

Eazyprep

**MONTHLY
CURRENT
AFFAIRS**

COMPILATION

APRIL 2020

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1 April 2020

1. National Affairs

Gol creates 11 empowered groups to deal with coronavirus

- These 11 empowered groups are tasked to ensure a comprehensive and integrated response to COVID-19
- These groups have been set up by the Gol under the Disaster Management Act
- Each group has a senior representative from PMO and the Cabinet Secretariat to ensure smooth coordination

2. National Schemes

24x7 National Teleconsultation Centre launched

- As part of the centre, expert doctors will be available 24x7 to answer COVID 19 related questions.
- It has been launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- The centre is being integrated with the National Medical College Network

Quick Facts: Dr. Harsh Vardhan is the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister

3. Science and Technology

Gol launches app “Corona Kavach” to track coronavirus

- Corona Kavach is a coronavirus risk-tracking app.
- The app uses a person’s location to assess whether they are in the high-risk geographical zone or not
- It has been jointly developed by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Quick Facts: Ravi Shankar Prasad is the Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology

4. Economy

PNB get a new logo ahead of merger!

- Punjab National Bank has launched a new logo ahead of its merger with the Oriental Bank of Commerce and the United Bank of India.
- The new logo bears the distinct signages of all the three PSU banks.
- Post amalgamation, Punjab National Bank will be the transferee while the Oriental Bank of Commerce and the United Bank of India will be the transferor banks.

Quick Facts: S.S. Mallikarjuna Rao is the MD & CEO Of Punjab National Bank

5. Science and Technology

Elon Musk’s SpaceX wins NASA award for planned lunar space station

- NASA has selected a new space capsule from SpaceX to ferry cargo and supplies to the agency’s planned lunar space station
- SpaceX will use its biggest rocket, Falcon Heavy, to send spacecraft named as “Dragon XL” to the Lunar Gateway

Quick Facts: The headquarters of NASA is in Washington DC.

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6. India and the World

Tata Power JV starts Shuakhevi HPP in Georgia

- Adjaristsqali Georgia LLC is a joint venture between Tata Power, Norway's Clean Energy Invest (CEI), and International Financial Corporation (IFC).
- It has announced commencement of commercial operation of the 178 MW Shuakhevi Hydro Power Project (Shuakhevi HPP)
- The HPP is located in southwest Georgia.

Quick Facts: Capital of Georgia is Tbilisi

7. Sports

Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 postponed to year 2021

- Olympic Games, Tokyo 2020 have been postponed to 23 July-8 August, 2021
- This is the 32nd edition of the tournament.
- The decision was taken due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quick Facts: Thomas Bach is the President of International Olympic Committee (IOC)

8. Government Schemes

MCA introduces "Companies Fresh Start Scheme 2020"

- The new scheme will provide relief to law abiding companies and the Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) during COVID-19 pandemic.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has also revised "LLP Settlement Scheme, 2020"
- These measures will reduce compliance and financial burden on companies.

Quick Facts: Nirmala Sitharaman is the Union Minister of Corporate Affairs

9. Economy

IMF declares global recession

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) declared that the world has clearly entered a recession phase.
- This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Quick Facts: Kristalina Georgieva is the Managing Director of IMF.

10. India and the World

ADB to invest 100 million USD in India's infrastructure sector

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) will invest 100 million US Dollars in India's infrastructure sector.
- This will be done through the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) of India.

Quick Facts: NIIF is India's first sovereign wealth fund set up in 2015.

11. Science and Technology

Casualty evacuation bags developed by DRDO

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with COVID-19.
- The bag is resistant to water, air and biological agents.

- It has been developed by DRDO's Defence Bioengineering and Electromedical Laboratory (DEBEL).

Quick Facts: The headquarters of DRDO is in New Delhi

12. Science and Technology

IIT-B develops two Corona-related apps

- 'Corontine' app uses GPS-enabled geofencing to create a virtual geographic boundary.
- When users of the app leave this preset quarantine zone, the app alerts authorities.
- 'Safe' app enables monitoring agencies to check that the person is staying within the boundaries of the quarantine zone.

13. Miscellaneous

New Ioniser technology for disinfecting hospitals

- A technology has been developed by an incubatee company of Scitech Park, Pune, under the NIDHI PRAYAS program, Department of Science and Technology.
- It is a negative ion generator called Scitech Airon, which helps to control microbial infections in a closed environment.
- The Scitech Airon ionizer machine generates approximately a hundred million negatively charged ions per 8 seconds.
- The negative ions generated by the ionizer form cluster around microorganisms and render them inactive by disrupting their proteins.

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14. Person in News

Arjun Dev: Famous Indian historian passes away

- Prof. Arjun Dev worked as a historian at the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- He is the author of History of the World: From the Late 19th to the Early 20th Century
- He was part of the team which transformed NCERT books into modern, scientific books for children.
- After retiring, Prof. Arjun took up the Towards Freedom Project of the Indian Council of Historical Research.

15. Economy

PSBs announce deferment of EMI payments on loans

- The deferment of EMI payments on loans is for three months, due to COVID-19 pandemic
- RBI had earlier issued directions asking lending institutions to allow the three-month moratorium.
- The moratorium is on the principal, the interest will continue to accrue.

16. Economy

Govt extends existing foreign trade policy till 2021

- DGFT has extended the current foreign trade policy 2015-20 from March 31, 2020 to March 31, 2021
- It has also extended the date of exemptions by one year and an extended validity of DFIA and EPCG authorisations for imports.

Quick Facts: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) is an attached office of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its main objective is to promote India's exports.

17. Science and Technology

Ministry of Tourism launches 'Stranded in India' portal

- The portal will help foreign tourists stranded in various parts of India.
- It will disseminate information regarding the services that can be availed by foreign tourists.

Quick Facts: Prahlad Singh Patel is the Minister of State for Tourism and Culture (Independent Charge)

18. Art and Culture

Utkal Diwas observed in Odisha on 1st April

Odisha commemorated its leaders who worked for the formation of Odisha as a separate State in 1936.

The state was carved out of the combined Bengal-Bihar-Orissa province.

19. Miscellaneous

April 2: World Autism Awareness Day

- World Autism Awareness Day is observed annually on April 2nd
- The day aims to increase awareness about Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Theme for 2021 was 'The Transition to Adulthood'

Quick Facts: Autism is a development disorder caused due to genetic and environmental factors

20. Miscellaneous

Unique Radio School in Madhya Pradesh

- The Radio School has been launched jointly by State Education Center and AIR.
- Under this, all the centers of All India Radio in Madhya Pradesh will be broadcasting programs from Monday to Saturday from 11 am to 12 pm.

21. Science and Technology

Three Quasi-sub species of COVID-19 virus in India

- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has reported that three quasi-sub species are circulating in India.
- The virus has taken its variant form due to various external and biological factors.

Quick Facts: ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research

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22. Science and Technology

NASA selects SunRISE Mission to study Giant Solar Particle Storms

- SunRISE mission will study how the Sun generates and releases giant space weather storms/solar particle storms into planetary space.
- This will help protect astronauts from solar radiation.

Quick Facts: Jim Bridenstine is the administrator of NASA.

23. Person in News

Physics Nobel Prize laureate Philip Anderson passes away

- Philip Warren Anderson had received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1977.
- His co-recipients were Nevill Francis Mott & John Hasbrouck van Vleck.
- The nobel was for their contribution on fundamental theoretical investigations of the electronic structure of magnetic and disordered systems.

Quick Facts: Philip Warren Anderson was an American physicist.

24. National Affairs

National Preparedness Survey on COVID-19 released

- The survey was released on the basis of the National Corona Survey conducted in 410 districts.
- The National Corona Survey was done to understand the priorities and constraints in the preparedness of COVID-19 fight and do a comparative analysis.
- The results say that majority of people have an increased awareness of the disease and are taking precautions.

