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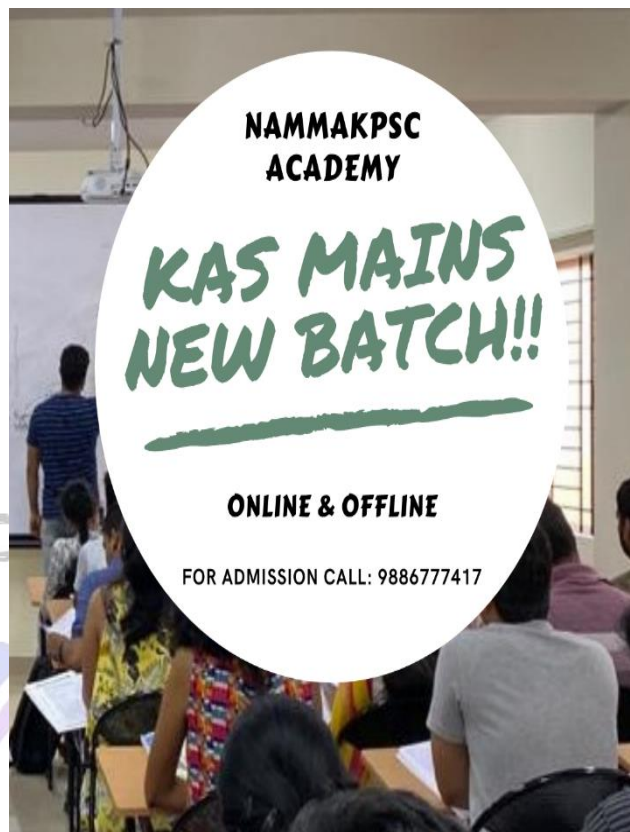
BANGALORE IAS ACADEMY

MAY HEADLINES



KARNATAKA ISSUES

- Integrated Command and Control Centre set up by Belagavi Smart City Limited to be used as COVID war room. The ICCCs set up under the Smart Cities Mission are meant to coordinate traffic management, surveillance, utilities and grievance redressal.
- The High Court of Karnataka has directed the State government to implement the 'Shuchi' scheme. It is A menstrual hygiene project of distributing sanitary napkins to adolescent girls
- Janadhvani radio station functioning around H.D. Kote and Saragur towns, Is creating public awareness on the vaccination and removing vaccine hesitancy among people. Jana Dhvani has helped vaccinate about 7,000 people.
- An Oxygen Concentrator is a device that takes in air and separates the oxygen and delivers it into a person via a nasal cannula, which is around 95% pure. Karnataka government imported 500 oxygen concentrators from China to tackle pandemic
- The Karnataka Legislators' Local Area Development (KLLAD) fund will be utilised to ramp up rural medical infrastructure to handle pandemic.
- Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB), a regional rural bank headquartered in Dharwad, has bagged five awards (Lead to Leap, APY Makers of Excellence, Game Changers, Leadership Capital and Amazing Achievers) under various campaigns held for enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY) from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Mucormycosis (previously called zygomycosis) is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes. These molds live throughout the environment, particularly soil. It is also called as black fungus. Black fungus cases are raising in covid recovered patients of Karnataka
- In the light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the State government on Wednesday waived the mandatory biometric identification for beneficiaries of the public



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

distribution system (PDS). Also, the state government has decided to give grains instead of food under Mid-Day Meal scheme.

- Prime Minister greeted the people of India on the eve of Basava Jayanti on 14 May 2021. Basava Jayanti is an annual event celebrated in the honour of the birth of Vishwaguru Basaveshwara, the 12th century philosopher and social reformer who gave a unique spiritual path to mankind.
- Microbiologist Dr Gagandeep Kang has been appointed as chief advisor for developing vaccination protocols in Karnataka and Dr Devi Prasad Shetty has been appointed as chairman of technical advisory team for COVID-19 3rd wave preparedness .
- Amid the ongoing ICU bed shortage, a percentage of Covid-19 sufferers are finding themselves out on the lurch after their oxygen saturation levels dropped without warning. This has become the most reason for covid-19 Bangalore. In the case of Happy Hypoxia, there is something that prevents the respiratory system from understanding that oxygen content in the blood is declining, Dr Mehta added. Consequently, in the initial stages of sickness, the patient appears to be outwardly fine and "happy."
- An telemedicine initiative dedicated to creating awareness on early diagnosis and treatment called "GRAMINA JANARA CORONA SEVA PADE" was started by Karnataka State Sugarcane Cultivators Association to help the rural people during the pandemic .
- Karnataka to declare BLACK FUNGUS as notifiable disease. A notifiable disease is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. The collation of information allows the authorities to monitor the disease, and provides early warning of possible outbreaks.
- The High Court of Karnataka has upheld the order of the Department of Mines and Geology prohibiting sand extraction from rivers during rainy season. It observed that the ban was incorporated into the law for protecting the environment.



