

November - 29

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bangladesh's first COVID-19 vaccine Bangavax has received approval from the Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) for human trials.
 - Bangavax was previously known as Bancovid.
- ❖ The 5th East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation was held in Kolkata.
 - India organized the event in partnership with Australia.
- ❖ Former Sri Lanka captain Mr Ranjan Madugalle became the first match referee to officiate in 200 Tests.
 - This feat was achieved during officiating the Test match between Sri Lanka and West Indies in Galle.
- ❖ The External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar led the Indian delegations at the 20th Meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG).
 - The meeting was held in Nur-Sultan in virtual format under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan.

NATIONAL

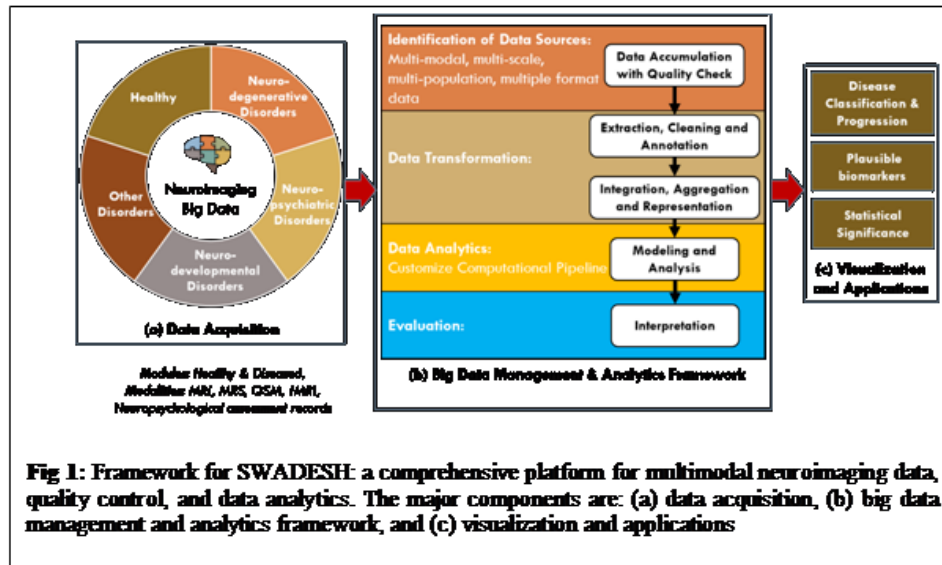
Nasal spray for COVID-19



- ❖ ITC is developing a nasal spray for COVID-19 prevention for which it has initiated clinical trials.

- ❖ It is developed by scientists at ITC Life Sciences and Technology Centre (LSTC), Bengaluru.
- ❖ The company plans to market the nasal spray under the Savlon brand once it gets all the requisite regulatory approvals.

Project SWADESH



- ❖ The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated Project SWADESH.
- ❖ The project SWADESH is a first of its kind large-scale multimodal neuroimaging database designed specifically for the Indian population.
- ❖ The unique brain initiative has been developed by the DBT-National Brain Research Centre (DBT-NBRC), Gurgaon, Haryana.

5 million barrels of crude oil to be released

- ❖ For the first time ever, India plans to release about 5 million barrels of crude oil from its Strategic Petroleum Reserves.
- ❖ This is 'in parallel and in consultation with' the US, China, Japan and South Korea to bring down global crude oil prices.
- ❖ India stores about 38 million barrels of crude oil in underground caverns at three locations on the east and west coast.
- ❖ The 5 million barrels of crude oil will be released to state-run refiners Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) in Vishakhapatnam and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL) in Mangaluru.

Sagar Shakti Exercise

- ❖ The Sagar Shakti Exercise was held in the creek sector of the Kutch peninsula.
- ❖ It was a four-day mega military exercise.
- ❖ During the exercise, the capability and readiness of India to confront any multidimensional security threat were elaborately tested.

