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India is the first country in the world to control Locust through Drones

- **India has become the first country in the world to control locust by using drones**, as the Centre deployed drones, tractor mounted sprayers and fire tender vehicles to undertake locust control in the country.
- Under Make in India initiative, the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW), Agriculture Ministry has indigenously developed a vehicle mounted Ultra-low volume (ULV) sprayer for locust control.
- In total 60 ground control teams of Locust Circle Offices and 12 drones are being used for locust control operations in the affected areas.
- The need of aerial spray for locust control was felt as the ground control vehicles sprayers can spray up to a height of 25-30 feet only. The tractor mounted sprayers also have a limitation in reaching inaccessible areas and tall trees.
- Locust is a crop-threatening migratory pest that has entered the country through the India-Pakistan border.

IIT-Bombay develops receiver chip 'Dhruva' to find accurate locations in all weather conditions

- **Researchers at IIT-Bombay** have developed a homegrown **receiver chip** named **Dhruva**, that can be used in smartphones and navigation devices to find locations and routes within the country.
- Dhruva will receive signals from **India's NAVIC group of navigation satellites (built by ISRO)** as well as the **US Global Positioning System-based satellites** to determine these accurately under all weather conditions.
- Dhruv is a radio frequency receiver chip designed in 18 months by students and researchers at IIT Bombay.

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‘Nasha Mukh Bharat’ or drug-free India campaign

- **26th June** – International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
- **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** launched drug-free India campaign – ‘Nasha Mukh Bharat’
- Annual anti-drug action plan (2020-21) would focus on **272 most affected districts** and launch a three-pronged attack combining efforts of Narcotics Bureau, Outreach/Awareness by Social Justice and Treatment through the Health Dept.

Aim/Objectives:

- It will focus on institutional support and also on community outreach programmes in the districts identified by Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Change in the strategy against drugs – from institutional level to level of society.
- It will launch campaigns in schools and colleges to prevent drug abuse among youth.

Ozone pollution increased in several cities during the lockdown

According to an analysis by the **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** –

- While particulate matter and nitrous oxide levels fell during the lockdown, ozone increased in several cities.
- Ozone is a **highly reactive gas** and even short-term exposure of an hour is dangerous for those with respiratory conditions and asthma.
- **Eight-hour average** is considered for ozone instead of the 24-hour average for other pollutants

Nagaland Sports Academy, Kohima selected to be established as Khelo India State Centre of Excellence



Nagaland State Sports Academy at Indira Gandhi Stadium, Kohima has been selected to be established as Khelo India State Centre of Excellence, KISCE.

In a press release, Adviser for Youth Resources and Sports, Zale Neikha said that it is a historic and defining moment for the people of Nagaland. He expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister, Union Sports Minister and State Chief Minister for recognizing the effort and giving the opportunity to the state to upgrade its sporting facilities



into a National-level Centre of Excellence.

The Adviser resolved that the State Youth Resources and Sports Department will strive to give its best in spite of the challenges in bringing about this opportunity into fruition.

It may be mentioned in the first phase of setting up KISCE, Sports Ministry has identified state-owned sports facilities in eight states of India. They are Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and Odisha.