



Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest

April 2020

BANK
EXAMS
Today

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: April 2020

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IIT BOMBAY DEVELOPED TWO APPS TO MONITOR PERSONS UNDER CORONAVIRUS QUARANTINE

Current Context: IIT-B has developed two apps namely CORONTINE and SAFE, to monitor and track the person who are asked to quarantine themselves at their homes in order to control the spread of COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The apps are embodied with GPS data and geofencing to alert the authorities of users breaching preset virtual geographical boundaries.
- Since the outbreak of coronavirus, there's been lockdown declared and hence the civic bodies are asked to stay home quarantine adhere to the restrictions on their movement. Therefore. IIT-B has developed these apps.
- **CORONTINE app:** The app uses GPS enabled geofencing, which creates virtual geographic boundaries. That is when the user of the app, cross the preset or desired geographical boundary, the app alerts the assigned authorities. This is developed with a view that COVID-19 does not spread from the person to a large geographical extent of the area.
- **SAFE app:** The app was actually being used by IIT-B students to mark their attendance at their institute. But, now it's being modified so that it can be used to check quarantined individuals. Users of this app are asked to take photos of themselves periodically using the app and upload it. Then the app records the time and location data of the place and with the help of facial recognition software, it verifies the person uploading data. This then enables monitoring agencies to verify whether that person is staying within the quarantined zone boundaries.
- **Government of Maharashtra, Ministry of Human Resource Development and NITI Ayog have approached other cities of the country to adopt these apps to make their monitoring error-free.**

GOVERNMENT EXTENDS CROP LOAN BENEFITS TO FARMERS TILL 31ST MAY 2020

Current Context: Since the whole nation is under lockdown due to COVID-19, the Government of India has taken a major role to provide relief to the farmers in terms of crop loan interest.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **GOI has extended the benefit of 2% interest subvention to banks and 3% prompt replacement incentives to all the farmers up to 31st May 2020.**
- **The interest subsidy has been extended to all the crop loans up to 3 lakh rupees given by banks which have become due or becoming due between 1st April 2020 to 31st May 2020.** Since the extension is provided, now the farmers will not have to travel to the bank branched amidst of this lockdown situation of COVID-19.
- Also, the farmers will not have to face any difficulties in repayment of their short term crop loans falling due during this period.

PARTNERSHIP- BHARATPE AND ICICI LOMBARD TIED UP TO PROVIDE COVID-19 INSURANCE

Current Context: Bharatpe and ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited partnered to introduce “COVID-19 Protection Insurance Cover” for the shopkeepers across India who are most affected financially due to COVID-19.

- **As per the insurance policy, shopkeepers will get 100% of their hospitalization expenses if they are the sufferers of COVID-19.** They will get 100% of the opted sum insured as a lump sum in the event of the first diagnosis itself.
- **The starting price of the premium for the health cover is Rs 199, which provides a sum of Rs 25000 to the insured along with benefits like health assistance, chat/virtual assistance, teleconsultation and ambulance assistance.**
- The insurance policy is designed for the people in the **age group 18-65 years.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai
- MD of ICICI Lombard: BhargavDasgupta
- HQ of Bharatpe: New Delhi
- CEO of Bharatpe: Ashneer Grover

STRANDED IN INDIA PORTAL- LAUNCHED BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Current Context: Ministry of Tourism has launched the “Stranded in India” portal with a view to helping foreign tourist who are stuck in various parts of the country.

- **The web address of the portal is strandedinindia.com.**
- The portal consists of COVID-19 helpline numbers and call centers so that foreign tourist can reach out for help.
- Also, it contains information of the Ministry of External affairs control centers along with their contact information and information around state based and regional tourism support infrastructures.

STATIC PART:

- Minister of state (independent charge) of Ministry of Tourism: Prahalad Joshi

NATO'S CHIEF APPOINTS EXPERTS TO STRENGTHEN NATO'S POLITICAL ROLE

Current Context: The NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg appointed a group of experts for the reflection process.

- The panel will offer a recommendation to increase political consultation, coordination between the allies, reinforce alliance unity and strengthen NATO's political role.
- For this, a group of five men and five women will be co-chaired by former German defence minister Thomas de Maziere and Washington's former top diplomat for Europe Wess Mitchell. And they will report to the Secretary-general.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NATO: Brussels, Belgium

2020 UNFCCC - POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19

Current Context: 2020 United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change Conference which was to be held in Glasgow, the UK in the month of November of the current year has been postponed till next year due to COVID-19.