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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Udupi-Kasargod beaches damaged by TAUKTAE were restored now. The two beaches were among eight in the country which bagged the coveted eco-label 'Blue Flag' from the International Agency Foundation For Environment Education, Denmark, last year, in first phase.
- Bangalore-based start-up, 'PathShodh Healthcare' has developed a novel, point-of-care Electrochemical ELISA test that enables fast and accurate estimation of total antibody concentration of COVID 19 in clinical samples.
- Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is looking to install trash booms in drains of Bengaluru. Trash Booms and Debris Booms are floating barriers design to block or exclude floating trash and debris on the water bodies.
- Breathe Applied Sciences, a Bangalore based start-up has received the National Award 2021 from Technology Development Board (TDB) for developing a commercial solution for conversion of CO2 to chemicals and fuels.
- Residents of Bengaluru, recently witnessed a Solar Halo. Halo is the name for a family of optical phenomena produced by light (typically from the Sun or Moon) interacting with ice crystals suspended in the atmosphere.
- Bengaluru on Tuesday exported 10.2 metric tonnes of gumless jackfruit powder and jackfruit cubes as part of the gluten-free movement to Germany. Sourced from various parts of Karnataka to meet the growing demand for vegan products in European countries, the organic jackfruits were processed at the pack house of the Bengaluru-based Phalada Agro Research Foundation.
- A miniature sculpture of Lord Buddha was discovered at Alembi in 76 Badagabettu village, a local suburb in Udupi. The sculpture's height is 9 cm and its width is about 2 cm. It was made out of soft sandstone and looks like a replica of Saranath Buddha.
- The State government has constituted a State-level special task force under the chairmanship of Additional Chief Secretary to the government for preparing a comprehensive action plan for elimination of single-use plastics (SUP) and implementation of Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016, and implementing it in mission mode
- The CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru has come up with an ozone-based disinfection system which can also be used for combating transmission of droplet infections like COVID-19.
- A committee was set up by National Green Tribunal (NGT) to submit report on alleged violation of norms in construction of a reservoir across Cauvery river at

Mekedatu in Karnataka. Karnataka government will question this move in Supreme court.

- Noted freedom fighter and centenarian H S Doreswamy passed away
- The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday directed the State government to ensure that the present status of Hesarghatta Grasslands in Bengaluru is not altered in any manner until further orders. The petitioner had questioned the legality of the decision taken by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife (KSBWL) in its 15th meeting on January 19, 2021 to reject the proposal to declare Hesarghatta Grasslands comprising of 5,010 acres as 'Greater Hesarghatta Grasslands Conserve Reserve'.
- Karnataka government launched a sewage surveillance project in Bengaluru to track the emergence and resolution of COVID-19 clusters. The first such pan-city project in Asia, it will be spearheaded by COVIDactionCollab (CAC), a nationwide network of over 300 organisations working on COVID-19 relief and recovery, and supported by Skoll Foundation and United States Agency for International Development (USAID).
- The State Government of Karnataka has announced a special scheme called BALASEVA for children who have lost their parents from Corona. A amount of 3500 will be given
- Multi-system inflammatory syndrome is increasing in children of Karnataka. Organs such as the heart, lungs, blood vessels, kidneys, digestive system, brain, skin or eyes — become severely inflamed. Signs and symptoms depend on which areas of the body are affected.

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NATIONAL ISSUES

- Oxygen-related items and medicines coming from the U.S. will be distributed by the Indian Red Cross Society. It is a voluntary humanitarian organization providing relief in times of disasters/emergencies and promoting health and care for vulnerable people and communities. It was established in 1920 under the Indian Red Cross Society Act.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee lost in Nandigram. However, she can still take over as the Chief Minister of the State. This is permitted under Article 164 (4).
- Leader of opposition, Lok sabha has asked permission of Lok sabha speaker for a PAC meeting to review vaccination policy. Public Accounts Committee is a standing Parliamentary Committee that examines the manners and results of spending the public funds.
- Article 311 speaks about the removal or reduction in rank of person employed under Government of India in civil capacities. It acts as a safeguard for civil servants. It gives them chances to respond to charges filed against them. A police officer was removed from the office in Maharashtra under the Article.
- Sikkim Statehood Day is celebrated every year on May 16. Sikkim was a country with a king known as a Chogyal or dharma king, who ruled till 16 May 1975 was an independent country ruled by the monarchs.
- Punjab Chief Minister declared Malerkotla as the 23rd district of the state on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The power to create new districts or alter or abolish existing districts rests with the State governments. This can either be done through an executive order or by passing a law in the State Assembly.
- West Bengal assembly approved the setting up of a Legislative Council in the state. West Bengal's Legislative Council was abolished 50 years ago by a coalition government of Left parties. Under Article 169 of the constitution, "Parliament may by law create or abolish the second chamber in a state if the Legislative Assembly of that state passes a resolution to that effect by a special majority"
- 12 Annual day of the commission was celebrated. The CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002, on 20th May , 2009, as a statutory body, on the recommendations of Raghavan committee, to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition



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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Subodh Kumar Jaiswal appointed as new CBI Director.
- Residents of Lakshadweep have been protesting against some new regulations that have been introduced by their new administrator Praful Khoda Patel. The citizens are even saying that the administrator is not working for the island.
- The Supreme Court's e-committee, headed by Justice D Y Chandrachud, is tasked with integrating digital technologies in courts to enhance judicial productivity and efficiency.
- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, appointed "Guardian Ministers" in state, to look after balanced, speedy and sustainable developments in all 34 districts of state.
- Recently, Uttarakhand high court has criticized state government for neglecting and forcing families of Van Gujjars nomadic tribe to survive in conditions below animal's existence.
- There has been increase in demand for jobs under MNREGA due to migration of workers from lockdown States to native States.
- Framework for implementation of the SVAMITVA Scheme and Coffee Table Book (CTB) to mark the nationwide roll-out of the SVAMITVA Scheme was recently released. SVAMITVA is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj aims to provide property rights to the residents of rural inhabited areas in India by using Drone survey and CORS Networks which provides mapping accuracy of 5 cms.
- The Chief Minister of Odisha Naveen Patnaik recently declared working journalists of the State of Odisha as the frontline COVID-19

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warriors. This announcement was made under the Gopabandhu Sambadika Swasthya Bima Yojana. Launched in 2018, it is a health insurance scheme that was introduced for the journalists by the Odisha state government. The scheme provides two lakh rupees of health insurance cover to all the working journalists of the state.

