

May - 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The National Mission for Clean Ganga operating under Ministry of Jal Shakti launched “IDEAthon”.
 - It focuses on “The Future of River Management” to explore how the COVID-19 crisis will change the river management strategies.
- ❖ The IIT Ropar has come up with a design of an autonomous 'WardBot'.
 - It can deliver medicines and food to COVID-19 patients in isolation wards.
- ❖ The Assam State Government launched new scheme 'Dhanwantari' for home delivery of medicines.
 - The medicines below 200 rupees will be provided free of cost to patients.
- ❖ The Himachal Pradesh Health Department has come up with a unique idea of providing free online medical consultation to sick people at their residence through e-sanjeevani-opd.
- ❖ The Ahmedabad based Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Medical Science and Research became the first authorized study centre in the country to carry out plasma research under trial in view of Covid 19.
- ❖ Rakesh Sharma the Executive Director of Bajaj Auto as the President International Motorcycle Manufacturers Association (IMMA) for a two-year mandate.
 - IMMA is the association represents the manufacturing industry of two wheelers at the global level.
- ❖ A National E-Commerce Market place was launched by Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) called “Bharat Market”.
 - The initiative is to be guided and supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ❖ The US President had nominated Indian American Ashok Michael Pinto as the US representative to IBRD (International Bank of Reconstruction and Development).
 - The IBRD, its lending arms and the International Development Association are collectively known as World Bank.



NATIONAL

Bamboo Conclave

- ❖ The Minister of State for North East Development held Bamboo Conclave through video conference.
- ❖ It was to boost the economy of the country with the help of Bamboo resources.
- ❖ North East region of India consists of 60% of bamboo reserves of the country.
- ❖ The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was amended in 2017 to make Bamboo as Grass.

Liquor and GST in India

- ❖ The states in general impose heavy excise duty on liquor.
- ❖ The Delhi Government imposed 70% hike as Special Corona Fee in liquor prices.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh imposes “special duty on liquor” and uses the funds collected to maintain stray cattle.
- ❖ The state of Tamil Nadu imposes VAT (Value Added Tax) on liquor
- ❖ The sale of liquor has been banned in the states of Gujarat and Bihar,
- ❖ In all other states, liquor contributes certain amount to the exchequers.
- ❖ The State Excise duty is levied on liquor.
- ❖ According to the report of Reserve Bank of India called "State Finances: A study of Budgets of 2019-20", the excise duty on alcohol accounts to 10% to 15% of the state revenue of majority of the states.
- ❖ It is the second or third largest contributor to states revenue.
- ❖ This was the main reason the state governments wanted liquor to be kept out of GST.

INTERNATIONAL

NAM Summit

- ❖ The PM of India attended the NAM Summit representing India through a video conference.
- ❖ It has been convened at the initiative of President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan, in his capacity as current chair of the Movement.
- ❖ The title of the summit is “We stand together against COVID-19”.



- ❖ This is the first NAM Summit being attended by Modi since he was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2014.
- ❖ The 2016 summit was held in Venezuela and 2019 summit was in Azerbaijan.
- ❖ In 2012, the former PM Manmohan Singh participated at the Tehran NAM summit at Iran.

About NAM

- ❖ The NAM is Non-Aligned Movement forum of 120 developing countries.
- ❖ It is not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc.
- ❖ After the United Nations, NAM is the largest grouping of states.
- ❖ The countries of the Non-Aligned Movement represent nearly two-thirds of the United Nations' members and contain 55% of the world population.
- ❖ The summit was agreed to convene at the Bandung Conference in 1955.
- ❖ It was established in 1961.
- ❖ The key people in this initiative were Indian PM Jawaharlal Nehru, Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito and Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Remdesivir Drug

- ❖ The United States Food and Drug Regulatory body allowed emergency use of anti-viral vaccine Remdesivir to treat COVID-19 patients.
- ❖ Remdesivir was developed to treat Ebola virus and Marburg virus.

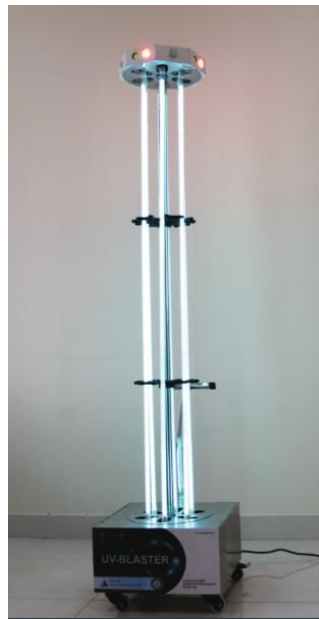
eCovSens

- ❖ The scientists in National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB), Hyderabad have developed a biosensor called the eCovSens.
- ❖ It is a non-invasive bio-sensor testing device
- ❖ The sensor is used to detect COVID-19 virus in saliva samples.
- ❖ NIAB was established in 2010 by Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.



UV Blaster

- ❖ The Defence Research and Development Organization has developed Ultra Violet Disinfection Tower for chemical free and rapid disinfection.
- ❖ It is highly helpful for disinfecting high tech surfaces such as computers, electronic equipment and other gadgets.
- ❖ The UV Disinfection tower can be operated through mobile phone or laptop remotely.



STATES

African Swine Flu

- ❖ The Assam Government confirmed that more than 2,500 pigs were killed due to African Swine Flu in Assam.

- ❖ The African Swine Flu is a double-stranded DNA virus and is a causative agent of African Swine fever.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Firefighters' Day (IFFD) - May 4

- ❖ It was instituted in 1999.
- ❖ There was a proposal across the world due to the deaths of five firefighters in tragic circumstances in a bushfire in Australia.
- ❖ The symbol for International Firefighters' Day is a red and blue ribbon.
- ❖ The red color symbolizes fire and blue color symbolizes water.



Coal Miners Day - May 4

- ❖ Coal Miners Day is observed on 4th May every year to highlight the toughest profession and the people working in coal mines.
- ❖ Coal is the most abundant fossil fuel on Earth and Coal mining is the process of extracting coal from the earth.
- ❖ In India, coal mining began in 1774.
- ❖ John Sumner and Suetonius Grant Healthy of the East India Company commenced commercial exploitation in the Raniganj Coalfield of West Bengal along the Western bank of Damodar River.
- ❖ The states Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and some central and southern parts of the country are coal-rich regions.



- ❖ More than half of India's commercial energy needs are fulfilled by coal.

