

August - 24

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Harikara Desiga Paramacharya Swami was crowned as the new chief pontiff of Madurai Adheenam.
 - He is the 293rd chief pontiff.

NATIONAL

ZyCoV-D vaccine



- ❖ The Drug Controller General of India has approved ZyCoV-D vaccine by Zydus Cadila for Emergency Use Authorization.
- ❖ ZyCoV-D vaccine is the world's first and India's indigenously developed DNA-based vaccine for COVID-19.
- ❖ It will be administered to humans including children and adults aged 12 years and more.
- ❖ Zydus Cadila developed this vaccine in partnership with the Department of Biotechnology under Mission COVID Suraksha.
- ❖ It will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
- ❖ It is a three-dose vaccine.
- ❖ Zydus Cadila is also known as Cadila Healthcare Limited.
- ❖ It is headquartered in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Small Business Loans Initiative

- ❖ Facebook India has launched a new initiative called the “Small Business Loans Initiative”
- ❖ This initiative was launched in partnership with online lending platform, Indifi.
- ❖ It will extend help to small and medium businesses who advertise on Facebook in order to get quick access to credit with the help of independent lending partners.
- ❖ India is the first country where Facebook rolled out this initiative.

AK-103 rifles

- ❖ India and Russia have signed a deal to immediately procure AK-103 Rifles.
- ❖ This deal was inked as a part of mega infantry modernisation programme.
- ❖ This rifle will be manufactured under the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited (IRRPL).
- ❖ IRRPL is a rifle-manufacturing facility in Korwa village of Amethi district in Uttar Pradesh.

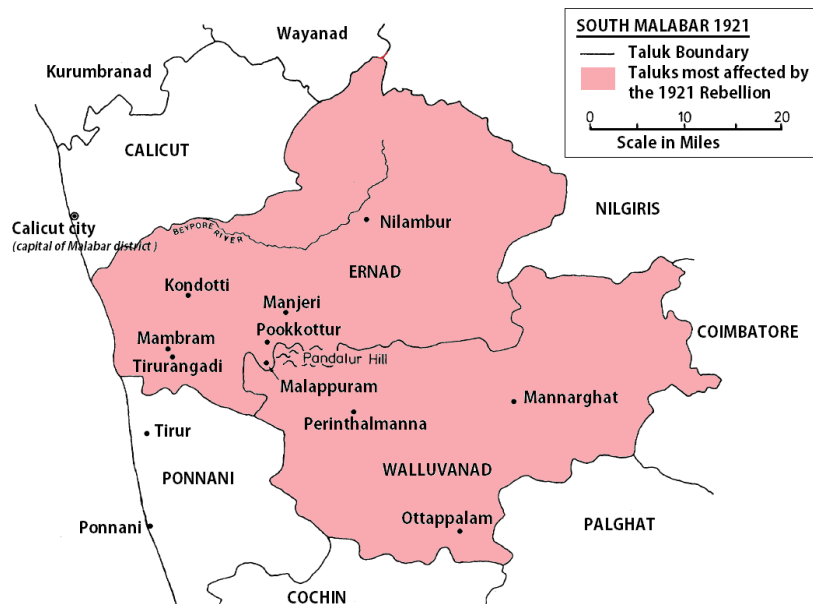


India's highest herbal park

- ❖ India's highest herbal park (height of 11,000 feet) was inaugurated near Indo-China border at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.
- ❖ This park was inaugurated with the aim of conserving various medicinally and culturally important alpine species.
- ❖ It also aims to conduct research on propagation and habitat ecology of these species.

Malabar rebellion of 1921

- ❖ The Mapilla rebellion or Malabar rebellion is also termed as Moplah Rebellion (Moplah Riots).
- ❖ The Malabar rebellion of 1921 was the culmination of a series of riots by Moplahs (Muslims of Malabar) in the 19th and early 20th centuries against the British and the Hindu landlords in Malabar (Northern Kerala).
- ❖ The uprising, which began as part of the Khilafat Movement, took place in regions which are under the Malappuram district, Kerala.
- ❖ It was an armed revolt led by Variyam kunnath Kunjahammed Haji.
- ❖ The year 2021 will mark the 100th year anniversary of the uprising.



Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021

- ❖ Apple is the world's most valuable company, according to the Hurun Global 500 Most Valuable Companies list 2021.
- ❖ The world's top six valuable companies remained unchanged as Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet, Facebook and Tencent.
- ❖ Globally, the US topped the list in 243 companies.
- ❖ India ranked 9th in this list with 12 companies.

