

Current Affairs of the Day

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India can become a global toy hub: Modi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday called upon start-ups and entrepreneurs to “team up for toys”, pointing out that India’s share in the ₹7 lakh crore global toy market is minuscule. He asserted that the country has the potential to be a hub for the industry.
- In his monthly ‘Mann ki Baat’ address, the Prime Minister spoke on a range of issues but kept the focus on the themes of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the vocal for local campaign.
- Asking start-ups to be “vocal for local”, Mr. Modi urged them to develop computer games in and based on India, citing the recently conducted App Innovation Challenge by the government.
- “Our country has so many ideas, so many concepts; our history has been very rich. Can we make games based on that? I call upon the young talent of the country — make games in India and make games based on India too. It is said let the game begin! So, let us start the game,” he said.
- “You will be surprised to know that the global toy industry is of more than ₹7 lakh crore. Such a big business, but India’s share is very little in this. Now, just spare a thought for a nation which has so much of heritage, tradition, variety, young population. Will it feel good to have such little share in the toy market?” he asked. “To my start-up friends, to our new entrepreneurs I say team up for toys. For everybody it is the time to get vocal for local toys.”

Kandhamal turmeric loses flavour amid virus

Key facts:

- Odisha’s Kandhamal Haldi (turmeric), famous for its healing properties.
- The golden yellow spice, named after the district where it is produced, has been cultivated since time immemorial and is known for its medicinal value.
- Turmeric is the main cash crop of tribal people in Kandhamal. Apart from domestic use, turmeric is also used for cosmetic and medicinal purposes.
- More than 60,000 families (nearly 50% of Kandhamal population) are engaged in growing the variety. The crop is sustainable in adverse climatic conditions.



Value Added Information

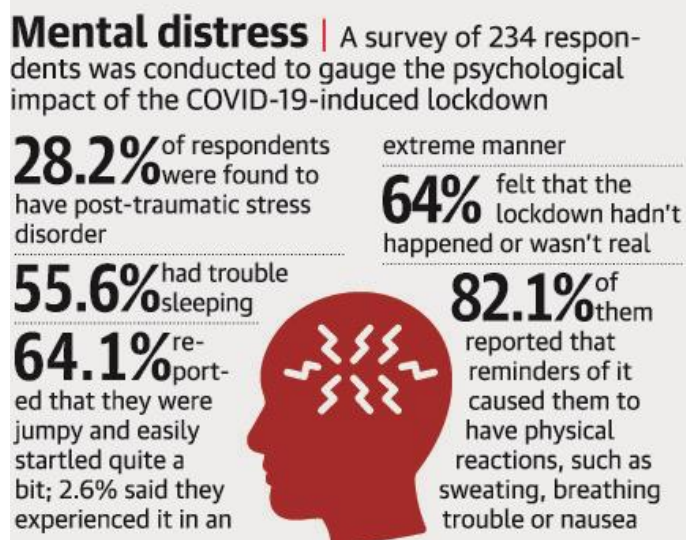
About GI tag:

- **What is it?** A GI is primarily an agricultural, natural or a manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory.
- **Significance of a GI tag:** Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin.
- **Security:** Once the GI protection is granted, no other producer can misuse the name to market similar products. It also provides comfort to customers about the authenticity of that product.
- **Provisions in this regard:** GI is covered as element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property.
- At international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). In India, Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 governs it.

Rise in post-traumatic stress disorder: survey

Key findings of the survey:

- A nationwide lockdown may have prevented the COVID-19 pandemic curve from peaking earlier but it certainly has shown adverse impact on the psychological profile of people in the form of rise in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), said a dipstick, a pan-India Web-based survey conducted via Google form during the last week of April 2020 when the nation had completed four weeks of lockdown.





The survey was conducted by the Department of Community Medicine, Vardhman Mahavir Medical College, and Safdarjung Hospital.

- PTSD is a mental health condition triggered by a terrifying event, causing flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety and the “survey indicated that 28.2% of the population [that participated in the survey] suffered from PTSD during lockdown in India,”
- The survey found the prevalence of PTSD at 28.2%. The PTSD of 13.7% participants was a clinical concern with a score, while for 8.1% PTSD was a probable diagnosis. A majority (55.6%) of participants reported that they had trouble staying asleep, 7.3% reported it ‘extremely’. About 41.5% participants said other things kept them thinking about the lockdown.

Increased consultations:

- The actual prevalence of PTSD may even be higher as the lockdown was extended and people had this sense of uncertainty as to when they will be getting back to a normal life. Also not all the strata of society could participate in this study due to its conduct via Google forms.
- The survey has recommended that health care professionals, psychiatrists, psychologists and authorities should be made aware of this aspect of lockdown and that specialists and physicians should brace themselves for increased number of consultations for PTSD.

Ghani names council for peace deal with Taliban

- Afghanistan’s President has appointed a council for national reconciliation, which will have final say on whether the government will sign a peace deal with the Taliban after what are expected to be protracted and uncertain negotiations with the insurgents.
- The negotiations were envisaged under a U.S.-Taliban peace agreement signed in February as intra-Afghan talks to decide the war-torn country’s future. However, their start has been hampered by a series of delays that have frustrated Washington. Some had expected the negotiations to begin earlier this month. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani issued a decree late on Saturday establishing the 46-member council, led by his former rival in last year’s presidential election, Abdullah Abdullah, who is now in the government.



- The High Council for National Reconciliation is made up of an array of Afghan political figures, including current and former officials, and nine women representatives, one of whom was named Mr. Abdullah's deputy. Mr. Ghani also appointed former President Hamid Karzai to the council but his predecessor rejected the appointment in a statement on Sunday.