- It was scheduled to be held from 9th November -19th November 2020, but the COP Bureau announced that the conference would instead take place in 2021.
- However, the dates for a rescheduled conference in 2021 will be announced later.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of UNFCCC: Bonn, Germany
- Secretary-General of UNFCCC: Patricia Espinosa
- President of COP-26 Climate Conference: Alok Sharma

IIT-KANPUR- TO DESIGN LOW COST PORTABLE VENTILATOR

Current Context: To tackle the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, IIT-Kanpur is in the process of designing a low-cost portable ventilator that is used as life supporter.

KEY FACTS

- The portable ventilator will be cheaper than the ones which are available in the market.
- It will be very vital equipment for COVID-19 sufferers, especially to those who are old and the virus can prove fatal to them.
- The Bioscience and Bioengineering department of IIT-Kanpur is the designing and assembling team behind this portable ventilator.
- Two graduates from the institute Harshit Rathore and Nikhil Kurule, who are the owners of the start-up 'Nocia Robotics' have developed a prototype of this portable ventilator.
- The institute along with its nine members team will get ready with around 1000 portable ventilators within a month.

WIMBLEDON 2020 TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP- CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Current Context: The All England Club has announced that the Wimbledon 2020 Tennis Championship will not take place due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The tennis grand slam tournament has been cancelled for the first time since World War II.**
- The tournament was to be held between 29th June and 12th July 2020. **The cancellations follows with the postponement of French Open , which was due to begin in month of May this year but now has been rescheduled to be held from 20th Sep to 4th October 2020.**
- **The updated dates of Wimbledon Tennis tournament are 28th June and 11th July 2021.**

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED- “CORONA WATCH APP”

Current Context: The state government of Karnataka launched a mobile app called “Corona watch”.

- **Aim of Corona Watch App:** To track the movement history of the patient, who tested positive prior to their detection so that they can take precautions.
- The app is designed in such a way that it will give the data and timing of the visit of the patient to the location they travel.
- **The app is comprised with the list of government-designated first response hospitals for COVID-19 where citizens with the symptoms can go.**
- **Also the Karnataka government has formulated a ten-member task force for COVID-19.**
- **This task force are making use of IT application and GPS to track individuals who are suspected of COVID-19.**
- The quarantined person have been ordered to declare their location every day during the 14 day quarantined period.

STATIC PART:

- Chief Minister of Karnataka: B. S. Yediyurappa
- Governor of Karnataka: Vajubhai Vala

L DURAISWAMY – APPOINTED AS MD OF SUNDARAM FINANCE

Current Context: L Duraiswamy has assumed the charge of the new Managing Director of Sundaram Finance.

- He assumed the charge of MD from 1st April 2020. In May 2019, Sundaram Home had inducted L Duraiswamy as Executive Director. And in October 2019 he was appointed as a whole-time Director on the board of Sundaram Home Finance.
- **He replaced Srinivas Acharya from the post of Managing Director.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Sundaram Home Finance: Chennai, Tamil Nadu

NASA'S SUNRISE MISSION- TO STUDY GIANT SOLAR PARTICLES STORM

Current Context: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced that they have selected the proposed Sun Radio Interferometer Space Experiment (SunRISE) mission to study how the Sun creates and releases giant solar particle storms which is also known as giant space weather storms into the planetary space.

- The mission will further help scientists to understand how the solar system works. It will also help to protect future astronauts from solar storms while going to the Moon or Mars mission by providing them better information on how the Sun's radiation affects the space environment in which they travel.
- The mission is to deploy six CubeSats in Geosynchronous orbit and it led by the Justin Kasper University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. It is also managed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratories (JPL).
- SunRISE is a mission that is comprised of 6 CubeSats using the 6U configuration. The mission only requires 5 but uses 6 as redundancy. SunRISE is proposed to launch as a rideshare mission on a commercial satellite built by Maxar. It will likely launch on a commercial rocket. Attached by a Payload Orbital Delivery System (PODS), it will **deploy the 6 CubeSats in a Geosynchronous earth orbit (GEO)**. It will then be stationed about 10 Kilometers apart. Then it will be placed in a passive formation and will drift in the GEO. Once it is in operation it will be operated by JPL for a 12-month mission.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NASA: Washington D.C. United States

CORONA CARE- AN INSURANCE POLICY LAUNCHED BY PHONEPE AND BAJAJ ALLIANZ GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: PhonePe has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to launch a coronavirus hospitalization insurance policy called "Corona Care".

