

NEWS TODAY

HOUSEHOLD FINANCIAL SAVINGS (HFS) IMPROVED IN FY20 AS LIABILITIES FELL: RBI

- Net HFS rose from 7.2% of GDP in 2018-19 to 7.7% in 2019-20.
 - > **Net HFS** = Gross HFS - financial liabilities
 - > **Gross HFS refer to** currency, bank deposits, debt securities, mutual funds, pension funds, insurance, and investments in small savings schemes.
 - > **Financial liabilities include** loans from banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and housing finance companies.
 - > **As of March 2020**, 13% of HFS was in form of cash and over 50% lie in commercial bank deposit.
- **Reasons:** Slowdown in economy in 2019 leading to a **slowdown in lending growth of banks**. It also due to **slowdown in consumption**.
 - > **At an individual level**, it is good as individual go slow on their borrowing in comparison to the past. But at **the societal level**, it hurt the economy because it led to a consumption slowdown.
- Indian households contribute to about 60% of the country's savings.
- **Significance of HFS**
 - > Fund country's investment needs domestically
 - > Reduce dependence on foreign borrowing for capital investments and hence improving balance of payments
 - > In absence of social security benefits, it acts as a cushion in times of unemployment, retirement etc.

ASSESSMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OVER THE INDIAN REGION REPORT BY MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES

- It is India's first national climate change assessment by Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Key findings (also see infographic)

- **Hindu Kush Himalayas experienced temperature rises 1.3°C** during 1951–2014. Projected rise by end of 21st century 5.2°C.
- **Sea surface temperature of tropical Indian Ocean risen by 1°C** on average during 1951–2015 (global average SST warming 0.7°C).
- **Droughts, both the frequency and spatial extent, have increased** significantly during 1951–2016.
- **Sea-level rise in the North Indian Ocean occurred at a rate of 1.06–1.75 mm per year** during 1874–2004 and has accelerated to 3.3 mm per year between 1993–2017.

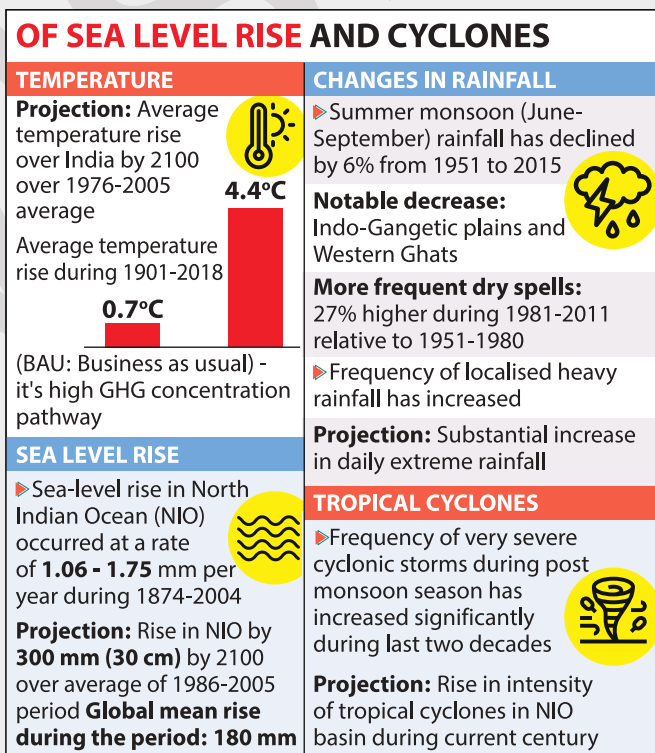
Potential Impacts Over India:

- Increase stress on **natural ecosystems, agricultural output, fresh water resources, and damage to infrastructure.**

- Serious consequences for **biodiversity, food, water and energy security, and public health.**

Policy Suggestions

- **Make vulnerability assessment central to long-term planning** for developing adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- **Inclusion of detailed, regional-scale climate change risk assessments** to reduce vulnerability to climate change.
- **Equity and social justice are critical** to building climate resilience since most vulnerable people bear brunt of climate change impacts maximum.



