

April – 07

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Walmart-owned ecommerce company Flipkart is developing a video-based know-your-customer (KYC) solution to offer instant credit to users purchasing from its platform.
- ❖ The Indian Navy and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have signed a MoU to undertake joint research and development of advanced technologies for the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Kodaikanal Hill Garlic has received Geographical Indication Tag. Unique medicinal properties, taste and flavour of the Hill garlic enabled the GI recognition.

NATIONAL

FAME 2

- ❖ FAME 2 (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme excludes electric vehicles run on lead-acid batteries and allows subsidy only for vehicles run on advanced batteries.
- ❖ The second phase of FAME scheme or FAME 2 is implemented from April 1, 2019 and it extends to March 31, 2022.



- ❖ FAME India was started in 2015 as a part of the National Electric Mobility Mission Plan.



- ❖ The Main objective of the scheme is to boost electric mobility and increase the number of electric vehicles in commercial fleets by providing subsidies.
- ❖ FAME focuses on 4 areas i.e. Technology development, Demand Creation, Pilot Projects and Charging Infrastructure.

INTERNATIONAL

INS Kolkata and INS Shakthi

- ❖ Two Indian naval ships, INS 'Kolkata' and 'Shakti', would take part in a function to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), at Quingdao, China.



- ❖ INS Kolkata is the lead ship of the Kolkata-class stealth guided-missile destroyer of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ It's lists of armaments reportedly include Brahmos supersonic anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles.
- ❖ INS Shakti is a tanker and supply ship.

Maldives

- ❖ The exiled former leader of the Maldives, President Mohamed Nasheed has won in the recently concluded national elections in Maldives.
- ❖ The result was a landslide victory for the Maldivian Democratic Party, which won over two-thirds of seats in the People's Majlis.



- ❖ People's Majilis is the Unicameral legislative body of Maldives.

ECONOMY

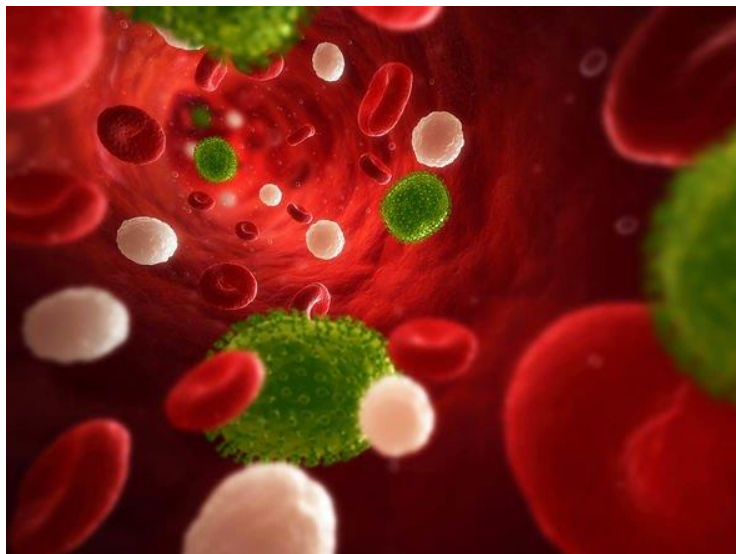
External Benchmarking

- ❖ The RBI has shelved indefinitely its proposal to get commercial banks to link their lending rates to an external benchmark like the repo rate or the government treasury bill rate.
- ❖ External benchmarking means commercial banks linking the interest rates charged by them on different categories of loans to an external interest rate.
- ❖ Benchmarking of a bank's Interest rate with external rates like repo rate is beneficial for customers of the banks.
- ❖ State Bank of India is the only bank that has linked its deposits rate to repo rate.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Superbug Fungus

- ❖ Candida auris, a drug resistant superbug fungus has spread rapidly and raised alarm in the medical community.
- ❖ Discovered in 2009 in Japan, the fungus has spread through at least 15 countries with deadly consequences.



