



May - 17

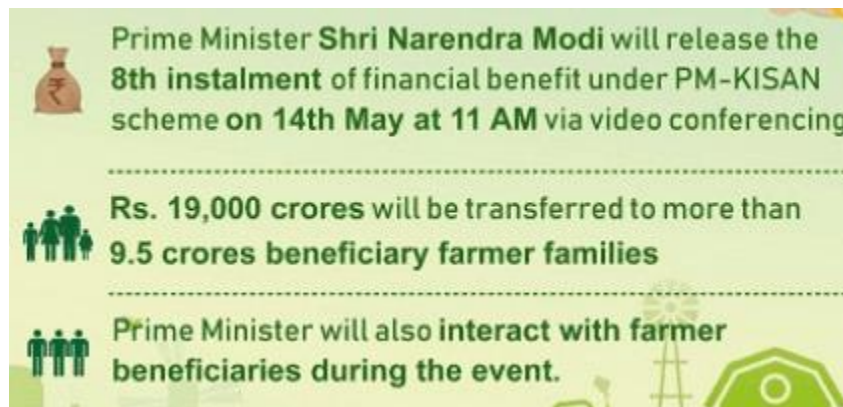
## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd based in Bagnan, West Bengal.
  - RBI said it cancelled the licence as United Co-operative Bank did not have adequate capital and earning prospects.

## NATIONAL

### 8th instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi

- ❖ Recently the eighth instalment of Prime Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi was released.
- ❖ The Government of India transfers Rs 6,000 to the account of small and marginal farmers.
- ❖ These funds are transferred in three instalments.
- ❖ The first instalment of Rs 2,000 is made between April and June.
- ❖ The second Instalment is made between August and November.
- ❖ The third instalment is made between December and March.
- ❖ The scheme was begun in 2018.



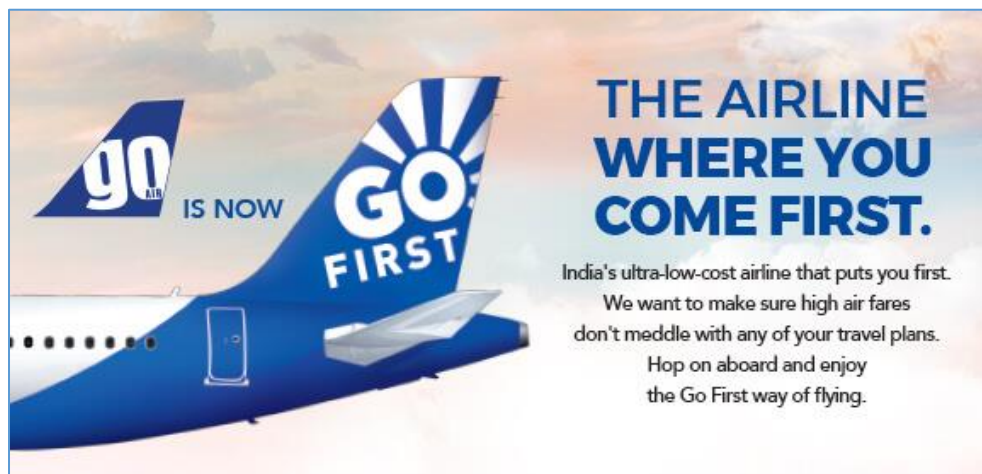
### SWAMIH Fund

- ❖ Centre's Special Window for Affordable & Mid-Income Housing (SWAMIH) has completed its first residential project.

- ❖ The residential project, Rivali Park in suburban Mumbai, is the first housing project in India to have received funding under the SWAMIH Fund.
- ❖ The SWAMIH Fund was launched by Sitharaman in November 2019.
- ❖ SWAMIH Investment Fund has been formed to complete construction of stalled, and mid-income category housing projects which are stuck due to paucity of funds.
- ❖ The Sponsor of the Fund is the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Finance.

### **Go First Airline**

- ❖ Wadia Group-owned, GoAir has rebranded itself as 'Go First'.
- ❖ Its new motto is "You Come First".
- ❖ The decision to rebrand after 15 years is part of the company's attempt to operate the carrier in an ULCC (ultra-low-cost carrier) airline model, to tide over the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **China to ban synthetic cannabinoid substances**

- ❖ China will become the world's first country to ban all synthetic cannabinoid substances.
- ❖ The move comes as China tries to curb the manufacturing & trafficking of the drug.
- ❖ Synthetic cannabinoids are highly camouflaged, as some are found in e-cigarette oil.

- ❖ The synthetic cannabinoid has become one of the most-abused new psychoactive substances.
- ❖ Cannabinoid substances pose a severe threat to society, where the abuse of such substances gives rise to incidents such as intentional injuries and impaired driving.

