

May - 11

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Vista Equity Partners, a US-based firm will soon invest into Reliance Jio Platforms for a 2.32 percent stake.
 - This would be the third major investment in Reliance Industries Limited in a short span of time.
- ❖ The United Nations and its partner agencies have launched 6.7 billion USD global appeal in order to fight against COVID-19.
 - The Aid is to be done under the “Global Humanitarian Response Plan”.

NATIONAL

New road for Kailash Mansarovar

- ❖ A new and faster road route through Uttarakhand to reach Kailash Mansarovar is complete.
- ❖ Kailash Mansarovar is a pilgrimage site nestled in the Himalayas in Tibet.
- ❖ Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the road.
- ❖ It almost goes up till Lipulekh Pass Uttarakhand at the India-China border, 17,000 feet above the sea level.
- ❖ It connects the pass to Dharchula, a town in Uttarakhand’s Pithoragarh.
- ❖ The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is carrying out the project.
- ❖ Lipulekh pass is close to the tri-junction of India, China and Nepal.
- ❖ Mount Kailash is a 6,638 m high peak in the Kailash Range, which forms part of the Trans Himalaya in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China.
- ❖ Mount Kailash is considered to be sacred in four religions: Bon, Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism.
- ❖ The mountain is located near Lake Manasarovar (Source of Indus and Brahmaputra) and Lake Rakshastal (Source of Sutlej).
- ❖ The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is undertaken by two routes - Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.



ECONOMY

Coking Coal in India

- ❖ India is trying to sign a MoU with Russia on Coking Coal.
- ❖ India will require 180 million tonnes of coking coal by 2030-31.
- ❖ It is to be mainly used to cater steel industry.
- ❖ The National Steel Policy aims to increase the steel production by 300 million tonnes by 2030.
- ❖ Also, India aims to meet 35% of its coking coal demands indigenously.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Project CARD

- ❖ NITI Aayog and the Department of Biotechnology have launched the Consortium for Affordable & Rapid Diagnostics (CARD).
- ❖ It aims to scale up India's capacity to make coronavirus testing kits.
- ❖ Project CARD's first goal is to roll out at least 10 million rapid antibody tests for Covid-19 by July.



Clinical Trials of Ayush

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare began clinical trials of AYUSH medicines.
- ❖ The Clinical trials of AYUSH medicines such as Ashwagandha, Guduchi, Yashitimadhu and Ayush 64 are to be conducted on voluntary health workers.
- ❖ The initiative is being jointly conducted by the Ministry of AYUSH and CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) along with Ministry of Health and Family welfare.
- ❖ Already, the trials of Ayurvedic tablet Zingivir is being conducted.

First fabric based face mask

- ❖ The Startup of IIT Delhi has found an antimicrobial face mask that can be washed and reused for 50 times.
- ❖ The Nanosafe Solutions at IIT Delhi has developed the masks to fight against COVID-19.
- ❖ The NSAFE face mask provides 99.2% of bacterial filtration.
- ❖ This is the first fabric-based face mask that is antimicrobial and washable.

Photo detector

- ❖ The scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have developed an economical and energy-efficient wafer-scale photo detector.
- ❖ The thin slice-based photo detector has been fabricated using gold – silicon interface for security applications.
- ❖ The technology could help detect weak scattered light.
- ❖ Photo detectors are one of the most significant part of any optoelectronic circuit.

ENVIRONMENT

Bengal Tiger

- ❖ The West Bengal Forest Ministry has announced that the number of Royal Bengal Tigers in the Sundarbans has increased to 96 according to the census conducted for the year 2019/20.
- ❖ Under IUCN, the Royal Bengal Tigers are listed as Endangered Species.

- ❖ Spread over 4,262 sq km, the Sundarbans has mangrove cover in 2,125 sq km in India alone.
- ❖ A large part of the Sundarbans forest lies in Bangladesh.
- ❖ It is the world's largest mangrove reserve and one of the most unique ecosystems in South Asia.
- ❖ It has been recognized as UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ❖ The Sundarban is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.
- ❖ The Indian Sundarban constitutes over 60% of the country's total mangrove forest area.
- ❖ It is the 27th Ramsar Site in India.
- ❖ It is now the largest protected wetland in the country (4,23,000 hectares).
- ❖ It is also home to a large number of "rare and globally threatened species, such as the critically endangered northern river terrapin, the endangered Irrawaddy dolphin, and the vulnerable fishing cat."

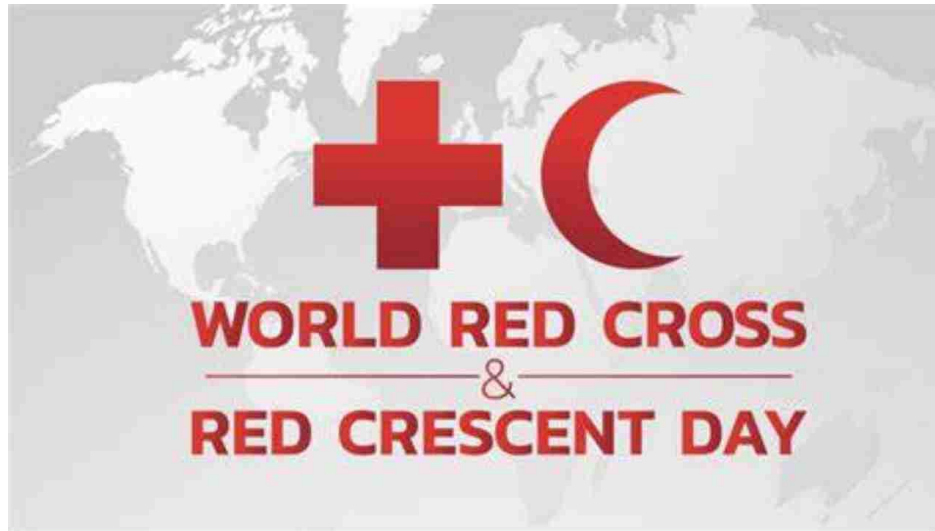


IMPORTANT DAYS

World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day - May 8

- ❖ It is an annual celebration of the principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

- ❖ This date is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Dunant, who was born on 8 May 1828.
- ❖ He was the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- ❖ World Red Cross Society provides for food shortages, natural disasters, wars as well as disease of an epidemic.



Victory in Europe Day - May 8



- ❖ It is a day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on 8 May 1945,
- ❖ It marked the end of World War II in Europe.
- ❖ The Time of Remembrance and Reconciliation for Those Who Lost Their Lives during the Second World War is also celebrated on this day.
- ❖ The day was declared in 2004 and was commemorated by the United Nations since then.

- ❖ 2020 is the 75th year anniversary of this day.

World Thalassaemia Day - May 8

- ❖ The theme for 2020 is - 'The dawning of a new era for thalassaemia - Time for a global effort to make novel therapies accessible and affordable to patients.
- ❖ It is organized by the Thalassaemia International Federation since 1994.
- ❖ It is an inherited blood disorder that causes your body to have less hemoglobin than normal.
- ❖ Hemoglobin enables red blood cells to carry oxygen.
- ❖ Patients with thalassaemia suffer from anemia due to low levels of hemoglobin.
- ❖ West Bengal is the most affected state of Thalassaemia.