- PhonePe users can purchase their Coronavirus insurance policy under the "My Money" section on the PhonePe app.
- **This coronavirus insurance policy is priced at Rs 156 with an insurance cover of Rs 50,000 for a person aged under 55 years and the cover is applicable at any hospital offering coronavirus treatment. It also covers 30 days of expenses related to pre-hospitalization costs and post-care medical treatment.**
- Customers don't need to undertake any medical tests before purchasing the Corona Care policy. They can purchase it instantly from the convenience of their homes considering the current lockdown observed in the country.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of PhonePe: Bengaluru
- CEO of PhonePe: Sameer Nigam
- HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Pune

- MD & CEO of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Tapan Singhel

WORLD BANK OFFERS FINANCIAL HELP TO INDIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: World Bank approves \$1 billion emergency funds for India to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak. This is the largest chunk of emergency financial assistance by the World Bank to India in response to the COVID-19 emergency response and health systems preparedness project.

- **COVID-19 emergency response and health systems preparedness project is a four-year project** which will enable India to prevent, detect, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and strengthen its public health preparedness.
- This new support will cover all states and Union Territories across India and address the needs of infected people, at-risk populations, medical and emergency personnel and service providers, medical and testing facilities, and national and animal health agencies.
- In India, USD 1 billion emergency financing will support better screening, contact tracing, and laboratory diagnostics; procure personal protective equipment, and set up new isolation wards.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of World Bank: Washington D.C. United States
- President of World Bank: David Malpass
- MD and CFO of World Bank: Anshula Kant

INFRARED BASED TEMPERATURE SENSOR- DEVELOPED BY NAVAL DOCKYARD, MUMBAI”

Current Context: Indian Navy’s Naval Dockyard, Mumbai developed portable Infrared based temperature sensor gun with a view for the screening of personnel at yard’s entry gates to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- Since the outbreak of coronavirus, the temperature guns and non-contact thermometers shortage has risen, so this invention by Naval Dockyard Mumbai has proven very useful.
- **The sensor is manufactured at less than Rs 1000. The accuracy is 0.2 degree Celsius. It runs on a 9V battery.**

STATIC PART:

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Krambir Singh

DARPG’S NATIONAL MONITORING DASHBOARD LAUNCHED FOR COVID-19 GRIEVANCES

Current Context: Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh launched DARPG’s (Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances) National Monitoring Dashboard on COVID-19 Grievances.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The National Monitoring Dashboard was developed and implemented at <https://darpg.gov.in> where COVID-19 related grievances are monitored on a priority basis by a technical team of DARPG.
- **The main objective of the dashboard is quick and timely implementations of COVID-19 response and containment activities.**
- **A technical team has been formed to handle the public grievances on a priority basis. The team will receive grievances from all the states, union territories and ministries as well.**
- **The portal is to address all types of grievances such as complaints regarding violation of lockdown, essential supplies, quarantine facilities, examinations, rescheduling of interests of loans and requests of evacuation from foreign countries.**

'AROGYA SETU APP' - LAUNCHED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Current Context: The government of India has launched the 'Arogya Setu App' for the people to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The app is developed by the **National E-governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**
- **The app is available in 11 languages.** The app allows the user to assess themselves from the risk of getting affected by COVID-19. For this assessing, the app makes use of the **factor of the interaction** of the person with others. Then with the help of Bluetooth technology, algorithm, and artificial intelligence, it provides the result or the risk of the assessment.
- In short, the app informs regarding the risk of COVID-19 to the individual.
- The Arogya Setu app aims to augment the initiatives of GOI, by reaching out to and inform the users regarding the risk factor and also connects with essential health services to fight against COVID-19.

STATIC PART:

- Union and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Harsh Vardhan.

PARTNERSHIP: ICICI SECURITIES AND IIM BANGALORE - TO SUPPORT FINTECH STARTUPS

Current Context: ICICI Securities has partnered with IIM Bangalore to start an incubation program that will focus on fintech startups.

- The 15-month incubation program will be conducted by ICICI Securities and IIM Bangalore's startup hub N S Raghavan Center of Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL)
- The program is meant for the startup working in the fields of insurance, trading, banking, personal finance, wealth advisory, lending, taxation, and payments by providing the participated startups with and exclusive access to IIM-B resources and industry connections under fintech sector.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of ICICI Securities: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of ICICI Securities: Vijay Chandok

'WATSON ASSISTANT'- BY IBM

Current Context: Tech giant IBM has offered Watson Assistant for citizens to quickly address COVID-19 queries.

• KEY FACTS

- It is an artificial intelligence platform of IBM which will be available **free of cost for at least 90 days**.
- IBM's AI platform is already being utilized across the US, Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Spain, and Greece to address their citizens regarding COVID-19 queries.
- **It is available in the English language and now for Indian citizens, it is made available in the Hindi language as well.**
- 'Watson Assistant Citizens' is included with the data from the ministry of health and family welfare, World Health Organization (WHO), US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), citizens' welfare schemes in India and other government sources for prevention and treatment-related guidance.
- 'Watson Assistant Citizens' is making use of Watson Assistant, Natural Language Processing and AI search capabilities that help in understanding and responding to queries about COVID-19.

