



April - 25

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Reverse vaccinology**

- ❖ The Tamil Nadu Dr. MGR Medical University has developed a vaccine against SARS-CoV-2 through reverse vaccinology.
- ❖ Using 'reverse vaccinology', vaccinations were developed for meningococcal and staphylococcal infections all through the world.
- ❖ In the first phase, the university has developed a synthetic polypeptide that could bind the viral genome, and is all set to move to the next phase of research.
- ❖ The university is yet to name the polypeptide.
- ❖ Its Vice-Chancellor is Sudha Seshayyan.

## **NATIONAL**

### **Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) production**

- ❖ India is a leading player across the globe in the manufacturing of HCQ.
- ❖ The Ipca laboratories, Zydus Cadila and Wallace Pharmaceuticals are the top pharma companies in India to produce this.
- ❖ Ipca is the top manufacturer of this drug globally.
- ❖ Presently, the country's production capacity is 20 crore tablets every month.
- ❖ As much as 70 per cent of all the APIs (active pharmaceutical ingredient) needed by India to manufacture drugs come from China.
- ❖ India manufactures 70% of the world's supply of hydroxychloroquine.
- ❖ India is the largest exporter of the drug.
- ❖ India also needs around 24 million of this tablet per year for the three indications --- malaria, lupus, and rheumatoid arthritis.
- ❖ At present, India is in the process of supplying HCQ to 55 corona virus-hit countries.
- ❖ This anti-malarial drug was held as 'game-changer' in the fight against COVID-19 by the US President.
- ❖ The drug is not manufactured in developed nations such as the US because of non-existent malaria.

- ❖ The Brazilian PM Jair Bolsonaro likened the supply of HCQ from India to Hanuman bringing the 'holy medicine' or Sanjeevani in the 'Ramayana'.
- ❖ Bolsonaro was the chief guest at the 70th Republic Day celebrations this year.



### **Corona Model Districts**

- ❖ Recently, the Centre showcased the contact tracing and containment model of Kerala's Kasaragod.
- ❖ It is one of the success stories of the containment exercise.
- ❖ The other successful model of containment includes Agra (Uttar Pradesh), Bhilwara (Rajasthan) and Pathanamthitta (Kerala).

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **India and Malaysia**

- ❖ Recently India added Malaysia into the list of Hydroxychloroquine Drug exporting countries.
- ❖ India is the world's biggest palm oil buyer and a major market for Malaysia,
- ❖ Malaysia is the second-largest producer of Palm oil in the World after Indonesia.
- ❖ India buys more than 9 million tonnes of palm oil annually, mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia.
- ❖ Thus India is the largest imported of the Palm Oil and The vegetable oil in the World.
- ❖ The share of palm oil is more than 60 per cent of the country's total vegetable oil imports.



### Backdrop

- ❖ In March, the new Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin took over the charge at Malaysia.
- ❖ Earlier in February, Mahathir Mohamad resigned the post of PM in Malaysia.

### **Lawsuit against China**

- ❖ The US state of Missouri has filed a lawsuit against China.
- ❖ It is alleging that China's actions to suppress information, arrest whistleblowers and denying the contagious nature of coronavirus led to "irreparable damage" to countries.

## **ECONOMY**

### **15th Finance Commission Fund allocation**

- ❖ The Union Finance Ministry has released Rs 46,038 crore to states as their share in central taxes and duties for April.
- ❖ The devolution of taxes has been done based on recommendations of Fifteenth Finance Commission.
- ❖ The calculation of net proceeds of shareable taxes has been kept unchanged as per Budget 2020-21.
- ❖ In its interim report for FY21, the 15th Finance Commission has reduced the share of States in the divisible pool of Central taxes by one percentage point to 41 per cent.
- ❖ It was because of the conversion of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories.
- ❖ It assigned 15 per cent weight to the population of a State, down from the 17.5 per cent allocated by the 14th Finance Commission.
- ❖ But it raised the weight under demographic performance from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent.
- ❖ The highest share of Central taxes for April has gone to Uttar Pradesh and followed by Bihar.
- ❖ Goa and Sikkim have got the least from Central pool of taxes.



