

April - 14

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Dhaaga initiative of TATA Power has so far manufactured and supplied 1.2 lakh masks in the states of Maharashtra and Jharkhand.
 - This is the biggest mask distribution of any corporate in India.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs, exempted fishing and aquaculture industries from Lock Down.
 - Earlier, the agricultural activities were exempted.
- ❖ The European Union (EU) has unveiled a grand €500bn corona rescue deal to cushion the impact of the coronavirus pandemic across Europe.
 - The Governments can apply for access to a total of €240 billion being made available under ESM (European Stability Mechanism), the bailout fund created during the eurozone debt crisis.
- ❖ India has three strategic petroleum reserves at Vizag (1.3 million tonnes), Padur (2.5 million tonnes) and Mangalore (1.5 million tonnes).
- ❖ The Ministry of Human Resources Development has launched a week long campaign called “Bharat Padhe Online Campaign”.
 - The campaign aims to improve online education in India.
- ❖ The Madras High Court retired judge V. Kanagaraj has been appointed as the State Election Commissioner (SEC) of Andhra Pradesh following the overnight expulsion of N. Ramesh Kumar through the ordinance route.
- ❖ The Tamil Nadu government on 7th April issued a Government Order (GO) formally notifying the formation of the State’s 38th district with Mayiladuthurai as its headquarters.
 - The new district has been created after the bifurcation of Nagapattinam district.

NATIONAL

Global Indian Physician COVID-19

- ❖ The doctors of Indian origin spread all over the world have come together under an initiative called “Global Indian Physician COVID-19”.
- ❖ The initiative aims to foster cross system learning.
- ❖ The initiative will work on early warning algorithm, vaccination, antiviral therapy and plasma therapy of COVID-19.



INTERNATIONAL

World Health Organization – Governance

- ❖ US President Donald Trump is planning to put a hold on America's funding to the World Health Organization.
- ❖ If Trump does decide to block the US' contribution, the WHO can suspend the country's voting rights and deny access to its services.
- ❖ The World Health Assembly (delegations from all member countries) determines the policies of the organisation.

About WHO

- ❖ WHO came into existence on 7 April, 1948 – a date which is now celebrated every year as World Health Day.
- ❖ Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ❖ The United States is currently the WHO's biggest contributor.
- ❖ It is followed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.
- ❖ The third biggest contributor is the GAVI Vaccine Alliance.
- ❖ India makes up 0.48 per cent of total contributions, and China 0.21 per cent.

ECONOMY

NASSCOM new head

- ❖ Infosys' chief operating officer, UB Pravin Rao, has been appointed as the new chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom), for 2020-21.



- ❖ Rekha M Menon, Chairman and Senior Managing Director, Accenture in India, will be the Vice-Chairperson of the NASSCOM.
- ❖ It is a trade association of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry.
- ❖ Established in 1988, NASSCOM is a non-profit organisation.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Remote Patient Health Monitoring System

- ❖ Recently, Bharat Electronics Ltd. and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh, have jointly developed a remote patient health monitoring system.
- ❖ The remote patient health monitoring system can be installed at homes or hospitals premises to reduce the risk of exposure to healthcare workers to Covid-19 while attending to persons undergoing isolation.
- ❖ The system is expected to reduce the increasing demand of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and logistics.

Active Virosome Vaccine Production

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology operating under Ministry of Science and Technology is to fund Seagull Bio solutions to develop Active Virosome vaccines and immunodiagnostic kits for COVID-19.
- ❖ A Virosome is a drug that consists of unilamellar phospholipid membrane.
- ❖ This membrane allows the drug to fuse with the target cells.

Wormivet

- ❖ The National Innovation foundation of India has developed an indigenous herbal medicine called Wormivet.
- ❖ It is an alternative to chemical methods that are currently being used to treat worms.
- ❖ The Wormivet is used to treat endoparasite worms in livestock.
- ❖ The National Innovation Foundation operates under Department of Science and Technology.
- ❖ It works to provide support to grass root innovations.



Low Cost PPE

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has developed a very low cost personal protective equipment (PPE).
- ❖ It can be produced for less than 100 rupees.
- ❖ It has designed the Kit based on thin cylindrical rolls of polythene, which is commonly used in the industry for packaging and making plastic-bags.

ENVIRONMENT

Fall Armyworm (FAW)

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has launched a Global Action for FAW Control as a response to the international threat posed by the armyworms.
- ❖ Fall Armyworm (FAW) is a dangerous transboundary insect with a high potential to spread rapidly due to its natural distribution capacity and opportunities presented by international trade.
- ❖ The armyworm caterpillar is the larval stage of several species of moths.
- ❖ FAW represents a real threat to food security and livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers by spreading across all of sub-Saharan Africa, the Near East and Asia.
- ❖ FAW cannot be eliminated.
- ❖ Farmers need significant support to manage FAW sustainably in their cropping systems through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) activities.

STATES

Gamosa

- ❖ Recently the COVID-19 pandemic has made the ubiquitous gamosa, a decorative cotton towel, evolve from memento to mask.
- ❖ The Gamosa is an article of significance for the people of Assam.
- ❖ It is generally a white rectangular piece of cloth with primarily a red border on three sides and red woven motifs on the fourth.



Covid 19 hospital

- ❖ The Exclusive Covid 19 hospital has been inaugurated at Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences in Bhubaneswar at Odisha.
- ❖ This is the first such hospital in India to treat only for covid 19 patients.
- ❖ The Odisha Mining Corporation and the Mahanadi Coal fields Limited will provide the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for this project.
- ❖ It is the largest corona virus hospital in the country by having 1000 bed capacity.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Safe Motherhood day – April 11

- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness about the proper healthcare of women and maternity facilities to pregnant and lactating women.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the White Ribbon Alliance India (WRAI).
- ❖ The government of India declared in 2003 the national safe motherhood day on April 11.

- ❖ India is the 1st country in the world to have socially declared a National Safe Motherhood Day.
- ❖ India is one of the most high-risk places in the world to give birth, accounting for 15% of total maternal deaths worldwide.
- ❖ On the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, the national safe motherhood day is observed every year.
- ❖ Kasturba Gandhi is the wife of the father of Nation Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi.



International Day of Human Space Flight – April 12

- ❖ 12 April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen.
- ❖ It was proclaimed at the 65th session of the United Nations General Assembly on April 7, 2011, a few days before the 50th anniversary of the flight.
- ❖ Yuri Gagarin became the first human to orbit the Earth, opening a new chapter of human endeavour in outer space.
- ❖ April 12 was also the date of the first Space Shuttle launch, STS-1 of Columbia in 1981, which is also commemorated on this date.

