



# 18-05-2024 NEWS

## Covaxin vaccine

- UK-based AstraZeneca teamed up with Oxford University to produce a corona vaccine called 'Vaxzevria'.
- This medicine was manufactured in India by the Serum Institute of India under the name Covishield.
- Astrazeneca recently admitted in a UK court that it can cause side effects such as blood clotting and low red blood cell counts in some people.
- After this, Astrazeneca has announced the withdrawal of its corona vaccine.
- In this case, a research paper of Banaras Hindu University has been published in the journal Springer Nature.
- It has been reported that more than 30% of those who received the covaxin manufactured by Bharat Biotech developed various health problems after one year.

## Somi Bagh

- Somi Bagh means Garden of God.
- It is a memorial hall for Thani Swamiji Maharaj, the originator of Radha Soami religious sect, located in Agra.
- The construction of this hall started in 1922 and many generations have been involved in the construction work of this bell hall in the last 102 years.

## Forest fire

- Forest fires are not a problem confined to Uttarakhand and its neighboring state Himachal Pradesh.
- In various states of India, including Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Arunachal Pradesh, forest fires are happening everywhere, and forest areas are burning to ashes, thus affecting the ecology and biodiversity, which has become a huge threat to the human race.
- In early May, the forest fires that started in Kumaon region of Uttarakhand which are still not contained; More than a thousand hectares of forests have been affected, reaching as far as the state capital Nainital.
- Many inhabited areas have been affected by wildfires.
- About 64.7% of Uttarakhand state's area of 53,483 sq km is forested. 42% of them are dense forests.
- The protected area is approximately 15% of the state land area and 23% of the total forest area.
- The Himalayan forest region of Uttarakhand is of ecological importance. 6 national parks and 7 wildlife sanctuaries are located there.
- Many rivers such as Ganga and Yamuna originate from the snow peaks in this state. It is the rains generated by the mountainous areas of Uttarakhand that contribute to the formation of snow peaks.
- Forests are burnt and the charcoals that come out of them are deposited on the snow peaks. So the heat rises and the ice caps start melting. Damage to water sources, occurrence of avalanches, increasing heat.
- Various ecological problems arise including destruction of wildlife, torrential rains, forest fires.

## India-Russia trade progress

### **Bilateral trade:**

- In the financial year 2022-23, bilateral trade between India and Russia will be Rs 4.10 lakh crore.
- Out of this, India's exports are Rs 26,000 crores and imports from Russia are Rs 3.84 lakh crores.

### **Exported goods:**

- In the financial year 2022-23, 3,873 items are expected to be exported to Russia.
- Chemical, iron. Steel, marine products, coffee beans and medicinal products were exported the most.

### **Imported goods:**

- In FY 2022-23, 983 items were imported from Russia.
- Crude oil, vegetable oil, petroleum products and fertilizers were the major imports.