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment recently notified Section 142 of the Social Security Code, 2020, making it mandatory of collecting Aadhaar details from the beneficiaries of various social security schemes. This includes migrant workers as well. It says that Aadhaar details are compulsory for an employee or unorganised person or any other person to get benefits of government schemes. The benefits can be in kind of cash for medical sickness, availing services of career centre, maternity benefits, receiving payment as insured person, etc.
- UDID is Unique ID for Persons with Disabilities Project. The project aims to provide a Universal ID And disability certificates for persons with disabilities. It is implemented since 2016 implemented by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice. Recently it was ordered by government, the ID is to be issued online only.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the 8th instalment of financial benefit under the scheme. Under the PM-KISAN scheme, a financial benefit of Rs. 6000/- per year is provided to the eligible beneficiary farmer families, payable in three equal 4-monthly instalments of Rs.2000/- each. The fund is transferred directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.
- The State government has helped resume the TruJet airline services between Chennai, Kadapa and Vijayawada airports by providing the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) of around ₹20 crore for one more year as an extension to the Centre's Regional Connectivity Scheme-UDAN. Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN) was launched as a regional connectivity scheme under the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2016. The objective of the scheme is to create affordable yet economically viable and profitable flights on regional routes so that flying becomes affordable to the common man even in small towns.

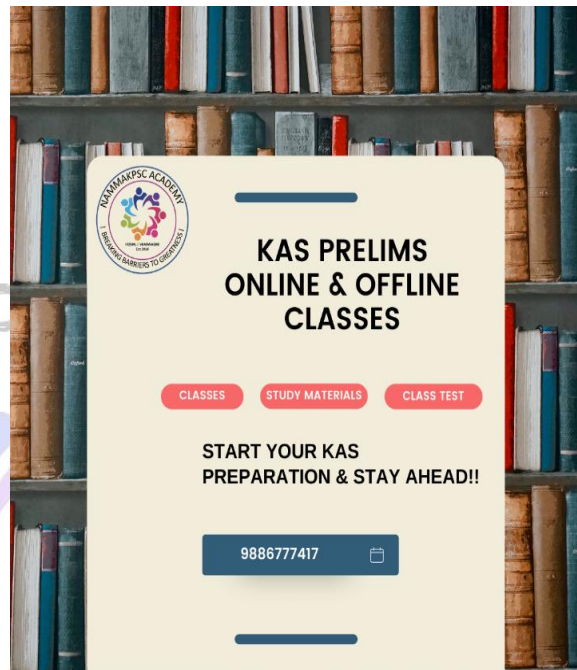
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- With nearly 55 per cent of the Covid cases in Odisha being reported from rural areas, there is growing concern in the state regarding the safety of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). A PVTG (earlier, Primitive tribal group) is a Government of India classification for tribes based on their relative physical isolation, stagnant or declining population, low levels of literacy and pre-agricultural stage of economy, such as hunting, food gathering, shifting cultivation and terrace cultivation. Of the 62 tribal groups in Odisha, 13 are recognised as PVTGs – the highest in the country.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports (MYAS) has approved an amount of Rs 2 Lakh for Karnataka's V Tejaswini Bai, who won the Arjuna Award in 2011 and was a member of the Women's Kabaddi team that won gold medals at the 2010 and 2014 Asian Games respectively. The financial assistance has been approved from the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for the Sportspersons, under the ongoing jointly collaborated initiative from the Sports Authority of India, Indian Olympic Association and the MYAS to support ex-international athletes and coaches amid ongoing Covid-19.
- Union Minister of Rural Development launched National Mobile Monitoring Software (NMMS) app and Area officer monitoring App recently. The NMMS App permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGS worksites along with geotagged photograph, which will increase citizen oversight of the programme besides potentially enabling processing payments faster. Area Officer Monitoring App facilitates them to record their findings online along with time stamped and geo-coordinate tagged photograph for all the schemes of Dept of Rural Development- Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, PMAYG, PMGSY.



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Union Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, is to set up One-Stop Centres (OSCs) in 10 missions across 9 countries. It will be set to curb the cases of violence against women. The countries are Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, UAE, Qatar, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia
- Duty Exemption for Diagnostic Kits Imports was recently provided by government to boost the testing apparatus for COVID-19 across the country. This step was taken under the extended foreign trade policy 2015 to 2020 .It provided a framework for increasing exports of goods and services as well as generation of employment and increasing value addition in the country, in keeping with the “Make in India” vision of Prime Minister. The focus of the new policy is to support both the manufacturing and services sectors, with a special emphasis on improving the ‘ease of doing business’.
- The Government of India recently allowed import of seventeen medical devices to provide relief to the COVID-19 patients. However, the importer should make mandatory declarations under Legal Metrology Rules, 2011.The rules framed to regulate pre-packaged commodities, which have to comply mandatory labelling requirement.
- The Reserve Bank of India recently opened an on-tap liquidity window of Rs 50,000 crores called as COVID LOAN BOOK. It is an account of loans provided by the banks under this new window
- The Reserve Bank of India recently joined the Network for Greening the Financial System (NGFS). The main objective of the system is to increase and accelerate green finance. It was announced during the One Planet Summit held at Paris in 2017.
- Reserve Bank of India stepped has provided liquidity infusion with measures aimed at alleviating any financing constraints for healthcare infrastructure and services, as well as small borrowers who may be facing distress due to a sudden spike in health expenditure.



