



March - 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The Delhi assembly led by the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) passed a resolution against the National Population Register (NPR) and the National Register of Citizens.

TAMIL NADU

Wildlife Safari at Vandalur Zoo

- ❖ Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami announced in the State Legislative Assembly that a safari world would be set up in Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur.
- ❖ The CM also announced that a mini zoo would be set up at Sirumalai forest in Dindigul district.
- ❖ He also announced that the Kurumbapatti Zoological Park in Salem district would be upgraded into a medium zoo with additional animals.

NATIONAL

Corona virus strain isolated in India

- ❖ India is the fifth country in the world besides - Japan, Thailand, U.S. and China - to have successfully isolated the COVID -19 virus strain.
- ❖ This helps in the development of drugs, vaccines and rapid diagnostic kits in the country.
- ❖ Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Balram Bhargava said that the strain that we have in India is 99.99% similar to the Wuhan strain.

India proposes COVID-19 Emergency Funds

- ❖ SAARC leaders participated in a video conference to frame a strategy in order to fight Corona Virus.
- ❖ PM Modi attended the video conference on behalf of India.
- ❖ India proposed creation of Covid-19 Emergency Fund.

- ❖ Also, India is to set up disease surveillance portal in order to trace the virus carriers in better.
- ❖ India is fighting Corona Virus with the strategy, “Prepare, don’t panic”.

Notified Disaster

- ❖ India has declared COVID-19 as “notified Disaster”.
- ❖ With this, the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) are to be temporarily used for supply of food, medical care and water for patients in quarantine camps.
- ❖ Under Disaster Management Act, 2005, the SDRF funds shall be used only for cyclone, earthquake, drought, landslide, hailstorm, cloudburst, avalanche, frost, pest attack and cold waves.
- ❖ Critical Medical conditions or pandemic situations were not under the notified disaster lists.
- ❖ Therefore, the Central Government has included COVID-19 outbreak under notified Disaster.
- ❖ This will now enable the state government to utilize the funds for treating Corona Virus.
- ❖ The SDRF funds which were constituted by Disaster Management Act, 2005 was recommended by 13th Finance Commission.

ICMR develops testing strategy

- ❖ The Indian Council of Medical Research developed COVID-19 testing strategy for people infected with the virus.
- ❖ The three main testing centres of Corona Virus are AIIMS at Delhi, National Institute of Virology at Pune and National Centre for Disease control at Delhi.
- ❖ Apart from these major centres, Government of India has also built 50 new exclusive centres that are to test for the virus.

INTERNATIONAL

National Emergency in the USA

- ❖ The President of United States of America Donald Trump has declared national emergency over the spread of corona virus.
- ❖ This kind of emergency in the country is rare.

- ❖ Earlier, the same kind of emergency was declared by President Bill Clinton over widespread of West Nile.

WHO shifts epicenter from China to Europe

- ❖ The World Health Organization recently shifted the epicenter of Corona Virus from China to Europe.
- ❖ This is mainly because while rate of infections is being controlled in China, it is increasing exponentially in European Nations.
- ❖ Also, the number of deaths due to the virus in Europe is more than any part of the world.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Kaikaia gaga

- ❖ A newly discovered species of treehopper was named after the performer Lady Gaga.
- ❖ The insect species has been named as Kaikaia Gaga.
- ❖ Kaikaia Gaga is a part of the family Membracidae.
- ❖ The species is around 40 million years old. K. gaga was found nearly 30 years ago in a tropical forest near the Pacific coast of Nicaragua.
- ❖ The bugs are known for their bright colouring and individuality in appearance.
- ❖ It sings to each other by vibrating plant stems.
- ❖ American singer-songwriter and performance artist, known for her flamboyant costumes.





Methanotrophic Bacteria Culture

- ❖ The Agharkar Research Institute of Pune has isolated 45 strains of methanotrophic bacteria.
- ❖ These bacteria are capable of reducing methane emissions in rice plants.
- ❖ Apart from isolating the strains, the scientists have also created methanotrophic culture.
- ❖ The isolated bacteria were from southern and western India.
- ❖ The methanotrophs are also used as bio-inoculants.
- ❖ Bio-Inoculant are strains of bacteria, algae or fungi that take in nitrogen from atmosphere and prepare nitrates required for plants.
- ❖ After carbon-dioxide, methane is the second largest greenhouse gas contributor.
- ❖ With the use of methanotrophic bacteria in agriculture, emission of methane shall be greatly reduced.

ENVIRONMENT

National Clean Air Programme

- ❖ Union Ministry for Environment has asked for city-level plans for the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as these problems need to be dealt with at the local level.
- ❖ The Indian government launched the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in January 2019.

STATES

Karnataka seeks quota for locals

- ❖ The Karnataka government has insisted the private companies to provide 80% reservation in jobs for locals (Kannada-speaking people) in all categories.
- ❖ The government has already amended the Karnataka Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Rules, 1961, to reserve 100% for group 'C' and group 'D' jobs for locals in the private sector.

Kerala Government ordered poultry culling

- ❖ Kerala government ordered the poultry culling in Parappanangadi in the backdrop of bird flu.

- ❖ Special squads have been deployed to cull all poultry within a one-kilometre radius of the epicentre.



IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day of Action for Rivers – March 14th

- ❖ This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of rivers and climate change.
- ❖ The International Day of Action for Rivers 2020 theme is “Women, Water, and Climate Change”.
- ❖ The main objective behind generating this day is to raise voices in unison against destructive water development projects, reclaim the health of watersheds and demand for equitable and sustainable management of our rivers.

International Day of Mathematics – March 14th

- ❖ This day is celebrated to raise awareness about the beauty and significance of mathematics and the fundamental role in everybody’s life.
- ❖ The theme for 2020 is “Mathematics is Everywhere”.
- ❖ March 14 is as of now known as Pi Day and celebrated in numerous nations around the globe.

World Consumer Rights Day – March 15th

- ❖ This day is celebrated to spread awareness about a consumer’s rights and needs.
- ❖ The theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2020 is ‘The Sustainable Consumer’.



National Vaccination Day – March 16th

- ❖ This day is observed to convey the importance of vaccination to the people in the country.
- ❖ This day is also known as National Immunisation Day.
- ❖ It was first observed on 16 March, 1995 when the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine was given.
- ❖ The main purpose behind the celebration of National Vaccination Day is to make all people aware of arming against polio and eradicating it completely from the world.

Note

- ❖ World Immunization Week 2020 celebrated in the last week of April (24 to 30 April).
- ❖ The theme of World Immunization Week 2020 is 'Vaccines Work for All'.