DETAILS OF JOINT LUNAR EXPLORATION MISSION (LEM) RELEASED

- LEM was conceptualized as joint mission between Japanese space agency JAXA and Indian Space agency ISRO in 2017 which aims **to put a lander and a rover on the Moon's surface.**
- **Aims of LEM**
 - > **Obtain actual data regarding quantity of water from in-situ observations** of areas where water is anticipated to exist.
 - > Understand **distribution, conditions, form and other parameters of lunar water resources** in polar regions.
 - > **Improve technology needed to explore surface of low-gravity celestial bodies** in order to support future lunar activities.
 - These advancements include technology for mobility, lunar night survival and mining excavation.
- As per details shared by JAXA, the mission will be launched after 2023 (see Infographic).
 - > **JAXA** would be building the overall **landing module and rover**, while **ISRO** would develop **lander system.**
 - > Lander will land at a location near **investigation area that has long sunlit hours, and deploy the rover.**
 - Earlier, ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission made a failed attempt to soft land on Moon's South pole, considered to be untouched by sunlight.

Details about the mission

Launch Year	After 2023
Launch Vehicle	H3 Rocket
Launch Mass	6 tonne+
Payload Mass	350 Kg+ (including rover)
Operating Period	More than 3 months
Landing Point	South Pole region of the Moon
Major Mission Equipments	Water Detector
	Science Instrument
	Environment Measuring Instrument

Source: JAXA

NEPAL PARLIAMENT PASSES NEW MAP INCLUDING DISPUTED INDIAN TERRITORY

Nepal's Parliament **unanimously passed** Second Constitution Amendment **Bill guaranteeing legal status for the updated political map** of Nepal which includes areas of Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.

> Nepal **published its revised map in May** after India **inaugurated a road connecting Uttarakhand with Lipulekh** on the border with Tibet.

• **India has rejected Nepal's new map**, calling it a **"unilateral act" that is not based on historical facts or evidence**. It is also violative of current understanding to hold talks on outstanding boundary issues.

Genesis of conflict

• **Sugauli Treaty of 1816**, signed between East India Company and Nepal marks Mahakali river as the western border of Nepal with India.

• However, **origin of Mahakali river interpreted differently**.

> **For Nepal, river originates from Limpiyadhura** in the higher Himalayas, giving it access to a triangular-shaped land defined by Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh and Kalapani.

> **For India, river begins in the village of Kalapani**, which reduces Nepal's territorial demand.

• **Significance of territory:** Kalapani region lies in a junction bordering three countries - India, Nepal and China. Height of the Lipulekh pass aids India's surveillance of Chinese movements.



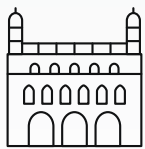
ALSO IN NEWS

<p>AGRIDEX</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is an agricultural futures Index launched by National Commodity and Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX). • It comprises 10 liquid commodities traded on NCDEX. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > The index represents various agricultural commodities of both kharif and rabi seasons, with price references throughout the year. • The NCDEX is the country's leading agricultural commodity exchange, which offers services across the entire value-chain of agricultural commodities.
<p>Indian Gas Exchange (IGX)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGX is set up by the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). • It will be India's first natural gas exchange enabling gas market and gas trading in the country. • It allows local market price discovery through demand-supply matching in a transparent way. • Buyers and sellers will trade in spot and forward contracts at designated physical hubs.
<p>AarogyaPath</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a web based National Healthcare Supply Chain Portal to provide real-time availability of critical healthcare supplies. • It would serve manufacturers, suppliers and customers.
<p>Raja Parba festival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a unique three-day festival of Odisha celebrating the onset of monsoon and beginning of earth's womanhood. • As a mark of respect towards the earth during her menstruation days, all agricultural works, like ploughing, sowing are suspended for three days.
<p>Captain ARJUN (Always be Responsible and Just Use to be Nice)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a robot launched by Railway Protection Force, Pune to intensify the screening and surveillance. • It is launched to screen passengers while they board trains and keep a watch on anti-social elements.

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DELHI



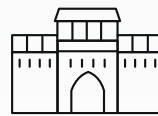
LUCKNOW



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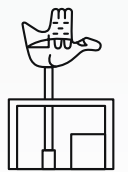
HYDERABAD



PUNE



AHMEDABAD



CHANDIGARH