

CURRENT AFFAIRS= 26-10-2020

PM SWANIDHI SCHEME

Uttar Pradesh government has secured the first rank in central government's the PM Atmanirbhar Nidhi Scheme (SVANidhi Scheme) by approving the highest number of loans under the scheme in the country.



About:

State has ranked first in all the categories - Applications, Sanctions and Disbursements of the loans under the scheme.

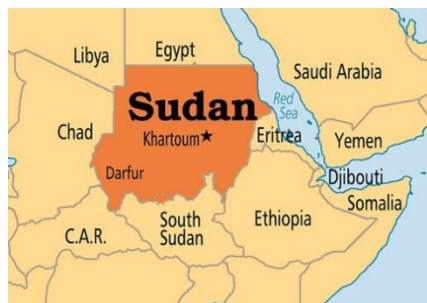
Seven cities of the state also find place in the list of top 10 cities of the country. Varanasi, Lucknow and Aligarh are the top three cities in the list even as other cities of the state include Allahabad, Gorakhpur, Ghaziabad and Kanpur.

Background:

The scheme was launched on June 1, 2020, by the Central Government to help the street vendors resume their livelihood activities that were impacted by COVID-19.

It aims at facilitating working capital loan up to Rs. 10,000 at a subsidised rate of interest. The scheme aims at providing benefits to street vendors or hawkers in urban, pre-urban and rural areas.

US STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM LIST



Sudan became the third Arab nation in recent weeks to normalise relations with Israel, days after the US removed it from its State Sponsor of Terrorism list, of which the North African country was a part for over 27 years.

About:

President Donald Trump said he would be removing Sudan from the terrorism list, which effectively kept the impoverished nation off the global financial system since 1993.

- The US Secretary of State (the minister primarily in charge of foreign relations) has been given powers to designate countries that “have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism” as “State Sponsors of Terrorism”.

Do you know?

The US can place four categories of sanctions on countries part of the list– restrictions on U.S. foreign assistance; a ban on defence exports and sales; certain controls over exports of dual use items; and miscellaneous financial and other restrictions.

Sanctions can also be placed on countries and persons that engage in certain trade with designated countries.

After Sudan’s delisting, three countries remain with the designation: Syria (listed in 1979), Iran (1984) and North Korea (2017).

WORLD POLIO DAY



October 24 is observed as World Polio Day every year in order to call on countries to stay vigilant in their fight against the disease.



About:

As per the WHO, since 1980, the cases of wild poliovirus have decreased by over 99.9 per cent as a result of vaccination efforts made around the world.

- World Polio Day was established by Rotary International over a decade ago to commemorate the birth of Jonas Salk, who led the first team to develop the vaccine against the disease.
- Important Info :
- Polio is a crippling and potentially deadly disease that affects the nervous system. There are three variants of the poliovirus, numbered 1 to 3. For a country to be declared polio-free, the wild transmission of all three kinds has to be stopped. For eradication, cases of both wild and vaccine-derived polio infection have to be reduced to zero. India was declared polio-free in January 2014, after three years of zero cases.

SANITATION

STATE OF GLOBAL AIR 2020

- Indians had the highest average exposure to PM2.5 in the world last year
- Air pollution now the biggest health risk in India, contributing to over 16.7 lakh deaths in 2019
- Indians' PM2.5 exposure up in past 10 years (see chart)

WORLD AIR QUALITY REPORT 2019

India was the **5th most polluted** country in terms of population weighted exposure to PM2.5 in 2019, **behind Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia and Afghanistan**

US President Donald Trump referred to it as “filthy India” during the final presidential debate and India received a lot of unwanted attention.

About:

While he was talking with reference to the Paris Climate Accord, the attempt here is to look at the filth in terms of poor or inadequate sanitation and rising pollution levels.

- According to the website “Our World in Data”, part of Oxford University, “an estimated 775,000 people died prematurely as a result of poor sanitation in 2017. “This was 1.4% of global deaths. In low-income countries, it accounts for 5% of deaths.
- In India, this share has been higher than its neighbours such as Bangladesh and Pakistan.
- In 2015, 68% of the world population had access to improved sanitation facilities. In other words, almost one-third of people did not have access.
- In India, only 40% of the population had access to improved sanitation. This is much lower than its next-door neighbours such as Sri Lanka (95%) and Pakistan and Bangladesh (both over 60%).