



April - 26

NATIONAL

World Wide Help (WWH)

- ❖ IIT Bombay has developed software that can greatly help with the demands of physical distancing necessitated by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ❖ The software is named World Wide Help (WWH) which can be used to connect people seeking medical help with helpers, such as doctors.

COVID India Seva

- ❖ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Harsh Vardhan launched "COVID India Seva" platform.
- ❖ The platform is an interactive medium established to provide a channel of communication between the citizens and the Government.

INTERNATIONAL

History of Pandemics

- ❖ The COVID-19 has killed thousands and has indented a bad and deep history of economic crisis.
- ❖ It has locked down almost every super economic power in the world.
- ❖ There were several other Pandemics in the history that created equal impacts.
- ❖ They are Justinian Plague, Black Death and Spanish Flu.
- ❖ The Justinian Plague was the deadliest pandemic that broke in 6th century.
- ❖ It had spread from Egypt to Constantinople.
- ❖ The Black Death killed more than 200 million.
- ❖ It struck China, Syria, India and Egypt.
- ❖ The disease arrived in Europe in 1347.
- ❖ The Spanish Flu broke during the last phase of World War I.
- ❖ It was recorded in Europe and later spread to Asia and America.
- ❖ The disease weakened German units in the First World War and was still considered as one of the reasons for the fall of Germany in the war.

Milk tea Alliance

- ❖ The Milk tea Alliance is a pro-democratic front formed by thousands of internet users from Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong in social networks against the authoritarianism of the Chinese Government and its supporters.
- ❖ The informal movement began by defending itself against the insults of pro-Chinese twitter users against Thailand.



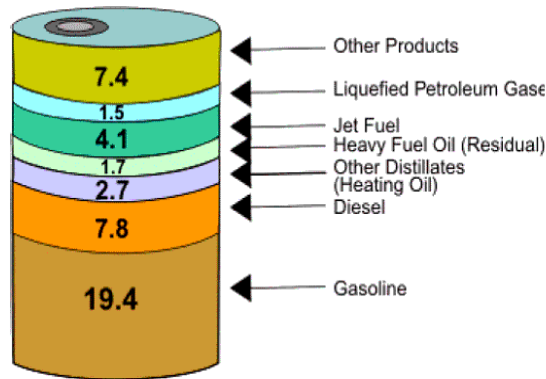
Consensus Resolution by UN

- ❖ The United Nations adopted a consensus resolution.
- ❖ The resolution called for equitable, efficient and timely access to future vaccines developed to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The resolution was drafted by Mexico and is supported by the US.
- ❖ In order to pass this resolution, the United Nations required a simple majority. (More than 50% of all votes).
- ❖ When the issue considered for voting is of great importance, and then two-third majority is required.

USA Crude Oil

- ❖ West Texas intermediate (WTI), also known as Texas light sweet, is a grade of crude oil used as a benchmark in oil pricing in the USA.
- ❖ It is the best quality of crude oil in the world.
- ❖ This grade is described as light crude oil because of its relatively low density, and sweet because of its low sulfur content.

- ❖ US oil markets created history when prices of West Texas Intermediate (WTI) fell to “minus” \$40.32 a barrel in New York on April 20th.
- ❖ This is the lowest crude oil price ever known.
- ❖ The previous lowest was immediately after World War II.
- ❖ It is one of the main three benchmarks in oil pricing, along with Brent crude (from North Sea) and Dubai Crude.
- ❖ The Indian crude oil basket does not comprise WTI.
- ❖ India bought only from the Brent and some of the Gulf countries — so there is no direct impact.
- ❖ One barrel is 157 litres.
- ❖ But after processing it comes to 166 litres.



Indian flag at Alps Mountain

- ❖ Indian Tricolour of more than 1,000 meters in size was projected on Matterhorn Mountain, Zermatt, Switzerland to express solidarity to all Indians in the fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ Swiss light artist Gerry Hofsetter has been displaying the flags of different countries since March end.
- ❖ Matterhorn (4478 meter) is a mountain of the Alps.
- ❖ It is lying between Switzerland and Italy
- ❖ Sometimes referred to as the Mountain of Mountains, the Matterhorn has become an iconic emblem of the Alps in general.



ECONOMY

IFAD

- ❖ IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) has launched a multi-donor COVID-19 Rural Poor Stimulus Facility (RPSF).
- ❖ The ultimate goal of the RPSF is to accelerate the recovery of poor and vulnerable rural people from the COVID-19 crisis.
- ❖ IFAD is an international financial institution and a specialised agency of the United Nations that works to address poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries.

Sown Crop Area

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare announced that the sown crop area of summer crops has increased by 36%.
- ❖ The rise has been mainly observed in rice cultivation.
- ❖ In Madhya Pradesh, harvesting has increased by 95%, Rajasthan has increased by 85% and Uttar Pradesh by 65%.

NDB Bank

- ❖ The Finance Minister Nirmala Sitaraman attended the fifth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the National Development Bank (NDB) through a video conference.
- ❖ NDB assured to provide a financial assistance of 1 billion USD of COVID-19 funds to India.

- ❖ The bank was established in 2014 by BRICS member countries.
- ❖ It supports both public and private projects.
- ❖ The initial authorized capital of the bank was 100 billion USD.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Lithium in space

- ❖ A team of scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have discovered a number of Lithium rich red giants.
- ❖ They frame a connection between Lithium in interstellar space and lithium in red giants.
- ❖ The Lithium rich Helium burning stars also have connections with red giant stars.
- ❖ This discovery indicates that Li is being produced in the stars and accounts for its abundance in the interstellar medium.
- ❖ The study says that the present amount of Lithium found in the Universe is four times that of the primordial value.
- ❖ Lithium (Li), is one of the three primordial elements, apart from Hydrogen and Helium (He), produced in the big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN).
- ❖ Identifying sources of Li enrichment in our Galaxy has been a great interest to researchers to validate Big Bang Nucleosynthesis.
- ❖ The Big Bang Nucleosynthesis theory predicts that roughly 25% the mass of the Universe consists of Helium.
- ❖ The IIA an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology.



Electronic density of ionosphere

- ❖ The Indian Institute of Geomagnetism researchers have developed a model that will predict electronic density of ionosphere.
- ❖ This Model is an Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) based Global Ionospheric Model.
- ❖ The ANNs mimic the process of human brain.
- ❖ This is highly important for the communication and navigation on the earth.
- ❖ This is highly helpful to study changes in the ionosphere.
- ❖ It also helps to learn about geomagnetic storms that occur due to the magnetic clouds that originate from the sun.
- ❖ A magnetic storm on the earth's magnetosphere is caused by solar winds.

STATES

Daporijo Bridge

- ❖ It was inaugurated across the Subansiri River in Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The bridge was constructed by the BRO (Border Roads Organization) just in 27 days.
- ❖ Subansiri River is the largest tributary of Brahmaputra River.
- ❖ It runs through the regions of Tibet as well as Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- ❖ The river originates in China.



- ❖ It joins Brahmaputra in Assam.



COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana

- ❖ The State Government of Madhya Pradesh recently launched the Chief Minister COVID-19 Yoddha Kalyan Yojana.
- ❖ Under the scheme, the Anganwadi workers are to get special health insurance of Rs 50 lakhs.