Quick Facts: Sameer Nigam is the CEO of PhonePe

25. Sports

Tony Lewis, a developer of Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method, passes away

- Tony, alongside fellow mathematician Frank Duckworth, devised the Duckworth-Lewis method.
- It was introduced in 1997 and adopted officially by the ICC (International Cricket Council) in 1999.
- The mathematical formula continues to be used in rain-reduced limited overs cricket games across the globe.

26. Person in News

Justice Rajnesh Oswal sworn in as permanent Judge of High Court of J&K, Ladakh

- Justice Oswal was administered oath of office by Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court, Justice Gita Mittal.
- He is the first Judge of the High Court to take oath under the Indian Constitution.
- All previous judges have taken oath under the JnK constitution.

27. Science and Technology

Gol launches 5 research projects to control COVID-19 spread

- Project 1 aims to find a metabolite biomarker signature for the virus and use it to develop a drug
- Project 2 will develop viricidal coatings that can be used in surgical masks to kill the virus before spreading
- Project 3 will develop polymeric compounds to coat upon surfaces which will kill the viruses

- Project 4 will develop a material to remove viruses and bacteria adhering to surfaces
- Project 5 will develop antibody-based capture of COVID-19 and inactivate it using the lipid-based gel.

28. Economy

PhonePe launches coronavirus insurance policy 'Corona Care'

- PhonePe has launched a unique coronavirus hospitalisation insurance policy called "Corona Care."
- It has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance for the same.
- The policy covers 30 days of expenses related to pre-hospitalization costs and post-care medical treatment.

Quick Facts: Sameer Nigam is the CEO of PhonePe

29. Science and Technology

DRDO develops bio-suit for personnel safety

- The bio-suit will keep the medical, paramedical and other personnel engaged in combating COVID-19 safe from the virus.
- It exceeds the criteria defined for body suits by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The current production capacity is 7000 suits per day.

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30. Miscellaneous

UberMEDic Service launched by NHA and Uber

- National Health Authority (NHA) has partnered with UberMEDic Service.
- The service will provide transportation to healthcare workers working against COVID-19
- 150 cars with protective plastic enclosing will be provided as part of the service.

Quick Facts: NHA, established in 2018, is the apex body which implements Ayushman Bharat

31. Science and Technology

Geofencing for COVID-19 Quarantine Alert System

- COVID-19 Quarantine Alert System (CQAS) application has been developed to track persons who have violated their quarantine.
- CAQS has been developed by the Department of Telecommunications and C-DoT (Centre for Development of Telematics).
- Geo-Fencing technology uses software such as RFID, GPS, Wi-Fi to send alerts upon violation.

32. India and the World

Essential medicines delivered to the Maldives as part of Operation Sanjeevani

- 6.2 million tonnes of essential medicines have been delivered to the Maldives by Indian Air Force
- Medicines including lopinavir and ritonavir, as suggested by WHO for managing COVID-19, have been delivered.

Quick Facts: Male is the capital of Maldives

33. Economy

IRDAI launches guidelines for Arogya Sanjeevani Insurance Policy

- IRDAI has launched guidelines for the health insurance providers for implementation of Arogya Sanjeevani Insurance Policy
- The policy was launched to cover the hospitalisation expenses of the COVID-19 patients
- The policy can be availed by people 18-65 years of age.

Quick Facts: Subhash Chandra Khuntia is the chairperson of IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority)

34. Economy

Govt launches three schemes to boost Electronic Manufacturing Sector

The three schemes are:

- 1) Production Linked Incentive Scheme: provision of 4% to 6% incentives on certain electronics products
- 2) EMC 2.0: Grant assistance for greenfield and brownfield projects
- 3) SPECS: provision of the incentive of 25% of capital investment

35. International Affairs

United Nations adopts the first resolution on Corona Virus

- United Nations approved a resolution that called upon international cooperation to fight against COVID-19
- It has also called upon its member nations to adopt multilateralism
- The resolution called for intensified international cooperation, exchange of information, applying relevant guidelines for the WHO.

Quick Facts: In international relations, multilateralism refers to an alliance of multiple countries pursuing a common goal.

36. Sports

World Games 2021 postponed avoiding clashing with Tokyo Olympics 2021

- The World Games is held once in four years
- It has 32 sports, which are not a part of Olympics games
- The 2021 World Games were going to be held in Birmingham, Alabama.

Quick Facts: The first World Games was held in 1981

37. Miscellaneous

CARUNA: An initiative by the civil servants against COVID-19

- Civil servants have formed an initiative called CARUNA.
- CARUNA is Civil Services Associations Reach to Support Natural Disasters.
- CARUNA will help support existing government efforts.

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38. Person in News

Naveen Patnaik gets PETA award for allocating funds to feed community animals

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik was conferred Hero to Animals Award by PETA

- His state government sanctioned Rs 54 lakh to feed stray animals during the lockdown
- He received a framed certificate and a letter of appreciation as part of the honour

39. Government Schemes

NCC cadets start serving during COVID-19 pandemic: Exercise NCC Yogdan

- Services of senior division National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets have been requisitioned for the fight against the pandemic
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) has allowed temporary employment of NCC cadets under 'Exercise NCC Yogdan'
- The cadets will support state and municipal authorities to boost relief efforts

Quick Facts: The National Cadet Corps is the youth wing of Armed Forces. It is a Tri-Services Organisation.

40. Science and Technology

IIT-R develops low-cost ventilator called Prana Vayu

- IIT-Roorkee has developed a low-cost portable ventilator in association with AIIMS-Rishikesh
- It is a closed-loop ventilator which can deliver the required amount of air to the patient, with an automated process controlling the pressure and flow rates
- Prana Vayu also has a feedback mechanism that can control tidal volume and the number of breaths per minute

41. Miscellaneous

Universities to set up mental health helplines: UGC

- University Grants Commission (UGC) has directed all universities and colleges to set up mental health helplines
- These helplines will address psychosocial concerns of students during the lockdown
- The helplines will be regularly monitored and managed by counsellors and identified faculty members.

Quick Facts: University Grants Commission of India is a statutory body which is headquartered in New Delhi

42. Science and Technology

Home screening kit for COVID-19 launched by Bengaluru start-up

- The kit has been launched by Bengaluru-based startup firm Bione Ventures Pvt Ltd.
- It is a rapid at-home screening kit for COVID-19 that delivers results within minutes
- The kit collects blood sample through a small prick and tests for Coronavirus through an IgG & IgM-based tool

Quick Facts: IgM and IgG are immunoglobulins and function as antibodies in the body

43. Person in News

Senior diplomat Anurag Srivastava takes charge as new MEA spokesperson

- Anurag Srivastava is a 1999-batch Indian Foreign Service officer
- He was serving as India's Ambassador to Ethiopia.
- He has also served at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

44. National Affairs

India observes '9 pm 9minute'

- A large number of people switched off lights at 9 PM for 9 minutes and lit up diyas and candles on 5th April
- This exercise was done to express solidarity with the nation's fight against COVID-19.

