

January - 06

NATIONAL

Emergency use approval in India

- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has recommended the restricted Emergency Use Authorisation for COVISHIELD.
- ❖ COVISHIELD vaccine was developed by Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ It is developed by the University of Oxford and the British Pharmaceutical firm Astra Zeneca.
- ❖ In India, this vaccine is to be made and marketed by Pune Serum Institute of India.
- ❖ It is the first vaccine to be approved in India.
- ❖ India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has also reportedly recommended to the DCGI for granting the emergency use approval to the Bharat Biotech's Covaxin coronavirus vaccine.
- ❖ This makes that the Bharat Biotech's Covaxin the second vaccine to get marketing approval from the expert panel.
- ❖ Both the vaccines will have to be administered in two doses and they will have to be stored at 2-8° C.



Tansen Samman

- ❖ The 96th Tansen Music Festival was held at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ The festival pays tribute to Tansen, one of 9 gems in Akbar's court.

- ❖ The renowned Santoor player Pandit Satish Vyas was conferred upon the Tansen Samman.
- ❖ Bhopal-based institution Abhinav Kala Parishad was honoured with Raja Mansingh Tomar award.



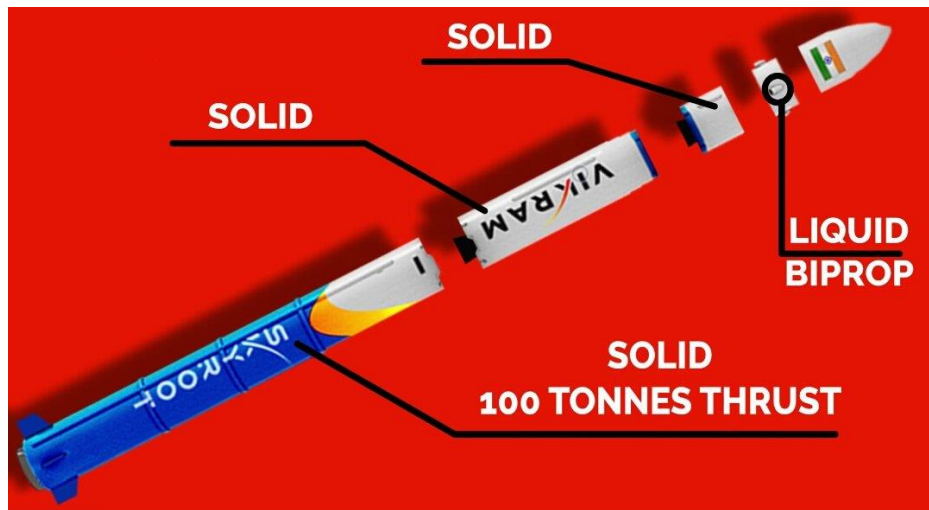
Human Rights cell

- ❖ The Indian Army recently created a new Human Rights cell headed by major General of India.
- ❖ The cell has been created for Greater transparency and probity in the functioning of Indian Army in disturbed areas.
- ❖ General Gautam Chauhan has taken charge as the first additional director general Human Rights at the army headquarters in New Delhi.

Vikram-1

- ❖ The Indian space startup Skyroot Aerospace of Hyderabad, has successfully test-fired its first solid rocket propulsion stage demonstrator called Kalam-5.
- ❖ With this, India's first-ever privately designed and developed rocket, Vikram-1, is a step closer to becoming a reality.
- ❖ Kalam-5 uses the same propellant, materials, and interface as the motors that will be installed on Vikram-1.

