

2019



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# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

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The Indian **EXPRESS**

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## **1. Global Cooling Prize (GCP)**

### **Why in News?**

Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences has announced the finalists of the Global Cooling Prize 2019 for developing a climate-friendly residential cooling solution that can provide cooling for all without warming the planet.

- Department of Science & Technology in partnership with Mission Innovation (MI), the Bureau of Energy Efficiency & Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has launched GCP jointly with Rocky Mountain Institute.
- GCP aims to spur development of a residential cooling solution that has at least five times (5x) less climate impact than today's standard products.

### **Mission Innovation (MI)**

- It is a global initiative of 24 countries and the European Union to accelerate global clean energy innovation.
- It was announced at COP21 of UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Paris - 2015.
- It identified “Affordable Heating and Cooling of Building Innovation Challenge” as one of the seven innovation challenges.

### **Objectives:**

- Substantial boost in public sector investment.
- Increased private sector engagement and investment.
- Increasing international collaboration.
- Raising awareness of the transformational potential of energy innovation.

## **2. Anaemia Among Men**

### **Why in News?**

A recent study published in The Lancet Global Health, which looked at anaemia among men in India, found that nearly a quarter of them (23.2% in a sample of 1 lakh men) in the age group 15-54 had some form of anaemia.

- Anaemia is a condition in which the number of red blood cells or their oxygen-carrying capacity is insufficient to meet physiologic needs, which vary by age, sex, altitude, smoking, and pregnancy status.

### **Key Highlights**

- The study determined the prevalence of anaemia on the scales of mild (18%), moderate (5%) and severe (0.5%).
- The prevalence of anaemia in men varied widely between states, ranging from 9% in Manipur (lowest) to 33% in Bihar (highest).
  - Men with less education, less household wealth and those living in rural areas were more likely to have anaemia.

- Higher prevalence has been observed for younger age groups while the lowest prevalence has been observed for the age group of 50-54 years.
  - Ideally, men in the group 20-34 years have the lowest probability of having anaemia.
  - But, factors such as consuming smokeless tobacco, being underweight, level of urbanisation and household wealth are associated with a higher probability of developing the disease.
- Geographic and socio-demographic patterns of anaemia for men and women in India appear to be similar.

### 3. Defence Innovations Conference

#### Why in News?

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) organised 'Def-Connect' to showcase the accomplishments of the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative. It will construct a strong outreach towards the potential future entrepreneurs of the defence sector.

#### iDEX

- An innovation ecosystem for Defence titled **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** was launched in April 2018.
- It will function as the executive arm of the Defence Innovation Organisation.
- It is aimed at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging industries, R&D institutes and academia.
- It will provide them grants to carry out R&D which has good potential for future adoption for Indian Defence and Aerospace needs.
- The scheme mandates setting up of Defence Innovation Hubs across the country, to provide necessary incubation and infrastructure support to defence startups and innovators.

### 4. Tiger Triumph

#### Why in News?

The maiden India-US joint tri-services Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named 'Tiger Triumph' began on November 13 to 21, 2019.

- The exercise will be conducted off Visakhapatnam and Kakinada coasts, India.

#### Tiger Triumph

- India-US tri-services "Exercise Tiger Triumph" is being organised under the aegis of the headquarters of the Integrated Defence Staff.
- It will be conducted in two phases - Harbour Phase and Sea Phase.

- **Objectives:**

- To build the capacity of both the Indian and U.S. forces and improving their ability to operate together.
- To focus on counter-terrorism operations.
- To develop interoperability for conducting HADR operations.

## 5. Pliosaur

### Why in News?

Pliosaur bones have been found in Poland. Pliosaur reptiles inhabited seas millions of years ago.

### Pliosaur

- It is a group of large carnivorous marine reptiles characterised by:
  - Massive heads
  - Short necks
  - Streamlined tear-shaped bodies
- Pliosaur have been found as fossils from the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods.
- They are classified in the order Plesiosauria.
- Pliosaur possessed powerful jaws and large teeth, and they used four large fins to swim through Mesozoic seas.
- They are also regarded as the largest aquatic carnivorous reptiles that ever lived.

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