

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 21-10-2020

India successfully test-fires Stand-Off Anti-Tank (SANT) Missile off Odisha coast



India successfully flight tested its indigenously developed **Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile** from **Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast** on 19 October 2020. The missile was test fired from a roof-top launcher of the ground-based platform.

SANT is a air-to-surface missile

developed by **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** for the Indian Air Force.

It is an **upgraded version** of anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (**HeliNa**).

The SANT missile has both lock-on before launch and lock-on after launch capability and can destroy **targets 15 km to 20 km** away.

This was the 11th missile test fired by India within one and a half month.

World Statistics Day : 20 October



The **World Statistics Day** is observed across the globe on **20 October**. The day is celebrated after **every five years**.

The first WSD was celebrated on **20 October 2010**.

It has been created by the **United Nations Statistical Commission** to celebrate statistics.

In 2020, the world is celebrating the third edition of the World Statistics Day.

The theme for 2020 WSD is **“Connecting the world with data we can trust”**.



Uttar Pradesh emerges as top destination in 2019 for attracting domestic tourists

Uttar Pradesh has emerged as the top destination for attracting the **highest number of domestic tourists** visiting the state in 2019 as per the **Indian Tourism Statistics (ITS), 2020**, released by the Ministry of Tourism.

About 53.6 crore domestic tourists visited Uttar Pradesh in 2019, which is 23.1% of the total travellers.

Tamil Nadu (21.3%) came second followed by Andhra Pradesh (10.2%).



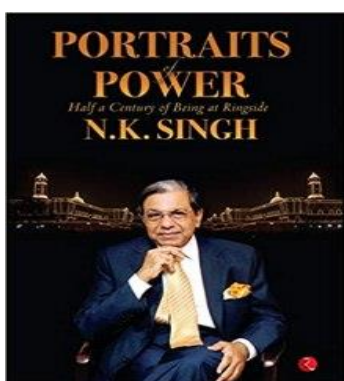
Tamil Top destination for attracting foreign travellers

However, in terms of Foreign tourists, Tamil Nadu has topped the list with nearly 68 lakh foreigners visiting the state in 2019.

Maharashtra (over 55 lakh) is at second position in this list while Uttar Pradesh (over 47 lakh) has secured the third position in attracting foreign tourists visiting in 2019.

Goa came last on this list with over 9 lakh foreign tourist visits in 2019.

‘Portraits of Power’, autobiography of NK Singh, Chairman of 15th Finance Commission, released



Veteran economist and bureaucrat, and the current Chairman of the 15th Finance Commission, **NK Singh** launched his **autobiography, “Portraits Of Power: Half A Century of Being at Ringside”** in a virtual event on 19 October 2020.

The book depicts various roles played by Singh for over the decades, starting from 1964 when he joined the IAS, to playing active role in India’s march towards becoming a formidable economy, and thereafter taking up political role with a Rajya Sabha term.

The book has been published by the Rupa Publications India.

Until recently, Singh was a member of the Rajya Sabha from the state of Bihar.