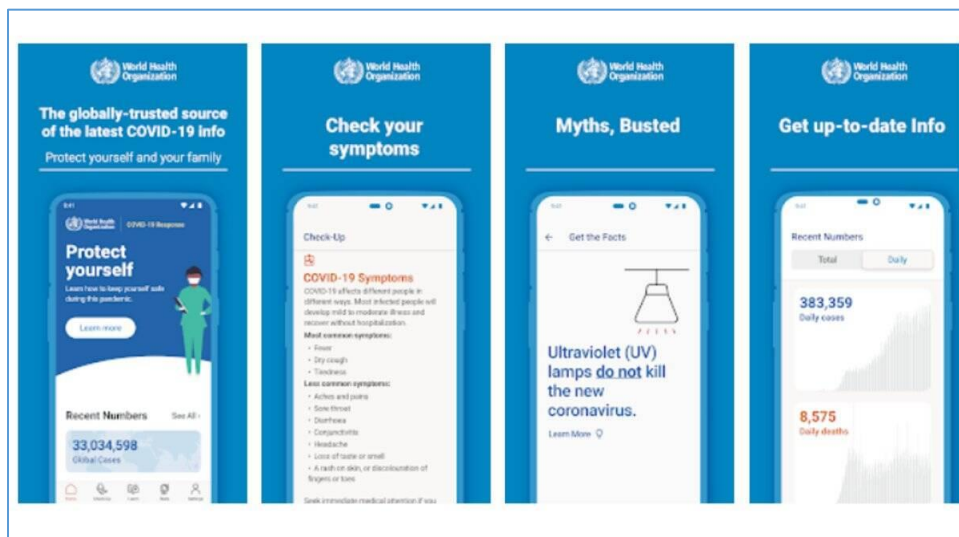
- ❖ Vikram-1 rocket is powered by four engines - three solid-fuel stages and one Liquid-fuel stage.



INTERNATIONAL

Covid App

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently launched a COVID-19 mobile application called the “WHO COVID-19 app”.
- ❖ The app is available in seven different languages such as English, Arabic, Portuguese, French, Chinese, Spanish, Russian.





4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites

- ❖ The United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) has named 4 Asian Tea Cultivation Sites across three countries as the Globally Important Agricultural Sites (GIAHS).
- ❖ These are:
 - Pu'er Traditional Tea Agrosystem in Yunnan province at China
 - Traditional Tree Grass system - Japan
 - Fuzhou Jasmine tea site - China
 - Traditional Hadong Tea Agrosystem - South Korea
- ❖ The Yunnan province in China is considered as the World's origin for tea.
- ❖ China is the World's largest tea producer while India is the 2nd.
- ❖ In India, tea cultivation was introduced only by the British in 19th century.
- ❖ Tea is produced in the states of Assam, West Bengal and Kerala among others in India.

Maritime Cooperation

- ❖ The Indian Coast Guard has entered into memoranda of understanding with seven Asian countries for cooperation in maritime search and rescue operations.
- ❖ These include Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Vietnam.

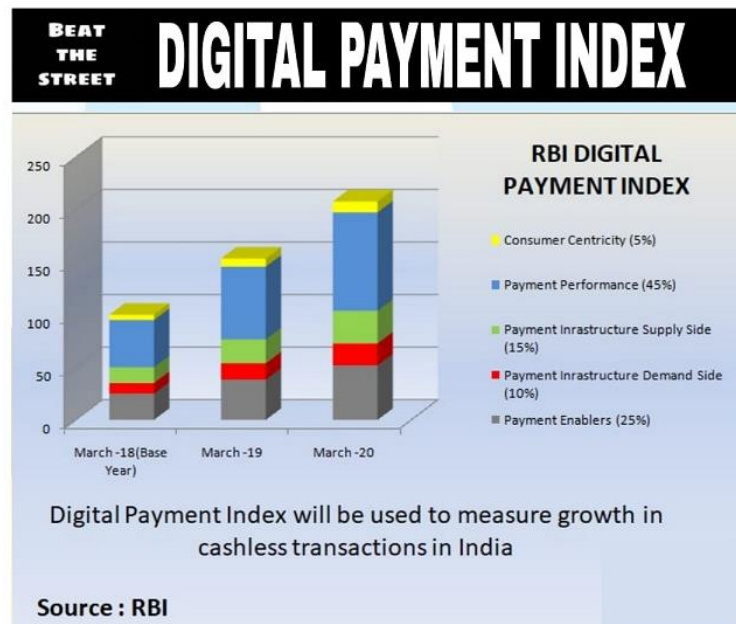
Tampon Tax

- ❖ The British government abolished the tax on women sanitary products as the "tampon tax".
- ❖ It is a measure to 'End Period Poverty'.
- ❖ India, Australia and Canada have already eliminated this tax.
- ❖ Scotland became the first country in the world to make these period products free of cost.

