

NATIONAL

1. European GI tag

Why in news – Kangra Tea from Himachal Pradesh has been granted the European Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Key Points –

- In India, Kangra tea received the Geographical Indication designation in 2005.

About Kangra tea -

- Grown 900-1,400 meters above sea level, on the slopes of the Dhauladhar mountain range in the Western Himalayas (Himachal Pradesh region).
- It is made from the leaves, buds, and tender stems of the *Camellia sinensis* species cultivated in the Kangra valley.
- Black tea and green tea have both been cultivated in the Kangra Valley.

2. Vaikom satyagraha

Why in news – Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan and Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin inaugurated the centenary celebrations of the Vaikom Satyagraha on April 1, 2023.

Key Points –

- Portuguese travellers Duarte Barbosa wrote about untouchability in Travancore.
- The issue of temple entry was first raised by Ezhava leader TK Madhavan in a 1917 editorial in his paper *Deshabhimani*.
- Kakinada session of the INC (1923) - A resolution was passed by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee to take up anti-untouchability as a key issue.

About Vaikom satyagraha –

- Vaikom town - in the princely state of Travancore,
- March 30, 1924 – A non-violent agitation started, marking the beginning of “temple entry movements” across the country.
- Lower castes like the Ezhavas and Pulayas were considered polluting.
- For the first time, it brought Gandhian methods of nonviolent protest to Travancore.

INTERNATIONAL

1. National Genome Strategy

Why in news – The UAE has launched a national strategy to map the DNA of every Emirati.

Key Points –

- Aim - to provide personalized treatment and help diagnose conditions caused by changes in the DNA.
- Emirates Genome Council (established – 2021) would oversee the National Genome Strategy.

2. Finland to join NATO

Why in news – Finland is set to become 31st member of North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO).

Key Points –

- Turkey became the final NATO nation to ratify Finland's membership.
- Finland has a 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) long border with Russia.



About NATO (April, 1949) –

- Also called Washington Treaty.
- Currently 30 members.
- Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium.
- Headquarters of Allied Command Operations: Mons, Belgium.
- NATO's protection does not extend to members' civil wars or internal coups.
- Article 5 of NATO - An attack against one member of NATO should be considered an attack against all.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

1. Swachhotsav 2023

Why in news – 1000 Cities targeted to become 3-Star Garbage Free by October 2024.

Key Points –

The urban India has become –

- a) Open Defecation Free (ODF) with all 4,715 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) completely ODF
- b) 3,547 ULBs are ODF+ with functional and hygienic community and public toilets
- c) 1,191 ULBs are ODF++ with complete faecal sludge management.
- Waste processing in India has gone up by over four times from 17% in 2014 to 75% in 2023.
- In the 2nd phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U 2.0), India aims to become a garbage free nation (GFN).

ECONOMY

1. Evergreening of Patents

Why in news – India rejected the secondary patent of the Johnson and Johnson's TB medication bedaquiline.

Key Points –

- Its primary patent expires in July 18, 2023.
- The drug first became available in India under the government's TB programme in 2015.
- It is also essential for those living with HIV who are likely to develop more resistant forms of TB.
- Ever-greening of patents – Companies make slight changes to the formulation to extend the patent period, guaranteeing their monopoly over the drug.

About Bedaquiline -

- Used for the treatment of drug-resistant infections.
- In 2012, became the first new TB therapy to become available after a period of 40 years.
- Halved course of treatment from two years to 9 month to one year.
- World Health Organisation has included bedaquiline as the core drug for drug resistant TB.

Indian Patents Act, 1970 –

- Section 3(d) - It does not allow 'evergreening' of patents to prevent innovator pharma companies from extending the patent beyond the stipulated period of 20 years.
- Section 92 - The central government has the power to allow compulsory licenses to be issued at any time in case of extreme urgency.
- It could compel companies to license their patents to manufacturers, even if they did not think the offered price was acceptable.

Novartis vs Union of India case 2012

- The Supreme Court upheld the validity of section 3(d).