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- The Reserve Bank of India recently announced that it is to conduct the first Special Long Term Repo Operation (SLTRO) of Rs 10,000 crores for Small Finance Banks. The Special Long Term Repo Operations is a tool under which RBI provides money to the banks at repo rate, which accepts the government securities as collateral for a period of one year to three years
- National Financial Reporting Authority recently brought out Database of Companies and Auditors to Identify and verify the primary data sources of audits.
- In the pandemic year, the export of rice has hit 13 M tonnes and Wheat export 2 M, a all-time high since 2014-15.
- World Agri-Tourism day was celebrated recently. In Agri-Tourism the urban tourists stay in farmers home. During their stay they engage in farming activities, tractor ride, bullock cart ride. Also, they enjoy folk songs and dances. They buy fresh farm produce. In return, the farmers greet the tourists, provide accommodation and entertain them during their stay. This acts as an additional income for the farmers. Also, it employs the local youths as tourist guides. This way the programme provides employment opportunities as well.
- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently announced that it provided Rs 1,236 crores to Assam in 2020-21 from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- The Government of India recently allowed free import of tur, moong and urad dal. All the three pulses have been put under non-restricted list. This is because their retail prices increased in the last few weeks due to low stock levels with the traders. Also, the Gol has announced that the import consignments should be cleared strictly before November 30, 2021.
- Saudi Arabia recently joined Net Zero Producers Forum, a forum formed for the oil and gas producers to discuss how to support the implementation of Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Members are Qatar, US, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Norway. India is not a member.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recently released Wholesale Price in India for the month of April 2021. The WPI for the month of April 2021 stood at 128.1. The base year in calculating WPI is fixed as 2011-12.
- A decision was taken by government of India, to increase the subsidy for DAP fertiliser from Rs. 500 per bag to Rs. 1200 per bag, which is an increase of 140%.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- In a major boost to exports of Geographical Indication (GI) certified products, a consignment of Dahanu Gholvad Sapota from Palghar district of Maharashtra was shipped to the United Kingdom. It was supported by APEDA
- Inching towards the record high seen in January, the country's foreign exchange reserves swelled by \$563 million to \$590.028 billion in the week ended May 14, according to data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The Reserve Bank of India's board approved a significantly higher-than-expected surplus transfer to the government .The RBI announced a surplus transfer of ₹99,122 crore for the 9-month period from July 2020 to March 2021.
- In a major boost to export of GI certified products, season's first consignment of Shahi Litchi from Bihar was exported to United Kingdom by air route today.The phyto-sanitary certification for exports of Shahi Litchi was issued from newly established certification facility at Patna. The fruit is being exported by Cira Enterprises and sourced from farmers in Muzaffarpur, Bihar.
- In a move that is expected to help curb tax evasion, Goods and Services Tax (GST) authorities will now be able to track real-time data of commercial vehicle (CV) movement on highways by integration of the e-way bill (EWB) system with FASTag and RFID. The integration of e-way bill, RFID/FASTag will allow live vigilance for e-way bill compliances by businesses and help prevent revenue leakage by real-time identification of cases of recycling of e-way bills or non-generation of e-way bills.

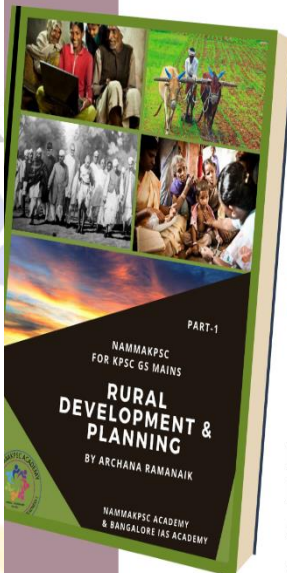
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- First phase of India's first mission mode e-governance project, MCA21 was launched recently. It is an online portal of corporate affairs ministry. Launched in 2006, the portal has made all the information related to company, accessible to stakeholders and general public.
- Security and Exchange Board of India is considering to appoint auditors in a bid to conduct forensic audits of financial statements of listed companies to strengthen its efforts towards curbing frauds.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published its annual report and highlights "asset quality of banks and their preparedness requires close monitoring for higher provisioning for upcoming quarters.
- The Char Dham Yatra is visiting four holy places in Uttarakhand. They are Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. Recently, it was cancelled due to covid.
- A species of snake recently found in TN area of Western ghats was named in honour of Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan for his contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae to accommodate wood snakes as XYLOPHIS DEEPAKI.
- Tirupati Urban Development Authority has proposed to develop a park with high-density plantation, with the larger aim of environment management and carbon dioxide mitigation, with Miyawaki technique. In this technique Random saplings are planted in close proximity, that is, at a distance of half a metre, so that the truly deserving ones not only survive but also emerge stronger
- A recent study conducted by the American Geophysical Union has found that the melting glaciers have been increasing the shift of earth axis. The rotational axis of the earth is the axis around which it rotates as it revolves around the sun.
- The Olive Ridley Turtles in 2021 are staying away from the Rushikulya river. In the Indian Ocean, majority of these turtles nest near the Gahirmatha of Odisha. The coast of Odisha is one of the largest mass nesting sites of the turtles. The Gahirmatha beach is now part of the Bhitarkanika Wildlife sanctuary.