PORTABLE MULTIFEED OXYGEN MANIFOLD - DESIGNED BY NAVAL DOCKYARD VISHAKHAPATNAM

Current Context: Naval Dockyard Vishakhapatnam has designed portable 'Multifeed Oxygen Manifold (MOM)' to fulfill the requirements of oxygen supply for the number of patients due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in the country.

- The Portable Multifeed Oxygen Manifold is fixed in a single-cylinder using six-way radial header.
- This will enable one oxygen bottle supply to about six patients at a time.
- The trials for the same were conducted at the MI room at Naval dockyard, Vishakhapatnam. Here it was successfully installed within 30 minutes.

STATIC PART:

- Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh: YS Jagan Mohan Reddy
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bhushan Harichandan

'MHRD AICTE COVID-19 STUDENT HELPLINE PORTAL- LAUNCHED BY AICTE

Current Context: AICTE (All India Council for Technical Education) launched 'MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal' to address the issues faced by students due to national lockdown because of COVID-19 which has led to the closure of colleges and hostels.

- AICTE and Human Resource Development Ministry came together to launch this worthy portal for students.
- **Aim of the Portal:** To provide help and support by connecting those who are ready to grant help to the needy ones. The help can be granted in the form of food, online coaching, accommodation, transport, examinations, scholarship, financial support, etc.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister Human Resource Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

AGREEMENT-SCTIMST AND WIPRO 3D TO MANUFACTURE AUTOMATED VENTILATORS

Current Context: Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST), which is an institute of National Importance of the Department of Science and Technology, has signed an agreement with Wipro 3D to design and manufacture automated ventilators.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The aim behind this manufacturing is to meet the medical needs which are arising due to COVID-19.
- **The automated ventilators is based on the Artificial Manual Breathing unit (AMBU), which is also called as Bag-Valve-Mask (BVM). This AMBU or BVM is developed by SCTIMST institute which is based in Kerala.**
- **AMBU:** It is basically a handheld portable device that is used to provide positive pressure ventilation to the patient with a controlled rate of expiration, inspiration and tidal volume, etc., who is getting difficulty in breathing. AMBU ventilator which is with the inputs from the clinical faculties will be assisting the breathing of critical patients who are unable to get access to ICU ventilators due to the increase in the number of COVID-19 patients..
- In order to enhance rapid production, the automated ventilators are designed with the readily available components so that this alternative solution will reach the needy ones in their requirement of time thereby enabling a safer and effective lung-protective operation to COVID patients.

'HACK THE CRISIS INDIA---- AN ONLINE HACKATHON

Current Context: Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India (MEITY), 'Hack A Cause - India' and 'Ficci Ladies Organization Pune has launched an Online Hackathon called 'Hack the Crisis India'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An online hackathon aims to find working solutions for combating COVID-19.
- It is expected that over 2000 teams and over 15000 participants will be participating in the hackathon. The hackathon will be conducted for 48 hours. The participants will be from India, Estonia and Finland. Therefore the winning ideas from few participating teams will help to strengthen the fight against COVID-19 for the Indian citizens and global citizens.

'MO PRAVITA'- ODISHA'S ONLINE CULTURAL COMPETITION

Current Context: With an aim to engage young minds at home during the lockdown situation arised due to COVID-19, Odisha government has launched an online cultural competition called 'Mo Pravita'.

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- For this competition, **Odisha government has partnered with UNICEF** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).
- **There are two themes for this cultural competition namely : 'Being at home during lockdown' and 'My responsibility as a young citizen during COVID-19'**
- **The participants will be divided into three groups, from 5 to 10 years, 11 to 16 years and 16 to 18 years. The competitions held in this are art, slogan writing, short story writing (within 500 words), poem writing and poster making, etc.**

STATIC PART:

- Chief Minister of Odisha: Naveen Patnaik
- Governor of Odisha: Ganeshi Lal.
- HQ of UNICEF: New York, United States.

NATIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AND UBER TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT SERVICE TO PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Current Context: National Health Authority of India has signed an agreement with Uber to grant public transport facilities to the health workers who are involved in delivering their useful service to the patients of COVID-19.

- For this facility, Uber initially made provision of 150 cars free of cost in certain cities including New Delhi, Noida, Ghaziabad, Kanpur, Lucknow, Prayagraj, Patna.
- This facility is granted by Uber through its **UberMedic service**. All UberMedic cars supplied to NHA will be equipped with roof-to-floor plastic sheeting enclosing the driver's seat, thereby acting as a protective barrier between the rider and driver. Also after every drive, the car will be disinfected to ensure the safety and hygiene of the passengers as well as drivers.

