



May - 21

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ The former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, has been elected the new president of the exile government.
 - This is the 3rd direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of Dalai lama from politics.
- ❖ Malerkotla, Punjab's only Muslim-majority town, has become the state's 23rd district.
 - It was carved out from the Sangrur district.
- ❖ China will support India's and South Africa's proposal for a temporary waiver of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement for coronavirus vaccines.
- ❖ India lost the ONGC Videsh discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf after Iran awarded a contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.
 - Iran signed a contract with Petropars Group for the development of the Field.
- ❖ The United Kingdom eased its coronavirus lockdown restrictions allowing all restaurants, hotels, theatres and museums to open soon.
 - The lockdown rules have been eased in England, Wales and most of Scotland.
- ❖ Kerala government created history by appointing a leader from a minority community as the Devaswom minister of the state.
 - Senior CPM leader K Radhakrishnan will be taking over the reins of Devaswom ministry in the new cabinet.

NATIONAL

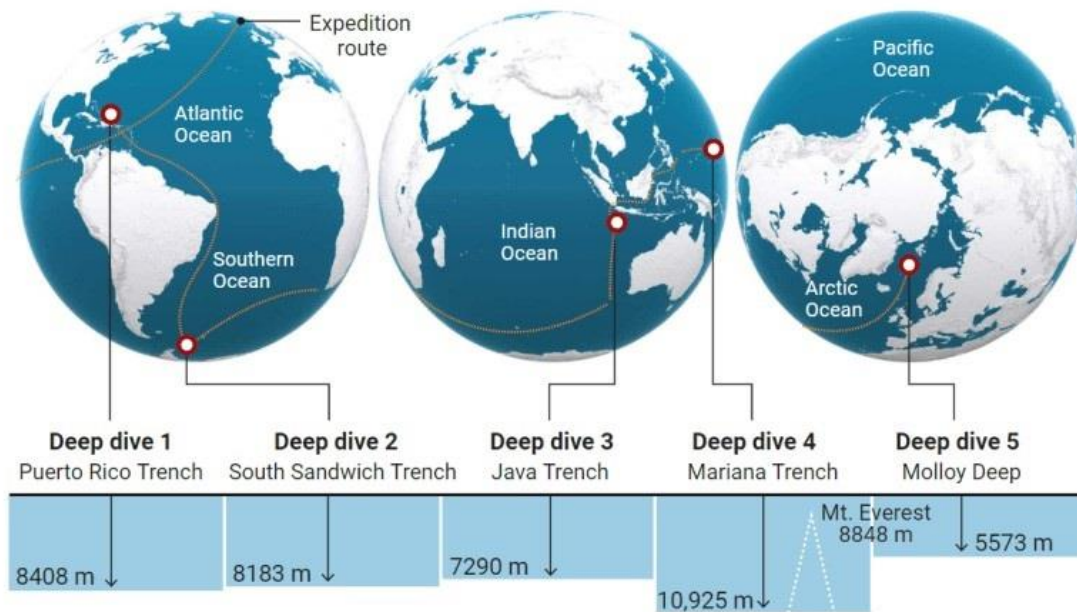
State of Healthcare in India

- ❖ The report titled 'State of Healthcare in India – Indian cities through the lens of healthcare' ranks health infrastructure in the country's most urbanised eight cities.
- ❖ Pune outranks other cities on health parameters.
- ❖ Ahmedabad scores the highest on sanitation and solid waste management and the lowest on water quality and availability

- ❖ Bengaluru has the highest number of hospital beds, as compared to other top eight cities
- ❖ Hyderabad scores low on number of hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality, sanitation and solid waste management
- ❖ Chennai topped in air quality, looming water scarcity pulls down the overall rank
- ❖ Kolkata sits at the lower end due to inadequate hospital beds and ease of living, but fared well in air quality and water availability
- ❖ Delhi NCR ranks the lowest, as inadequate number of hospital beds, poor air quality and low score on the liveability index pulls down the city's ranking.