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- Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) have discovered a new species of insectivorous mammal, a white-toothed shrew in Narcondam Island of the Andaman and Nicobar group of islands. This is the first discovery of a shrew from the volcanic Narcondam Island. Shrews are small and mouse-like mammals, and they live in sub-leaf stratum in the forests. Insects are the primary diet of these animals. With this India has 12 shrews.
- Six young girls from the fishing community in Assam have biodegradable Yoga mat from Water Hyacinth called MOORHEN at Deepor beel lake. Deepor Beel is a permanent freshwater lake in south west of Guwahati city, Assam.
- A team of researchers in Kasaragod has found Eriophyid mite, which damages amaranthus (red cheera), a common leafy vegetable cultivated all over the country. The mite causes severe malformation of the shoot, making it fibrous. These plants showed crinkling deformity and malformation of tender leaves, a severe reduction in the leaf size and stunting. The farmers were severely affected as the produce fetched a very low price.
- Recently, it has been predicted that a group of Cicadas, World Longest Living Insects, called the "Brood X Cicadas" are to emerge across the mid-Atlantic for the first time since 2004.
- A recent study by Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology has found that only western Hoolock Gibbon is found in India, and not two. There are three Hoolock Gibbon species. They are Western Hoolock Gibbon, Skywalker Hoolock Gibbon and Eastern Hoolock Gibbon
- The GSI has said that the Lineament is the main reason for the recent earthquake in Assam. A Lineament is linear feature in a landscape (like a visible line or a long crack or a long visible dent). It is basically an expression of an underlying fault. Even ridges, troughs represent lineaments.
- WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY is celebrated every year on Second Saturday of May and October to Increase awareness of migratory birds and their importance in international cooperation to conserve them. 2021 Theme : Sing, fly, Soar – Like a Bird

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- The Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) - Infrastructure I of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has flagged serious concerns about NITI Aayog's ambitious project for Great Nicobar Island.
- A baby Bongo was born recently at Warsaw Zoo in Poland(only zoo hosting bongos). Bongo's are largest among African forest Nocturnal antelopes and have a striking appearance due to their long horns. They have reddish brown coat offset with white or yellow markings in the form of thin vertical lines
- MISSION FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF HORTICULTURE' is a centrally sponsored scheme to Support horticulture crops which include Vegetables, fruits, roots and tuber crops, aromatic plants, flowers, spices, bamboo, coconut, cashew and cocoa. Horticulture production has surpassed the agriculture production in the country for the year 2019-20 under this scheme. Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the UNFCCC is scheduled to take place from 1st-12th November 2021, in Glasgow, UK.
- Sir David Attenborough, world-renowned broadcaster and natural historian, has been named COP26 People's Advocate for the U.K.'s Presidency of the UN climate change summit.
- Being a deep ocean resident, a football fish was rarely spotted on shores of California as it was washed by waves. The males of this kind are called monsters because of their reproduction method .
- Common crane, a bird that is part of folklore of IRELAND and was a popular pet during medieval times, has returned to the island nation.
- The species is threatening to invade natural water bodies across the northeast, which is home to 21 of the 29 vulnerable native Indian species of freshwater turtles and tortoises. They are native to U.S. and northern Mexico.
- CYCLONE TAUKTAE recently devastated more parts of southern India.



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- Nature Conservationist of Nagaland, NUKLU PHOM won Whitley Awards 2021. The award recognises Phom's efforts at establishing a new biodiversity peace corridor changing the fate of Amur Falcons, which come to roost in Nagaland each year, from being hunted by locals.
- The National Bamboo Mission recently launched the Management Information System to strengthen the domestic Agarbatti industry. It will collect data about Agarbatti production, availability of raw materials, location of stick making units, production capacity, functioning of units, etc. The system will act as an intermediary between the production units and the Agarbatti industry (as a whole).
- DSR Technique is Direct Seeding of Rice Technique. This year Punjab Government has decided to bring one hectare of land under DSR technique. This is being done as the Government is expecting shortage of migrant labour.
- The scientists in the United States are breeding the Sunflower sea stars off coast of Washington State, to manage its depletion.
- The World Wildlife Fund organisation recently released its report "A spatially explicit review of the state of knowledge in the snow leopard range".
- An Iceberg recently calved off from the continent of Antarctica and now moved to Weddell sea. This iceberg is now the largest iceberg in the world. It has been named as A-76.
- Species of African Cheetah, is expected to be re-introduced into the country in November this year at the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh
- Famous environment activist, Sunderlal bahuguna passed away
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recorded 119.3mm of rain in Delhi recently, which is the highest-ever 24-hour mark for the month of May, due to Convergence of Cyclone and Western disturbance.