45. Science and Technology

DRDO Laboratory designs full body disinfection chamber

- The full body disinfection chamber called as Personnel Sanitization Enclosure (PSE)
- This is a portable system equipped with sanitiser and soap dispenser.
- The foot pedal-controlled PSE has a disinfectant mist of hypo sodium chloride for disinfecting and a mist spray
- It has been created by Vehicle Research Development Establishment, (VRDE) lab of DRDO

Quick Facts: VRDE is located in Ahmednagar

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46. Person in News

UB Pravin Rao: New Nasscom chief

- The Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Infosys has been appointed as chairperson of Nasscom for 2020-21
- RK Menon has been appointed as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom

Quick Facts: The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is a trade association of Indian IT and BPO industry

47. Miscellaneous

World Health Day celebrated on April 7th

- World Health Day creates awareness about a key area related to health, which is specified by WHO annually
- The theme for 2020 was 'Support Nurses and Midwives'
- The first State of the World's Nursing report was launched this year

Quick Facts: The first World Health Day was celebrated in 1950

48. Government Schemes

NHAI achieves highest ever Construction of National Highways

- NHAI accomplished the construction of 3,979 km of national highways in the 2019-20 financial year
- An ambitious highway development programme Bharatmala Pariyojana is being planned
- This programme will include the development of about 65,000 km national highways
- It has been planned by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Quick Facts: National Highways Authority of India is a nodal agency of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

49. Science and Technology

NASA unveils plan for Artemis 'base camp' on the moon beyond 2024

- The plan is part of the Artemis program to land humans on the moon by 2024
- It summarizes the vision NASA has laid out for justifying and accomplishing the 2024 moon landing, as well as the expected effects and results
- It has been submitted to the US National Space Council

Quick Facts: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was founded by Dwight D. Eisenhower

50. Science and Technology

JNCASR develops versatile coating to stop the spread of viruses

- The coating has been developed by Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bangalore
- It has shown a proven efficiency in 100% destruction of the influenza virus
- If found to be active against coronavirus, personal protective equipment (PPE) of medical personnel can be coated with it

Quick Facts: JNCASR is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST)

51. National Affairs

Gol launches “Containment Plan for Large Outbreaks”

The plan has been launched by the Union Ministry of Health

It has six steps including:

- 1) Isolation of region through section 144
- 2) Mapping of infection hotspots within the region
- 3) Door to door screening and checking of quarantine compliance
- 4) Contact tracing to identify the source of new infections
- 5) Increase quarantine facilities
- 6) Increase awareness and confidence of citizens, especially in rural areas

Quick Facts: This model is similar to the 'Bhilwara Model' of containment

52. Miscellaneous

Integrated Command and Control Centres to be used for COVID-19

- Smart cities are using the Integrated Command and Control Centres built under Smart City Mission to fight COVID-19
- These centres are being called COVID-19 War Rooms
- They are being used to check compliance of home quarantine by infected individuals.

Quick Facts: Smart cities include Pune, Bengaluru, Surat and Varanasi.

53. Science and Technology

States asked to maintain a smooth supply of medical oxygen by Centre

- Medical Oxygen contains 99.5% of pure oxygen
- It is included in the national list of essential medicines
- Centre has demanded a smooth supply as Medical Oxygen is in critical need in COVID-19 cases.

Quick Facts: Atmospheric air contains 21% oxygen.

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54. National Affairs

Three types of Health Care Facilities to be set for COVID-19 cases

The three types have been detailed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

The three facilities are:

- 1) COVID Care Centre: For mild cases
- 2) Dedicated COVID Health Centre: For medium cases
- 3) Dedicated COVID Hospital: For severe cases

55. Government Schemes

MHRD launches "Samadhan" challenge to fight coronavirus

- The Innovation Cell of MHRD has launched the challenge in collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris
- Participating students and innovators have to find quick solutions to the Coronavirus epidemic

Quick Facts: Ramesh Pokhriyal is the current minister of HRD

56. Miscellaneous

Delhi Govt. unveils '5T' plan to fight COVID-19

The 5T plan has the following steps:

- 1) Testing individuals to identify, quarantine, seal
- 2) Tracing of contact of positive cases
- 3) Treatment of patients
- 4) Teamwork and collaborative working
- 5) Tracking and monitoring of plan implementation

57. Science and Technology

India begins Genome Sequencing of COVID-19

- Genome sequencing will decode the genetic sequence of coronavirus
- The viral RNA will be collected through blood samples of positive patients
- The study is being done by CCMB (Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology), CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) and IGIB (Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology)

58. Economy

COVID-19 and World of Work report launched by ILO

- According to the ILO report, around 400 million Indians will enter poverty due to the pandemic.
- Globally, the pandemic will wipe out 195 million full-time jobs

Quick Facts: Guy Ryder is the head of International Labour Organization (ILO)- a United Nations agency

59. Economy

Guidelines for Certificate of Origin launched by Gol

- Ministry of Commerce has launched an online platform to issue Certificate of Origin to exporters along with guidelines
- The certificate is proof that a product originated in a particular country/region and helps determine tariffs
- The document can be used globally.

60. Science and Technology

Chhattisgarh launches 'Raksha Sarv' app to contain COVID-19

- The app enables the state police to keep a tab on home quarantined people
- The app tracks movement via google map
- The quarantined person will have to send a selfie every hour, confirming the location

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61. Government Schemes

Swasth Ke Sipahi: Delivery of essential medicines under PMBJP

- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra aims to provide quality and affordable healthcare to those in need
- As part of PMBJP, pharmacists or "Swasth Ke Sipahi" are ensuring doorstep delivery of essential services and medicines to patients and elderly
- These pharmacists are of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras

Quick Facts: PMBJP was launched by the Department of Pharmaceuticals in 2014

62. Miscellaneous

DigiLocker is National Academic Depository: MHRD

- DigiLocker has been designated as the sole National Academic Depository (NAD) by MHRD
- University Grants Commission (UGC) will be implementing NAD as a permanent scheme within DigiLocker
- DigiLocker is a cloud-based safe which allows citizens to store the electronic versions of their important documents

Quick Facts: The Minister of Human Resource Development is Ramesh Pokhriyal

63. Economy

CPI Inflation to decrease from 4.8% to 4.4% in Q2

- RBI has projected that the Consumer Price Index is to decrease from 4.8% in Q1 to 4.4% in Q2 due to weakening demand
- Inflation targeting is maintained by RBI at inflation rate between 2% and 6%.

Quick Facts: CPI is the weighted average of prices of consumer goods and essential services like food, transportation and medical care

64. National Affairs

Supreme Court rules private labs to provide free COVID-19 tests

- In order to increase the testing capacity of India, the Supreme Court has directed private labs to provide free COVID-19 testing

- It has recommended diversion of CSR funds to provide this service
- Tests can only be conducted by labs that are certified by the National Accreditation Board for testing and calibration Laboratories (NABL), WHO and ICMR.

65. Science and Technology

iGOT - Online Training Portal for frontline workers

- GoI has launched the Integrated Government Online Training portal
- It has been launched on DIKSHA platform of Ministry of Human Resources Development.
- The portal will provide training to frontline workers on basics on COVID-19, ICU care, clinical management, etc.

Quick Facts: DIKSHA was launched in 2017 as a teacher capacity building platform

66. Miscellaneous

TRIFED and UNICEF launch Digital Communication Strategy

- To ensure the safety of tribal gatherers, TRIFED and UNICEF have launched the Digital Communication Strategy
- In this, Self-Help Groups will be promoted as Van Dhan Social Distancing Awareness cum Livelihood Centres
- These centres will generate awareness about COVID-related safety measures among the tribal population

Quick Facts: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) came into existence in 1987

67. Science and Technology

DST funds healthcare startup to produce rapid testing kits

- Department of Science and Technology has funded Module Innovations, a healthcare startup, to develop COVID-19 rapid testing kits.
- Unlike slower kits which use RT-PCR, these kits will test for antibodies IgG and IgM that are generated in the human body against COVID-19.
- These kits will complete the test in 15 minutes.

68. Science and Technology

Madhuban Gajar: Bio-fortified carrots developed by farmer scientist

- A farmer scientist in Junagadh has developed bio-fortified carrots called Madhuban Gajar
- These carrots are much richer in β -carotene and iron as compared to normal varieties.
- The carrots, when used as cattle fodder, yields higher milk production.

Quick Facts: Beta carotene is a red-orange pigment found in plants and fruits. It is a terpenoid by nature.

