



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 30, 2021

STATES

- **Goa - has become the first state in the country to provide 100% tap water supply to households followed by Telangana and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.**
- ✓ This was announced by the Jal Shakti Ministry on March 29, 2021
- ✓ As per the Ministry, over 4 crore rural households in the country have been provided with tap water supply since the Jal Jeevan Mission was launched in August 2019
- ✓ Overall, 7.24 crore households (38%) in the rural areas have been covered under the mission till date
- ✓ Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide tap water supply to every rural home in the country by 2024
- ✓ Recently, Prime Minister launched 'Catch the rain' campaign on World water day - 22 March, 2021 to give importance to the concept of water conservation

NATIONAL

- **Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan - inaugurated the “Tribal TB Initiative” on March 26 under the TB Mukht Bharat Initiative**

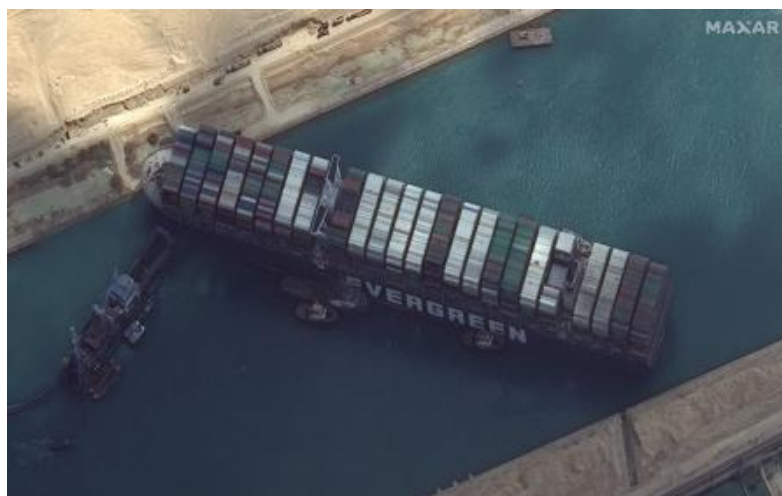


- ✓ The initiative aims to eradicate Tuberculosis in the country by the year 2025

- ✓ During the event, the Ministry also published a guidance note on Joint Action Plan for the elimination of Tuberculosis (TB), a Special Edition of Tribal Ministry's Publication 'ALEKH' on TB, and a document on Tribal Tuberculosis (TB) Initiative.
- ✓ The tribal population in the country is vulnerable to TB considering the poor living standards, lack of hygiene and malnutrition
- ✓ In this regard, the government has identified 177 tribal districts as 'high priority districts'
- ✓ The Joint plan will primarily focus on 161 districts initially across 18 states for creating awareness about the disease
- ✓ There would also be periodic 'active' TB case finding drives to be undertaken
- ✓ Further, TB Preventive Therapy (IPT) will be provided to the identified vulnerable population
- ✓ The NIKSHAY Portal of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Swasthya Portal of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs will facilitate data compilation on Tuberculosis for effective screening and treatment
- ✓ The union territories of Lakshadweep and the district of Badgam in Jammu & Kashmir have been declared TB Free on World TB Day 2021.
- ✓ Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh were the top three best-performing states for tuberculosis control under the category of states with a 50 lakh population in the TB index.
- ✓ Tripura and Nagaland were adjudged best-performing in the category of states having less than 50 lakh population.
- ✓ Dadra and Nagar Haveli, and Daman and Diu were selected as the best performing Union Territories.
- ✓ In India, around 104 million tribal population live, covering 705 tribes and accounting for 8.6 % of the country's population.

INTERNATIONAL

- **The Suez Canal blockage – ended on March 29 after the mammoth cargo ship 'MV Ever Green' has finally been freed from the shoreline and refloated.**



- ✓ Overall, 14 tugboats were employed, which pulled and pushed the container ship at high tide to try to dislodge it and finally moved the ship "30 degrees from left and right".
 - ✓ A total of 369 ships were stuck in a tailback waiting to pass through the 193km (120-mile) canal on either side of the blockage.
 - ✓ The Ever Given is 400m-long (1,312ft) and weighs 200,000 tonnes
 - ✓ It is currently carrying 18,300 containers as against the full capacity of 20,000 containers
 - ✓ The Panama-flagged ship is operated by Taiwanese transport company Evergreen Marine and is one of the world's largest container vessels.
 - ✓ About 12% of global trade, around one million barrels of oil and roughly 8% of liquefied natural gas pass through the canal each day.
- **New York – becomes the first state in the world to formally create a digital passport for Covid-19.**
 - ✓ The New York State launched a new digital app to allow individuals to prove they have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus or have recently tested negative
 - ✓ The new App is launched as part of efforts to fast-track the reopening of businesses, sports arenas and entertainment venues in the state.
 - ✓ The free online platform, called Excelsior Pass, was developed with IBM and works like a mobile airline boarding pass.
 - ✓ Users are assigned a digital pass with a secure QR code, which they can take print out or save to their smartphones.
- **Facebook - has planned to install two undersea Internet cables to connect Southeast Asia to North America**
 - ✓ The decision is aimed at increasing data capacity and to improve the internet authenticity.
 - ✓ The two cables are named as "Echo" and "Bifrost" and will connect Singapore, Indonesia and North America.
 - ✓ The cable 'Echo' is being installed in partnership with Google and Indonesian telecommunications' company XL Axiata.
 - ✓ It is planned to be completed by 2023.
 - ✓ The cable 'Bifrost' is being built in partnership with Indonesia's Telin and Singapore's Keppel, and is scheduled to be completed by 2024.
 - ✓ The cables will be the first ones to directly link North America to some of the main parts of Indonesia

AWARDS

- **Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle - has been selected for the prestigious Maharashtra Bhushan Award.**



- ✓ The decision to confer the 87- years old singer with the state's highest honour was taken during a meeting of the award selection committee on March 25, 2021.
- ✓ The meeting was presided over by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray.
- ✓ Asha Bhosle's career has lasted over 7 decades and she has provided her voice for playback singing for over a thousand movies.
- ✓ In 2000, the veteran singer was honoured with Dadasaheb Phalke Award, and in 2008 with the Padma Vibhushan Award
- ✓ She has also won 7 Filmfare awards for her singing and has been conferred twice with the National Awards.
- ✓ Asha Bhosle has become the second person in the Mangeshkar family to receive the Maharashtra Bhushan Award.
- ✓ Her sister Lata Mangeshkar, a legendary singer, was also conferred with the award in 1997.