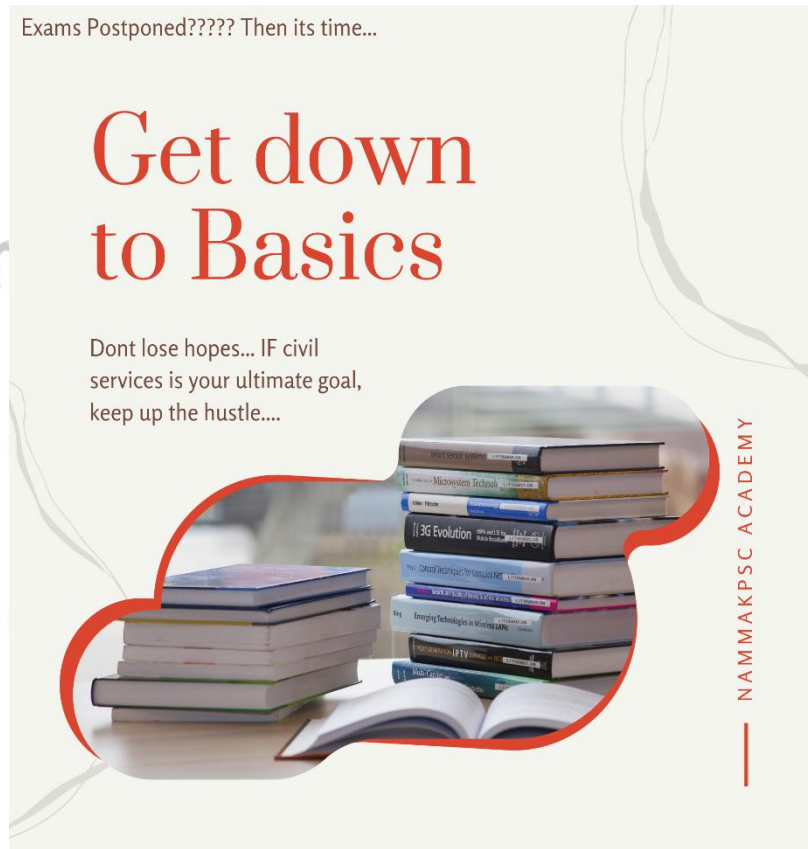
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- Forest Department of Odisha has witnessed an adult Gharial surrounded by 28 hatchlings at Satkosia gorge in Mahanadi river which is considered as southernmost limit of gharials' home range in India. It is considered result of conservation measures of forest department.
- Agharkar Research Institute of Pune along with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research recently developed a high yielding Soy Bean Variety called MACS 1407.
- The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), a body responsible for approval of licences of drugs in India, has approved the anti-COVID-19 therapeutic developed by Defence Ministry's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The Indian Army recently launched the first Green Solar Energy harnessing plant in Sikkim.
- On May 4, 2021, the Union Minister of Petroleum Shri Dharmendra Pradhan flagged off the first supply of used cooking oil-based biodiesel. It was launched under the Expression of Interests Scheme. Biodiesel is an alternate to "fossil fuels". Bio diesel can be produced from animal fats, vegetable oil, waste cooking oil.
- The Co-WIN platform handles the COVID-19 immunisation of the country. This includes registering beneficiaries, sending them text messages, allocating vaccination centres and also live monitoring of vials in cold storage.
- The astrophysicists from the Minnesota Institute for Astrophysics have discovered the first blow away galaxy using the "Gemini Telescope". The galaxy has been named as Pox 186. The Blow away state means that the hydrogen clouds have been removed. This allows light to escape.
- B.1.617 is double mutated strain of corona virus in India. This strain has been classified as being "of concern" by the World Health Organization.
- The National Technology Day is celebrated in India every year on May 11 to mark the anniversary of Pokhran Nuclear tests that were conducted in 1998
- NEXUS is a Start-up in power sector in Odisha. This company creates electric vehicle (EV) batteries from crop residue.
- Ministry of Civil Aviation has granted conditional exemption from Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021 to 20 entities to conduct Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) experimental flights of drones.
- The researchers from the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research recently showed that apart from spike proteins, the other proteins in the COVID-19 virus such as the Nucleocapsid protein or the N protein also play significant role in transmission (or infectivity) of the virus.

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

- The Department of Posts, Tamilnadu Circle, has released a special cover with special cancellation on “Kancheepuram Silk”.
- The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) is looking to deploy the biofloc method to farm Vannamei shrimp. It is the technology used in aquaculture system with limited or zero water exchange under high stocking density, strong aeration and biota formed by biofloc. The culture of biofloc will be productive in the case of culture tanks exposed to sun.

- The scientists have recently found out a new way to block the attachment of HPIV. The virus uses a specialised fusion proteins that resembles three sided corkscrew to enter human cells. Earlier cholesterol and beta amino acids were found to block the HPIV. However, they were not efficient. The scientists have now created a new peptide combining the



previously found cholesterol and beta amino acids. Gellman lab discovered that modified beta amino acids containing peptides can block the viruses.

- MAYFLOWER 400 is world’s first Artificial Intelligence ship by Research organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM.
- A group of astronomers have discovered 8 milli second Pulsars. These pulsars are located within the dense clusters of stars called the “Globular Clusters”, through Meerkat telescope. The Milli second pulsars are the most compact stars known to mankind. They pin up to 700 times per second. They are much rarer than the slower

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spinning pulsars. The Milli second pulsars are those pulsars whose rotational period is less than ten milli seconds.

- Long March 5B rocket, which last week launched the core module of the China's space station, crashed back to the earth's atmosphere .
- Researchers of Oxitech Biotech firm, USA have genetically engineered Aedes aegypti mosquito to stop the disease carrying genes
- The district which is facing an acute oxygen cylinder shortage owing to a surge in the COVID-19 cases is encouraging industries, small institutions and companies to step forward and provide D-type cylinders (7,000 liter capacity) with them by initiating the challeng.
- A comprehensive system to regulate oxygen being administrated to patients based on the sensed values of their SpO2 levels called as OXYCARE SYSTEM was developed by DRDO
- The Union Cabinet recently approved the Production Linked Incentive scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage. They are new generation storage devices that store energy in chemical or electrochemical form. They then convert it back to electric energy when required.
- Zeolites are aluminosilicate minerals. They are microporous material that is used as adsorbents and catalysts. An oxygen concentrator uses Zeolites to adsorb atmospheric nitrogen and then vents out the nitrogen. This leaves oxygen gas remaining to be used for patients.
- JUICE MISSION stands for Jupiter Icy Moon Explorer. It is an interplanetary spacecraft developed by European Space Agency. It is under its development phase. The JUICE Mission will study three Galilean Moon of Jupiter. They are Europa, Ganymede and Callisto.