### **Mice Rain in Australia**

- ❖ The mice population in Australia has increased exponentially.
- ❖ The mice are causing extensive damages to the cultivated crop and stored food grains.
- ❖ This is being referred to as Mice Rain.
- ❖ Also, plague in the country has increased.

## **ECONOMY**

### **DigiGold**

- ❖ Airtel Payments Bank has launched “DigiGold”.
- ❖ It is a digital platform for customers to make investments in gold.
- ❖ This has been rolled out in partnership with SafeGold, a provider of digital gold.
- ❖ With DigiGold, Airtel Payments Bank’s saving account customers can invest in 24K gold using the Airtel Thanks app.
- ❖ Customers can also gift DigiGold to their family and friends, who have a savings account with Airtel Payments Bank.





## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### **Tianwen 1 - Mars**

- ❖ The Chinese Spacecraft Tianwen 1 landed on Mars successfully.
- ❖ It was launched in July 2020 on a Long March 5 rocket.
- ❖ Tianwen 1 has been orbiting Mars for three months now.
- ❖ The lander that carried the Zhurong rover touched down the Martian surface successfully.
- ❖ It landed in the Utopia Planitia region.

## STATES

### **COVAX facility - Punjab**

- ❖ The Punjab Government recently announced that it is to join COVAX facility in order to increase its COVID-19 supplies.
- ❖ The COVAX facility has so far been operating only at the level of nations.
- ❖ The facility works to prevent vaccine nationalism.
- ❖ It aims to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines reach both low-income level and high-income level countries.
- ❖ It is not even clear if a State can join the facility.

### **Black fungus - Haryana**

- ❖ Haryana Health Minister Anil Vij said that black fungus has been declared a notified disease in the state.
- ❖ If any cases of this disease are found, the doctors will have to report them to the concerned chief medical officer.
- ❖ Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases.
- ❖ It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.

### **Black fungus**

- ❖ Covid-19 has triggered Mucormycosis or black fungus in some patients.
- ❖ Mucormycosis is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucoromycetes which exist in the environment.
- ❖ Early detection can prevent loss of eyesight, nose or jaw, and 50% mortality in cases where it affects the brain.



- ❖ It mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **Jacinda Ardern**

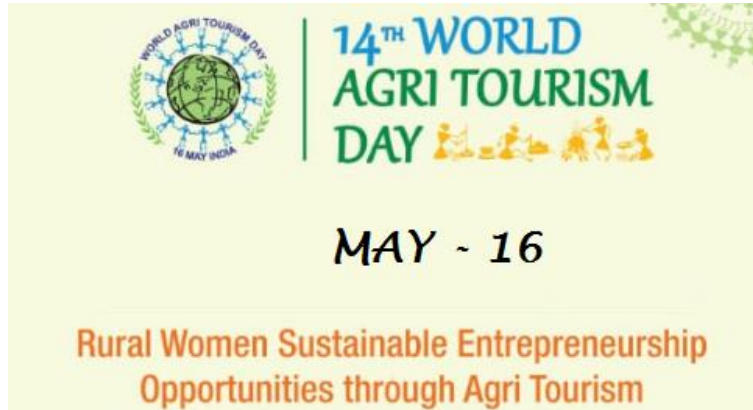
- ❖ New Zealand Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern has topped the World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021.
- ❖ The list was released by Fortune Magazine.
- ❖ The 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list for 2021 is the eighth edition of the annual list.
- ❖ This celebrates leaders, some well-known and others who aren't so familiar, who made a difference amid the "truly unprecedented times" of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ❖ Adar Poonawalla, the chief executive officer (CEO) of Serum Institute of India (SII) is the only Indian among the top 10 names.
- ❖ He is placed in the 10th spot.



## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Agri-Tourism Day - May 16

- ❖ This year, on the fourteenth World Agri-Tourism Day, Government of Maharashtra, Agri-Tourism Development Corporation is to organise International Conference on Agri-Tourism.
- ❖ The theme for 2021 is 'Rural Women Sustainable Entrepreneurship Opportunities through Agri Tourism'.



### *Maharashtra in Agri-Tourism*

- ❖ Maharashtra is the pioneer state to develop and promote Agri-tourism in the country.
- ❖ In September 2020, Maharashtra passed Agro-Tourism policy.
- ❖ This aims to provide the tourists the pleasure of farming and also help increase farmer income.

### *Agri-Tourism*

- ❖ In Agri-Tourism the urban tourists stay in farmers home.
- ❖ During their stay they engage in farming activities, tractor ride, bullock cart ride.
- ❖ They buy fresh farm produce.
- ❖ This acts as an additional income for the farmers.

