizing the youthful energy, education and skill development. Therefore, the members have pledged to enhance the central elements during the 2020 youth dialogue.

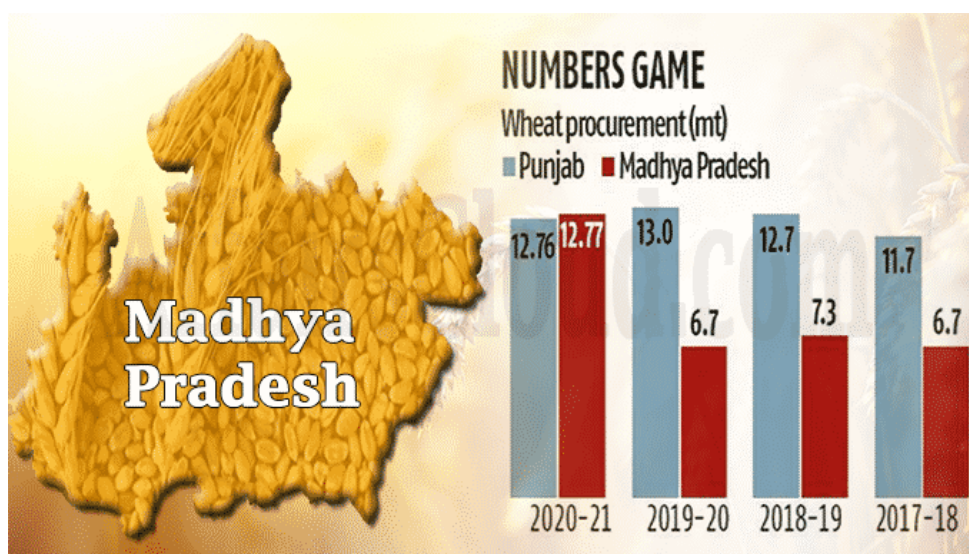
About ASEAN:

2020 Chairmanship– Vietnam

Chairman– Nguyen Xuan Phuc

Membership– 10 States — Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. 1 Observer – Papua New Guinea

Madhya Pradesh becomes the top wheat procurer; Purchased for Rs 25,000 crores from farmers



The rural economy of the Madhya Pradesh (MP) state is said to get inducted with Rs 25,000 crore for the farmers as it becomes India's largest wheat procurer

in the year 20-21 surpassing Punjab. MP also produced the highest amount of wheat this year about 30 million tonnes.

Wheat Procurement in million tonnes

Marketing Year	Punjab	Madhya Pradesh
2020-2021	12.6	12.6*
2019-2020	13	6.72
2018-2019	12.69	7.28
2017-2018	11.70	6.72

*The procurement is said to reach around 13 million tonnes when the process closes in the following weeks.

Key Points:

- i. Wheat purchased this year is 73% more than last year.
- ii. From the usual, 1 million farmers there is a 60% rise in the number of farmers who sell wheat to the government this year.
- iii. As there was a 28% increase in procurement this year about 2,000 godowns and other facilities are being converted into procurement centres to avoid delay in transportation.

Note: The principle secretary food and civil supplies of State, **Sheo Shekhar Shukla** stated that **Rs 20,500 crore** has been deposited into the bank accounts of more than 1.6 million farmers mostly small and marginal farmers.

Global trade to decline further by 27% in Q2 after 5% decline in first quarter: UNCTAD's report

On June 11, 2020, According to the report '**Global Trade Update 2020**' released by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the value of international trade in goods fell by 5% in the first quarter (Q1) of 2020 and is expected to plunge further by **27%** in the



ongoing **second quarter (Q2)** due to the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. -It has also forecasted a 20% annual decline in trade for the year 2020.

Automotive and energy sectors collapse, agri-

foods stabilize:

- As per UNCTAD, the supply and demand in industries such as automotive (-50%) and energy (-40%) witnessed a sharp contraction in April 2020, while the global trade in the agri-food sector has been the least volatile (grew by about 2%) in the Q1 of 2020.
- **Medical products' exports more than double:** The international trade in medical goods such as ventilators, monitors, thermometers,

hand sanitizers, protective masks and garments has been decreased due to COVID-19 pandemic but then rebounded in the months of February & March 2020 and almost doubled in April 2020.

About United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland

Secretary-General- Mukhisa Kituyi

Indian-American Soil Scientist Dr. Rattan Lal Honoured as 2020 World Food Prize Laureate

On 11th June 2020, 76-year-old Indian-American Soil scientist, **Dr. Rattan Lal** received the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate (**250,000 USD – Rs. 1.89 crore**) for developing and mainstreaming a **soil centric approach** to increase food production that conserves natural resources and mitigates climate change.



He was born in 1944 in Karyal, West Punjab, India.

World Food Prize:

i. This award was issued from the World Food Prize Foundation in the Digital

Dialogue with **Gebisa Ejeta**, chair of World Food Prize Laureate Selection Committee.

ii. It is awarded for specific, significant achievement of an individual that advances human development with an increased quality, quantity, availability or access to food through innovative interventions within the scope of the food system.

Note:

Dr. M S Swaminathan, Indian Agricultural scientist received the first World Food Prize in 1987.

“Lockdown Liaisons: Leaving and Other Stories” Authored by Shobha De



Writer and Columnist Shobha De’s new collection of stories titled “Lockdown Liaisons: Leaving and Other Stories” a book reflecting the impacts of COVID-19 on human lives published by Simon & Schuster India and released on May 30, 2020.

About Lockdown Liaisons:

- i. Collection of short stories from different perspectives from men and women, young and old, brave and cowardly, cheerful and weighed down.
- ii. The book displays the shifting emotions of people during the pandemic and its effect on people and their struggle to adjust to the “new normal”.

World Day Against Child Labour 2020 – June 12



June 12 of Every year is observed as the World Day Against Child Labour which was launched by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002 to focus on the global extent of child labour and the steps to be taken to eliminate it.

Theme of 2020: “COVID-19:

Protect children from labour, now more than ever”.

About ILO:

Director General– Guy Ryder

Headquarters– Geneva, Switzerland