STATIC PART:

- CEO of Uber: Dara Khosrowshahi
- CEO of National Health Authority : Indu Bhushan

'CARUNA'- AN INITIATIVE OF IAS AND IPS OFFICERS TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: Civil Servants including IAS and IPS officers have created a platform called CARUNA (Civil Services Association Reach to Support National Disasters) to guide the government in tackling major health issues of COVID-19.

KEY FACTS

- Civil Officers from various backgrounds including Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Revenue Service (IRS), state services and many more are part of this platform.

- With the help of this platform, civil servants will assist, support and supplement GOI to tackle COVID-19 using their network, training provided to them to handle health issues, skills, resources etc.
- Since civil servants are spread out across the country, this network can be used to create a database of information on migration, essential supplies and medical equipment like masks, ventilators, PPE etc.

COVID-19 PROTECTIVE GEAR AND HEALTHCARE ESSENTIALS TO CISF PERSONNEL

Current Context: CISF (Central Industrial Security Force) has come up with the decision of providing protective gear and healthcare essentials to 40,000 staff working at airports and at Delhi metro once they resume their work after the lockdown period gets over.

- The decision was taken because the CISF personnel will be having close physical interaction with lakhs of passengers once airports and the Delhi Metro re-start operations.
- The decision was taken when the two of the CISF personnel in Mumbai were tested positive from Coronavirus infection.
- **Hence the first step for this taken by CISF is that they have an increased number of beds in 349 units of isolation ward so that more personnel can be accommodated if their comes any requirement. Also, resources like better masks, gloves and sanitization facilities will be provided to the personnel once they resume working.**



- HQ of CISF: New Delhi
- Director-General of CISF: Rajesh Ranjan

LISA NANDY - UK SHADOW FOREIGN MINISTER

Current Context: Indian origin Lisa Nandy has been appointed as UK shadow foreign Minister.

ABOUT LISA NANDY

- She belongs to Sir Keir Starmer Labour's party. **Now the Starmer's committee will be responsible for coordinating labour's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- Lisa Eva Nandy served as the Member of Parliament for Wigan since 2010. From 2010-12 she served as the Parliamentary Private Secretary to Tessa Jowell. From 2012-15, she served as the Shadow Charities Minister.

AMITABH KANT CHAIRS AN EMPOWERED COMMITTEE FORMED TO COORDINATE BETWEEN STAKEHOLDERS

Current Context: NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant chairs Empowered Committee to review coordination between various stakeholders for COVID-19 related response activities.

- The committee aims to formulate plans with three group of stakeholders namely:

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1. The UN agencies, World Bank, Asian Development Bank
 2. Civil Society Organisations and Development partners
 3. Industry associations namely Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), NASSCOM.
- There are over 92000 NGOs/CSOs who have registered themselves on Darpan portal of NITI Aayog. **So the committee headed by Amitabh Kant has made an appeal to these NGOs to provide guidance and assistance to the GOI in identifying hotspots in order to enhance social distancing, isolation and combating COVID-19.**
 - **Also the committee has asked the NGOs to depute their volunteers and caregivers to deliver needy services to elder people, persons with the disabilities , children, transgender persons etc.**

STATIC PART:

- NITI Aayog HQ: New Delhi
- NITI Aayog Chairman: Narendra Modi
- NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORTS AND DEVELOPMENT PEACE

Current Context: Globally 6th April 2020 is celebrated as International Day of sports and Development Peace.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SPORTS

- It is marked with a view as an annual celebration power of sports in making social change , developing committee , foster peace and understanding.
- This year's IDSDP is a moment when International Olympic Committee and whole Olympic Movement to join the global effort to encourage everyone to be active and stay healthy at the time when many countries are combating major health issue arisen due to COVID-19.
- **Therefore, the UN has appealed people to #BeActive and healthy to beat #COVID19.**

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTERS- TO CONTRIBUTE HELPING HAND TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: MSME technology centers across all over India has come forward to grant help to combat health pandemic COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- They are granting help by providing masks, medical gowns, ventilators, sanitizers, components of Corona Testing Kits, etc. to combat Coronavirus.
- For this, total 18 MSME technology centers has moved forward.

- One of the MSME Technology Centre, Hyderabad is developing a prototype of an electro-mechanical ventilator which is based on sensors. Few of the MSME technology centers are manufacturing alcohol based sanitizers, ion based sanitizers, Corona testing kits, etc.

'PRANA-VAYU'- A LOW-COST VENTILATOR DEVELOPED BY IIT-ROORKEE AND AIIMS-RUSHIKESH

Current Context: IIT-Roorkee and AIIMS-Rushikesh have come up together to design a low-cost closed-loop ventilator called 'Prana-Vayu' to combat the biggest health pandemic COVID-19.

