

April - 27

NATIONAL

Cabinet approves Subsidy for Urea

- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs recently approved subsidy for Urea that are to be produced by TFL.
- ❖ It is Talcher Fertilizer Plant.
- ❖ TFL is a state-run fertilizer plant.
- ❖ The TFL is to commission a new fertilizer plant in Odisha.
- ❖ This plant will produce urea through coal gasification.
- ❖ The Government of India is to provide subsidy to establish the plant.
- ❖ It will be the only plant in India to produce nitrogenous soil nutrient through coal gasification process.
- ❖ Talcher Fertilizers is a joint venture of Fertilizer Corporation of India, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, GAIL and Coal India.
- ❖ The tender to construct the TFL project has been provided to China-based Wuhan Engineering.

The estimated project cost of the Talcher Fertilizers Limited (TFL) Urea project, first of its kind project in India, is ₹13,277.21 crore

The project will improve availability of fertilizer to farmers & save transport subsidy for supply of urea in eastern part of the country

Will assist in reducing Urea imports to the tune of 12.7 LMT per annum leading to savings in foreign exchange

Crude oil output of India drops

- ❖ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently released its data for the fiscal year 2020-21.
- ❖ According to the data, crude oil production of India fell to 30.5 million tonnes.



- ❖ It was 32.17 million tonnes in 2019-20.

Crude oil production

- ❖ The crude oil production of India fell by 5% in 2020-21 as compared to the previous year.
- ❖ The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation produced 2% less oil in 2020-21 as compared to 2019-20.
- ❖ In 2020-21, the oil produced by ONGC was 20.2 million tonnes.
- ❖ The Oil India Limited produced 5.4% less oil.

Natural Gas production

- ❖ The Natural Gas production in the year 2020-21 was at 28.67 billion cubic metres.
- ❖ This was 8% less than the output in 2019-20.
- ❖ However, in March 2021, the overall natural gas output of the country began to increase as the Reliance industries started their output from KG basin fields.
- ❖ The Reliance began producing Natural Gas in the KG basins in December 2020.
- ❖ It is now producing gas at the rate of 1.3 million cubic metres per day.

WEF's Global Energy Transition Index

- ❖ The index measures 115 countries' readiness to shift to stable, efficient, accessible, and inclusive energy systems.
- ❖ It is measured based on three dimensions,
 - ❖ economic development and growth, sustainability, and energy protection and access indicators.
- ❖ India with a score of 53 has been ranked 87th (out of 115 countries) in the Global Energy Transition Index (ETI) 2021.
- ❖ This was released by World Economic Forum (WEF) in its report 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition 2021' edition.
- ❖ The index was topped by Sweden, Norway & Denmark.
- ❖ The report has been prepared by WEF in partnership with Accenture.
- ❖ The 2021 edition of the report marks the 10th anniversary of the ETI.
- ❖ In the Asian Region, Malaysia came at the top in the Index (out of 13), while India finished at 9th position.

INTERNATIONAL

India as ‘Country of Particular Concern’

- ❖ A US government organisation that monitors international religious freedom has recommended that India be designated as a “country of particular concern” for the second consecutive year.
- ❖ Other new recommendations for the CPC list in the Commission’s 2021 were Russia, Syria and Vietnam.
- ❖ Countries already on the CPCs list and recommended by USCIRF (United States Commission on International Religious Freedom) for re-designation were Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.
- ❖ Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Turkey and Uzbekistan were recommended for a ‘Special Watch List’, along with Cuba and Nicaragua, both of which were already on the list for 2019.



Nimbus Project

- ❖ The Government of Israel has chosen Google and Amazon Web Services to provide cloud services for its military and Public Sector Units.
- ❖ The project is to be implemented in four phases and has been named the “Nimbus” project.
- ❖ The Nimbus Project is to be implemented at an estimated cost of 1 billion USD.
- ❖ It will establish cloud sites in Israel.



- ❖ These sites will keep the information within the borders of Israel under strict security guidelines.

ENVIRONMENT

Potamophylax coronavirus

- ❖ Biologist Halil Ibrahim has named a newly discovered insect after COVID-19 virus.
- ❖ The species was found in Accursed Mountains (Kosovo's Western Bjeshket e Nemuna National Park).
- ❖ It has now been named as "Potamophylax coronavirus".
- ❖ The species is endemic to the National Park.
- ❖ The new species is considerably smaller and lives in open and high-altitude zones, that is, 2,000 metres above the sea level.
- ❖ During his study about the Caddisfly species, the scientists have also found that the Decanit River is severely deteriorated due to the construction of a hydropower plant.
- ❖ The construction of the hydropower plant across the river has a similar effect as the coronavirus creates on humans.
- ❖ Thus, the new species found near that place has been named after coronavirus.

Decanit river

- ❖ It is a tributary of White Drin.
- ❖ The Monastery of Visoki Decani is located on the bank of the River Decanit.
- ❖ It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- ❖ The river drains into the Adriatic Sea.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Panchayat Raj Day – April 24

- ❖ The Panchayat raj is the oldest system of local government.
- ❖ In 1992 a major change in the Panchayat system of India came in the form of the passage of the Panchayati Raj Act (73rd Amendment).
- ❖ The act came into existence with effect from April 24, 1993.
- ❖ The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010.

- ❖ Since then, the National Panchayat Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 every year in India.



NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY
24 April
CELEBRATING LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

The 3 Levels:

Gram Panchayat (Village level)	Mandal Parishad or Block Samiti or Panchayat Samiti (Block level)	Zila Parishad (District level)
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Did You Know?

Organised by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the day symbolises the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force from April 24, 1993, which institutionalised Panchayati Raj through village, intermediate and district-level panchayats.

MISCELLANEOUS

New immune escape variant

- ❖ A new immune escape COVID-19 variant has been found in West Bengal, according to experts.
- ❖ This new SARS-CoV-2 variant can reportedly escape immunity and infect a person even if the individual had contracted the virus before and has antibodies against it.
- ❖ This is on the same lines as the "double mutant variant" of COVID-19.
- ❖ That was detected in 18 states and UTs of India, majorly Maharashtra.
- ❖ It had been detected in 15-20 percent samples collected from Maharashtra.
- ❖ The new variant of coronavirus, B.1.618, is being called a major immune escape variant.
- ❖ It is characterised by a distinct set of genetic variants including E484K.
- ❖ According to scientists, the proportions of B.1.618 have been growing significantly in West Bengal.