SCIENCE – TECHNOLOGY

1. Detecting milk adulteration

Why in news – IIT Madras has developed a 3D paper-based portable device that can detect adulteration in milk within 30 seconds.

Key Points –

- Adulterating agents - Urea, detergents, soap, starch, hydrogen peroxide, sodium-hydrogen-carbonate and salt.
- It uses colorimetric detection technique.
- The purity of milk can be tested using a milk slip test/lactometer.

LIST OF FOOD ADULTRANTS		
ADULTRANTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate water • Chalk powder • Soap powder • Hydrogen peroxide • Urea • Piggya seeds • Argemone seeds • Vegetable oil • Animal body fats • Milk powder • Saw dust • Yellow and/or grey • Non-combined colours • Not natural yellow 	MILK	HEALTHAL EFFECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food poisoning • Heart problems • Cancer • Vomiting • Itiases • Liver disorders • Stomach disorders • Epidemic dropsy • Severe glaucoma • Anemia • Enlargement of Heart • Stomach problems • Artificial colors can cause cancer • Carcinogenic • Stomach disorders
	BLACK PEPPER	
	OIL	
	GHEE	
	CHILLY POWDER	
	TURMERIC POWDER	

2. Two biological fathers

Why in news – Japanese scientists have created mice with two biological fathers after they generated eggs from male cells for the first time.

Key Points –

- Research by - Katsuhiko Hayashi of Kyushu University (Japan).
- It has opened new possibilities for gay-male couples — or even single men — to have their biological child without needing a female egg.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. International Day of Zero Waste

Why in news – For the first time, it is celebrated on March 30, 2023, by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat.

Key Points –

- It makes a considerable contribution to the triple planetary issue of pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change.
- Just 55% of the 2.24 billion tonnes of municipal solid garbage that humanity produces each year is managed in facilities under supervision.
- It has been adopted by 105 nations.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs organised the "Swachhotsav - 2023: Rally for Trash Free Cities" in New Delhi.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Ajay Singh

Why in news – Ajay Singh has been elected as

the International Boxing Association (IBA) vice-president.

Key Points –

- International Boxing Association (IBA) President - Umar Kremlev.

SPORTS

1. American runner Lashinda Demus

Why in news – Lashinda Demus officially became an Olympic champion at the age of 40, more than a decade after the 2012 London Games.

Key Points –

- Demus was formally reallocated the gold medal in the 400-meter hurdles by the International Olympic Committee.
- Original winner Natalya Antyukh (Russia) was implicated in the doping case.
- Zuzana Hejnová of Czechia was upgraded to silver, and the bronze was reallocated to Kaliese Spencer of Jamaica.



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POINTERS

- Lionel Messi who scored his 100th international goal, is associated with which country – **Argentina.**
- Which bank has announced a donation of Rs 48 lakh for tree plantation - **State Bank of India.**
- The Ministry of Defence has signed three contracts worth how many thousand crores to strengthen defence capabilities - **About 5400 crore rupees.**
- The second Agricultural Deputies Meeting of the Agricultural Working Group (AWG) was held in which city – **Chandigarh.**
- Regional Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard during 28-29 March 2023 at which place - **Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.**
- Union Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh launched which initiative under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) - **Captive employment initiative.**
- For the first time, scientists of which university observed the piezoelectric effect in liquids - **Michigan State University.**
- Which bank launched India's first pocket-sized swipe machine 'Micropay' - **Axis Bank.**
- Which Indian-origin Sikh woman has become the assistant police chief in the US state of Connecticut - **Lieutenant Manmeet Kolan.**
- Who has been appointed Vice President of UAE - **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan.**

PI

PATNA CENTRE : NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC STARTING FROM 19TH APRIL 2023 (HINDI MEDIUM) & 26TH APRIL 2023 (ENGLISH MEDIUM)

DELHI CENTRE : NEW BATCHES FOR BPSC STARTING FROM 26TH APRIL 2023 (HINDI & ENGLISH MEDIUM)