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## NEWS IN SHORT

**NEWS ①:** Serum Institute cuts Covishield price for the States

**NEWS ②:** MSN Labs unveils higher strength of antiviral drug

**NEWS ③:** University of Hyderabad figures in the top six Indian educational institutions

**NEWS ④:** Government of India has set up a High level Inter-Ministerial Group

**NEWS ⑤:** Government of India allowed import of seventeen medical devices

**NEWS ⑥:** Brazil announced that the Sputnik V vaccines of Russia carried live cold virus

**NEWS ⑦:** IA 2030 is Immunisation Agenda 2030

**NEWS ⑧:** Zomato files papers for Rs. 8,250cr. IPO

**NEWS ⑨:** CDC to invest Rs. 250 cr. in solar firm Fourth Partner

**NEWS ⑩:** Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins passed away

## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS - 29.04.2021

### NATIONAL AFFAIRS

#### Serum Institute cuts Covishield price for the States

- The Pune based Serum Institute of India announced that it was reducing the price of its Covishield vaccine for the States from Rs. 400 to Rs. 300 per dose as a "philanthropic gesture".
- The SII had earlier said its per dose price of Covishield was Rs.150 for the Centre, Rs. 400 for State governments.

#### MSN Labs unveils higher strength of antiviral drug

- Drugmaker MSN Laboratories has launched Favilow, its branded generic of anti viral drug Favipiravir, in a higher strength of 800 mg. It is used in the treatment of mild and moderate COVID-19.
- Favilow 800 mg is priced at Rs.144 per tablet and will be available across pharmacies.

#### Round University Rankings

- University of Hyderabad figures in the top six Indian educational institutions, and the only university from India in the 13 Indian institutions that figured in the Round University Rankings.
- Out of the 13 Indian institutions, UoH is the only university to be ranked after IISc, the IITs and IISER Pune, in the top six in India.

#### High level Inter-Ministerial Group

- The Government of India has set up a High level Inter-Ministerial Group to establish procedures for immediate clearance of relief materials from foreign countries.
- The Group will make sure if these materials are cleared and dispatched promptly to the recipient institutions located in different parts of the country.

#### Import of seventeen medical devices

- The Government of India allowed import of seventeen medical devices to provide relief to the COVID-19 patients.
- Import of Nebulizers, Oxygen concentrators, Vacuum Pressure Swing Absorption, Oxygen Plants etc were allowed.

### STATE AFFAIRS

#### Jagananna Vasathi Deevana scheme

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy credited Rs.1,048.94 crore into the accounts of mothers of 10,89,302 students pursuing higher education, under the Jagananna Vasathi Deevana scheme for the academic year 2020-21.

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### Sputnik V vaccines

- The **Health Regulator of Brazil** announced that the **Sputnik V vaccines of Russia carried live cold virus**.
- It has thus raised questions about the integrity of the manufacturing process of the virus. This issue has come up due to the **Adeno Virus vector**.

### IA 2030

- The **IA 2030** is **Immunisation Agenda 2030**. It was launched by **World Health Organisation, GAVI** and the **UNICEF**. It has been titled as the **“A Global Strategy to leave No One Behind”**.
- It aims to **maximise lifesaving** impact of **vaccines**. The **Immunisation Agenda 2030** was launched during the **World Immunisation Week**.

## BUSINESS & ECONOMY

### Zomato files papers for Rs. 8,250cr. IPO

- Food delivery app **Zomato Ltd.**, backed by **China’s Ant Group**, filed a draft red herring prospectus with the **Securities & Exchange Board of India** to raise **Rs. 8,250 crore**.
- The IPO would comprise fresh issue of **Rs. 7,500 crore** and **OFS (offer for sale)** of **Rs. 750 crore** by **Info Edge**, an investor.

### CDC to invest Rs.250 cr. in solar firm Fourth Partner

- **United Kingdom’s development finance institution CDC Group** is investing **Rs. 250 crore** in solar energy firm **Fourth Partner Energy**.
- The investment would be in the form of non convertible debentures. The **mezzanine capital** would be deployed in growing its renewable solutions platform across India.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Nodavac-R

- The **Central Institute of Brackish Aquaculture** located in Chennai has developed an **indigenous vaccine for Viral Nervous Necrosis**.
- The name of the vaccine is **Nodavac-R**. The disease is caused by the **Betanodavirus**. It mostly affects **teleost fish**. The disease mostly occurs in **juveniles or larvae**.

## APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

### T V Somanathan was recently designated as the Finance Secretary

- The Expenditure Secretary **T V Somanathan** was designated as the **Finance Secretary** by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**.
- He is a 1987 batch Indian Administrative Service Officer of Tamil Nadu cadre.

## SPORTS

### Six year ban for Zoysa

- **Former Sri Lanka fast bowler Nuwan Zoysa** has been **banned from all cricket for six years** after being found guilty of violating the **International Cricket Council’s anti corruption code**.
- The charges related to the **T10 League** in the **UAE** in 2017 when Zoysa was a Sri Lanka bowling coach.

## OBITUARY

### Ramu Kanagal

- **Ramu Kanagal**, 53, **dancer** and son of Kannada filmmaker the late **Puttanna Kanagal**, passed away due to COVID-19.
- He was running a dance academy, called **Kanagal Nrithyalaya**, in Bengaluru and had trained several dancers and movie artists.

### Manoj Das

- **Eminent Odia and English writer Manoj Das** passed away. He was 87. Mr. Das was associated with the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram** since his arrival in Puducherry in 1963.
- He was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in 2020 for his contribution to Odia and English literature.

### Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins passed away

- **Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins**, who piloted the ship from which **Neil Armstrong** and **Buzz Aldrin** left to make their historic first steps on the moon in 1969, died of cancer. He was 90.
- Though he travelled some 2,38,000 miles to the moon and came within 69 miles, Mr. Collins never set foot on the lunar surface.