



News Analysis (26 Sep, 2019)

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'TB Harega Desh Jeetega' Campaign

The Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare has launched the '**TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign**', along with the **National TB Prevalence Survey**.

- He also released the **TB India Report (2019)**, the WorkPlace Policy Framework for TB, Operational Guideline for Employer - Led Model on TB, Training module for transforming TB survivor to TB champion, and Elected Representatives Handbook on TB.

As per the TB India report 2019, 21.5 lakh cases of tuberculosis were notified to the **Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme (RNTCP)** in 2018 — a **16% increase** from 2017.

- He also launched an all-oral **regimen kit for multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis (TB) patients** which does not include injections which are painful and can have side effects.
- He also announced a **partnership with the World Bank** which is providing a \$400 million credit for accelerating TB response in 9 states through private sector engagement and other critical interventions.
- He also **awarded states** for their excellent performance in tackling TB.
 - Among states with a large population (>50 lakhs), Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat were awarded as best performers.
 - Tripura and Sikkim were recognized for their efforts among medium population (less than 50 lakhs) states.
 - Puducherry, and Daman and Diu were judged as the best performers among Union Territories.

TB Harega Desh Jeetega Campaign

- It has **three strong pillars** which include **clinical approach, public health component** and **active community participation**.

- It aims to improve and **expand the reach of TB care services** across the country **by 2022**.
 - This includes preventive and promotive approaches and proposes potentially transformative interventions such as engagement with the private sector health care providers, inter-ministerial partnerships, corporate sector engagement, latent TB infection management, and community engagement.
 - The interventions will be accompanied by a comprehensive, mass media and communications campaign to generate awareness about the disease and the free treatment services available under the government program.

The National TB Prevalence Survey

- The Union Health Minister flagged off a van for the National TB Prevalence Survey.
- In all, 25 such vans will be part of the prevalence survey, which shall take 6 months and be carried out across the country.
- This shall present **national and state-level data**, which will be used as a **policy tool for further interventions**.

Other Recent Initiatives

- The Government of India has partnered with the Global Fund to launch **JEET (Joint Effort for Elimination of TB)**, a private sector engagement program operating across the country.
- In April 2018, the government launched the **Nikshay Poshan Yojana**, a direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme to provide nutritional support to TB patients. Under the scheme, TB patients have been receiving Rs. 500 per month for the entire duration of treatment. Since its inception, a total amount of Rs. 427crore has been paid to over 26 lakhs beneficiaries through direct transfers to their bank accounts.

Source: PIB

Darknet

The Kerala Police has set up a '**state-of-the-art lab**' to intervene and crack down on the rising criminal activities over the **Darknet**, also known as the underworld of the Internet.

Spearheading the programme is **Cyberdome**, the State police department's premier facility dedicated to prevent cybercrime and **mitigate security threats to the State's critical information infrastructure**.

Darknet

- **Internet consists of three layers:**

- The first layer is **public**, consisting of sites that one uses frequently such as Facebook, Twitter, Amazon and LinkedIn. This layer makes up only 4% of the entire internet.
- The second layer, **the deep web**, is a network where data is stored in inaccessible databases (i.e. cannot be accessed through traditional search engines like Google). It is used to provide access to a specific group of people.
The data is generally sensitive and private (government private data, bank data, cloud data etc), so kept out of reach.
- The third layer is the **darknet** which is also known as a part of the 'Deep Web'. It is a network built over the **internet which is encrypted**.
 - It is basically a layer of the Internet accessible **only by using special software like Tor (The Onion Router)**, or I2P, which stands for Invisible Internet Project.
 - Anything present on the dark web will not be pulled up in internet searches, thereby offering a **high degree of anonymity**.

- **Concerns over Darknet:**

- In February 2016, in a study titled 'Cryptopolitik and the Darknet', researchers analysed content over the TOR network.
Of the 2,723 websites they could classify by content, 1,547 – 57 % – hosted **illicit material ranging from drugs** (423 sites), **illegitimate pornography** (122) and hacking (96), among others.
- There were also reports of log-in details of streaming sites like Netflix being sold on the dark web marketplaces for cheap rates.

- The network is also **used by several activists** especially those living under oppressive regimes to communicate without any government censorship.

The TOR network was used by activists during the Arab Spring.

- **Darknet and India:**

- The **Information Technology Act** deals with cybercrime and comes under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. There are only six sections in the law that deal with cybercrime.
- With the changing times, India needs a code of criminal procedures dealing with cybercrime that would come under the Ministry of Home Affairs, which deals with policing issues.
- Also, there is a need for police, trained in changing cyber trends who are dedicated only to cybercrime and not transferred to other police units.

