



PM Kisan Samman Nidhi

Context:

- Recently, The Prime Minister has released the 7th instalment of financial benefit under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi through video conference.



About PM-KISAN:

- The PM-KISAN scheme aims to supplement the financial needs of the Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) in procuring various inputs to ensure proper crop health and appropriate yields, commensurate with the anticipated farm income at the end of each crop cycle.
- It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding from the Government of India.
- It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Under the scheme, the Centre transfers an amount of Rs 6,000 per year, in three equal instalments, directly into the bank accounts of the all landholding farmers irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

Context: National Mathematics Day

- The birth anniversary of India's famed mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, is celebrated as National Mathematics Day.

Srinivas Ramanujan:



- Ramanujan was born in 1887 in Erode, Tamil Nadu (then Madras Presidency) in an Iyengar Brahmin family.
- At age 12, despite lacking a formal education, he had excelled at trigonometry and developed many theorems by himself.
- Living in dire poverty, Ramanujan then pursued independent research in mathematics.
- In 1912, Ramaswamy Iyer, founder of the Indian Mathematical Society, helped him get a clerk position at the Madras Port Trust.
- In 1917, Ramanujan was elected to be a member of the London Mathematical Society.
- In 1918, he also became a Fellow of the Royal Society, becoming one of the youngest to achieve the feat.
- Ramanujan's health continued to deteriorate, and he died in 1920 at the age of 32.

Legacy:

- Ramanujan's genius has been regarded by mathematicians to be at par with Euler and Jacobi from the 18th and 19th centuries.
- His work in number theory is especially regarded, and he made advances in the partition function.
- Ramanujan was recognised for his mastery of continued fractions, and had worked out the Riemann series, elliptic integrals, hypergeometric series, and the functional equations of the zeta function.
- In 2012, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day.

India International Science Festival

Context:

- The IISF 2020 was **organised by Vigyan Prasar, an autonomous institution of the Union Ministry of Science and Technology** with a mandate to popularise science and promote science communication in the country through films, television programmes and other modes of communication.



This year, there were a total 41 Events under 9 broad Verticals. In IISF 2020, five (05) Guinness World Records were also attempted:

1. IISF-2020: Virtual Science Festival (2000 approx. per day at peak hour)
2. Light, Shadow and Time Device Making (5,000 Students)
3. Online Hand Hygiene lesson and Activity (30,000 Students)
4. Applying Protective Masks and Taking an Oath Online (30,000 Students)
5. Nutrition and Health Lesson (35,000 Students)

About IISF:

5. IISF is the **largest science festival in the world**. It is an **annual festival** to celebrate the achievements of India's scientific and

technological advancements with students, innovators, craftsmen, farmers, scientists and technocrats from India and abroad.

6. It was started **in the year 2015**.
7. It is organized by the **Ministry of Science & Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences and Vijnana Bharati (Vibha)**.

Ethanol Blended Petrol

Context:

- Indian government has proposed the adoption of **E20 fuel** for vehicular use.

Aim:

- To curb vehicle emissions and reduce the country's oil import bill.

Current situation:

- Only 10% of ethanol blend is permissible in India.
- E20 is a blend of 20% ethanol with gasoline (petrol).

Benefits:

1. It can be used as an **alternative to the fuels** currently available.
2. It can be used as a **biofuel in flex fuel vehicles**.
3. **Ethanol is greener than**



gasoline because the corn and crop plantations absorb CO2 from the atmosphere as they grow.

5 month old infant filed a plea in Karnataka High Court



Context:

- The Karnataka High Court issued a notice to the state government on a PIL (public interest litigation) seeking a ban on vehicular movement inside Bengaluru's Cubbon Park.
- The plea, which states that the petitioner is a five-month-old Bengaluru citizen, said that the decision of the Karnataka government to allow vehicular traffic inside the park is an “environmentally irresponsible action” which is “directly affecting” the petitioner’s health, well-being and quality of life.



Demand of petitioner:

- The petitioner added that the decision of the government to allow vehicular traffic inside the park is an action of “environmentally

irresponsible respondents” which is “directly affecting” his health, well-being and quality of life.

- The plea also cites the order by the joint director of the Department of Revenue, revising guidelines to allow pedestrian and vehicular movement within public parks, a day after the state government directed the Department of Horticulture to open parks within its jurisdiction.

Public Interest Litigation (PIL) -

- Public interest litigation (PIL) refers to litigation undertaken to secure public interest and demonstrates the availability of justice to socially-disadvantaged parties and was introduced by Justice P. N. Bhagwati.
- It is a relaxation on the traditional rule of locus standi. The Supreme Court began permitting cases on the grounds of public interest litigation, which means that even people who are not directly involved in the case may bring matters of public interest to the court. It is the court's privilege to entertain the application for the PIL.