INTERNATIONAL

Five Deeps Expedition



- ❖ The Five Deeps Expedition has measured the extreme depths of the World's 5 Oceans.
- ❖ The Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench in Pacific Ocean remains the Deepest Trench in the world.
- ❖ The 2nd Deepest Trench in the world is the Horizon Deep (10, 816 m) in the Tonga Trench, Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ American undersea explorer Victor Lance Vescovo of the US launched the Five Deeps Expedition in 2018.

- ❖ The Five Deeps Expedition was the first to reach the deepest point in each of the Earth's five oceans.

Ocean & Deepest Points

- ❖ Atlantic Ocean – Brownson Deep (8, 378 m) in Puerto Rico Trench
- ❖ Southern Ocean (Antarctic ocean) – Factorian Deep (7, 432 m) in South Sandwich Trench
- ❖ Indian Ocean – Unnamed Deep (7, 187 m) in Java Trench
- ❖ Pacific Ocean – Challenger Deep (10, 924 m) in Mariana Trench (deepest trench in the world).
- ❖ Arctic Ocean – Molloy Hole (5, 551 m)

US shares 80 million vaccine doses

- ❖ The US President announced that the US will be sharing 80 million vaccine doses globally over the next six weeks.
- ❖ The 80 million doses pledged by the US will include,
 - 20 million doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson as well as AstraZeneca Vaccine.
 - 60 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Island of Sulawesi

- ❖ A new study revealed that the oldest-known hand stencil drawing is degenerating at an 'alarming rate' due to climate change.
- ❖ The island of Sulawesi in Indonesia consists of a cave art that dates back more than 45,000 years.
- ❖ The ancient cave paintings drawn in red and mulberry pigments is considered the earliest known narrative scene in prehistoric art.



Johnson and Johnson vaccine - Biological E

- ❖ Biological E (Hyderabad based) is to produce Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine along with its own vaccine.
- ❖ This is to boost the overall vaccine production of the country.
- ❖ United States International Development Finance Corporation is to assist the Biological E.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Undersea cable network

- ❖ Telecom operator Reliance Jio is constructing the largest international submarine cable system centred on India.
- ❖ It is partnered with global partners and submarine cable supplier Subcom to cater to increased data demand.
- ❖ The two submarine cable systems which the company plans to deploy will connect India with Asia Pacific markets (Singapore, Thailand & Malaysia) and others with Italy & Africa.

ENVIRONMENT

Eco-friendly electric cremation system



- ❖ IIT Ropar has developed a portable eco-friendly electric cremation system.
- ❖ It is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation.
- ❖ It is based on wick-stove technology.

- ❖ The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

International Invincible Gold Medal

- ❖ International Invincible Gold Medal of this year has been conferred on Union Education Minister Dr Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.
- ❖ He has been recognised for his extraordinary commitment and outstanding service to humanity through his writings, social and illustrious public life.
- ❖ This honour will be given by the worldwide Maharishi Organization & its universities.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Museum Day - May 18

- ❖ International Museum Day is observed on May 18 every year to raise awareness among people about the museums.
- ❖ Museums are an important means of cultural exchange and the development of mutual understanding, cooperation, and peace among people.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2021 is “The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine.”



MISCELLANEOUS

Snow Leopard habitats



- ❖ The World Wildlife Fund recently claimed that more than 70% of snow Leopard habitats are unexplored.
- ❖ This was according to its report “A spatially explicit review of the state of knowledge in the snow leopard range”.
- ❖ Most of the snow leopard researches have been conducted by Nepal, India and China followed by Mongolia and Pakistan.
- ❖ There could be only four thousand snow leopards left in the world.
- ❖ They are facing continuous threats due to increased habitat loss and degradation, conflict with communities and poaching.
- ❖ In India, snow leopards are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Government is running Project Snow Leopard since 2009.