2021 Jiaxing · Hurun Global 500 Top 10

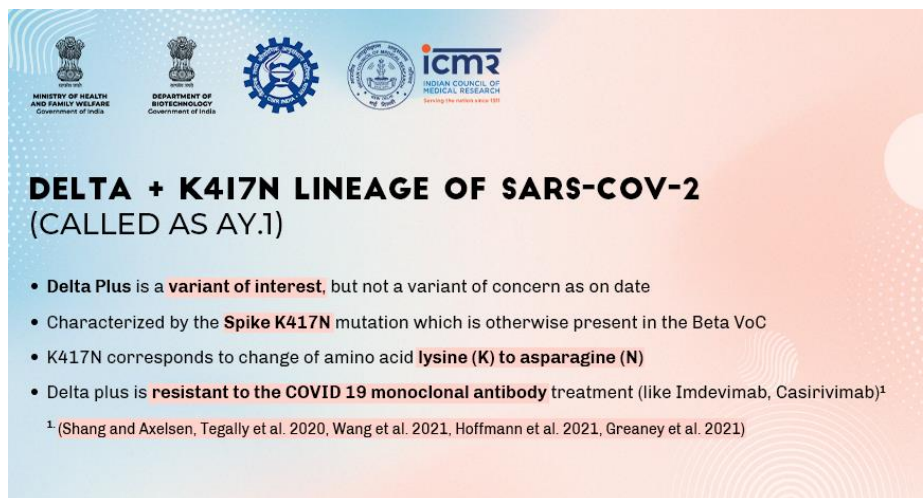
Rank	Company	Value (US\$bn)	Change (%)
1 -	Apple	2,443	15%
2 -	Microsoft	2,114	29%
3 -	Amazon	1,802	12%
4 -	Alphabet	1,733	42%
5 -	Facebook	967	19%
6 -	Tencent	697	-3%
7 ↑	Berkshire Hathaway	635	16%
8 ↑	Tesla	621	14%
9 ↓	Alibaba	586	-18%
10 *	TSMC	567	27%

Source: Hurun Research Institute

↑ Rank increase yoy ↓ Rank decrease yoy - No Rank change yoy * New to Top 10

INSACOG study

- ❖ INSACOG Highlights that, Continuing COVID-19 outbreaks in India are the result of
 - Delta variant,
 - susceptible population and
 - reduced vaccine effectiveness in breaking the transmission.
- ❖ INSACOG is a genome sequencing government consortium of Laboratories in India.



DELTA + K417N LINEAGE OF SARS-COV-2
(CALLED AS AY.1)

- Delta Plus is a **variant of interest**, but not a variant of concern as on date
- Characterized by the **Spike K417N** mutation which is otherwise present in the Beta VoC
- K417N corresponds to change of amino acid **lysine (K) to asparagine (N)**
- Delta plus is **resistant to the COVID 19 monoclonal antibody** treatment (like Imdevimab, Casirivimab)¹

¹ (Shang and Axelsen, Tegally et al. 2020, Wang et al. 2021, Hoffmann et al. 2021, Greaney et al. 2021)

Jalakanyaka

- ❖ A new marine algae species with an umbrella-like cap named Jalakanyaka, has been discovered on Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- ❖ The new algae species has been named 'Acetabularia jalakanyakae', after the Sanskrit word 'Jalakanyaka'.
- ❖ It means the 'goddess of oceans' or 'mermaid'.
- ❖ This species is the 1st of the genus Acetabularia to be discovered in India.



INTERNATIONAL

Hunger in Afghanistan

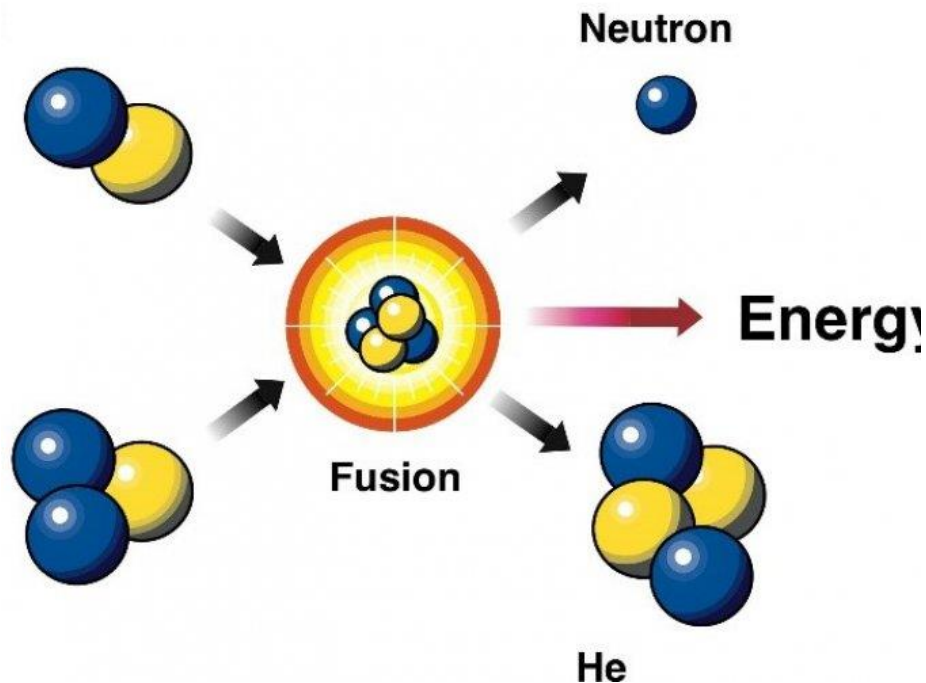
- ❖ According to World Food Programme (WFP), people in Afghanistan are facing severe hunger.
- ❖ This is the second drought in three years that country is facing.
- ❖ This year, drought is combined with fighting.
- ❖ WFP is the food-assistance branch of United Nations.
- ❖ It is the world's largest humanitarian organization.
- ❖ It was founded in 1961 with its headquarter in Rome.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Historic Nuclear Fusion

