



June - 11

## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy along with the Mekins Industries has developed Ultra Violet C (UVC) based Cabinet to disinfect COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ The Government of India has allocated Rs 1,01,500 crores under the MGNREGA programme in the year 2020-21 so far.
  - This is the highest provision of funds allocated for the scheme since its launch.
- ❖ Adani Green Energy Ltd has bagged the world's largest solar bid of USD 6 billion from the state-run renewable energy agency SECI (Solar Energy Corporation of India).
  - Under this project, the group will build 8,000 MW photovoltaic (PV) power plant and will also set up a 2,000 MW domestic solar panel.
- ❖ Uttarakhand opened its biggest biodiversity park in Haldwani on the World Environment Day.
  - The various species of plants have been brought to the park from diverse terrains like Niti Mana Valley of Uttarakhand.

## TAMIL NADU

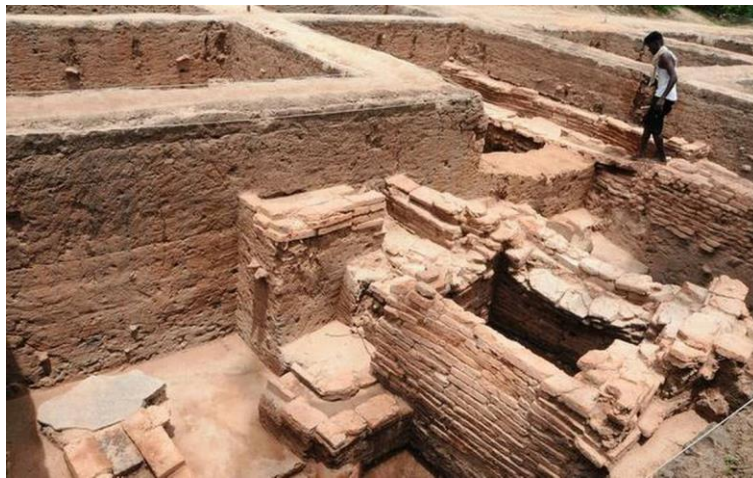
### **Keeladi Excavation**

- ❖ A furnace like structure that may belong to the sangam era was unearthed at Manalur.
- ❖ A burial urn containing human bones was unearthed in a Keezhadi cluster village of Konthagai.
- ❖ It is to be noted that six burial urns were already unearthed in March at Konthagai.
- ❖ It is believed that Konthagai was the burial site of Keeladi.
- ❖ Archalologists also unearthed an intact backbone of an animal.

### **Background**

- ❖ The sixth phase of archaeological excavation at Keeladi of Sivagangai District resumed.
- ❖ The report further noted that India is home to 3, 30,400 HNWI's (High-Net-Worth Individuals - individuals with USD 1 million or more in net assets).

- ❖ The excavation so far has revealed that keeladi had a 2600 year old civilization.
- ❖ The Tamilnadu State Department of Archaeology has taken up the excavation in the keeladi cluster.
- ❖ This cluster includes the nearby villages of Konthagai, Agaram and Manalur.
- ❖ Keeladi is in sivagangai district on the banks of Vaigai River.
- ❖ The first three phases of excavation (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-18) were carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ❖ The State Archaeology Department took over the excavation for the fourth (2018-19) and fifth phase (2019).



## **NATIONAL**

### **18th CAT Bench**

- ❖ The Government of India recently inaugurated the 18th Bench of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) for the Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The tribunal will adjudicate complaints regarding conditions of service of public servants
- ❖ The CAT has been conferred with the powers to exercise itself as a High Court.
- ❖ This has been done under the Administrative Tribunal Act, 1985.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **75th session of the UN General Assembly**

- ❖ The world leaders will not travel to New York for the annual UN General Assembly session in September 2020 for the first time in 75 years.
- ❖ The UN General Assembly session this year (2020) commemorates 75 years of the existence of the United Nations.
- ❖ The President of the UNGA is Tijjani Muhammad-Bande of Nigeria.
- ❖ The President of the United Nations General Assembly is a position voted for by representatives in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on a yearly basis.
- ❖ The session of the assembly is scheduled for every year starting in September.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Forex reserves of India**

- ❖ Amid pandemic, India's foreign exchange reserves are rising and are slated to hit the \$500 billion mark soon.
- ❖ The level of foreign exchange reserves has steadily increased from \$5.8 billion as of March 1991 to the current level.
- ❖ The rising reserves have helped the rupee to strengthen against the dollar.
- ❖ Forex reserves are external assets in the form of gold, SDRs (special drawing rights of the IMF) and foreign currency assets accumulated by India and controlled by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ The foreign currency assets include capital inflows to the capital markets, FDI and external commercial borrowings.
- ❖ As much as 64 per cent of the foreign currency reserves is held in the securities like Treasury bills of foreign countries, mainly the US.
- ❖ India also held 653.01 tonnes of gold as of March 2020.
- ❖ It is held at overseas in safe custody with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements, while the remaining gold is held domestically.

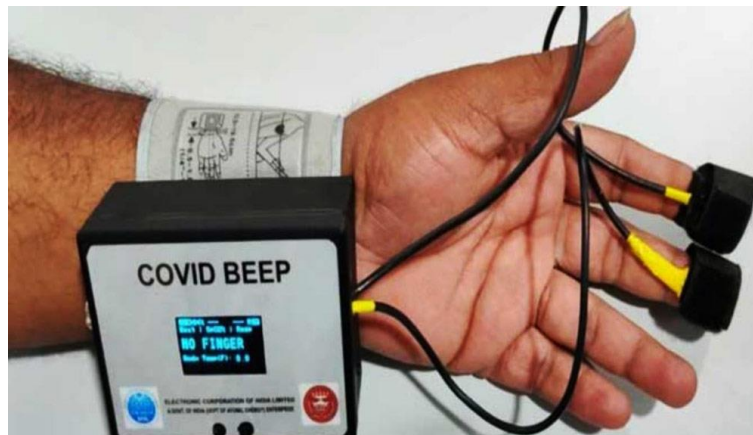
## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Direct Seeding of Rice

- ❖ The Punjab government has decided to deploy direct seeding of rice (DSR) technique instead of the traditional transplantation of paddy this year.
- ❖ It is due to the shortfall of agricultural labourers triggered by reverse migration in the wake of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.
- ❖ Under the DSR, the pre-germinated seeds are directly drilled into the field by a tractor-powered machine.
- ❖ There is no nursery preparation or transplantation involved in this method.
- ❖ In transplanting paddy, farmers prepare nurseries where the paddy seeds are first sown and raised into young plants.

### COVID BEEP

- ❖ The Union Minister of India Jitendra Singh recently launched COVID BEEP.
- ❖ It is the first physiological parameter monitoring system for COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ COVID BEEP is Continuous Oxygenation and Vital Information Detection Biomed ECIL ESIC Pod.
- ❖ It is the first indigenous wireless cost-effective parameter monitoring system.
- ❖ It was developed by IIT Hyderabad and ESIC Medical College Hyderabad.



### ANANYA

- ❖ The Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) under the Ministry of Defence has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray to fight against COVID-19.

- ❖ The spray has been named ANANYA.
- ❖ It is a water-based spray.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### Coral Triangle Day - June 9

- ❖ It is a massive celebration of the Coral Triangle.
- ❖ It is the world's epicentre of marine biodiversity.
- ❖ It is one of the 3 mega ecological complexes on our planet, together with the Congo Basin and the Amazon Rainforest.
- ❖ It encompasses the seas of 6 countries in the Asia-Pacific region: Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, and Timor Leste.