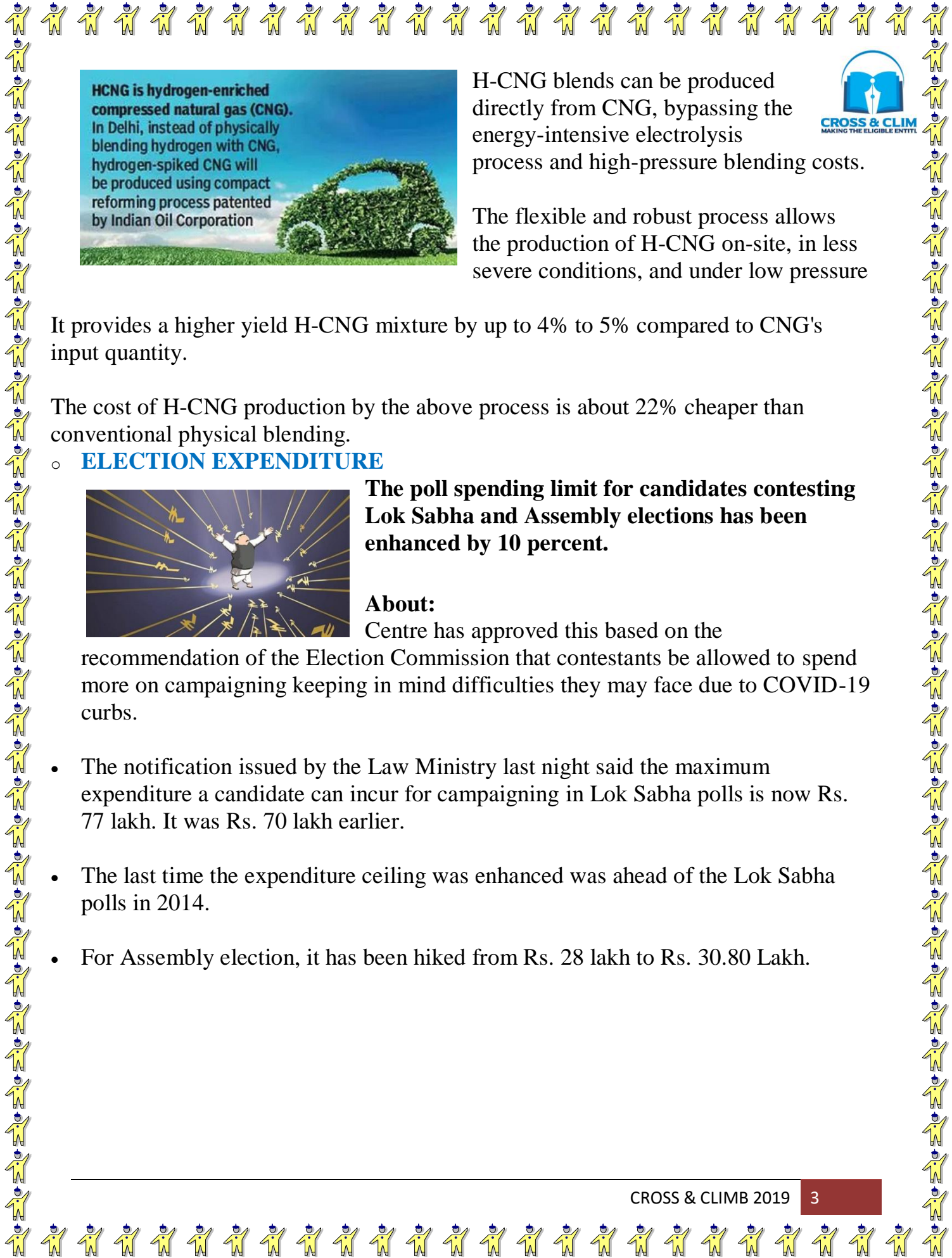
HCNG

Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas inaugurated IndianOil's compact reformer plant and launched the trial run of Delhi's buses on Hydrogen-blended CNG (HCNG).

About:

- HCNG is a hydrogen-enriched compressed natural gas (CNG).
- In Delhi, instead of physically blending hydrogen with CNG, hydrogen spiked CNG will be produced using compact reforming process patented by Indian Oil Corporation.

• **Benefits:**



HCNG is hydrogen-enriched compressed natural gas (CNG). In Delhi, instead of physically blending hydrogen with CNG, hydrogen-spiked CNG will be produced using compact reforming process patented by Indian Oil Corporation

H-CNG blends can be produced directly from CNG, bypassing the energy-intensive electrolysis process and high-pressure blending costs.



The flexible and robust process allows the production of H-CNG on-site, in less severe conditions, and under low pressure

It provides a higher yield H-CNG mixture by up to 4% to 5% compared to CNG's input quantity.

The cost of H-CNG production by the above process is about 22% cheaper than conventional physical blending.

○ **ELECTION EXPENDITURE**



The poll spending limit for candidates contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections has been enhanced by 10 percent.

About:

Centre has approved this based on the recommendation of the Election Commission that contestants be allowed to spend more on campaigning keeping in mind difficulties they may face due to COVID-19 curbs.

- The notification issued by the Law Ministry last night said the maximum expenditure a candidate can incur for campaigning in Lok Sabha polls is now Rs. 77 lakh. It was Rs. 70 lakh earlier.
- The last time the expenditure ceiling was enhanced was ahead of the Lok Sabha polls in 2014.
- For Assembly election, it has been hiked from Rs. 28 lakh to Rs. 30.80 Lakh.