

April – 17

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Seychelles President Danny Faure delivered a speech from deep below the ocean's surface to highlight the immediate dangers of Global warming faced by island nations like Seychelles.
 - The speech was made during a visit to an ambitious British-led science expedition, 'Nekton Mission' which aims to explore the Indian Ocean depths.
- ❖ The 4th Resilient Cities Asia-Pacific 2019 (RCAP) Congress is being organised by International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and was hosted by South Delhi Municipal Corporation in New Delhi.
- ❖ According to a study on Indian Health care by U.S. based Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy (CDDEP) India has a shortage of an estimated 6,00,000 doctors and 20,00,000 nurses.
- ❖ A team of doctors from Greece and Spain have reported the birth of a baby using DNA from three people. The baby boy has inherited the genetic material from two women and a man.
- ❖ Indian Naval Ship Kozhikode was decommissioned in a ceremony held at Naval Jetty, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 13th April.
- ❖ Project Kannamma is the initiative of the Rotary Club of Madras North to provide sanitary napkins to the students.
- ❖ President Ram Nath Kovind remembered the Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh on his birth centenary.
 - Arjan Singh (15.04.19 – 16.07.19) is the first and only officer of the Indian Air Force to be promoted to the 5-star rank as Marshal of the Indian Air Force (MIAF).

TAMIL NADU

Fishing Ban

- ❖ The annual 61-day fishing ban along the Tamil Nadu coast came into effect from 15th April in view of the breeding season.
- ❖ The ban was increased from 45 days to 60 days in 2017.

- ❖ Nearly 12,000 mechanised boats in 13 districts including Ramanathapuram, Tuticorin, Nagapattinam and Cuddalore among others in the state would stay off the sea during the period.
- ❖ The ban would not apply to country boats which would continue fishing as usual.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has more than 1,076 km-long coastline and is one of the leading states in marine fish production.



NATIONAL

IMD Monsoon Forecast

- ❖ While releasing its monsoon forecast, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) expressed the projected rainfall in terms of Long Period Average (LPA), saying that it was expected to be 96% of LPA.
- ❖ 96% of LPA indicates below normal rainfall.
- ❖ For further reading please go here:
 - <https://www.tnpscthervupettagam.com/monsoon-prediction/>

NIRBHAY

- ❖ DRDO has successfully test fired sub-sonic cruise missile “Nirbhay” from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur Odisha.

- ❖ It is a Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile, which can be deployed from multiple platforms.
- ❖ Nirbhay missile has blended missile and aeronautical technologies which allows it to take off vertically like missile and cruise horizontally like an aircraft.
- ❖ It is capable of loitering and cruising at Mach 0.7 (sub-sonic) at altitude as low as 100 meters. It can carry nuclear warhead.



- ❖ A loitering missile can roam around the target area for some time, search for targets and then attack once the target is located.
- ❖ The guidance, control and navigation system of missile is configured around indigenously designed Ring Laser Gyroscope (RLG) and MEMS-based Inertial Navigation System (INS) along with GPS system.

Poll Code Violation

- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) has ordered a temporary ban on the following leaders from campaigning for poll code violations on 15th April.

Offender	Time Period
UP CM Yogi Adityanath	72 hours
Mayawati	48 hours
Union Minister Maneka Gandhi	48 hours
Azam Khan, Samajwadi Party	72 hours

- ❖ In a separate order, Election Commission of India (ECI), reprimanded Mayawati for the violation of Section 123 (corrupt practices) of the Representation of the People Act.
- ❖ If a candidate or her agent is inducing to vote or Not vote based on the grounds of race, religion, caste, community it is defined as a “corrupt practice” under Section 123.

Indo-Pacific Wing

- ❖ The Ministry of External Affairs has set up an Indo-Pacific division by merging its three earlier divisions.

DIVISION	FOCUS
QUAD DIVISION	India’s joint maritime strategy with Australia, Japan and the US
ASEAN	Issues concerning the 10 Member countries of South-East Asian grouping
IORA (INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION)	2 dozen odd Indian Ocean Littoral countries with the marked exception of Pakistan and China.

- ❖ This is in sync with the Indo-Pacific policy articulated by PM Narendra Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018.



- ❖ India considers the maritime arc from the Straits of Hormuz to the Straits of Malacca as its zone of influence.
- ❖ By this move India aims to extend its influence into the Western Pacific region.

- ❖ The US has also recently renamed its Pacific Command to the “Indo-Pacific Command” as it seeks to give teeth to its Indo-Pacific policy.

