

April - 06

TAMIL NADU

CEPI

- ❖ Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) is a rational number to characterise the quality of the environment at a given location following the algorithm of source, pathway and receptor.
- ❖ An increase in CEPI score denotes adverse effects on the receiving environment.
- ❖ A Delhi-based think-tank Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) did an assessment of Tamil Nadu's CEPI scores.
- ❖ Groundwater is becoming more polluted in Tamil Nadu's industrial areas.
- ❖ Vellore is the state's most polluted district in terms of river pollution.
- ❖ According to the CEPI water score 2018, five industrial clusters in Tamil Nadu were found to have a water score of more than 50.
- ❖ Of these,
 - Vellore-North Arcot, Manali and Tirupur were 'critically polluted areas' - CEPI individual score of 60 and above.
 - Cuddalore and Coimbatore were 'severely polluted areas' - CEPI individual score between 50 and 60.
- ❖ Most serious pollution threat to groundwater was from calcium, chloride and iron that are associated with sewage and pollution from tanneries.

INTERNATIONAL

World Immunisation & Logistics Summit 2021

- ❖ HOPE Consortium's first ever World Immunisation & Logistics Summit 2021 held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.
- ❖ Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare of India virtually participated in this summit.
- ❖ The discussion was on 'Focus on Asia: Vaccine production and distribution across Asia'.
- ❖ Dr. Harsh Vardhan highlighted India's vaccine administration program and the development of two vaccines in India such as Covishield and Covaxin.
- ❖ He also notified on the recent decision to allow all citizens on or above 45 years for vaccination from 1st April 2021.



- ❖ HOPE Consortium is a UAE based public-private partnership with industry leading partners.
- ❖ The Consortium is committed to work together for global vaccination distribution.

ECONOMY

Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam – BSE

- ❖ Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam had listed itself at BSE index.
- ❖ Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam successfully raised Rs. 150 Crores by issuing Municipal Bond on Private Placement Basis using BSE BOND.
- ❖ This is the first-ever green bond issuance by any Municipal Corporation in the country.
- ❖ The money will be used for the construction of a tertiary sewage treatment plant at Indirapuram in Ghaziabad.
- ❖ The money will be used to fund the project partly which is worth Rs 240 crore.
- ❖ This treatment plant will enable the sewage water to be used for industries after treatment.
- ❖ Ghaziabad Nagar Nigam is the second Municipal Corporation to raise funds in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ Earlier, Lucknow Municipal Corporation had listed itself at BSE.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

LHC

- ❖ Physicists at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) in Switzerland might have discovered a brand-new force of nature.
- ❖ LHC is the world's largest and most powerful particle accelerator.
- ❖ It is present in the European Council for Nuclear Research's (CERN's) accelerator complex.
- ❖ It was first started up on 10 September 2008.
- ❖ It has a 27-kilometre ring of superconducting magnets with a number of accelerating structures to boost the energy of the particles along the way.
- ❖ It is designed to produce proton-proton collision.
- ❖ Inside the accelerator, two high-energy particle beams travel at close to the speed of light before they are made to collide.

- ❖ The beams travel in opposite directions in two separate beam pipes kept at ultrahigh vacuum.
- ❖ They are guided around the accelerator ring by a strong magnetic field maintained by superconducting electromagnets.



ENVIRONMENT

Biodiversity Heritage Site at Maharashtra

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has declared an area at Amboli in Western ghats in Sindhudurg district, as a biodiversity heritage site.
- ❖ Rare freshwater fish species was discovered here.
- ❖ Tejas Thackeray and his team had discovered the new freshwater fish species named Schistura Hiranyakeshi.
- ❖ Tejas Thackeray is the son of Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.
- ❖ The fishes were found near Amboli in Sawantwadi tehsil of Sindhudurg district.
- ❖ Schistura is a small and colourful fish that lives in water and streams in an abundance of oxygen.
- ❖ Earlier, the State government had declared the
 - Glory of Allapalli in Gadchiroli district,
 - LandorKhor Park in Jalgaon,
 - GaneshKhind in Pune,
 - Myristica swamp vegetation in Sindhudurg district as biodiversity heritage sites.

A GREEN LEGACY

A look at the declared and proposed biodiversity heritage sites in the state

GLORY OF ALLAPALLI, Gadchiroli

Status: Declared (2014)

Area: 6 hectares

Reason: It is being preserved as natural forest having biological and historical value



VELAS BEACH, Ratnagiri district

Status: Proposed (2017)

Area: 0.98 hectares (2.44 acres)

Reason: The area has been officially declared as turtle nesting site along the west coast. Velas saw 750 Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings in 2017



PHOTOS: STATE FOREST DEPARTMENT

ANJARLE BEACH, Ratnagiri district (in pic above)

Status: Proposed (2017)

Area: 0.74 hectare

Reason: Another turtle nesting site that saw 400 Olive Ridley turtle hatchlings across six nesting sites in

2017. Anjarle has a number of species of birds, marine mammals, coastal invertebrates and mangroves.

GANESHKIND GARDEN, on the campus of National Agricultural Research project of the Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Pune

Status: Proposed (2017)

Area: 58.67 hectares

Reason: This botanical garden was formally started in 1873 by GM Woodrow of the East India Company. History has it that the Peshwas planted the first mango tree (hapus), which still exists, at this garden.

LANDORKHORI RESERVE FOREST, around Chhatrapati

Shivaji Park in Jalgaon

Status: Proposed (2018)

Area: 266 hectares

Reason: It is a reserved forest with 190 species of birds and 24 species of mammals

WARDHAM IN SIRONCHA, Gadchiroli

Status: Proposed (2018)

Area: 8 hectares

Reason: Home to at least 150-million-year-old fossils

(Source: Maharashtra state biodiversity board)

Protected wetlands

- ❖ Dal Lake in Srinagar along with five other famous lakes in Jammu and Kashmir would be declared protected wetlands.
- ❖ Wular, Dal, Nigeen lakes in the Kashmir region and Sanasar, Manasbal and Purmandal lakes in the Jammu region are declared as protected wetlands.
- ❖ Purmandal lake is also called as Chotta Kashi.
- ❖ The decision was taken in the meeting of the Jammu and Kashmir Wetland Authority, chaired by its Chief Secretary.
- ❖ Chief Secretary asked the Forest Department to profile various wetlands of Jammu and Kashmir and recommend their notification under,
 - Environment Protection Act, 1986 and
 - Wetland (Conversation & Management) rules.
- ❖ Forest Department is the nodal department for the preparation of digital inventory, documentation and development of a geo-spatial database on wetlands.

STATES

Free bus journey for Women

- ❖ Women in Punjab can travel free of cost by government-run buses beginning April 1.

- ❖ The state cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh gave its approval to the scheme.
- ❖ The scheme is going to benefit over 1.31 crore women/girls in the state.
- ❖ According to Census 2011, Punjab has a population of 2.77 crore (1,46,39,465 males and 1,31,03,873 females).

MISCELLANEOUS

Mallika srinivasan - chairperson of PESB



- ❖ The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Padma Shri Mallika Srinivasan as the Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
- ❖ She is the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE).
- ❖ TAFE is the India's 2nd and World's 3rd largest tractor manufacturer.
- ❖ Public Enterprises Selection Board is responsible for the appointment of top management posts in Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

Note:

- ❖ This is the first time where a private sector specialist was appointed as the head of PESB.
- ❖ She will serve as the Chairperson of PESB for a period of 3 years or until the attainment of the age of 65 years.



- ❖ She has taken up the position which was previously held by Rajiv Kumar, the Former Finance Secretary.