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69. Miscellaneous

“Operation Shield” launched by the Delhi Government

The Operation will be implemented in 21 containment zones of Delhi.

The steps to be implemented are:

- S- Sealing of 21 containment zones
- H- Home quarantining of residents in these zones
- I- Isolation of primary and secondary contacts of infected individuals
- E- Essential supply of commodities
- L- Local authorities to sanitize the area
- D- Door-to-door health checks

70. International Affairs

Ceasefire in Yemen declared by Saudi-led Coalition

- Saudi Arabia led coalition declared a two-week ceasefire in Yemen.
- The coalition includes Saudi Arabia, Sudan, UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Senegal
- It is supported by the UN to aid Yemen government against a coup by the Houthis group.

Quick Facts: Sana'a is the capital of Yemen

71. Defence and Security

CRPF Valour Day observed in India on April 9th

- CRPF Valour Day is also called as CRPF Shaurya Diwas
- This day commemorates the lives of CRPF personnel who fought against Pakistan in Rann of Kutch on April 9th, 1965

Quick Facts: Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is India's largest Central Armed Police Force.

72. National Affairs

CSIR ties up with BEL to develop mass manufacturing technologies

- CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) has tied up with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to develop mass manufacturing technologies.
- These software and hardware technologies will focus on producing medical devices.
- The mass manufacturing technologies will be developed and transferred to companies free of cost

73. Miscellaneous

World Homeopathy Day observed

- This day is celebrated to honor the birth of the father of the Homeopathy system of medicines Dr Samuel Hahnemann
- He was a German physician born in France

Quick Facts: The doctrine of homoeopathy is 'similia similibus curantur' i.e likes are cured by likes

74. Economy

India's GDP for FY21 projected at 4.8%: UN ESCAP report

- The projection has been given by the UN 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2020: 'Towards sustainable economies' report
- The fall of GDP will be due to direct and spillover effects of the ongoing pandemic

Quick Facts: UN-ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions under the jurisdiction of the United Nations Economic and Social Council

75. Science and Technology

DST funded company develops 'membrane oxygenator equipment'

- Pune based company Genrich Membranes has developed a membrane oxygenator equipment to treat COVID-19 patients
- It will treat breathlessness, a major complication of COVID-19
- The device enriches oxygen in the air up to 35 per cent and does not require trained manpower for its operation

76. Miscellaneous

Doordarshan emerges among highest watched channel in India

- According to Broadcast Audience Research Council, Doordarshan was among the highest watched channels last week.
- This was due to rebroadcasting of old shows like Ramayana, Mahabharata, Shaktiman and Buniyaad.
- Overall TV viewership has increased by 43% compared to pre-COVID-19 periods.

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77. Economy

ADB gives an assurance of 2.2 billion USD loan to India

- India had approached ADB (Asian Development Bank) and AIID (Asian African Infrastructure Investment Bank) for economic assistance against the pandemic
- The funds from ADB are to be used by India to address the economic impacts of COVID-19

Quick Facts: Asian Development Bank was founded in 1966 for social and regional integration

78. Science and Technology

Plasma Therapy Treatment approved by ICMR

- The Indian Council of Medical Research has approved plasma therapy as a potential treatment for COVID-19
- In this therapy, antibodies of patients who have successfully recovered from the virus are transfused into critically-ill patients to boost their immunity

79. Miscellaneous

Apple & Google join hands to fight Covid-19

- The tech companies will collaborate on a "contact tracing" system
- This system will identify people in contact with an infected person and alert users

80. National Affairs

Dhaaga initiative of TATA Power

- Along with GoI, several corporates are also making PPE like masks
- The Dhaaga initiative of TATA Power has manufactured and supplied 1.2 lakh masks in Maharashtra and Jharkhand.
- As of today, this is the largest mask distribution by any corporate in India.

Quick facts: Praveer Sinha is the CEO of TATA Power

81. Economy

TRIFED offers marketing support to Masks under Van Dhan Scheme

- The Van Dhan beneficiaries are creating masks at home as per GoI manual
- These masks will help the whole community
- These masks are now being used as models to create livelihoods in similar tribal areas.

Quick facts: The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) that operates under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs

82. National Affairs

Fishing and Aquaculture industries exempted from lockdown

- GoI has exempted certain operations in the two industries from lockdown.
- However, the principles of basic hygiene and social distancing has to be followed
- The decision has been taken due to the large employment and revenue generated by these industries

Quick facts: According to Economic Survey 2019-20, Indian Fisheries rank third and Indian Aquaculture ranks second in the world.

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83. Government Schemes

Rs 5,000 crores transferred for free delivery of LPG as part of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- Under this scheme, free LPG refills will be provided for three months to Ujjwala beneficiaries during the lockdown
- There are 8 crore PMUY beneficiaries

Quick facts: Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched in 2016 to boost the use of clean fuel for cooking

84. Government Schemes

“Jan Aushadhi Sugam” app launched for medicine delivery

- The application helps users to locate nearest Janaushadhi Kendra
- It also shows a list of available medicines and supports home delivery
- The aim of the kendras is to provide generic medicines at affordable prices

Quick facts: Pradhan Mantri Janaushadhi Kendras were launched in 2014 with the aim of “Quality Medicines at Affordable prices for all”

85. Science and Technology

Wormivet: Herbal Medication to treat worms

- National Innovation Foundation (NIF) India has developed an indigenous herbal medicine called Wormivet
- It will be used to treat endoparasite worms in livestock
- A patent has been given to wormivet in the name of Grassroots knowledge

86.Science and Technology

YUKTI Portal launched by Ministry of HRD

- YUKTI is Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation.
- The portal will record, cover and monitor initiatives of MHRD and other educational institutes in the country
- It will act as two-way communication between relevant institutions and MHRD

87.Science and Technology

DST funds development of Active Virosome Vaccine Production

- Seagull Biosolutions will develop Active Virosome vaccines and immunodiagnostic kits for COVID-19
- A virosome is a drug that consists of unilamellar phospholipid membrane encasing proteins, nucleic acids and drugs.
- The nature of the membrane boosts fusion with target cells

88.International Affairs

OPEC and Russia approve biggest oil cuts

- OPEC and Russia have decided to cut oil output by 10%
- The production has been decreased to control falling fuel prices
- Russia had earlier refused to decrease oil cuts to boost its own domestic markets and protect its economy

89.National Affairs

Demarcation of red, orange and green zones under smart lockdown

- India may be demarcated into colour zones based on the status of a viral outbreak in the region as part of the smart lockdown
- Red zones: Hotspots where no economic activity is to be allowed
- Orange zones: Limited public transport and farm harvesting is to be allowed
- Green zones: MSME industries with farm activities will be allowed, with in-house lodging for employees with social distancing

90.National Affairs

Bharat Padhe Online portal launched for sharing of ideas between Gol and academic experts.