Source: TH

Line of Credit to Pacific Island Nations

On the sidelines of the 74th session of the **UN General Assembly**, the Indian Prime Minister has announced a **\$150 million** worth line of credit to the group of Pacific island nations for undertaking solar, renewable energy and climate-related projects.

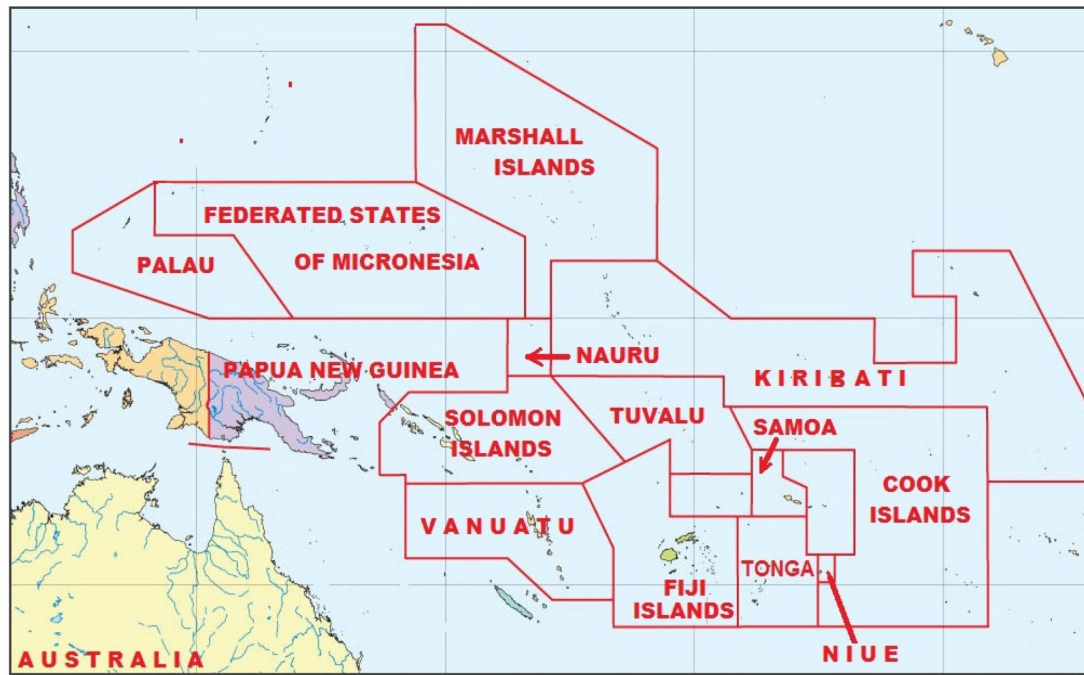
- The Indian PM also invited the leaders of the **Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS)** to join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.
- Reaffirming the commitment to provide developmental assistance for capacity building, the PM proposed to organize specialized courses under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation Programme (**ITEC**) programme in priority areas identified by partner countries.
- In the health sector, the Prime Minister offered to organize a **Jaipur Foot Artificial Limb Fitment Camp** in a Pacific regional hub under 'India for Humanity' programme.

India for Humanity

- India has also launched the "India for Humanity" initiative in South Africa in the context of Gandhiji's 150th birth anniversary to provide artificial limbs by "Jaipur Foot" in South Africa.
- "India For Humanity" initiative was launched by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- It features a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe.

India and PSIDS Relations

- With the evolution of the **Act East Policy** of India, India's relationship with Pacific Island nations has deepened.
This resulted in the setting up of an action-oriented multinational grouping named **Forum for India-Pacific Island Cooperation (FIPIC)** in 2014, between India and the 14 Pacific Island nations.
- The PSIDS comprises of the **14 Pacific Island countries** viz. The Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.



India and PSIDS have shared values and a shared future. The need today is for inclusive sustainable development policy in order to reduce inequalities and improve the quality of people's lives.

Line of Credit (LOC)

- It is a **credit facility** extended by a bank or any other financial institution to a government, business or an individual customer, that enables the **customer to draw the maximum loan amount**.
- The borrower can access funds from the line of credit at **any time as long as they do not exceed the maximum amount (or credit limit)** set in the agreement and meet any other requirements such as making timely minimum payments.

Source: IE

Special Report on Climate Change: IPCC

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) made public **'The Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate'** which underlined the dire changes taking place in oceans, glaciers, and ice-deposits on land and sea at the United Nations Climate Summit underway in the United States.

