

DATE: 18/11/2018

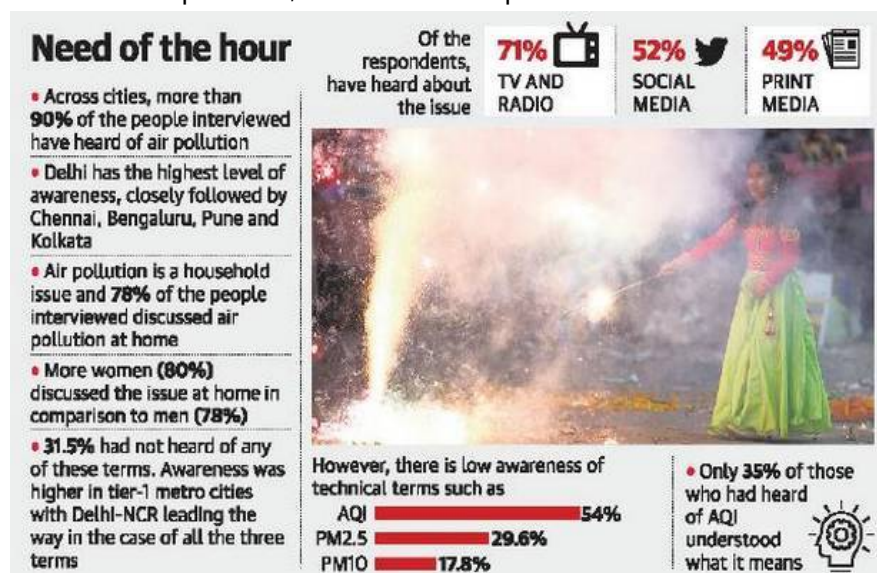
SUNDAY

CURRENT AFFAIRS

SOURCE: THE HINDU and Indian Express

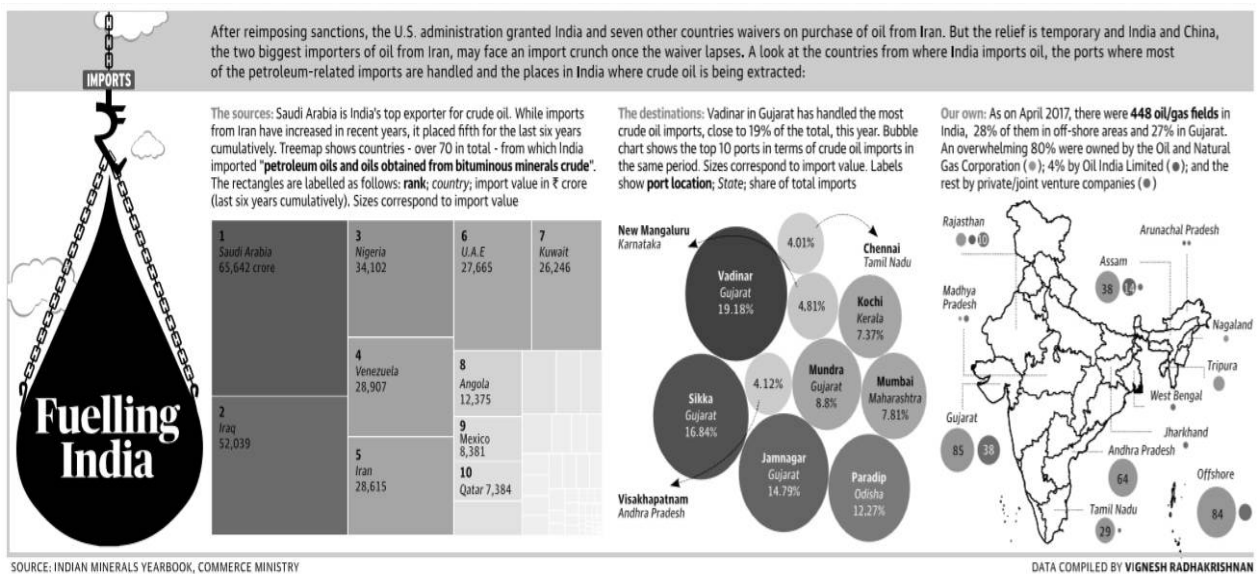
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1. Ganga Waterway Project cleared after overruling expert panel
  - Ganga Waterway Project is India's largest inland waterway project. Its one terminal is inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
  - A committee of experts appointed by the Environment Ministry had recommended that public consultations and a full-fledged environment clearance, documents made available through the Right to Information (RTI) Act show.
  - Government plans to make stretches of the 2,500-km-long Ganga suitable for transporting containers.
  - A 1390 stretch of river between Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Haldia in West Bengal was decided to make navigable.
  - The project entails construction of 3 multimodal terminals (Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia), 2 intermodal terminals, 5 Roll On–Roll Off (Ro-Ro) terminal pairs, a new navigation lock at Farakka, assured depth dredging, an integrated vessel repair and maintenance facility, a Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS), a River Information System (RIS), and 'river training' and river conservancy works.
  - The Project is funded by the World Bank.
  - The cost of the project is ₹ 5369 Crores.
2. Are we aware about air pollution, its causes and impact?



- A public perception study designed to find out the level of awareness — cause, effect, precaution and solution — of air pollution.

- The study was conducted in Delhi-NCR, Kolkata, Patna, Lucknow, Varanasi, Amritsar, Singrauli, Dhanbad, Raipur, Korba, Chandrapur, Angul, Nagpur, and cities becoming rapidly polluted like Bengaluru, Pune, Mumbai and Chennai.
  - 5,000 people were interviewed.
  - Delhi had the highest level of awareness followed by Chennai, Bengaluru, Pune and Kolkata.
3. Finding the Path of the Butterflies
- The Ferns Naturalists' Society (FNS), Wayanad, Travancore Natural History Society (TNHS), and the Malabar Natural History Society (MNHS) together launching a citizen science project to map the migratory path of butterflies in south India.
  - This is the first of its kind initiative in India.
  - Butterfly migration starts from the plains to the ghats during the month of October November with the onset of the northeast monsoon and from the ghats to the plains during the month of April - May, just before the advent of the southwest monsoon.
  - A recent study reveals that four species of milkweed butterflies are mainly involved in the migration they are the Dakhan Dark Blue Tiger, Oriental Blue Tiger, Double branded Black Crow and Indian Common Crow.
4. India's Oil sources



Source: THE HINDU

- India imports maximum crude oil from Saudi Arabia.
  - There are seven countries from which India imports oil.
5. GROWTH-India telescope recorded its first observation.
- GROWTH-India was installed in Ladakh six months earlier from now.
  - The GROWTH-India telescope is part of the Global Relay of Observatories Watching Transients Happen.
  - Its goals are threefold:
    - (1) Search for explosions in the optical regime whenever LIGO group detects a Binary Neutron Star merger
    - (2) Study nearby young supernova explosions.

(3) Study nearby asteroids.

- Transient phenomena such as supernovae are important parts of time-domain astronomy which is a less explored frontier in astronomy.
- It detected a Novae Explosion. Novae are explosive events involving violent eruptions on the surface of white dwarf stars, leading to temporary increase in brightness. In the case of a supernova explosion, the star was about to die but in novae, the star does not go on to die. It returns to its earlier state after the explosion.

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