- MHRD has launched a week-long campaign called “Bharat Padhe Online Campaign”
- The campaign aims to improve online education in India by connecting with experts in the field

15 April 2020

91.National Affairs

Gol works on centre's 'Jaan Bhi, Jahan Bhi' formula

- Prime Minister has emphasised on the 'Jaan Bhi, Jahan Bhi' formula
- This means that while physical distancing norms will be followed, some relaxations would be made to revive economic activities

92.Economy

GMR to develop, operate Bhogapuram International Airport in Andhra Pradesh

- GMR has received Letter of Award" (LoA) for the development and operations of Bhogapuram International Airport in Andhra Pradesh.
- Its subsidiary GMR Airports Limited will be taking over the project

93.Economy

World Bank: India is expected to grow at 1.5% to 2.8%

- According to the World Bank report "South Asia Economic Focus", India is expected to grow at 1.5-2.8%
- Suggestions by World Bank:
 - 1) Focus on food provision
 - 2) Temporary job programmes
- **3) Measures to prevent bankruptcies in SMEs**

Quick facts: David Malpass is the president of World Bank Group

94.Person in News

Raghuram Rajan named in IMF External Advisory Group selection

- Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Kristalina Georgieva has formed an external advisory group
- Former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan has also been named as one of the members

Quick facts: The headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington DC

95.Miscellaneous

Ahmedabad station becomes 1st station to get sanitizing tunnel

- Ahmedabad railway station at Kalupur is the 1st station to install a "Walk Through Mass Sanitizing Tunnel"
- The 20 feet long tunnel has a sensor which initiates automatic fogging with WHO-approved sanitizer

Quick facts: WHO-approved has approved a liquid sanitizer containing a mixture of IPA and hydrogen peroxide

96.National Affairs

Centre plans to set up 'Suraksha Stores' to meet daily needs

- A chain of 20 lakh retail shops called 'Suraksha Stores' will be set up in India
- These stores will provide daily essentials while maintaining stringent safety norms

97.National Affairs

Food Bank initiative in Manipur

- A new initiative called 'Food Bank' has been introduced by Imphal East District Administration.

- It will provide immediate aid in the form of free essential food to those in need

98. Miscellaneous

Prasar Bharti launches DD Retro

- Centre has directed all DTH platforms and cable operators to show all DD channels
- Prasar Bharti has launched a DD Retro specifically dedicated to old classics like Shaktimaan, Dekh Bhai Dekh.

16 April 2020

99. Economy

South Asia Economic Focus 2020 released by World Bank

- The report is a twice a year regional update
- The current report anticipates a sharp economic slump in each of the region's eight countries
- The lowest regional growth in 40 years is expected due to COVID-19 and its spillover effects.

Quick facts: Hans Timmer is the World Bank Chief Economist for the South Asia Region

100. National Affairs

SWAYAM MOOC portal for NIOS live sessions

- National Institute for Open Learning will be using government's MOOC portal, SWAYAM, for live Skype sessions
- These sessions will be held jointly with KVS, NVS, CBSE and NCERT.

101. Science and Technology

CovidGyan: Science-based website on COVID 19 launched

- CovidGyan is a multi-institutional, multi-lingual science communication initiative.
-
- It will bring factual information about the disease into the public domain
-
- It is a joint initiative of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and Tata Memorial Centre (TMC).

102. Miscellaneous

AIIMS-Rishikesh sets up India's 1st remote health monitoring system

- AIIMS-Rishikesh, in partner with BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited), has set up India's first remote health monitoring system
- It will be used to monitor COVID-19 patients in Uttarakhand

Quick facts: Headquarters of BEL is in Bengaluru

103. Economy

Birupaksha Mishra appointed Executive Director of Union Bank of India

- Birupaksha Mishra has been appointed as Executive Director of Union Bank of India
- Prior to this, he was executive director of Corporation Bank.

Quick Facts: Union Bank of India has been amalgamated with Corporation Bank and Andhra Bank

104. Economy

YES Bank extends bancassurance partnership with Max Life Insurance

- YES, Bank has extended its strategic bancassurance partnership with Max Life Insurance.
- The tie-up has been extended for 5 more years.

Quick facts: Bancassurance is a partnership aimed at offering insurance products or insurance benefits to the bank's customers

105. Science and Technology

Indo-US S&T forum for collaborative research on COVID-19

- IUSSTF, an Indo-US science forum has invited proposals for research on the pandemic
- Proposals will be accepted from scientists and engineers from India and US
- The initiative is called COVID-19 Indo-US Virtual Networks

Quick facts-IUSSTF stands for Indo-US Science and Technology Forum

106. Science and Technology

AIM's, NITI Aayog & NIC jointly launch "CollabCAD"

- CollabCAD stands for Collaborative CAD Software.
- It is a collaborative network, computer-enabled software system.
- It will provide Indian students and youth a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product design.

Quick facts: Neeta Verma is the Director-General of NIC

17 April 2020

107. National Affairs

170 hotspots and 207 non-hotspots of COVID-19 declared

- Ministry of Health has divided districts into the following categories:
- 1) Red Zones/hotspots: have a large number of COVID-19 cases which are increasing daily
- 2) Orange zones/non-hotspots: have a large number of COVID-19 cases which are not increasing
- 3) Green zones: have limited or no COVID-19 cases

108. Miscellaneous

Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act makes public spitting an offence

- Spitting has been made punishable under Section 51 of the Disaster Management Act.
- Refusal to abide by this order can lead to imprisonment for up to a year,

109. Science and Technology

Integrated Geospatial Platform to complement Arogya Setu

- The platform will integrate data from SAHYOG app and Indiamaps portal

- It will help in planning local strategies to handle the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

110.Science and Technology

“Sahyog” Mobile application launched by Survey of India

- Sahyog will complement “Arogya Setu”, which was launched for contact tracing, self-assessment and public awareness.
- The app will collect information about COVID-19 specific data sets through community engagement.
- It will also collect geotagged information about India’s critical health infrastructure, data being entered also by ASHA and Anganwadi workers

18 April 2020

111.Economy

RBI: Reverse Repo rate and LTRO updates

- RBI has cut the reverse repo rate to 3.75% and repo rate to 4.4%
- It has also announced Rs 50,000 crore for Long Term Repo Operation (LTRO)
- The LTRO has been named as LTRO 2.0 as this LTRO will focus on liquidity needs of microfinance and NBFC, instead of Public Sector Undertakings and large corporations as is usual.

112.India and the World

AIB: 500 million USD funds for National Health Care Systems projects

- AIB has doubled its funds under COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility
- The funding will aim to increase the purchase of equipment and detection capacity

Quick facts-AIB headquarters are located in Beijing

113.India and the World

India to attend BRICS meeting on COVID-19

- BRICS foreign ministers will be meeting online by the end of April 2020
- The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the economic effects of COVID-19.

Quick facts: Brazil, Russia, India and China were the initial members of BRICS before it was joined by South Africa

114.Person in News

Chess Legend Viswanathan Anand named ambassador of WWF India

- Legendary chess player Viswanathan Anand will be the ambassador of World Wide Fund India
-
- He will be joining WWF-India for its environmental education programme

Quick facts: Viswanathan Anand is the first chess grandmaster from India, and has won the world chess championship five times.

115. Economy

RBI launches OBICUS survey

- OBICUS is Order Books, Inventories and Capacity Utilization Survey (OBICUS)
- It gives an insight into the demands of the Indian manufacturing sector
- It is conducted 4 times a year.

116. Science And Technology

Delhi Government introduces “Assess Koro Na” application

- The application will be used to conduct door to door survey and enter real-time data
- The real-time data will enable quick decision-making regarding provision of health infrastructure and project planning

117. Science And Technology

Two new DRDO products to combat COVID-19

- The first product uses water mist aerator technology to spray sanitizer while entering public places
- The second product, a UV sanitization box, uses UV rays to kill the genetic material in coronavirus.

Quick facts: Ultraviolet (UV) is electromagnetic radiation with a wavelength from 10 nm to 400 nm

118. Science And Technology

“Krishi Rath” application launched by GoI for hassle-free Agri transportation

- The app will help farmers transport their agriculture produce to the mandis.
- It will connect them to transporters and traders, all operating with competitive prices.

19-20 April 2020

119. Person in News

BSNL CMD P K Purwar to take additional charge of MTNL

- P. K. Purwar has been given the additional charge as CMD of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)
- He is also the chairman and managing director of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

Quick facts: Headquarters of both MTNL and BSNL are in New Delhi

120. Sports

“Feifei” the bird to be a mascot for Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games

- “Feifei” the bird will be the mascot for Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games, China
- The design of ‘Feifei’ is inspired by the motif of the ‘Divine Bird’ in the Liangzhu Culture

- 4th Asian Para Games are going to be held from October 9-15 2022

Quick facts: Taekwondo and Para-Canoe will make their debuts at the 4th Asian Para Games

121. History, Art & Culture

National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of India launched

- Ministry of Culture has launched the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage
- The list will increase awareness about the intangible cultural heritage of India
- Some elements are derived from UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity

Quick facts: Intangible culture includes non-physical intellectual property such as beliefs, folklore, traditions, customs and language.

