

June - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Recently novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has begun infecting minks in the Netherlands.
 - When the pathogen is transmitted from human to animals, it is known as reverse zoonosis.
- ❖ The state government of Tripura has decided to start a scheme for school students.
 - The scheme is named 'Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho' – meaning 'Play Little, Study Little'.
- ❖ The Ambubachi Mela will not be organized in the Kamakhya Temple at Guwahati of Assam for the first time since 1565.
 - Kamakhya is one of the 51 Shakti Peeths.
- ❖ Three drugs (Fabiflu, Cipremi and Covifor) have been launched in India by pharmaceutical companies for the treatment of Coronavirus.
 - Glenmark Pharmaceuticals has launched the antiviral drug named Fabiflu for treatment of mild to moderate cases of novel Coronavirus.
- ❖ Sector-50 metro station of Noida has been dedicated to the transgender community by the NMRC - Noida Metro Rail Corporation.
- ❖ The World Athletics announced that Laurent Boquillet has been appointed as the Head of Global Development.

NATIONAL

NDRF funding

- ❖ The Finance Ministry has given approval to a proposal to allow individuals and institutions to contribute directly to the National Disaster Relief Fund (NDRF).
- ❖ The NDRF was set up under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- ❖ It is meant to “meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation” for any threatening disaster situation.
- ❖ It is a fund managed by the Central Government for meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation.
- ❖ It is constituted to supplement the funds of the State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF) of the states.

- ❖ It is located in the “Public Accounts” of Government of India under “Reserve Funds not bearing interest“.
- ❖ The PM CARES Fund or the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund are not public authorities subject to questions under the Right to Information Act.

INTERNATIONAL

GAFA Tax

- ❖ The United States has reportedly pulled out of talks aimed at overhauling the global tax system for digital giants.
- ❖ U.S. officials have slammed the move as discriminating against American firms.
- ❖ France as well as U.K., Spain, Italy and others have imposed taxes on the largest digital firms.
- ❖ GAFA tax is named after Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon.
- ❖ It is a proposed digital tax to be levied on large technology and internet companies.



National Security Bureau

- ❖ China is planning to establish a ‘Special Bureau - National Security Office’ in Hong Kong.
- ❖ It will have the rights to deal with criminal cases and analyze intelligence that is related to the national security.
- ❖ Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China since 1997 when the former colony was returned by Britain to China.
- ❖ The only Matters related to foreign affairs and defense of Hong Kong are controlled by China.

Rule of Law Index

- ❖ It is released by the World Justice Project, an independent organization in the USA.
- ❖ India has secured 69th rank of 128 countries in the recent times.

EAG meeting

- ❖ India attended the virtual 32nd special Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism (EAG) plenary meeting, under the aegis of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
- ❖ The EAG is a regional body comprising nine countries: India, Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus.
- ❖ Established in 2004, it is an associate member of the FATF.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Micius

- ❖ It is the world's first quantum communications satellite, launched by China in 2016.
- ❖ The satellite serves as the source of pairs of entangled photons.
- ❖ Recently, it has sent light particles to the Earth to establish the world's most secure communication link.



ENVIRONMENT

The Thing

- ❖ In 2011, on the Seymour Island of Antarctica, a group of scientists from Chile discovered a fossil (68 million years old egg).
- ❖ The fossil, since then was kept at a museum in Chile and was named 'The Thing'.
- ❖ "The Thing" was the second-largest egg in terms of size (29 by 20 centimeters)
- ❖ It is the second largest to the Madagascan Elephant Bird (extinct) egg and also the largest soft-shelled egg on record.



Stegodon Fossil

- ❖ A team of researchers found a fossil of an extinct ancestor of Elephant.
- ❖ It is estimated to be around between 5 to 8 million old.
- ❖ The fossil was discovered in the state of Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur District's Badshahi Bagh area.
- ❖ It was found at the Dhok Pathan Formation of the Sivalik range.
- ❖ It is said to be of a Stegodon (now extinct, a type of Elephant found until the late Pleistocene).



STATES

Kumbhar Sashaktikaran Yojana

- ❖ It was launched at Rajasthan's Pokhran.
- ❖ It is an initiative of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) for empowerment of potter community in the remotest of locations in the country.
- ❖ The program reaches out to the potters in - U.P., M.P., Maharashtra, J&K, Haryana, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Assam, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Telangana and Bihar.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Horseshoe Crab Day - June 20

- ❖ Recently, IUCN has decided to observe the first-ever International Horseshoe Crab Day on 20th June 2020.
- ❖ It is regarded as a marine 'living fossil'.
- ❖ The following three are Indo-pacific species found in the coastal waters of India, Southeast Asia, China and Japan.
 - The tri-spine horseshoe crab (IUCN - Endangered)
 - The coastal horseshoe crab (IUCN - Not Listed)
 - The mangrove horseshoe crab (IUCN - Not Listed)
- ❖ Odisha is their largest habitat in India.



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