



## **Ghana - 1st country to get aided by COVAX Initiative**

## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **President's Rule in Union Territory**

- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal by the Home Ministry to dissolve the Puducherry Assembly and impose President's Rule in the Pondicherry Union Territory.
- According to Article 356, President's Rule can be imposed on any state of India on the grounds of the failure of the constitutional machinery.
- The President's Rule is initially for a period of six months. Later, it can be extended for a period of three years with parliamentary approval, every six months.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Ghana - 1<sup>st</sup> country to get aided by COVAX Initiative**

- Ghana has become the first country to get the vaccines from Serum Institute of India under the COVAX Initiative.
- COVAX is one of three pillars of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator, which was launched in April 2020 by the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission and France in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The ACT Accelerator is a framework for collaboration to accelerate the development, production, and equitable access to Covid-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines.
- The other two pillars of ACT framework are: Therapeutics and Diagnostics.

### **BRICS Finance Meet**

- India hosted a Meeting of BRICS Finance and Central Bank Deputies virtually on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021.
- This was the first meeting on the BRICS Financial Cooperation under India Chairship in 2021.
- India assumed the BRICS Chairship in 2021, at a time when BRICS is celebrating its 15th anniversary.

#### **Facts on BRICS:**

- Members: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.
- Founded: 2006 as BRIC, South Africa joined in 2010

- First Summit: Russia, 2009 | As BRICS in China, 2011
- Headquarters: Shanghai, China

## APPOINTMENTS

### Chairman of NCSC

- Former Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Vijay Sampla, has been appointed as the Chairman of National Commission for Scheduled Castes
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is an Indian constitutional body established with a view to provide safeguards against the exploitation of Scheduled Castes and Anglo-Indian communities
- Article 338 of the Indian constitution deals with National Commission for Scheduled Castes.

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

### Brand Ambassador of Levi's

- Levi's, a premium denim brand, has set the Bollywood actress Deepika Padukone as the new brand ambassador.
- Levi Strauss & Co. is an American clothing company known worldwide for its Levi's brand of denim jeans.
- It was founded in May 1853 when German immigrant Levi Strauss.

## AWARDS

### International Anti-Corruption Award

- The International Anti-Corruption Award is given by the USA to the courageous individual who does anti-corruption efforts and the countries working to fulfil their commitments to international anti-corruption standards.
- Anjali Bharadwaj from India has been selected among the 12 people around the world for this award.
- She is a social activist working on the issues of Transparency and Accountability in the country.



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