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- ZHURONG is Solar powered rover of China. Spacecraft successfully landed on the surface of Mars recently
- India recently dropped convalescent plasma therapy (CPT) from its national clinical management protocol for Covid-19.
- The Okeanos Explorer is a ship built by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It departed from the Port Canaveral in Florida on May 14, 2021. It is a two-week expedition of ocean exploration, to build 3D maps of vast regions of unexplored ocean floors in Hadal Zone.
- The public health experts recently announced that the increase in “breakthrough infections” in COVID-19 in the country may be due to the mutant varieties. A breakthrough infection is a case of illness in which a vaccinated individual becomes sick from the same illness that the vaccine is meant to prevent.
- Cambridge University chemists Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman were on Tuesday declared the winners of the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize for development of revolutionary sequencing techniques which means DNA can now be read in super-fast times.
- SPOT is Scalable and Portable Testing of COVID-19 Saliva Testing developed by Carle Illinois College of Medicine, USA
- ECMO requirements rise due to Covid-19. They act as an artificial heart and pair of artificial lungs outside the body (thus ‘extracorporeal’), which removes carbon dioxide from the patient’s blood and adds oxygen to it
- NASA has announced to send its first mobile robot, Viper Rover, to the Moon in 2023. Mobile robot will search ice and other resources on and below the surface of moon.
- In order to address the issue of air pollution due to farm stubble burning and to reduce carbon footprints of thermal power generation, Ministry of Power has decided to set up a National Mission on use of Biomass in coal based thermal power



plants. This would further support the energy transition in the country and our targets to move towards cleaner energy sources.

- Ayush Ministry launched its' Ayush Clinical Case Repository (ACCR) portal and the third version of AyushSanjivani App in a virtual event. The app intends to generate data on usage of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-rigpa and Homoeopathy) advocacies and measures among the population and its impact in prevention of Covid-19. The data collected through this app will be analyzed to find out usage of AYUSH interventions and its efficacy in maintaining health by enhancing immunity.
- Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati have developed a smart window material which can automatically control climate of buildings.
- The final version of the 'Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020' to be out very soon. It is to act as guiding document of MoD to provide a focused, structured and significant thrust to defence production capabilities of the country for self-reliance and exports.
- Global Forest Goals Report, 2021 was recently released by United Nations. It evaluated impact of COVID on forest dwellers.
- Global Electric Vehicle Outlook Report, 2021 was recently released by International Energy Agency. It said If the governments will ramp up their efforts to meet international climate goals, then the number of global electric vehicles will increase to 230 million by 2030. Korea has the largest number of hydrogen car distribution in the world.
- 'Connected Commerce: Creating a Roadmap for a Digitally Inclusive Bharat' is a Report by NITI Aayog and Master-card today, that Identifies challenges in accelerating digital financial inclusion in India and Provides recommendations for making digital services accessible to its 1.3 billion citizens.
- 'Nature in a globalised world: conflict and conservation' is a Report by IUCN to Bring nature conservation into the mainstream of economic and political decision making.



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- Migration and development brief is a Report on remittances by World Bank. The report says remittance flows to the low-income and middle-income countries were 1.9% lower in 2020 as compared to that of 2019. It was 540 billion USD in 2020 and 548 billion USD in 2019.
- 400th Prakash purab of Sri Guru Teg Bahadur Ji was recently celebrated. He was the ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion
- A trust based in Assam recently made videos using the traditional art called “Putola Nach”. Putola Nach is a traditional string puppet theatre from Assam in North East India.
- Birth anniversary of GOPAL KRISHNA GOKHALE was celebrated on 9th May.
- The Union Culture Minister recently announced that around six cultural heritage sites have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites which include Ganga Ghats of Varanasi, Temples of Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadum, Satpura Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra Military Architecture, Hire Benkal Megalithic site, Karnataka, Bhedaghat Lametaghat of Narmada Valley in Madhya Pradesh. A World Heritage site is classified as a natural or man-made area or a structure that is of international importance, and a space which requires special protection.
- On May 26 — Buddha Jayanti, Buddha Purnima, or Vesak — India’s largest statue of the Reclining Buddha was to have been installed at the Buddha International Welfare Mission temple in Bodh Gaya.
- The Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards was recently presented. Actor Rajni Kanth is also being conferred with the award this year. He has spent more than forty five years in the film industry.

