

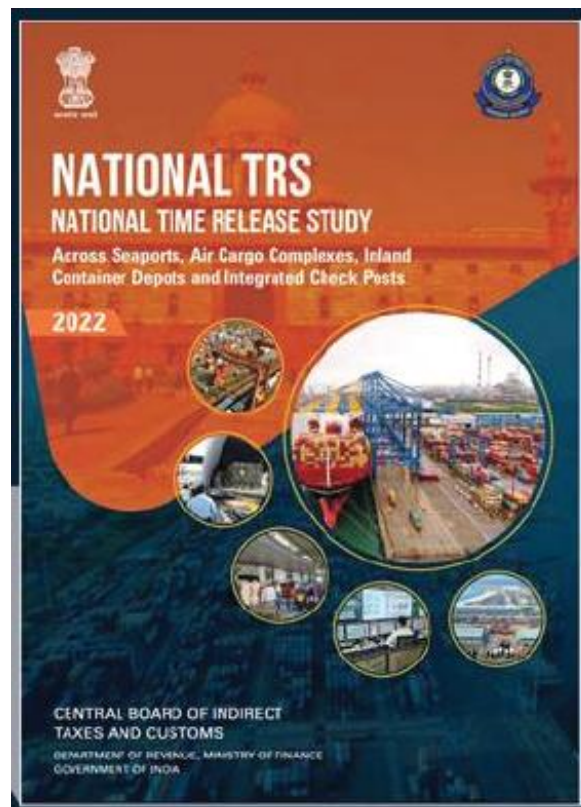
April - 19

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur announced that the electricity bills till 125 units will be free of cost for the people of the state.
  - He further added people in rural areas will also be exempted from paying water bills.
- ❖ International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lauded India's PM Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana program.
  - It prevented the increased prevalence of extreme poverty in the country during Covid-19.

## NATIONAL

### National Time Release Study 2022



- ❖ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has recently presented a set of Time Release Studies (TRS) that have been conducted by the department.

- ❖ TRS is a tool for performance measurement and assesses the international trade's cargo clearance process.
- ❖ The World Trade Organization (WTO) recommends the TRS under the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA).
- ❖ The TRS mechanism adopts the average release time of cargo, i.e. the time it takes for the cargo to arrive at the customs station to its eventual release for export or import.

### **Satellite 'Shakuntala'**



- ❖ Bengaluru-headquartered space technology startup Pixxel announced that it has successfully launched its first full-fledged commercial satellite.
- ❖ This will eventually be part of its planned 36-satellite constellation, aboard a SpaceX Falcon-9 rideshare mission.
- ❖ The 'Shakuntala' satellite hosts one of the highest-resolution hyperspectral commercial cameras ever flown to space.
- ❖ It is bringing the company one step closer to building a 24x7 health monitor for the planet.
- ❖ Weighing less than 15kg, Shakuntala (TD-2) is capable of capturing orbital images in more than 150 bands of color from the visible and infrared spectrum.
- ❖ This indicates the growing role of India's private enterprises in the space sector.

### **AB-PMJAY**

- ❖ The National Health Authority has launched a new version of the Health Benefits Package, 2022, under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

- ❖ It added 365 new procedures which took the total to 1,949.



## Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan



**CABINET DECISIONS**  
13 APRIL 2022

**Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)** 1/2

- Cabinet approves continuation of revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA)**
- To be implemented from **01.04.2022** to **31.03.2026**
- Will extend to **all States and UTs of the country**
- Total financial outlay of the scheme is **Rs.5911 crore**

Central Share	<b>Rs.3700 crore</b>
State Share	<b>Rs.2211 crore</b>

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the continuation of the revamped Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) for implementation during the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.
- ❖ The scheme is now co-terminus with the 15th Finance Commission period.

- ❖ The scheme is aimed to develop the governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).
- ❖ The scheme was first approved by the Cabinet in 2018 for implementation from 2018-19 to 2021-22.

### **Sewage treatment plant - Okhla**

- ❖ Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat recently inspected the under-construction 564 Million Litres Per Day (MLD) Okhla Sewerage Treatment Plant, Delhi.
- ❖ It is expected to play a major role in the Yamuna cleaning process.
- ❖ The plant will be the largest one in Asia.
- ❖ It aims to remove contaminants from sewage to produce an effluent that is suitable for discharge to the surrounding environment or an intended reuse application, thereby preventing water pollution.

### **Hunar Haat**



- ❖ Union minister Anurag Thakur will open the 40th edition of “Hunar Haat” in Mumbai.
- ❖ Hunar Haat is a forum to preserve, protect, and promote local artists and craftsmen.
- ❖ ”Hunar Haat” is bolstering Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s appeal for “voice for local” and “Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.

- ❖ It will bring together at least 1,000 artisans and craftsmen from across the country.

