

April - 05

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Subhash Kumar has assumed the additional charge as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on April 01, 2021.
 - Kumar succeeds incumbent CMD, Shashi Shanker, who was superannuated on March 31, 2021.

NATIONAL

Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples report

- ❖ A new report titled Forest Governance by Indigenous and Tribal Peoples has been released recently.
- ❖ It is released by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC).
- ❖ The deforestation rates in the Caribbean and Latin America are lower in Indigenous and Tribal territories.
- ❖ The new report highlights that Indigenous and Tribal Peoples have generally been much better guardians of their forests in comparison to those responsible for the region's other forests.
- ❖ It should be noted that around 45% (half) of the intact forests in the Amazon Basin are present in indigenous territories.
- ❖ The area of intact forest decreased by only 4.9% between the years 2000 and 2016 in the region's indigenous areas.
- ❖ However, in the non-indigenous areas, the decline was 11.2%.





Military farms

- ❖ The Indian Army has closed its Military farms on March 31 after 132 years of its service.
- ❖ Military farms are the farms that were formed with an aim to supply hygienic cow milk to troops in garrisons across British India.

Key Points

- ❖ The workers of the farms have been redeployed within the Ministry to continue providing service to the organization.
- ❖ In the year 2012, the Quarter Master General branch had recommended their closure.
- ❖ After this, again in December 2016, Lt. Gen. DB Shekatkar (retired) committee also suggested the shutdown of farms.
- ❖ The first military farm was formed on February 1, 1889 at Allahabad.
- ❖ After independence, the farms increased with 30,000 heads of cattle in 130 farms all over India.
- ❖ In the 1990s, these farms were even established in Leh and Kargil.
- ❖ The farms were required as cantonments were located at a distance from urban areas.
- ❖ Now with urban expansion, cantonments have also come within towns and cities.
- ❖ Therefore, the milk procurement is being increasingly done from the open market.
- ❖ Various allegations of corruption surrounding the farms noticed over the years was also one of the reasons contributing to the shutdown of the farms.
- ❖ These farms provided yeoman service during the 1971 war, supplying milk at the Western and Eastern war fronts as well as during the Kargil operations to the Northern Command.

OCI Guidelines

- ❖ The government has notified a consolidated list of rights and restrictions of the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI).
- ❖ Previously, these rights have been notified in 2005, 2007 and 2009.
- ❖ People of Indian origin (PIO) and Indian diaspora having overseas citizens of India (OCI) card are not required to carry their old passports, along with the new passport and OCI card, for travel to India.
- ❖ As per the current OCI guidelines (in force since 2005), an OCI card is to be re-issued each time a new passport is acquired by the cardholder up to the age of 20 years or after completing 50 years of age.

- ❖ Now, the Indian government has decided to grant extension of time till December 31, 2021, to get the OCI cards re-issued.

Anandam

- ❖ The Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' inaugurated "Anandam: The Center for Happiness" in Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Jammu.
- ❖ Anandam: The Centre for happiness aligns with the National Education Policy 2020 that aims to transform India's education system by 2021.
- ❖ The Prime activities envisaged under the concept of 'Anandam: The Center for Happiness' will be divided into five broad categories, namely
 - Counselling,
 - Holistic wellness,
 - Elective courses on Happiness Development,
 - Research and Leadership &
 - Faculty Development.

INTERNATIONAL

SHANTIR OGROSHENA 2021

- ❖ A multinational Military Exercise named 'SHANTIR OGROSHENA' 2021 (Front Runner of the Peace) is scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from April 04 to 12, 2021.
- ❖ The theme of the exercise is "Robust Peace Keeping Operations".
- ❖ The exercise is being held to commemorate
 - The birth centenary of Bangladesh 'Father of the Nation' Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman
 - Mark glorious 50 years of liberation of the country.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

CIISCO algorithm

- ❖ Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) Identification in Inner Solar Corona (CIISCO) algorithm will be used in India's first solar mission, Aditya-L1.



- ❖ CIISCO was developed by the Aryabhata Research Institute of observational sciences (ARIES) and Royal Observatory of Belgium.
- ❖ This new algorithm will be used to detect and track the accelerating Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) in the lower corona of the Sun.

Coronal Mass Ejections

- ❖ Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that comes from the Sun are huge bubbles of gas threaded with magnetic field lines.
- ❖ They cause various disturbances to the space environment, and cause geomagnetic storms, satellite failures, and power outages.

ENVIRONMENT

Culex Mosquito

- ❖ With the change in season and rise in temperature, culex or common house mosquitoes have made reappearance across Delhi.
- ❖ Unlike Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which spread dengue and chikungunya and breed in clean water, culex mosquitoes breed in unclean stagnant water.
- ❖ Culex mosquitoes are known as carriers or vectors of diseases such as Japanese encephalitis, West Nile Virus and Lymphatic filariasis.
- ❖ They bite by detecting body heat and carbon dioxide that humans exhale.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Autism Awareness Day - April 02



- ❖ This day is celebrated to make people understand and accept people with autism, foster worldwide support, and inspire people.

- ❖ Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder characterized by deficits in social and language communication, as well as repetitive behaviours and restricted interests.
- ❖ This year, the theme is 'Inclusion in the Workplace: Challenges and Opportunities in a Post-Pandemic World'.

International Children's Book Day

- ❖ International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organised annually by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY).
- ❖ IBBY is an international non-profit organization, to inspire a love of reading and to call attention to children's books.
- ❖ The day is observed since 1967.
- ❖ Theme for the year 2021 is "The Music of Words".