### State wise Break up of Devolution

Sl. No.	State	Amount (₹ Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	1892.64
2	Arunachal Pradesh	810.28
3	Assam	1441.48
4	Bihar	4631.96
5	Chhattisgarh	1573.60
6	Goa	177.72
7	Gujarat	1564.40
8	Haryana	498.15
9	Himachal Pradesh	367.84
10	Jharkhand	1525.27
11	Karnataka	1678.57
12	Kerala	894.53
13	Madhya Pradesh	3630.60
14	Maharashtra	2824.47
15	Manipur	330.56
16	Meghalaya	352.20
17	Mizoram	232.96
18	Nagaland	263.80
19	Odisha	2131.13
20	Punjab	823.16
21	Rajasthan	2752.65
22	Sikkim	178.64
23	Tamil Nadu	1928.56
24	Telangana	982.00
25	Tripura	326.42
26	Uttar Pradesh	8255.19
27	Uttarakhand	508.27
28	West Bengal	3461.65
	Total	46038.70

## ENVIRONMENT

### Corona on Cats

- ❖ Two pet cats in New York have tested positive for the coronavirus.
- ❖ It is marking the first confirmed cases in companion animals in USA.
- ❖ The public health officials emphasized there is no evidence that animals can pass the virus to humans.
- ❖ Outside the United States, a small number of pets have tested positive — two dogs and one cat in Hong Kong and a cat in Belgium.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

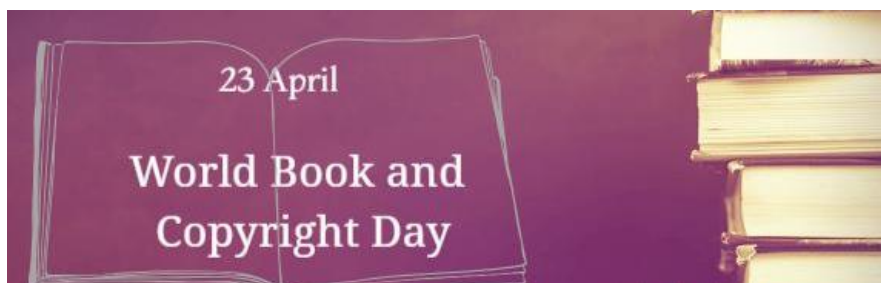
### International Girls in ICT Day - April 23

- ❖ It is an initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) introduced in 2010.
- ❖ It is a global effort to raise awareness on empowering and encouraging girls and young women to consider studies and careers in Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs).
- ❖ ITU is the United Nations specialized telecom agency.



### World Book Day - April 23

- ❖ It is an annual event organized by the UNESCO to promote reading, publishing, and copyright.
- ❖ It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book.
- ❖ It was first celebrated on 23 April 1995.
- ❖ This year is it's the 25th edition.
- ❖ Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia was named World Book Capital 2020
- ❖ The slogan for world book and copyright day 2020 is "KL Baca – "Caring Through Reading".
- ❖ April 23 holds a lot of importance, as some of the greatest authors like William Shakespeare, Miguel Cervantes, and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega deceased on this very day.



## **UN English Day - April 23**

- ❖ 23 April was chosen because it is the date "traditionally observed as both the birthday and date of death of William Shakespeare".
- ❖ It was established by UN's Department of Public Information in 2010.
- ❖ English is the World's third most spoken language after Mandarin Chinese and Spanish.
- ❖ UN Spanish Language Day is also observed annually on April 23.
- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 2010.
- ❖ It is "to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity as well as to promote equal use of all six official languages throughout the Organization".
- ❖ The UN days for the languages are as follows
  - Arabic (18 December)
  - Chinese (20 April)
  - English (23 April)
  - French (20 March)
  - Russian (6 June)
  - Spanish (23 April)