INTERNATIONAL

2021 Global Nutrition Report

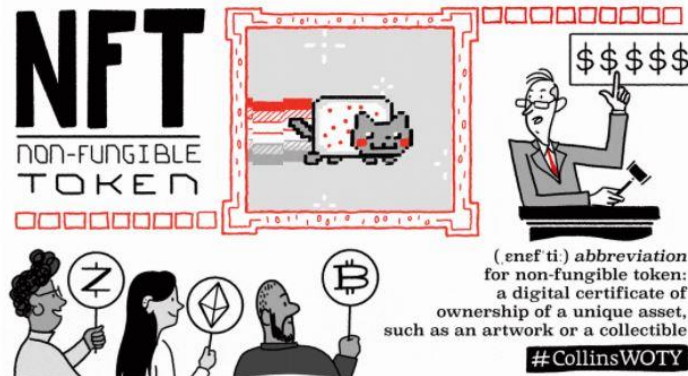
Maternal, infant and young child nutrition targets for 2025		Global non-communicable disease targets for 2025 (diet-related)	
TARGET 1 Under-5 stunting	TARGET: 40% reduction in the number of children under 5 who are stunted DEFINITION: Children aged 0–59 months who are more than 2 standard deviations (SD) below the median height-for-age of the WHO Child Growth Standards	TARGET 4 Salt intake	TARGET: 30% relative reduction in the mean population intake of salt/sodium by 2025 DEFINITION: Mean population recommended intake of salt is 5g/day Mean population recommended intake of sodium is 2g/day
TARGET 2 Anaemia	TARGET: 50% reduction of anaemia in women of reproductive age DEFINITION: Prevalence of anaemia is (1) percentage of pregnant women whose haemoglobin level is less than 110 g/L at sea level or (2) percentage of non-pregnant women whose haemoglobin level is less than 120 g/L at sea level	TARGET 6 Adult raised blood pressure	TARGET: 25% relative reduction in the prevalence of raised blood pressure or contain the prevalence of raised blood pressure, according to national circumstances DEFINITION: Raised blood pressure is defined as blood pressure, systolic and/or diastolic blood pressure $\geq 140/90$ mmHg
TARGET 3 Low birth weight	TARGET: 30% reduction in low birth weight DEFINITION: Infants born in each population and over a given period who weigh less than 2.5kg	TARGET 7 Adult obesity	TARGET: Halt the rise in obesity and diabetes DEFINITION: Adult obesity: BMI ≥ 30 kg/m ² Adult diabetes: Diabetes is defined as fasting glucose ≥ 7.0 mmol/L, on medication for raised blood glucose or with a history of diagnosis of diabetes
TARGET 4 Under-5 overweight	TARGET: No increase in childhood overweight DEFINITION: Children aged 0–59 months who are more than 2 SD above the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards	TARGET 5 Exclusive breastfeeding	
TARGET 5 Exclusive breastfeeding	TARGET: Increase the rate of exclusive breastfeeding in the first 6 months to at least 50% DEFINITION: Infants 0–5 months of age who are fed exclusively with breast milk	TARGET 6 Under-5 wasting	
TARGET 6 Under-5 wasting	TARGET: Reduce and maintain childhood wasting to less than 5% DEFINITION: Children aged 0–59 months who are more than 2 SD below the median weight-for-height of the WHO Child Growth Standards		

- ❖ This report estimates that about half of the global population is either underweight, overweight, or obese.
- ❖ The Global Nutrition Report is an independent survey conducted annually since 2013.
- ❖ The data show that a quarter of all deaths among adults are attributable to poor diet.
- ❖ The data also tells that the world is not on track to meet five out of six global nutrition targets set by the World Health Organization.

- ❖ Our eating habits are doing tremendous damage to the environment as well, according to the report.
- ❖ Food production currently generates more than a third of all greenhouse gas emissions globally.
- ❖ This report said that one serving of red meat is responsible for approximately 100 times the emissions of a serving of plant-based food.
- ❖ But the consumption of red meat is on the rise.

Collins Dictionary names 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021

- ❖ Collins Dictionary has named the term 'NFT' as the Word of the Year 2021.
- ❖ NFT is the acronym for “non-fungible token.”
- ❖ As per Collins Dictionary, NFT is defined as “a unique digital certificate, registered in a blockchain, that is used to record the ownership of an asset such as an artwork or a collectible.”
- ❖ Collins English Dictionary is published by HarperCollins in Glasgow, Scotland.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Discovery of stars

- ❖ Astronomers from the Pune-based National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA) have discovered eight stars.
- ❖ They belong to a rare class called Main-sequence Radio Pulse emitters or MRPs.
- ❖ MRPs were discovered using 'Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT)' located in Pune.
- ❖ The team had also discovered three more similar stars in the past using Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope (GMRT).

- ❖ Thus, there are 15 known MRPs so far.
- ❖ 11 MRPs were discovered with GMRT.
- ❖ Eight of MRPs were discovered in 2021 alone.

Oxygen in Regolith

- ❖ The Moon's top layer of rocks, known as Regolith, has enough oxygen to sustain 8 billion people of Earth for nearly 100,000 years.
- ❖ This is according to the meteorite information report of Washington University in St. Louis.
- ❖ The report stated that usable oxygen can be extracted from the Regolith which can eventually be used to support human life.

STATES

Rosenbauer firefighting simulator

- ❖ The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru has commissioned a tactical simulator from Austria-based company Rosenbauer International.
- ❖ It has become the first airport in South Asia to commission this.
- ❖ This is to strengthen its firefighting capabilities.



Bengaluru Tech Summit

- ❖ The Vice President Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the 24th edition of the Bengaluru Tech Summit.
- ❖ Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison virtually attended the summit.

- ❖ He announced that Australia will soon establish a consulate-general in Bengaluru.



Meghalaya and World Food Program

- ❖ In a first in the northeast region, the Meghalaya government has signed an MoU with the United Nations World Food Programme.
- ❖ This is to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system in the state.
- ❖ The partnership will help the WFP authorities and the state government work together towards Sustainable Development Goal two - Zero Hunger.
- ❖ The MoU was signed at a programme organised by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumers Affairs Department as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsava".

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Organ Donation Day - November 27

- ❖ In India, the 'National Organ Donation Day' is observed every year for the past 10 years.
- ❖ The day aims to promote awareness and recognize the selfless contribution made by deceased donors to healthcare and mankind re-instil our faith in humanity.
- ❖ 2021 marks the 12th National Organ Donation Day.

- ❖ It is organized by the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organization under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.



MISCELLANEOUS

The State of Food and Agriculture 2021 report



- ❖ It presents country-level indicators of the resilience of agri-food systems.
- ❖ The indicators measure the robustness of primary production and food availability, as well as physical and economic access to food.



- ❖ The report analyses the vulnerabilities of food supply chains and how rural households cope with risks and shocks.