KEY FACTS

- The closed-loop ventilator can deliver the required amount of air to the patients.
- **Prana-Vayu ventilator is incorporated with an automated process by controlling pressure and flow rates. It also has the feedback path which is used to control tidal volume and number of breath per unit.**
- **It is applicable for all age group patients especially elder people and the manufacturing cost is Rs 25000.**
- The research of this ventilator began at Tinkering Laboratory in IIT-Roorkee. The team members are Prof Akshay Dwivedi and Prof. Arup Kumar Das and they received support from Debendra Tripathi who is from AIIMS Rushikesh.

'OPERATION SANJEEVANI'- LAUNCHED BY IAF TO GRANT MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO MALDIVES TO FIGHT COVID-19

Current Context: Indian Airforce launched an operation Sanjeevani to grant support of medical supplies to the Maldives.

- This is done by **airlifting 602 tons of essential medical supplies** like medicines and hospital equipment to fight COVID-19.
- The essentials were delivered by aircraft **C-130J**.
- The medicines were procured from various cities and were delivered by a Hercules aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

STATIC PART:

- Indian Air Force HQ: New Delhi
- Air Chief Marshall: Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
- Maldives Capital: Male
- Maldives Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa

'V SAFE TUNNEL'- INSTALLED AT TELANGANA

Current Context: Telangana state has installed a 'V Safe Tunnel' which is a unique disinfectant at the state Director General of Police's office to sanitize people within 20 seconds from any possible bacteria and other microbes.

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- The initiative was taken to reduce the local transmission of Coronavirus in the state and to provide maximum protection to people passing through the tunnel in around 20 seconds.
- **The disinfectant tunnel was installed with the help of private company called S3V Vascular Technologies Private Limited. It manufactures medical devices for the brain and heart.**
- **It consists of combination of water soluble polymer and iodine. The solution is highly effective against SARS, MERS and Ebola viruses.**

STATIC PART:

- CM of Telangana: K Chandrasekhar Rao
- Governor of Telangana: Tamilsai Soudaranjan

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Madhabi Puri Buch: She gets an extension by 6 months as the Whole Time Member (WTM) at Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). She is the first women to be the WTM of SEBI. She was appointed in the year 2017 as WTM of SEBI.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SEBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SEBI: Ajay Tyagi
- **Anurag Srivastava: Appointed as the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.** Currently he is the Indian Ambassador to Ethiopia. He has replaced Raveesh Kumar.
- **UB Pravin Rao: Appointed as new Chairman of NASSCOM** (National Association of Software and services Companies). He has replaced Keshav Murugesh who is the group CEO of WNS Global Services. Also, **Rekha M Menon**, chairman and senior managing director of Accenture in India, has been named as the **vice chairperson for 2020-21 for NASSCOM.**
- **Static part:**
 - HQ of NASSCOM: New Delhi

FULL BODY DISINFECTION CHAMBER- AT VRDE AHMEDABAD (DRDO LABORATORY)

Current Context: A full body disinfection chamber which is called PSE is developed at Vehicle Research Development Establishment, VRDE Ahmednagar, which is a DRDO Laboratory.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It is equipped with a sanitizer and soap dispenser and helps to disinfect the personnel working in the laboratory before the resumption of work.
- **The step is taken to avoid spreading of Coronavirus in the working area.**
- **Working Features:** The decontamination starts using a foot pedal at the entry. On entering the chamber, electrically operated pump creates a disinfectant mist of hypo sodium chloride for disinfecting. The mist

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spray is calibrated for an operation of 25 seconds and stops automatically indicating completion of operation.

- It is manufactured with the help of D H Ltd, Ghaziabad.

AN ONLINE PLATFORM TO ISSUE COO FOR EXPORTERS-LAUNCHED COMMERCE INDUSTRY

Current Context: In order to have proper shipments amidst COVID-19, the Ministry of Commerce has launched an online platform that will help in carrying out the issuance process of mandatory documents required for exports to those countries with which India has made earlier trade agreements.

- Link of online platform: <https://coo.dgft.gov.in>.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has made mandatory guidelines for an exporter to submit a certificate of origin (COO) at the landing port of the importing country. COO is an essential certificate required to prove that from where the goods come from. It is important to claim duty concessions under free-trade agreements.
- The online platform has been designed as single-point access for all FTAs/Preferential trade agreements (PTA), for all designated COO issuing agencies and for all export products.

STATIC PART:

- Commerce Minister: Piyush Goyal

PNB HOUSING FINANCE, JICA AND CITIBANK TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING LOANS

Current Context: To accelerate financial inclusion in Asia, PNB Housing Finance has signed an agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to raise 75 million dollars by co-financing 25 million dollars by Citibank with the main objective of providing affordable housing to low income households in India.

