

April - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Film Director Roberto Benigni will be receiving the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 78th Venice International Film Festival.
- ❖ Turkey has banned the use of Crypto currencies and crypto assets for purchases.
 - The ban followed actions of Morocco in banning the currency. This is expected to be implemented in India as well.
- ❖ The Madras High court recently pronounced that the Right to Privacy of a deceased person cannot be inherited.

NATIONAL

Gyanvapi Mosque Dispute

- ❖ A civil court in Uttar Pradesh asked the Archaeological Survey of India to conduct a survey at the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi to determine whether it was built over a Kashi Vishwanath temple.
- ❖ The order was passed after a suit claimed that the mosque was built at the site after a temple was demolished in 1669 by Aurangzeb.
- ❖ The difference between this dispute and the Babri Masjid dispute is that the Babri dispute is related with the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.

Rural Health Statistics Report 2019/20

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently released the Rural Health Statistics Report.
- ❖ According to the report, there is an overall shortage of specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres.
- ❖ There is an overall shortfall of 76.1% specialist doctors at the Community Health Centres in rural areas.



INTERNATIONAL

Currency Monitoring List

- ❖ The U.S. Treasury has released this report.
- ❖ The April 2021 edition of the semi-annual report is the first from the Biden administration.
- ❖ It reviews currency practices of the U.S.'s 20 biggest trading partners.
- ❖ According to the US, currency manipulation is deliberately influencing the exchange rate between one's currency and US dollar.
- ❖ This is being done to gain unfair competitive advantage in international trade.
- ❖ India is one of the 11 countries on the 'Monitoring List' with regard to their currency practices.
- ❖ India's trade surplus with the US was 24 billion USD in 2020.
- ❖ The other 10 countries on the list with India are China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Mexico.
- ❖ This time, the US has removed China from its list of manipulators.
- ❖ However, Taiwan has been placed in the watch list.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

'Whitest ever' paint

- ❖ US engineers have created the whitest ever paint.
- ❖ The ultra-white paint is made up of barium sulphate.
- ❖ That makes it whiter.
- ❖ It can also cool surfaces 8 degrees Fahrenheit below their surroundings under strong sunlight during noon hours.
- ❖ The paint can keep surfaces 19 degrees Fahrenheit cooler than their ambient surroundings at night.
- ❖ This paint may be the closest equivalent to the blackest black paint called "Vantablack".
- ❖ That is able to absorb up to 99.9 per cent of visible light.



ENVIRONMENT

Fukushima Nuclear Accident

- ❖ The Japanese Government recently approved a plan to release more than 1 million tonnes of treated radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant.
- ❖ According to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the release of the water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant is similar to disposing wastewater from nuclear plants elsewhere in the world.
- ❖ Japan has planned to filter the contaminated water leaving only tritium.
- ❖ Tritium is less harmful as compared to other radioactive wastes.
- ❖ It does not emit enough energy to penetrate human skin.
- ❖ In 2011, there occurred a nuclear disaster in the plant due an earthquake and tsunami.
- ❖ It was the most severe nuclear accident that was classified as Level 7 on the International Nuclear Event Scale.

Artificial Islands

- ❖ Maldives government is developing at least three artificial islands to tide over the rising sea-levels due to climate change.
- ❖ Maldives is one of the world's most low-lying terrains.
- ❖ About 80% of the archipelago's coral islands are at less than 1 metre above sea level.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020

- ❖ It is drawing to a close with the translocation of two one-horned rhinos to Manas National Park, Assam.
- ❖ Under the IRV 2020 program, at least 22 rhinos have been translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (12) and Kaziranga National Park (10) to Manas National Park within Assam since 2008.
- ❖ Launched in 2008, IRV was a joint programme of the Assam Forest Department, Worldwide Fund for Nature India (WWF-India), Bodoland Territorial Council, and the International Rhino Foundation.
- ❖ It was designed by Rhino Task Force 2005 with a target to achieve rhino population to 3,000 by establishing populations in seven protected areas in Assam by 2020.

- ❖ The Seven protected areas are Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, Manas National Park, Laokhowa wildlife sanctuary, Burachapori wildlife sanctuary and Dibru Saikhowa wildlife sanctuary.
- ❖ Rhinos are now found in four Protected Areas in Assam: Pabitora Wildlife Reserve, Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.
- ❖ Only the Great One-Horned Rhino is found in India.
- ❖ Also known as Indian rhino, it is the largest of the rhino species.



IMPORTANT DAYS

UN Chinese Language Day – April 20

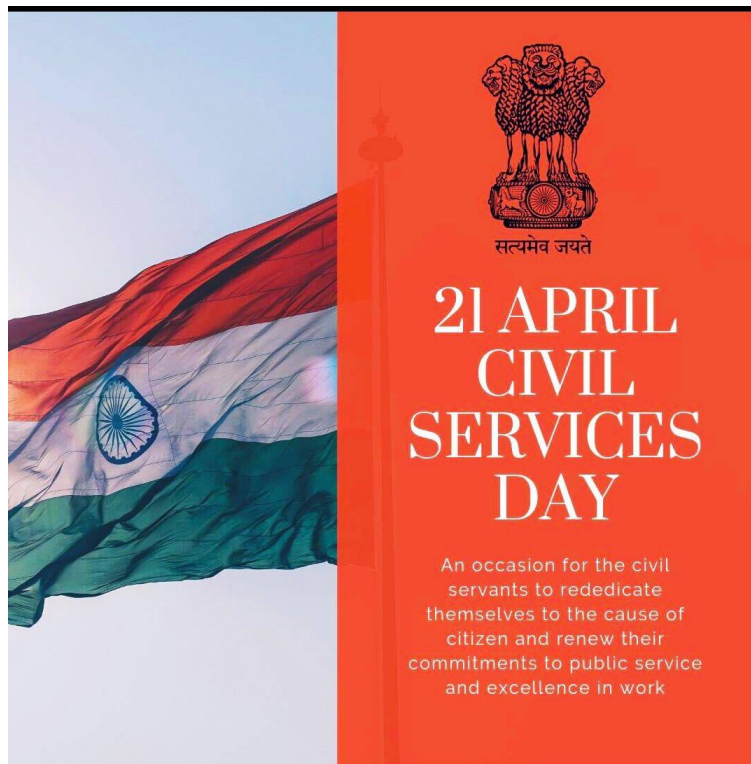
- ❖ The event was established by the UN Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ❖ April 20 was chosen as the date "to pay tribute to Cangjie.
- ❖ It aims to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity.



- ❖ It also aims to promote equal use of all six of its official working languages throughout the organization
- ❖ Cangjie is a mythical figure who is presumed to have invented Chinese characters about 5,000 years ago.
- ❖ There are six official languages of the UN.
- ❖ These are Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.



Civil Services day – April 21



- ❖ The main aim of celebrating the day is to motivate the efforts and works of civil servants.
- ❖ The first Home Minister of Independent India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers in 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi on this Day.
- ❖ He referred to civil servants as the 'steel frame of India'.
- ❖ He is regarded as Father of modern All India Services.
- ❖ The All-India Services (AIS) comprises the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), the Indian Forest Service (IFS) and the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- ❖ The British Governor General Cornwallis (1786-93) was known as the "Father of Civil Services in India".