### **National Data and Analytics Platform**

- ❖ NITI Aayog plans to launch the National Data and Analytics Platform.
- ❖ It would give government data in a user-friendly manner and encourage data-driven decision-making and research.
- ❖ The platform, conceived in 2020, aims to standardize data across government sources and provide flexible analytics that allows users to easily analyze data using numerous datasets.



### **Migration Tracking System**

- ❖ The Maharashtra government has developed a website-based migration tracking system application to map the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant workers through individual unique identity numbers.
- ❖ It is a first-of-its-kind project in the country.
- ❖ The MTS project is envisaged to maintain the continuity of the Integrated Child Development Services like nutrition supply, immunization, health check-up, etc. to migrant beneficiaries.

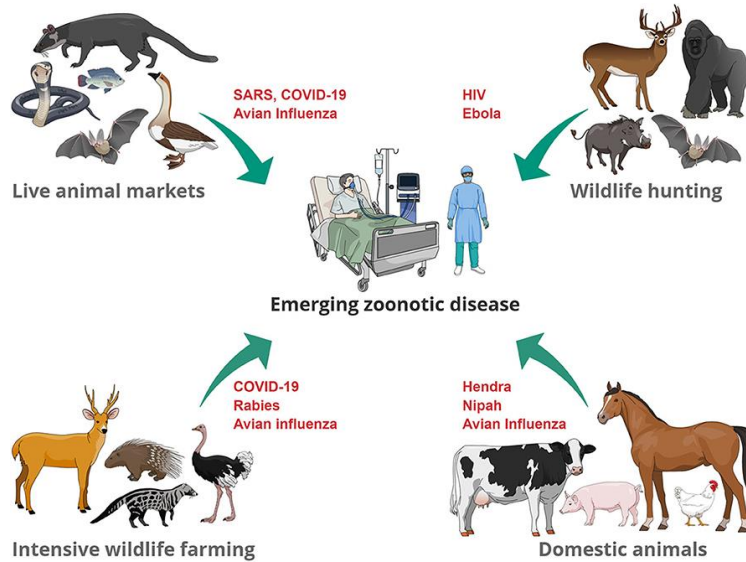
## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Deer-to-Human COVID-19 Transmission**

- ❖ According to a new study, the first potential case of the novel coronavirus being passed to a person from a deer has been reported in Canada.

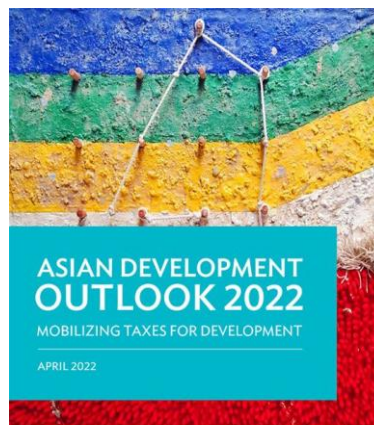


- ❖ Highly mutated clusters of SARS-CoV-2 genomes were identified by researchers in white-tailed deer.
- ❖ It indicates that the deer could act as an animal virus reservoir.



## ECONOMY

### Asian Development Outlook 2022



ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



- ❖ India's GDP growth has been forecasted by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to 7.5 percent in 2022-23 from 2021-22's estimated 8.9 percent.
- ❖ The report has also suggested that the growth will pick up and reach 8 percent in 2023-2024.
- ❖ The Russia-Ukraine conflict has been factored in by the ADB for India.
- ❖ Due to this crisis oil prices will rise.

- ❖ The COVID-19 pandemic's severity will also subside with the rise in the rate of vaccination.
- ❖ China is expected to grow at 5 percent in 2022-23 and by 4.8 percent in 2023-24.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Spider species

- ❖ The World Spider Catalog (WSC) has announced that 50,000 known different species of spider crawling the Earth.
- ❖ It is based at the Natural History Museum of Bern in the Swiss capital.
- ❖ WSC's publishers said, "We estimate that there are still approximately 50,000 more spider species out there to discover".
- ❖ Guriurius minuano was registered as the 50,000th species of spider known across the world.

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022



- ❖ Well-known Indian economist and political commentator, Prabhat Patnaik has been selected for the Malcolm Adiseshiah Award 2022.
- ❖ The award is annually given by the Malcolm and Elizabeth Adiseshiah Trust.
- ❖ It is given to an outstanding social scientist.

- ❖ The award includes a citation and prize money of Rs 2 lakh.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Heritage Day - April 18

- ❖ The Day is observed to preserve the human heritage and recognize the efforts of the organizations working for it.
- ❖ Monuments and ancient buildings are an asset to the world.
- ❖ They make for the rich heritage of the nation.
- ❖ The theme for World Heritage Day 2022 is “Heritage and Climate”.
- ❖ India is home to a total of 3691 monuments and sites.
- ❖ Of these 40 are designated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