- ❖ Physicists in California, using lasers the size of three football fields, have generated a huge amount of energy from fusion.
- ❖ This offers hope for the development of a new clean energy source.

- ❖ In this experiment, scientists used two isotopes of hydrogen, giving rise to helium.



Intersection of COVID-19 & Tuberculosis pandemics - study

- ❖ The Ministry of Science and Technology, India informed that a consortium of researchers and doctors from Brazil, Russia, India, and South Africa have partnered to conduct a study on the epidemiological impact and intersection of Tuberculosis and COVID pandemic in these countries.
- ❖ Brazil, India, Russia, and South Africa currently rank 2nd to 5th in the number of cases of Coronavirus.
- ❖ These countries also belong to 24 nations that are recognized by the World Health Organisation with the highest burden of Tuberculosis in the world.
- ❖ Moreover, BRICS countries have the largest number of cases of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

ENVIRONMENT

Rain at Greenland Summit

- ❖ For the 1st time on record, the summit of Greenland received rain and not snow, just as temperatures at the spot went above freezing for the 3rd time in less than 10 years.

- ❖ As per the US National Snow and Ice Data Center, this was the heaviest rainfall that the Greenland received since record keeping began in 1950.

Note

- ❖ Greenland is the world's largest island between the Arctic and Atlantic Oceans.
- ❖ Three-quarters of its surface is covered with a permanent ice sheet.

STATES

Life of a prisoner

- ❖ Belagavi's Hindalga Central Prison authorities (Karnataka) have come up with a novel initiative where commoners will be allowed to live a prisoner's life for 24 hours.
- ❖ The tourism concept, 'A Day in the life of a prisoner'.
- ❖ The Prison authorities are now awaiting the government's nod to implement the initiative.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards 2021

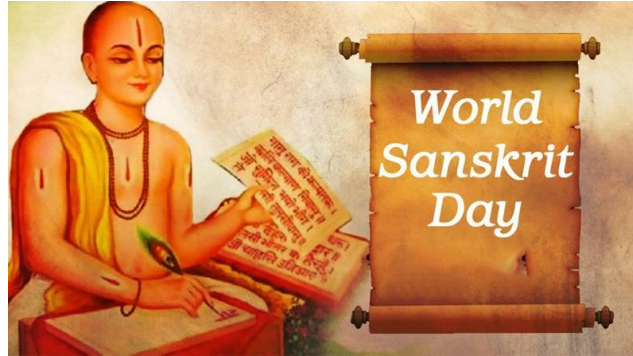


- ❖ The Family Man 2 actors Manoj Bajpayee and Samantha Akkineni were among the winners of the latest edition of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards.
- ❖ The Best Feature Film award was given to Soorai Pottru.
- ❖ The Best Performance Male (Feature) actor goes to Suriya Sivakumar (Soorai Pottru).
- ❖ The Best Director Award was given to Anurag Basu (Ludo).

IMPORTANT DAYS

Sanskrit Day - August 22

- ❖ In 2021, Sanskrit Day will be celebrated on August 22, 2021.
- ❖ The day is celebrated on the full moon day of the month of Shravan.
- ❖ It also marks the occasion of Raksha Bandhan each year.
- ❖ The World Sanskrit Day was first declared in 1969, by the Indian Government on the occasion of Raksha Bandhan.



International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief - August 22

- ❖ The day emphasizes the significance of aiding victims of religious persecution as part of the UN's efforts to promote Human Rights related to religious or belief freedom.
- ❖ It was first made official in 2019.
- ❖ The resolution was introduced by Poland's Foreign Minister, Jacek Czaputowicz.