ECONOMY

Digital Payment Index

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India launched this index.
- ❖ The RBI is to publish the Digital Payments Index on a semi-annual basis from March 2021.
- ❖ It aims to measure the growth in cashless transactions in India.
- ❖ The March 2018 is the base period.
- ❖ The index comprises of five broad parameters such as payment enablers, payment performance, payment infrastructure – demand side factors and supply side factors and consumer centricity.







SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

UK-Variant of Sars CoV-2

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has successfully isolated and cultured the UK- variant of Coronavirus strain.
- ❖ ICMR also informed that no other country has yet reported the successful culture and isolation of the new Coronavirus strain.
- ❖ It had first originated in the United Kingdom.



INDIA SUCCESSFULLY CULTURES THE NEW VIRAL STRAIN ON THE HORIZON (UK-VARIANT OF SARS-COV-2)

-  SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, was being tracked through countrywide network of ICMR-laboratories since early days of the epidemic in India
-  UK-variant of the virus, with all signature changes, is now successfully isolated and cultured at the National Institute of Virology (NIV) from the clinical specimens collected from UK-returnees
-  No country has yet reported successful isolation and culture of the UK-variant of SARS-CoV-2
-  Vero cell lines were used by the Scientists of ICMR-NIV to culture the UK-variant of the virus

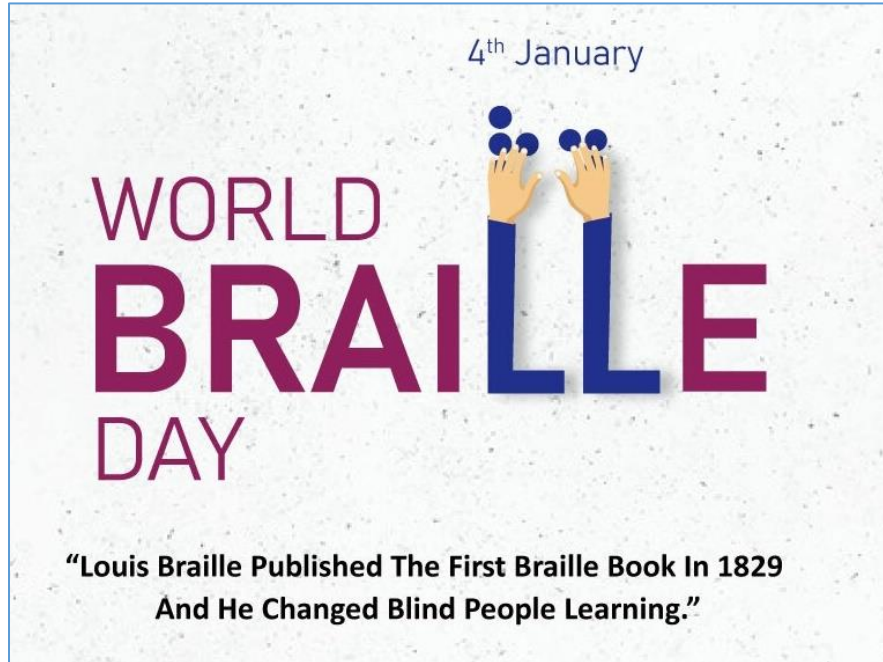
Patna Meteorological Observatory (PMO)

- ❖ It gets centennial observing station status by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), Geneva in Austria.
- ❖ PMO was established in 1867.
- ❖ The India Meteorological Department (IMD) was formally established in 1875.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Braille Day – January 04

- ❖ Louis Braille, the inventor of Braille language, was born on January 4, 1809 in France.
- ❖ To remember him and his contribution to the world, Louis' birth anniversary is celebrated as World Braille Day on January 4 every year.
- ❖ It is observed to raise awareness of the importance of Braille as a means of communication in the full realization of the human rights for blind and partially sighted people.
- ❖ It was officially approved by the United Nations General Assembly in November 2018.celebrated since 2019.



World Day of War Orphans – January 06

- ❖ The day aims to address the war orphans as it has become a growing worldwide humanitarian and social crisis.
- ❖ The World Day of War Orphans was initiated by the French organization, SOS Enfants en Detresses.
- ❖ World War II created millions of orphans in Europe, with 300,000 orphans in Poland and 200,000 in Yugoslavia alone.