- The tie up will remain for long turn for about **5 years** between the three organizations.
- This partnership will be the JICA's first debt funding in the housing finance sector in India. JICA is one of the largest bilateral development organisations in the world.

STATIC PART:

- PNB Housing Finance HQ: New Delhi
- MD of PNB housing Finance: Sanjaya Gupta
- Citibank HQ: New York, US

RESERVE BANK ANNOUNCES THIRD TLTRO

Current Context: The Reserve Bank to conduct TLTROs of up to three years tenor of appropriate sizes for a total amount of up to Rs 1,00,000 crores.

- So far, TLTROs for Rs 50,000 crores have been conducted in two tranches. It has now been decided to conduct another TLTRO operation for Rs 25,000 crores.

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- **The funds availed under this tranche of TLTRO would have to be deployed within 30 working days from the date of the operation.**
- **Objectives of LTRO:** To assure banks about the availability of durable liquidity at a reasonable cost relative to prevailing market conditions.
- Further encourage banks to undertake maturity transformation smoothly and seamlessly so as to augment credit flows to productive sectors.

STATIC PART:

- The maturity period of LTRO: One-year and three-year tenors
- Total funds to be injected: Up to Rs 1,00,000 crores

5T PLAN- LAUNCHED BY DELHI GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT COVID-19

Current Context: Delhi Government has launched a '5T' plan to fight COVID-19 pandemic.

- **The resemblance of 5T: Testing, Tracking, Treatment, Teamwork and Trackling.**
- **Testing:** Under this T, Delhi government has decided to conduct one lakh rapid test in hotspot areas.
- **Tracing:** In this the people are identified who have come in contact with positive patients and are asked to self-quarantine.
- **Treatment:** Under this treatment facility will be given to the positive patients. For the treatment facility, Delhi government has reserved 2950 beds for corona patients with 12000 hotel rooms are also reserved for the patients.
- **Teamwork:** In order to fight COVID-19, teamwork is vital.
- **Tracking:** The development and actions to stop the COVID-19 will be actively traced and the government will ensure that whether each and every 'T' is followed properly or not.

STATIC PART:

- CM of New Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal.

JSW ENERGY LIMITED TO ACQUIRE GMR KAMALANGA ENERGY LIMITED

Current Context: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited by JSW Energy Limited.

- **JSW Energy Limited will acquire 100% stakes of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited.**
- GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited generates power through coal based thermal power plant at Kamalanga village, Odisha. Whereas, the operational generating capacity of JSW Energy is 5681 MW and products of JSW Energy include electricity generation and transmission, hydroelectricity, energy trading, mining, power plant equipment manufacturing.
- The acquisition was done under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of JSW Energy Limited: Mumbai
- Chairman: Sajjan Jindal

- HQ of CCI: New Delhi

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Justice Shiva Kirti Singh: Tenure of TDSAT (Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal) Chairperson, Justice Shiva Kirti Singh has been extended by 3 months.

ABOUT

- His tenure was supposed to end on 20th April 2020. But Supreme Court has extended his working period as Chairperson of TDSAT for 3 months. The decision was taken by a bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde along with Justice Deepak Gupta and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of TDSAT: New Delhi
- **Justice Vinod ChatterjiKoul, Justice Sanjay Dhar and Justice Puneet Gupta were sworn in as a permanent Judges of the common High Court for the Union territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.**
- **Parag Raja: He has been appointed as MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance. He has replaced Vikas Seth.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Bharati AXA Life Insurance HQ: Mumbai

COVID-19 HEALTH INSURANCE- AIRTEL PAYMENT BANKS AND BHARATI AXA GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: Airtel payment Bank has partnered with Bharati AXAGeneralInsurance to offer to health insurance products amidst of COVID-19.

- Name of the two products are: Bharti AXA Group Health Assure and Group Hospital Cash.
- **Bharti AXA Group Health Assure:** This health insurance product comes with fixed cover and offers 100% sum insured as a lump sum if the policyholder is diagnosed as COVID-19 positive. Whereas, if the policyholder is diagnosed negative after being quarantined for at least 14 days in a government hospital or military facility/establishment, he or she will be entitled to 50% of the sum insured. The insurance plan can be purchased at a price of Rs 499 for a fixed sum insured of Rs 25,000. The insurance product can be purchased from the banking section of 'Airtel Thanks App'.
- **Group Hospital Cash:** It grants per day fixed allowances on hospitalizations with enhanced ICU Cash. The per day allowances are starting from Rs 500 or Rs 1000 paid for maximum 10 days of hospitalizations.
- Both the products are offered with no pre-medical check-up. The validity period of these insurance policies is restricted to a year and will be issued on an individual name basis only.