122. International Affairs

44th session of World Heritage Committee of UNESCO postponed

- The session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, to be held in China's Fujian Province, has been postponed
- The committee is responsible for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, has the final say on whether a property is inscribed on the World Heritage List and overlooks their management

Quick facts: The committee was founded in 1976 and is headquartered in Paris

123. Science and Technology

CeNS develops a compact solid-state sensor to detect the heavy metal ions in water

- Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) has developed the sensor
- It is a portable device which can help onsite detection in remote areas.
- Heavy metal ions harm living beings as they accumulate in the body and cannot be destabilised easily

Quick facts-Heavy metals include lead, mercury and cadmium

124. Person in News

Algerian Author Abdelouahab Aissaoui Wins Top Arab Fiction Prize

- Algerian author Abdelouahab Aissaoui has won the 13th International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF)
- The award has been awarded for his book "The Spartan Court"

Quick facts: One major aim of the prize, started in Abu Dhabi in 2007, is to promote translation of Arabic literature into English

125. Environment

Renewable Energy Parks to be set up in India

- Ministry of Renewable Energy is setting up renewable energy parks in India.
- The aim is to manufacture components and materials for renewable energy production.
- This will reduce dependence on imports and also meet global demands

126. Economy

India attends Development Committee Meeting of IMF-World Bank

- Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitaraman participated in the 101st meeting of the development committee
- The meeting was held to discuss responses to COVID-19 emergency and COVID-19 debt initiatives
- The major debt initiative is the International Call for Action in Support of IDA countries.

Quick facts-IDA was established in 1960 with an aim to reduce poverty.

21 April 2020

127. Economy

FDI policy amended to prevent opportunistic acquisitions

- Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy has been amended to prevent opportunistic acquisitions of Indian companies during COVID-19 economic crisis.
- As per the amendment, every investor from a neighbouring country is required to invest through Government route.
- Earlier this was required only for investments from Bangladesh and Pakistan.

128. International Affairs

UN Chinese Language Day observed

- United Nations celebrates Language days to honour cultural diversity and multilingualism
- The Chinese language was adopted as an official language in the United Nations in 1946 and as a working language in 1975.

Quick facts: The six official languages of the UN are Arabic, English, Chinese, Russian, Spanish and French.

129. National Affairs

Govt launches online data pool of Human Resources

- The platform www.covidwarriors.gov.in consists of district wise and state wise pool of human resources.
- Human resources include AYUSH workers, doctors, NSS volunteers, etc.
- This data shall give an idea about existing resources and how to leverage them for contingency planning

130. Miscellaneous

Uttar Pradesh becomes the first state to GeoTag community kitchens

- UP Government, with Google, has geotagged community kitchens in the state
- Google will provide locations of these kitchens on an application developed by the Remote Sensing Application Centre (RSAC)
- Community kitchens produce around 12 lakh food packets per day for those in need

Quick facts: Geo-tagging is the process of attaching location information in the form of geographical metadata to digital objects

131. Environment

Leatherback Sea Turtles build the largest number of nests in 2 decades

- This increase in nesting is due to isolated beaches in COVID-19 hit Thailand
- Leatherback Turtles are giant sea turtles
- They come under the 'vulnerable' category in the IUCN red list of threatened species.

Quick facts: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland

132.Science and Technology

Indian Astrophysicists connect lithium abundance in interstellar space to new Lithium rich red giants

- It is a known fact that the amount of Lithium in interstellar space is four times of the original (primordial value)
- This is attributed to Big Bang Nucleosynthesis- production of nuclei other than that of the lightest isotope of hydrogen
- Indian astrophysicists have associated this increase with central He-burning stars called red clump giants

133. Science and Technology

NASA to launch Astronauts in space after 11 years

- The mission will use Falcon-9 rockets to send astronauts to International Space Station
- The mission, called Commercial Crew Programme, will be launched by Space X.
- Currently, SpaceX and Boeing are the space taxi providers of NASA

134.Science & Technology

Indian Scientists Discover model to predict Ionospheric Electron Density

- The model was discovered by the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism researchers
- This help in a deeper understanding of geomagnetic storms
- This study is important for communication and navigation on earth.

Quick facts: Magnetic storm on the earth's magnetosphere is caused by solar winds.

22 April 2020

135. Miscellaneous

Daporijo Bridge across Subansiri river in Arunachal Pradesh inaugurated

- The bridge is strategically important as it links roads leading up to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China.
- All essential supplies to the state are supplied via this bridge.

Quick facts: Subansiri river is the largest tributary of the Brahmaputra river

136. National Affairs

CPCB issues guidelines to handle COVID-19 treatment wastes

- Central Pollution Control Board has issued guidelines for waste management generated from COVID-19 patients.
- These places should have dedicated bin labelled "COVID-19 Waste".

- The COVID-19 Waste bins should be disinfected with 1% Sodium Hypochlorite

Quick facts: The CPCB was established under the Water Act, 1974

137. International Affairs

UN Consensus Resolution for equitable access to future vaccines

- United Nations has adopted a consensus resolution drafted by Mexico
- The resolution calls for equitable, efficient and timely access to future vaccines developed against COVID-19

Quick facts: To pass a resolution, the United Nations requires more than 50% of all votes, called the simple majority

138. Miscellaneous

Civil Services Day observed on 21st April

- India rewards officers with Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration on this day.
- On this day, Sardar Vallabhai Patel addressed the first batch probationers of Administrative Services in 1947.

139. Person in News

Former IAS officer Kapil Dev Tripathi appointed as Secretary to President

- Former IAS officer Kapil Dev Tripathi has been appointed as the new secretary to the President
- The appointment was made by Appointment Committee of the Cabinet

Quick facts: Chairman of the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet is the Prime Minister

140. Economy

Fifteenth Finance Commission will assess impacts of COVID-19

- The Economic Advisory Council of the Fifteenth Finance Commission will discuss the impacts
- They will also discuss public expenditure to be spent to boost the economy

Quick facts: Nand Kishore Singh is the chairman of the Fifteenth Finance Commission

141. Science and Technology

DCGI approves clinical trial of COVID-19 drug to reduce the mortality rate

- The COVID-19 drug that was developed by the Cadila Pharmaceuticals along with CSIR
- The drug had been used to treat patients having Gram-Negative Bacterial Sepsis
- It is helpful with COVID-19 due to similarities between the two conditions.

142. Economy

New Development Bank's gives India 1 bn USD as financial assistance

- New Development Bank will provide financial assistance of 1 billion USD of COVID-19 funds to India
- The bank is part of BRICS grouping of member countries Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

143. International Affairs

Annual Report on Food Crisis released by the UN World Food Programme

- United Nations World Food Programme has released the fourth annual report on Food Crisis.
- According to the report, the food crisis has grown by 10%.

Quick facts-United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization

144. Miscellaneous

India ranks 142nd in World Press Freedom Index

- India has ranked 142nd in the index and has dropped by two places as compared to its last ranking
- Around 180 countries are ranked in the index
- South Asia region has performed the worst globally

Quick facts: The Index is compiled and published by a Paris based non-profit organisation called Reporters without borders.

145. Environment

New Viper species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

- Indian Herpetologists have discovered a new species of viper family in the Pakke Tiger Reserve
- It has been named after the famous Harry Potter fictional character, Salazar Slytherin.