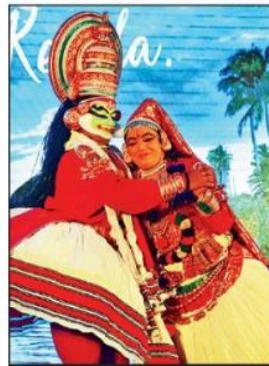
- ❖ C. auris is not destroyed by major antifungal medications.
- ❖ The germ preys on people with weakened immune systems.
- ❖ Rampant use of fungicides and azole pesticides on crops are suspected to have caused the rise of C.auris.

STATES

Kerala Tourism

- ❖ Kerala Tourism has tied up with Manchester City in UK for a long-term cultural exchange programme.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE



- Project to focus on state's heritage-preserving and community-centred Responsible Tourism (RT) initiatives
- Three from the state have been invited to participate in the Manchester

Day celebrations

- State's RT activities attracted Manchester
- RT got Golden Award at the World Travel Market at London earlier this year

- ❖ The agreement will focus on the state's heritage-preserving and community-centred Responsible Tourism (RT) initiatives.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS AND EVENTS

ESPN Multi Sports Award

- ❖ Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu and star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra were named as female and male Sportsperson of the Year in the ESPN India Multi sports awards for their achievement in 2018.
- ❖ Jaspal Rana, coach of the Indian shooting Team claimed "Coach of the Year Award" and 2012 Olympic Bronze medallist Saina Nehwal won the award for best "Comeback of the Year".



SPORTS

Malaysian Open

- ❖ Chinese badminton ace Lin Dan clinched the Malaysia Open winning against countryman Chen Long.



- ❖ The women's singles saw Taiwanese top seed Tai Tzu Ying clinch her third consecutive Malaysia Open title after a triumph over Japan's Akane Yamaguchi.

Augusta Masters

- ❖ American Jennifer Kupcho became the first woman to capture a championship at Augusta Masters Golf Tournament winning against Mexico's Maria Fassi.
- ❖ Augusta Masters is one of the four major championships in professional golf.
- ❖ It was started in 1934 by Bobby Jones and it is always held at the same location, Augusta National Golf Club, Georgia, America.
- ❖ The historically Male-only tournament was opened to Woman golfers for the first time in 2019.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Maritime Day

- ❖ National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5 of every year.
- ❖ The day aims to spread awareness in supporting safe and environmentally sound commerce between the continents across the world.



- ❖ The theme of 2019 celebrations are "Indian Ocean-An Ocean of opportunity".
- ❖ The day was first celebrated on April 5, 1964.
- ❖ Indian shipping was first started on April 5, 1919 when SS Loyalty, the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company travelled from Mumbai to London.
- ❖ In Tamilnadu, VO Chidambaram registered his Swadeshi Shipping Company in October 1906. SS Galia was its first ship.

World Health Day

- ❖ Every year, the World Health Day is celebrated on April 7 as a global health awareness day under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization.
- ❖ WHO was created in April 7, 1948.
- ❖ This year (2019) marks the end of the World Health Organization's 70th-anniversary celebrations.
- ❖ The theme of this year's World Health Day 2019 is "Health for All".
- ❖ India's work towards health coverage for all includes introduction of Ayushman Bharat scheme.
- ❖ This scheme has been introduced to provide a family cover of Rs. 5 lacs to socio-economically weaker sections of the society.
- ❖ All the UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by 2030, as a part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Battle of Kohima

- ❖ India observed the 75th Anniversary of Battle of Kohima on April 4.
- ❖ Battle of Kohima is considered as the turning point of the U-Go offensive or Operation C mission, conducted by the Japanese in India in 1944 during the Second World War.
- ❖ The battle was fought in three stages from 4 April to 22 June 1944 around the town of Kohima in Nagaland.
- ❖ British India successfully drove the Japanese at the end of the battle.
- ❖ The battle is often referred to as the "Stalingrad of the East".



- ❖ In 2013, the British National Army Museum voted the Battle of Imphal and Kohima to be "Britain's Greatest Battle".

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