- The published report is the last in a series of **three reports on specific themes** that IPCC has published namely:
 - **Global Warming of 1.5° C:** A special report, which was commissioned to specifically explore the scientific feasibility of the 1.5°C goal set in the Paris

- Agreement, on global warming.
- **Land and climate change:** The report focuses on the **contribution of land-related activities to global warming** i.e how the different uses of land affect the emission of greenhouse gases.
- The report also updates the **IPCC's 5th Assessment Report** — and summarises the disastrous impacts of warming based on current projections of global greenhouse gas emissions.

IPCC's 5th Assessment Report

- The IPCC prepares comprehensive Assessment Reports about the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for reducing the rate at which climate change is taking place.
- However, IPCC does not conduct its own research.
- The Assessment Report released by IPCC in **2014** was the **5th** in a series of such reports.
- **6th Assessment Report of IPCC** is expected to be released in **2022**.

Key Findings of the Report

- Over the 21st century, the ocean is projected to **transition to unprecedented conditions** with increased temperatures, further **ocean acidification, marine heatwaves and more frequent extreme El Niño and La Niña events**.
- **Ocean Warming:**
 - Global ocean has warmed unabated since 1970 and has taken up more than **90% of the excess heat** in the climate system.
 - Since 1993, the **rate of ocean warming** and Marine heatwaves have very likely **doubled in frequency** since 1982 and are increasing in intensity.
- **Global Mean Sea-Level:**
 - It has **increased by 16 cm** between 1902 and 2015, and that the rate of increase had doubled of late.
 - Between 2006 and 2015, the global mean sea level recorded an average rise of **3.6 mm per year**, which was more than double of 1.4 mm per year recorded in the first 90-year-period of the 20th century.
 - **Sea-level rise is not globally uniform and varies regionally.** Regional differences, within 30 % of global mean sea-level rise, result from land ice loss and variations in ocean warming and circulation
- **The Melting of Glaciers:**
 - Between 2006 and 2015, the **Greenland ice sheet** lost ice-mass at an average rate of 278 billion tonnes every year (e.g. **Okjokull glacier of Iceland**), which was enough to result in a global sea-level rise of 0.8 mm per year. During the same period, **the Antarctic ice sheet** lost a mass of 155 billion tonnes on an

- average every year.
- Snow over outside of these two poles, like the **glaciers in the Himalayas**, together lost an average of 220 billion tonnes of ice every year.
- The melting glaciers are the **dominant source of sea-level rise, exceeding the effect of thermal expansion** of ocean water (due to rising temperatures).
- Since the mid-20th century, the **shrinking cryosphere** has led to predominantly negative impacts on food security, water resources, water quality, livelihoods, health, and well-being, as well as the culture of human societies, particularly for Indigenous peoples.

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change.
- It was set up in **1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.
- IPCC assessments provide a scientific basis for governments at all levels to develop climate-related policies, and they underlie negotiations at the UN Climate Conference – the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Source: TH

Gandhi Peace Park and Solar Garden at UN Headquarters

During the United Nations Climate Summit, the Prime Minister of India also inaugurated the **Gandhi Solar Park and Gandhi Peace Garden** at the headquarters of the **United Nations**.

- This underlines the importance of **Gandhiji's principles as a moral compass** for the world which grapples with challenges of climate change, terrorism, and corruption.
- On the occasion, **a special UN Postage stamp on Gandhi's 150 years** was also released.

Gandhi Solar Park

- It is a **first of its kind symbolic Indian effort** at the **UN** that highlights India's willingness to go beyond the talk on climate change and climate action.
- At a contribution of about USD 1 million, India has gifted solar panels that have been installed on the roof of the UN Headquarters, **one panel each for every 193 UN member states**.
- The solar panels are powered up to reach the **max of 50 KW** of generation power.

- Energy generated in the park is equivalent to the energy that would have been created through the use of 30,000 kilograms of coal.

Gandhi Peace Garden

- It is an innovative initiative under which the Consulate-General of India in New York, Long Island-based NGO Shanti Fund and the State University of New York-Old Westbury have entered into an agreement **to plant 150 trees**.
- It is a **crowd-sourced project**, with people adopting trees in the memory of their loved ones.
- The garden is in an open site within the **600-acre campus** of the university.

Source: TH

Goalkeepers Award

- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the Global Goalkeeper Award for the implementation of **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.
- The award has been conferred by **the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** for the government's **initiatives on sanitation, including the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**.
- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has also reported that improvement in **rural sanitation** has led to:
 - A decline in heart problems among children.
 - Improvement in the Body Mass Index (BMI) among women.
- Goalkeepers Award is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's campaign **to accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals**.

Source: TH

Quantum Supremacy

The phrase '**quantum supremacy**' was coined in the year **2011** by John Preskill, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the California Institute of Technology.

- Quantum supremacy refers to a problem-solving process by the **quantum computer** that cannot be solved by a classical computer in its normal lifetime.

