

**EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS-APRIL 16,2022**

**INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES**

- **Egypt, the world’s largest importer of Russian and Ukrainian wheat - has approved India as one of its suppliers to meet its domestic requirement**
- ✓ Egypt is likely to import about one million tonnes of wheat from India, of which 240,000 tonnes will be shipped in April month itself.



- ✓ In general, Egypt buys 11-12 million tonnes of wheat from Russia, Ukraine and other countries in a year.
- ✓ However, there is a sharp decline in availability of wheat in the global markets due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine
- ✓ The two nations at war together account for up to 30% of global wheat exports and nearly 80% of Egypt’s imports

- ✓ The approval from Egypt follows a rigorous process of field visits and checks in quarantine facilities in India by Egyptian authorities following complaints of Indian wheat containing 'karnal bunt' disease.
- ✓ The teams visited wheat fields in Madhya Pradesh, UP and Punjab to check for themselves the quality of wheat produced in India
- ✓ Israel, Oman, Nigeria, and South Africa have also approached India to source wheat supplies following the Russia-Ukraine conflict
- ✓ Egypt imported wheat worth about \$1.8 billion from Russia and \$610.8 million from Ukraine in 2020
- ✓ India's wheat exports rose to \$1.74 billion in April-January 2021-22 as against \$340.17 million in the same period last year.
- ✓ India's wheat exports are mainly to neighbouring countries with Bangladesh having the largest share of more than 54% in both volume and value terms in 2020-21.
- ✓ The top ten countries importing Indian wheat in 2020-21 were Bangladesh, Nepal, the United Arab Emirates, Sri Lanka, Yemen, Afghanistan, Qatar, Indonesia, Oman and Malaysia.



- ✓ India accounts for less than 1% in the world's wheat export.
- ✓ India is the second largest producer of wheat with a share of around 14.14% in the world's total production in 2020.
- ✓ India produces around 107.59 million tonnes of wheat annually
- ✓ Out of this, around 98 million tonnes is used towards domestic consumption
- ✓ Major wheat growing states in India are Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and Gujarat.

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT**

- **The US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) – has granted emergency-use authorisation to the first Covid-19 test that can detect the coronavirus in a breath sample, within minutes and with a high degree of accuracy.**
- ✓ The InspectIR Covid-19 Breathalyzer can produce results in less than 3 minutes and can be used in doctor's offices, hospitals and mobile testing sites.
- ✓ A single machine, of the size of a carry-on luggage, can analyze about 160 samples per day.

- ✓ The device was tested in a study made up of 2,409 individuals both with and without symptoms of the virus.



- ✓ In the study, the test identified 91% of positive samples correctly and 99% of negative samples correctly.
  - ✓ The Breathalyzer test uses a technique called Gas Chromatography Gas Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), which separates and identifies chemical mixtures to detect five compounds associated with the coronavirus in exhaled breath.
  - ✓ If a test indicates positive on the Breathalyzer, it should be confirmed with a molecular test, such as a RT-PCR lab test.
- **Astronomers - have discovered a new galaxy named HD1, which may be the earliest and most distant galaxy ever observed**
- ✓ The galaxy may have formed relatively soon after the Big Bang event that marked the origin of the universe in an explosion of energy and matter
  - ✓ The galaxy dates back to more than 300 million years after the Big Bang that occurred about 13.8 billion years ago
  - ✓ Further, the galaxy seems to have been forming stars at a hectic pace - about 100 a year, which is at least 10 times higher than what is expected
  - ✓ The discovery was made as a result of more than 1,200 hours of observing time with the Subaru Telescope, VISTA Telescope, UK Infrared Telescope, and Spitzer Space Telescope.
  - ✓ The current record-holder for the farthest galaxy is GN-z11 and HD1 is 100 million light years away than GN-z11.
  - ✓ Galaxies are vast groups of stars and interstellar matter bound by gravity, like the Milky way in which our Sun and its planets are present

## APPOINTMENTS

- **Gilbert F. Hougbo from Togo – was elected as the next Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)**
- ✓ Hougbo is currently serving as the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



- ✓ He was elected by the ILO's Governing Body, comprising representatives of governments, workers and employers
- ✓ He will be the 11th Director-General of the ILO and the first African to hold the post.
- ✓ The new Director-General's five-year term will begin on October 1, 2022.
- ✓ The current Director-General, Guy Ryder, from the United Kingdom, has held the office since 2012.
- ✓ The ILO is the oldest specialized agency of the UN.
- ✓ It was founded in 1919 and has 187 Member States.

## AWARDS

- **Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu - conferred the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy, 2021 to Dr. Bhushan Kumar of Chandigarh and Sahyog Kushtha Yagna Trust, Gujarat at a function in New Delhi on April 13**



- ✓ The annual award was instituted by Gandhi Memorial Leprosy Foundation.
- ✓ India is reporting the highest number of leprosy cases in the world
- ✓ India accounts for 51% of the new cases detected globally during the year 2020–2021
- ✓ The National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) has been at the forefront of the battle against leprosy and has been trying to ensure total eradication

- ✓ Leprosy is also known as Hansen's disease and is a chronic granulomatous disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium Leprae*.
- ✓ It mainly affects the skin, nerves, eyes, and respiratory system.
- ✓ The disease is completely curable if diagnosed early, while late presentations are associated with complications.