Quick facts: Pakke Tiger Reserve is bound by the Pakke and Kameng rivers

146. Sports

Team Mask Force for COVID-19 Awareness

- "Team Mask Force" has been created by Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- It consists of famous Indian cricketers of all ages and genders
- They aim to generate awareness about making masks at home and wearing them outside.

147. Environment

World Earth Day observed on 22nd April

- The theme for Earth Day 2020 was Climate Action
- This was the 50th anniversary of the day
- Digital celebration for the day was to include five components: citizen science, advocacy, volunteering, education, a programme for artists.

148. National Affairs

New chief justices recommended for 3 High Courts

New Chief Justices have been recommended. They are:

- 1) Dipankar Datta for Bombay High Court
- 2) Biswanath Somadder for Meghalaya High Court
- 3) Mohammad Rafiq for Orissa High Court

Quick facts: Chief Justices for High Courts are recommended by the Supreme Court Collegium led by the Chief Justice of India

149. Person in News

Huawei Telecommunications India appoints David Li as CEO

- David Li was previously serving as CEO of Huawei Cambodia
- He has replaced Jay Chen who has been promoted to handle Asia Pacific level business role

150. Economy

Paytm Payments Bank launches the DBT scheme

- The bank has implemented the option to avail benefits of Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)
- DBT is a scheme by Gol to transfer the subsidies of various social welfare schemes directly into the beneficiary's bank account.

24 April 2020

151. Miscellaneous

Lebanon becomes first Arab country to legalize marijuana cultivation

- Lebanon has legalized marijuana cultivation for industrial and medical purposes to cope with its economic crisis
- It is the third-largest supplier of cannabis resin in the world after Morocco and Afghanistan.

Quick facts: Beirut is the capital of Lebanon

152. Environment

Air Pollution in India at 20 years low according to NASA

- National Aeronautics and Space Administration has announced that air pollution in India has reached 20 year low.
- This may be due to the lockdown caused by the ongoing pandemic.
- Aerosol Optical Depth has been the least as compared to the average of 2016 to 2019
- It is currently 0.1, as compared to 0.7 in 2016

Quick facts: Aerosol Optical Depth is the absorption of light by airborne particles in the atmosphere.

153. Person in News

PV Sindhu to be the ambassador in the Badminton World Federation campaign

- P V Sindhu has been named the ambassador of the campaign "I am Badminton"
- The campaign revolves around ethics, integrity and passion for the game

Quick facts: Sindhu is the first Indian to become Badminton World Champion

154. Science & Technology

COVID-19 test called Feluda developed by CSIR-IGIB scientists

- The test similar technology as RT-PCR.
- It is a simple paper-based test strip and will show results in the form of colour change.
- It is more efficient than other preexisting tests as it is faster, cheaper and more feasible.

Quick facts: Feluda is the name of a fictional detective created by Satyajit Ray

155. National Affairs

VidyaDaan 2.0 launched by MHRD

- VidyaDaan 2.0 has been launched on DIKSHA platform
- It will integrate both school and higher education for children and help in continuing education at home due in wake of COVID-19
- It will host learning content like videos, assessments and lesson plans, monitored by experts

Quick facts: DIKSHA is a National Digital Infrastructure launched for teacher capacity building

156. Miscellaneous

World Book Day observed on 23rd April

- World Book Day commemorates the birthday of 17th Century novelist Miguel de Cervantes
- Miguel de Cervantes was a Spanish novelist who wrote the famous "Don Quixote"

25 April 2020

157. National Affairs

BRO builds a bridge to connect Kasowal enclave with rest of India

- The Border Roads Organisation has built a permanent bridge to connect the Kasowal enclave to the rest of India
- The bridge on Ravi river will provide all-weather connectivity with the enclave.
- The previous pontoon bridge has limited load capacity and had to be refurbished every year after the monsoon.

Quick facts: Ravi river is one of the six rivers of the Indus system

158. Economy

Facebook buys 9.99% stake in Reliance Jio

- Facebook has acquired a 9.99% stake of Reliance Jio
- This move has made Facebook its largest minority shareholder.
- Jio Platform is the parent of phone and data unit Reliance Jio Infocomm

Quick facts: Facebook's headquarter is in California, USA

159. Miscellaneous

National Panchayati Raj Day observed on 24th April

- On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day, Gol launched a unified e-GramSwaraj Portal and Mobile App
- e-GramSwaraj will provide Gram Panchayats with a single interface to prepare and implement their development plan
- Best performing Panchayats, States and UTs across the country have also awarded.

Quick facts: Panchayati Raj had come into force on 24th April 1993 through the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act 1992

160. Person in News

Theatre legend Usha Ganguly passes away

- Usha Ganguly, an artist-director, was considered a trailblazer for women in Indian theatre
- She was the founder of the famous Hindi theatre group, Rangakarmee

161. Miscellaneous

Manipur govt commemorates 'Khongjom Day' at Khongjom War Memorial Complex on April 23rd

- Khongjom Day is celebrated every year on April 23
- This day commemorates the people who valiantly fought in the Anglo-Manipuri War in 1891

162. International Affairs

Iran reportedly launches first military satellite Noor

- The Noor satellite was launched by a three-stage rocket
- It was launched by a branch of Iran armed forces, the Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC)

26-27 April 2020

163. National Affairs

Banking Services made Public Utility Services

- Govt has declared banking industry as public utility service till October 21.
- This will prevent strikes by employees of the banking sector, especially in the aftermath of bank consolidations.
- The order has been issued under provisions of Industrial Disputes Act and had been passed by the labour ministry.

164. Miscellaneous

World Immunization Week: Last week of April

- Last week of April is celebrated as World Immunization Week to increase awareness of immunization
- The theme for 2020 is "Vaccines work for All"

Quick facts: The first vaccine was developed by English Physician Edward Jenner in 1796 against the disease smallpox.

165. Science & Technology

30th anniversary of NASA's Hubble Space Telescope

- Hubble Space Telescope has completed 30 years of its launch on 24th April.
- It is one of the longest functioning Space Telescopes in the world.
- Hubble Space Observatory is run by NASA in partnership with European Space Agency.

Quick facts: Dwight D. Eisenhower is the founder of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration

166. Miscellaneous

International Delegate's Day celebrated on April 25th

- 25th April 2020 was marked as the International Delegate's Day for the first time by United Nations
- This day celebrates the 75th anniversary of San Francisco Conference.
- In the San Francisco Conference, delegates from 50 countries came together to restore world peace and impose rules post world war

Quick facts: Charter of the United Nations was created in the aftermath of this conference

167. Science & Technology

PRACRITI: IIT-Delhi dashboard to predict COVID-19 cases

- "PRACRITI is a web-based dashboard to predict the spread of COVID-19 in India
- It uses a mathematical model to predict district-wise and state-wise COVID-19 cases"

Quick facts: PRACRITI stands for Prediction and Assessment of Corona Infections and Transmissions in India.

168. Science & Technology

19 Interstellar Asteroids discovered between Jupiter and Neptune

- Brazilian Astronomers have discovered 19 new asteroids between Jupiter and Neptune
- They are now a part of "Centaur" orbiting the sun which is a group of asteroids between Neptune and Jupiter.

Quick facts: The first interstellar asteroid, which was discovered in 2017, was "Oumuamua"

169. Economy

Finance Commission advises states to use FRBM clause to fight COVID-19

- The FC has advised states to use the clause of raising the state's fiscal deficit from the limit of 3 by up to 50 base points
- This would help states raise more funds to support cash flow problems of small scale industries and allow partial loan guarantees to prevent bankruptcies.