The concept is related to the speed at which a quantum computer performs.
- Quantum computers are different from binary digital electronic computers that are based on transistors (a semiconductor device used to amplify or switch electronic signals and electrical power).
 - The common digital computing requires the data to be **encoded into binary**

digits (bits), each of which is always in one of two definite states (0 or 1).

- Quantum computation uses **quantum bits (qubits)**.

Quantum Bit (Qubit)

A quantum bit (qubit) is the smallest unit of quantum information, which is the quantum analog of the regular computer bit, used in the field of quantum computing.

- They operate according to **two key principles** of quantum physics: **superposition and entanglement**.
 - **Superposition** means that each qubit can **represent both a '1' and a '0' at the same time**.
 - **Entanglement** means that qubits in a superposition state can be **correlated with each other; that is, the state of one qubit (whether it is a 1 or a 0)** can depend on the state of another qubit. It means that particles remain connected so that actions performed on one affect the other, even when separated by great distances. The phenomenon so riled Albert Einstein that he called it "spooky action at a distance."
 - Using these two principles, qubits can act as more sophisticated switches, enabling quantum computers to function in ways that allow them to solve difficult problems that are unmanageable using today's computers.
- According to research, the quantum processor took 200 seconds to perform a calculation that would have been accomplished in 10,000 years by the world's **fastest supercomputer 'Summit'**.

Source: IE

Exercise MALABAR

The 23rd edition of the **Trilateral** Maritime Exercise MALABAR is scheduled between the navies of **India, Japan, and the USA**.

- It is an **annual** exercise between the navies of India, Japan, and the U.S. held alternately in the Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- It **began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S.**
- Then it got **permanently expanded into a trilateral** format with the inclusion of **Japan in 2015**.
- MALABAR 2019 would endeavour to further strengthen India - Japan - US Naval cooperation and enhance interoperability, based on shared values and principles.
- **India and Japan** defence forces organize a series of bilateral and multilateral exercises namely, **JIMEX, SHINYUU Maitri, and Dharma Guardian**.
- Whereas **India and USA** conduct Joint Military Exercises namely, **Yudha Abhyas**.

Source: PIB

Kristalina Georgieva

The **International Monetary Fund** formally selected **Kristalina Georgieva of Bulgaria** as the **second woman ever** to lead the 189-member institution for a five-year term starting on October 1, 2019.

- She will replace Christine Lagarde, who is set to take over the European Central Bank later this year.
- She is also the **first person from an emerging economy** to head the global lender.
- The Managing Director is the chief of the IMF's operating staff and Chair of the Executive Board. The Managing Director is assisted by four Deputy Managing Directors.
- She was also the Interim President for the World Bank Group before being appointed as the Chief of IMF.

David Malpass, a top U.S. Treasury official was unanimously selected as the new President of the World Bank for a five-year term starting from April 9, 2019.

- By tradition, the IMF managing director is a European, while the United States chooses the president of the World Bank. The situation leaves little hope for ascendant emerging economies that, despite modest changes in 2015, do not have as large an IMF voting share as the United States and Europe.

International Monetary Fund

- The IMF, also known as the Fund, was conceived at a **UN conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, in July 1944.**
- It provides financial assistance to member countries with balance of payments problems, lends money to replenish international reserves, stabilize currencies, etc.
- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)** is the IMF's unit of account and **not a currency**. SDR basket of currencies includes the U.S. dollar, Euro, Japanese yen, pound sterling and the Chinese renminbi (included in 2016).

Source: TH

ICGS Varaha

Recently, the Indian Defence Minister commissioned the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varaha** at the Chennai port.

- The ICGS Varaha is the fourth in the series of seven 98-m Offshore Patrol Vessels

(OPV) of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

- The ship has been designed and built **indigenously** and will operate from the port of New Mangalore on the West Coast (covering Exclusive Economic Zone) up to Kanyakumari.
- It is fitted with the latest navigation and communication equipment which include the Integrated Bridge System, Automated Power Management System and indigenously built Integrated Platform Management System and Halo Traversing System.
- ICGS Varaha is capable of operating the indigenously developed **advanced light helicopter** developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The ship is well equipped with high-speed boats, medical facilities, and modern surveillance systems for conducting boarding operations, search and rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrolling.

- This ship will enhance the ICG's strength in responding to the threats of maritime terrorism, smuggling, and challenges of maritime enforcement.

Indian Coast Guard

- It was established on 18th August **1978** by the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India.
- It operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- Headquarter: **New Delhi**.
- It has jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India including **contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone**.
- It is responsible for marine environment protection in maritime zones of India and is coordinating authority for response to oil spills in Indian waters.

Source: PIB
