

April - 16

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Actor Sonu Sood was made brand ambassador for Punjab's COVID vaccination programme.
- ❖ The Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal launched the e-SANTA platform for marine products.
 - This platform will provide more opportunities, freedom, and options to the fish and aqua farmers.
- ❖ Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have launched the construction of an international centre for trade and economic cooperation called "Central Asia".
- ❖ Bhutan has recently completed the vaccinating 93% of its adult population in the world.
 - Bhutan received AstraZeneca vaccine from India.

TAMIL NADU

New Member for NGT

- ❖ The Former Tamil Nadu chief secretary Girija Vaidyanathan has been appointed as an expert member of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Southern Zone in Chennai.
- ❖ The serving expert member in the Southern Bench Saibal Dasgupta has been sent to Eastern Zonal Bench in Kolkata.
- ❖ They were appointed by the principal bench of the NGT in New Delhi
- ❖ The Appointments Cabinet Committee of the Union Government approved this appointment.
- ❖ However, the Madras High Court ordered an interim stay on this appointment.
- ❖ The Court observed that she did possess administrative experience, but not five years of experience in dealing with environmental issues.
- ❖ The NGT Act prescribes a minimum of administrative experience of 15 years including five years in dealing with environmental matters in the Central or a State government.
- ❖ Poovulagin Nanbargal, an NGO fighting on issues related to environment headed by Sundarrajan, approached the High Court in this regard.

NGT

- ❖ The National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 is an Act of the Parliament of India.

- ❖ It enables the creation of a special tribunal to handle the expeditious disposal of the cases pertaining to environmental issues.
- ❖ It draws inspiration from India's constitutional provision (Article 21 Protection of life and personal liberty).
- ❖ The Tribunal shall not be bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but shall be guided by principles of natural justice.
- ❖ The Principal Bench of the NGT is in New Delhi.
- ❖ It has regional benches in Pune (West), Bhopal (Central), Chennai (South) and Kolkata (East).
- ❖ The Chairperson of the NGT is a retired Judge of the Supreme Court.
- ❖ Each bench of the NGT will comprise at least one Judicial Member and one Expert Member.

NATIONAL

Covid Hit Nation

- ❖ India on April 12, 2021 became the second-worst hit nation in the world by the COVID-19 pandemic, surpassing Brazil.
- ❖ India now only stands behind the United States that has the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the world.
- ❖ Maharashtra is the worst-hit state in the country.

Kumbh Mela 2021





- ❖ The Haridwar Kumbh Mela was held on the banks of the Ganga in Haridwar in Uttarakhand.
- ❖ It is celebrated in a cycle of approximately 12 years.
- ❖ It is held at four river-bank pilgrimage sites - the Prayagraj/Allahabad of Uttar Pradesh (Ganges-Yamuna Sarasvati rivers confluence), Haridwar of Uttarakhand (Ganges), Nashik of Maharashtra (Godavari), and Ujjain of Madhya Pradesh (Shipra).

INTERNATIONAL

Air Bubble Agreement

- ❖ The Indian government has finalized an air bubble agreement with Sri Lanka.
- ❖ It will allow all eligible passengers to travel between the two countries.
- ❖ India has finalized an air bubble agreement with Sri Lanka, making it the 6th such arrangement in (the) SAARC region & the 28th in total.
- ❖ A bilateral air bubble is a mechanism to resume flights between two nations with preconditions during the pandemic.

Global Food Policy Report 2021

- ❖ It is published by the International Food Policy Research Institute.
- ❖ This year it was based on the theme “Transforming Food Systems After COVID-19”.
- ❖ Around 95 million people, mostly in Africa are living in extreme poverty.

ECONOMY

Maximum balance for payment banks

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India enhanced the limit of maximum end of day balance for the payment banks.
- ❖ It is from Rs. 1 lakh per individual to Rs. 2 lakhs.

Payments banks

- ❖ It is an Indian new model of banks conceptualised by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- ❖ It is like any other bank, but operating on a smaller or restricted scale (Airtel Payments Bank, India Post Payments Bank, etc.).



- ❖ These banks cannot issue loans and credit cards.
- ❖ Both current account and savings accounts can be operated by such banks.
- ❖ Payments banks can issue ATM cards or debit cards and provide online or mobile banking.
- ❖ Bharti Airtel set up India's first payments bank.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Odyssey

- ❖ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the US recently released the image of Mars to mark the 20th anniversary of Odyssey.
- ❖ The image depicted Dunes in Mars.
- ❖ Odyssey is the longest lasting spacecraft in Mars till date.
- ❖ It was launched on April 7, 2001.
- ❖ It arrived at Mars on October 24, 2001.

Remdesivir drug

- ❖ The Government of India prohibits the exports of Remdesivir drug.
- ❖ Remdesivir has been considered a key anti-viral drug in the fight against Coronavirus.
- ❖ It was created in 2014 to treat Ebola.
- ❖ Later it was used to treat SARS and MERS.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Ambedkar Jayanthi – April 14

- ❖ This year, Ambedkar Jayanti marks the prolific leader's 130th birth anniversary.
- ❖ Ambedkar Jayanti is observed as Equality Day in India.
- ❖ Since 2015 it has been observed as an official public holiday throughout India
- ❖ He was born on 14 April 1891 in the town and military cantonment of Mhow (now officially known as Dr Ambedkar Nagar) in the Central Provinces (now in Madhya Pradesh).



- ❖ He became the first law and justice minister of independent India (1947 to 1951).
- ❖ He is hailed as the Father of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ He died on December 6, 1956 at Delhi.
- ❖ He was awarded India's highest civilian honour the Bharat Ratna in 1990.
- ❖ The period between April 14, 1990 and April 14, 1991 was observed as "Year of Social Justice".
- ❖ The United Nations celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- ❖ Since 2017, 14 April is observed as Knowledge Day in the Indian state of Maharashtra.