170. Miscellaneous

World Malaria Day observed on April 25th

- World Malaria Day was declared by the World Health Organization
- It was created with an aim to create awareness and mobilise resources against the disease
- The theme for this year's Malaria Day is "Zero malaria starts with me"

28 April 2020

171. Miscellaneous

UP becomes first Indian state with in-house virtual courts facility

- Uttar Pradesh has become the first state with a software-based in-house facility of virtual courts
- Amidst the coronavirus lockdown, Allahabad High Court and all its courts will have suitable infrastructure to hear cases through video conferencing

Quick facts: The capital of Uttar Pradesh is Lucknow

172. Economy

Vodafone Idea ties up with Paytm to launch 'Recharge Saathi'

- Recharge Saathi program will help individuals and small businesses to earn additional income.
- As part of the program, any Paytm customers can start selling Vodafone and Idea recharges through the Paytm app
- Vodafone Idea will provide cashback to merchant partners for multiple recharges.

Quick facts: Satish Kumar Gupta is MD and CEO of Paytm Payments Bank Ltd.

173. Person in News

Sanjay Kothari: New Central Vigilance Commissioner

- Sanjay Kothari has been selected as the new CVC by a high-powered committee.
- Before this appointment, he served as the Secretary to the president.

Quick facts: Central Vigilance Commission was created in 1964 to address governmental corruption. It got statutory status in 2003.

174. Environment

Bengaluru airport to revive endangered citrus fruit, Devanahalli Pomelo

- Devanahalli Pomelo has a Geographical Indication (GI) tag
- It has almost vanished from its local area near the Bengaluru airport due to local farmers adopting other professions
- Airport authorities plan to work with local farmers and promote cultivation by empowering self-help groups and undertaking tree grafting in its orchard
- The revival is part of their flagship CSR Programme 'Namma Ooru'.

Quick facts: The tree's fruit is rich in Vitamin C and is known for its sweetness

175. Economy

RBI's Operation Twist

- RBI will be relaunching its bond swapping programme called Operation Twist.
- It will purchase long-dated securities and sell short-dated securities under open market operations (OMO)
- This operation will neutralise liquidity in the system, bring down rates and stimulate private sector borrowing.

Quick facts: An OMO is an activity by a central bank to give (or take) liquidity in its currency to (or from) a bank or a group of banks

176. Science and Technology

First-ever digital geological map of moon released by US Geological Survey

- The map has been developed jointly by US Geological Survey, NASA and Lunar Planetary Institute
- Unified Geologic Map of the Moon is a 'seamless, globally consistent, 1:5,000,000-scale geologic map'
- The map will serve as a blueprint for future human missions
- It will also be a source of research and analysis in lunar geology

177. Economy

Commodity Markets Outlook By World Bank

- The April 2020 Commodity Markets Outlook has been released by World Bank
- It provides market analysis and prices for major commodities
- As per current Outlook, commodity prices, especially those related to transportation, have been deeply affected due to COVID-19.

178. Environment

Hydrogen Fuel Bus and car launched by NTPC

- National Thermal Power Corporation has launched ten Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based buses and 10 similar electric cars.
- This is part of NTPC's aim to decarbonize India's transport system for environment purposes
- Hydrogen Fuel Cells convert hydrogen-rich fuel into electricity

29 April 2020

179. International Affairs

Saudi Arabia abolishes the death penalty for minors

- As per the new law, no minor shall receive a death sentence for crimes they have committed.
- Instead, they will undergo a prison sentence of no longer than 10 years in a juvenile detention facility.
- This is part of the country's Vision 2030, as well as to address the human rights criticism the country has faced for some of its laws.

Quick facts: The currency of Saudi Arabia is Saudi Riyal

180. Economy

RBI announces Rs 50,000 crore Special Liquidity Facility for Mutual Funds

- The Special Liquidity Funds will ease liquidity pressures on mutual funds
- Under the SLF-MF, the RBI shall conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.
- This is part of RBI's measures to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19 and preserve financial stability

Quick facts: RBI was founded on 1st April 1935

181. Environment

The largest hole in the Ozone Layer closes due to polar vortex changes

- A 1 mn sq km wide hole above the Arctic, formed due to unusual climatic conditions, has closed by itself.
- The decrease in the vorticity of the polar vortex has caused the ozone hole to close by itself.
- Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) confirmed this news.

Quick facts: Polar Vortex is a winter phenomenon consisting of cyclonic circular winds that blow in the stratosphere from west to east.

182. Economy

Gol establishes the International Financial Services Centre Authority

- The authority will regulate financial markets in the International Financial Service Centres in India.
- It consists of 9 members that are appointed by Gol, with a term of three years.
- Members will include a chairperson, two members from the Ministry of Finance, one each from RBI, SEBI, IRDAI and PFRDA and two members based on the recommendation of the search committee

183. Miscellaneous

World Day for Safety and Health at Work observed on 28th April

- This day has been observed by the International Labour Organization since 2003.

- It aims to create awareness about the newer health risks emerging from the changing scenario at work in the modern times.
- The theme for this year is 'Stop the Pandemic'

184. International Affairs

WHO launches COVID-19 Tools (Act) Accelerator

- The accelerator aims to boost the development, production and access to COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics.
- It also wants to ensure that the distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines is equitable between rich and poor nations.

185. Science and Technology

IIT Bombay develops low-cost mechanical ventilator Ruhdaar

- The team from IIT-B, NIT Srinagar and IUST Awantipura, has come up with a low-cost ventilator using locally available materials in order to meet India's mass requirement in the face of COVID-19
- The ventilator is able to fulfil parameters like tidal volume, breaths per minute and Inspiratory: Expiratory Ratio and to also monitor pressure continuously during its operation.

186. Defence and Security

Pakistan test fires anti-ship missiles successfully

- Pakistan Navy successfully test fired anti-ship missiles in the North Arabian sea.
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- Anti-Ship Missiles are missiles which are used against large boats and ships.

Quick facts: India's anti-ship missiles include BrahMos, Nirbhay, Dhanush, BrahMos II and BrahMos NG

30 April 2020

187. Miscellaneous

Noted Indian actor Irrfan Khan passes away

- He had worked in Hollywood and British movies, along with his work in Indian films
- He was the recipient of many awards, including including a National Film Award, an Asian Film Award, and four Filmfare Awards
- He had also been awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian honour

188. Science and Technology

First merger of two black holes with unequal masses detected

- The gravitational wave observatories at LIGO scientific collaboration have detected a merger of two unequal-mass black holes.
- The merging black holes were about 30 and 8 times the Sun's mass
- This observation is another proof of Einstein's theory of general relativity.

Quick facts: Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory to detect cosmic gravitational waves

189. Person in News

Shiv Das Meena takes charge as HUDCO's CMD

- Shiv Das Meena is presently holding the position of additional Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- He has also been appointed as chairman and managing director of Housing and Urban Development Corporation

Quick facts: The headquarters of HUDCO is located in New Delhi

190. Miscellaneous

Noted Odia Dramatist Bijay Mishra passes away

- He had received Kendra Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2013 for his book "Banaprastha"
- He was also a recipient of Odisha Sahitya Akademi award.

200. Environment

11th Session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue held

- The session included India and 30 other countries deliberating over ways to reinvigorate economies and societies after COVID-19, while balancing the need for climate action and support to the most vulnerable.
- The Dialogue has been hosted by Germany since 2010 as a forum for discussion of high-level climate-related political discussions.

201. Economy

Axis Bank to acquire 29% stake in Max Life Insurance

- This move will raise Axis Bank's total holding in the life insurer to 30 per cent after the completion of the deal
- Max Financial Services will hold the remaining 70 per cent in the joint venture
- Thus, Max Life would become a 70:30 joint venture after the deal.

Quick facts: Amitabh Chaudhry is the CEO of Axis Bank

202. Science and Technology

Alzheimer Inhibitor developed by JNCASR

- The inhibitor called Ber-D is an antioxidant and prevents oxidative damage to macromolecules.
- It is derived from berberine which is used in traditional medicine.
- Ber-D prevents the accumulation of Amyloid Beta build up in brain cells.