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- The public health experts recently announced that the increase in “breakthrough infections” in COVID-19 in the country may be due to the mutant varieties. A breakthrough infection is a case of illness in which a vaccinated individual becomes sick from the same illness that the vaccine is meant to prevent.
- Supreme court has opined that interpretation of 304 B IPC is very liberal and has damped cases. It is related to Dowry deaths.
- GST council meet was held to review pandemic needs and constituted a Group of Ministers to recommend individual items’ tax rates and A panel of state ministers to examine valuation of services by online gaming to levy goods and services tax (GST) was also constituted
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) issued guidelines for Toll centres to reduce waiting time to 10 seconds per vehicle at any point of time.
- A new sub-genus of cricket was recently discovered at Kurra caves of Chhattisgarh by a team of zoologists .The new subgenus was named Jayanti after Professor Jayant Biswas, one of the leading cave explorers in the country, who assisted the team
- National AI Portal of India - INDIAai , recently celebrated one year. The portal aims to aid the development of solutions based on Artificial Intelligence (AI). It will act as a one-stop digital platform for AI-related developments in India, investment funds in AI, sharing resource details of startups, companies, and educational institutions related to AI in India.
- Scientists of Nagpur-based National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have achieved another milestone in this journey, with the development of a 'Saline Gargle RT-PCR Method' for testing COVID-19 samples.
- Ministry of Education has launched “YUVA- Prime Minister’s Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors”.It is an Author Mentorship programme which will train young and budding authors aged below 30 years to in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in India.
- The arrival of the southwest monsoon over Kerala has been delayed to June 3, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said
- Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) has released a publication that highlighted the importance of Vitamin -D in Covid patients.The authors defined the administration of Vitamin D study as ‘Pulse D Therapy’ , which shows significant improvement in COVID 19 patients
- Goa statehood day celebrated on May 30

INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

- The Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) has finalised and recommended quality standards for four spices; cloves, oregano, basil, and ginger, to form a body of reference for world spice trade and for member countries to align their national regulations.
- The Indian Navy recently launched Operation Samudra Setu II. The operation will aid in fulfilling oxygen requirements of the country.
- The United States Trade Representative released Section 301 Report under Trade Act of 1974. It lists countries that do not provide sufficient IP rights to American companies.
- Dubai's flagship carrier Emirates on Sunday announced a humanitarian air bridge with India to transport urgent medical and relief aid to help tackle a soar in coronavirus cases and deaths. Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi and Thiruvananthapuram are the designated cities for the initiative.
- The scientists in the United States are breeding the Sunflower sea stars off coast of Washington State to rejuvenate Kelp forests.
- Cambridge University chemists Shankar Balasubramanian and David Klenerman were on Tuesday declared the winners of the 2020 Millennium Technology Prize for Development of revolutionary sequencing techniques which means DNA can now be read in super-fast times. It is presented by Technology Academy Finland (TAF).
- In 2021, the United Nations is celebrating its sixth United Nations Global Road Safety Week between 17th May, 2021 and 23rd May, 2021. This year, in 2021, the Global Road Safety Week is celebrated under the following theme "Streets for Life". The tagline of the theme is #Love30.
- Iran recently launched its supercomputer called Simorgh. This supercomputer is hundred times more powerful than the previous Iranian supercomputers.
- MENSTRUAL HYGIENE DAY is celebrated on May 28 every year. 28 May (28/5) was chosen as the date because it highlights average menstrual cycle. Women start menstruating after every 28 days and it lasts for 5 days on average.
- International Day of Families was celebrated on May 15 with theme 'Families and New Technologies'. The World Family Day was introduced in the United Nations in 1993. This was done to emphasize the role of the families in shaping the individuals. The United Nations is to celebrate International Year of Families in 2024.

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- WORLD AIDS VACCINE DAY was celebrated on May 18 to honour thousands of volunteers, health professional, community leaders and scientists who workers together to develop AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) vaccine
- INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MUSEUMS was celebrated on May 18 by International Council of Museums (ICOM) Advisory Committee to promote and protect the natural and cultural heritage. 2021 Theme : "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine"
- WORLD BEE DAY was celebrated on May 20 to commemorate birthday of Anton Janša, who in the 18th century pioneered modern beekeeping techniques in his native Slovenia and praised the bees for their ability to work so hard, while needing so little attention.
- The Sri Lankan Parliament on Thursday passed a controversial Bill on laws governing the China-backed Colombo Port City, with a majority of 149 legislators — in the 225-member House — voting in its favour.
- India and Israel are implementing the "INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence" and "INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence" for the development in Agriculture cooperation, while affirming the ever-growing bilateral partnership and recognizing the centrality of agriculture and water sectors in the bilateral relationship.
- The UN nuclear watchdog and Iran have agreed to extend an understanding to monitor Tehran's activities by one month, the agency said on Monday, while talks in Vienna try to save the 2015 nuclear deal. In 2015, Iran with the P5+1 group of world powers - the USA, UK, France, China, Russia, and Germany agreed on a long-term deal on its nuclear programme. The deal was named as Joint Comprehensive

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The advertisement features a circular inset image of students in a classroom setting, focused on their work. The background is a solid orange color with white and yellow text. A small logo for NammaKpsc Academy is in the top right corner, and a small illustration of a person at a laptop is in the bottom left corner of the ad.

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Plan of Action (JCPOA) and in common parlance as Iran Nuclear Deal. Under the deal, Iran agreed to curb its nuclear activity in return for the lifting of sanctions and access to global trade.

- Recently; Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, asked neighbouring Dominica to handover India's fugitive businessman Mehul Choksi to India directly. As per Prime Minister, Choksi was living in Antigua and Barbuda since 2018 after taking citizenship in 2017 under the 'Citizenship by Investment Programme'. He will not be having same rights in Dominica as he was having in Antigua and Barbuda.
- International Tea Day was celebrated on May 21 to promote sustainable production of tea and increase awareness in fighting poverty and hunger.
- World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 by representatives of seventeen nations. The Convention set the framework for global collaboration in the science of measurement and in its industrial, commercial and societal applications.
- US administration led by Biden, does not seek to re-join Open Skies Treaty with Russia. The Open Skies Treaty was signed by United States on March 24, 1992. It came into effect in 2002. The Treaty allows both member countries to fly surveillance aircraft over military facilities. The treaty was signed to promote transparency among member countries. 34 member states had participated in treaty.



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