INTERNATIONAL

Notre Dame Fire

- ❖ While undergoing renovation and restoration, Notre-Dame de Paris (meaning "Our Lady of Paris") cathedral caught fire and sustained significant damage.
- ❖ Damages included the collapse of the entire roof and the main spire.
- ❖ The cathedral is considered to be one of the finest examples of French Gothic architecture.
- ❖ Its construction was begun in 1160 under Bishop Maurice de Sully and was largely completed by 1260, though it was modified frequently in the ensuing centuries.
- ❖ The cathedral was the site of the Coronation of “Napoleon the Great” as Emperor of France.

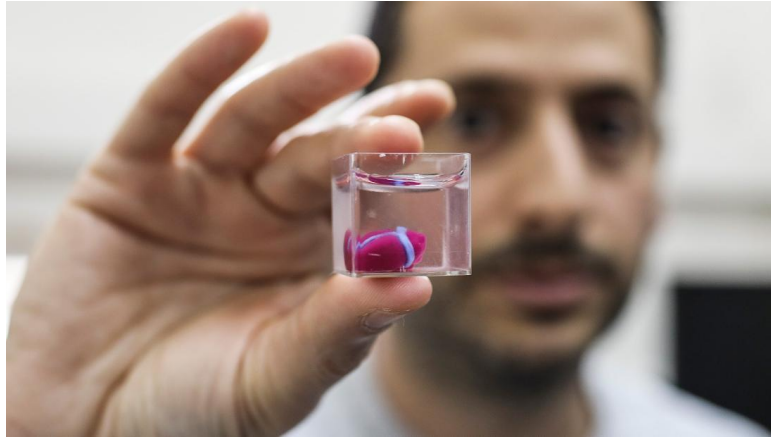


- ❖ Victor Hugo’s famous novel ‘The Hunchback of Notre-Dame’ was written to spread awareness about conserving the cathedral’s unique architecture in 1831.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

3D Printed Heart

- ❖ Scientists in Israel created a 3D print of a heart with human tissue and vessels which is being hailed as a first and a “major medical breakthrough”.



- ❖ To print a human heart the scientists used a “personalized hydrogel” extracted from fatty tissues of human test subjects and prepared the “bioinks”.
- ❖ This is the first time anyone has successfully engineered and printed an entire heart replete with cells, blood vessels, ventricles and chambers.

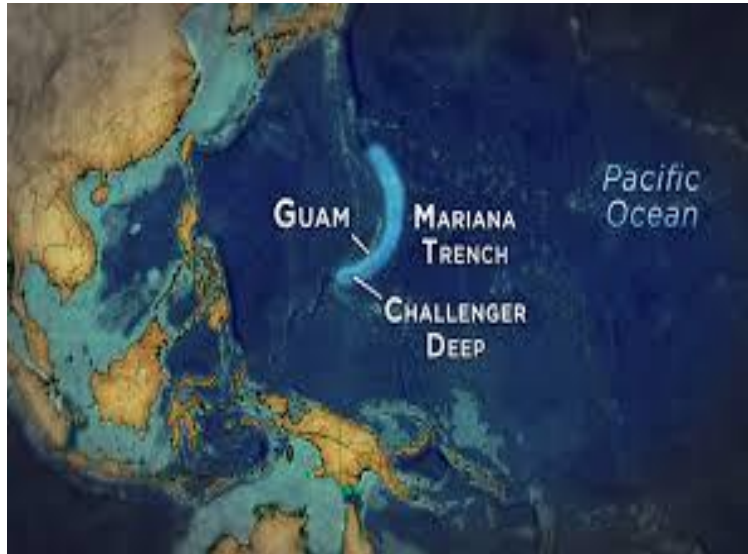
Beneficial Bacteria

- ❖ Scientists have discovered a unique oil eating bacterium in the Mariana Trench.
- ❖ This hydrocarbon degrading bacteria eats compounds similar to those in oil.
- ❖ These bacteria can help in finding sustainable ways to clean up oil spills.



Mariana Trench

- ❖ It is located in the western Pacific Ocean approximately 200 km east of the Mariana Islands.
- ❖ It has the deepest natural trench in the world known as the Challenger Deep (10,994 metres).



Anti-Vaccine Campaign

- ❖ According to the World Health Organization (WHO) analysis, Measles cases worldwide rose by 300% during the first three months of 2019 compared with the same period last year.
- ❖ The exponential rise in the disease is attributed to growing concerns over the impact of anti-vaccination campaigns, particularly spread through social media.
- ❖ The criteria to declare an area or a particular geography measles free is:

Criteria	Status
Absence of endemic measles virus transmission in a region for more than 12 months	ELIMINATED
Transmission is sustained continuously for more than a year.	NOT ELIMINATED



IMPORTANT DAYS

Himachal Pradesh Day

- ❖ The Himalayan-state Himachal Pradesh celebrated 72nd Himachal Day on 15th April.
 - ❖ Himachal Day is celebrated to commemorate its creation on April 15, 1948.
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