STATIC PART:

- Airtel Payment Bank HQ: New Delhi
- MD and CEO of Airtel payment Bank: Anubrata Biswas
- Bharati AXA General Insurance HQ: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of Bharati AXA General Insurance: Sanjeev Srinivasan

'SAMADHAN CHALLENGE' - BY MHRD MINISTRY

Current Context: The Ministry of Human Resources Development and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in collaboration with Forge and InnovatioCuris launched a mega online challenge - SAMADHAN.

- The aim behind this online challenge is to fight against COVID-19, to make citizens aware, to test the innovative ability of students, to motivate them, to prepare them to face any sort of challenge and to help people to get livelihood.
- Under this challenge students and their faculty will be involved and they will be motivated to do new experiments so that they will be inculcated with strong base of experimenting and learning new things.
- Participants are asked to register themselves from 7th April to 14th April 2020.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

NASA TO SET BASE CAMP ON MOON BY 2024

Current Context: NASA has unveiled the plan of setting up of a human base camp on the Moon's the South Pole by 2024. The base camp is named as 'Artemis'.

- The plan is designed to land humans on the moon by the 2024. The base camp is expected to successfully demonstrate the US's long-established leadership in space and will serve as a gateway for humanity's first mission to Mars.
- Plan for the same is described in the NASA's report which is submitted to National Space Council. The report is entitled "NASA's Plan for Sustained Lunar Exploration and Development" which summarizes NASA's vision to humans landing on the moon by 2024.
- The report also gives information on what the US would achieve from long term presence on the moon and lunar orbit.
- According to the document, Artemis Base Camp itself would be a lunar foundation surface habitat that could host four astronauts at the South Pole for visits of perhaps a week.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NASA: Washington DC, United States

RAKSHA SARVA APP- BY CHHATTISGARH POLICE AND 'MOBCODER' STARTUP

Current Context: Chhattisgarh police and a Noida based startup 'Mobcoder' developed an app called 'Raksha Sarva' which will help them to track the quarantined people amidst of COVID-19 through Google map.

- The reason behind developing this app is that number of people are kept in-home quarantine, and hence it is not possible to keep each one of them under surveillance on a regular basis until the biggest pandemic issue of COVID-19 gets solved.
- Details of the home quarantined people are fed in the app's dashboard and they have been asked to upload a selfie in the app every hour which will help them to track their location.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Chhattisgarh: BhupeshBaghel
- Governor of Chhattisgarh: AnusuiyaUikey

CSIR-CECRI PARTNERED 3DLYCAN- TO PRODUCE FACE SHEILDS

Current Context: CSIR-CECRI has developed a series of lab-made Personal protective equipment (PPEs) to fight COVID-19 pandemic.

HIGHLIGHTS

- PPE's include Hand sanitizer solutions, as per the World Health Organization recommendations (WHO has recommended the presence of 75% Iso-propanol, 1.45% Glycerol, and 0.125% Hydrogen peroxide and lemongrass oil for fragrance.), Hand washes solutions using coconut oil and Sodium hypochlorite based disinfectant solutions.
- CSIR-CECRI is also offering digital training to make face masks by interested rural women to help and cater to the needs of the people. A 3D printed face shield with reusable options has been given to the Dispensary staff of CSIR-CECRI to protect them effectively from a sneeze, cough and aerosol communication of the patients.
- It also launched the preparation method for electrochemical synthesis of hypo-chlorite (Disinfectant) to MSMEs to increase the production rate.

'IGOT' AN E-LEARNING PLATFORM- BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Current Context: The government of India has launched an e-learning platform called 'IGOT' to combat COVID-19.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The platform is launched for all frontline workers who are delivering their services in treating COVID-19 patients like doctors, nurses, etc. and the cleaners, etc.**
- The platform provides them with training and updates in coping with the pandemic.
- **Link for the platform:** <https://igot.gov.in>.
- The training focus is made on Doctors, Nurses, Paramedics, Hygiene Workers, Technicians, Auxiliary Nursing Midwives, ANMs, Central & State Govt. Officers, Civil Defence Officials, various Police Organisations, National Cadet Corps, NCC, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, NYKS, National Service Scheme, NSS, Indian Red Cross Society, Bharat Scouts and Guides and other volunteers. Hence, the platform is about to grant training to around 1.50 crore workers and volunteers in the coming weeks.
- There are nine courses to be covered under this platform which include topics like basics of COVID, ICU care and ventilation management, clinical management, infection prevention through PPE, infection control and prevention, quarantine and isolation, laboratory sample collection and testing, management of COVID-19 Cases, COVID-19 training.

AGREEMENT- L&T AND INDIAN ARMY

Current Context: Indian army has given large contract to Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro to setup advance IT enabled system.

- **The system will be used to operate the armed forces network under the Network of Spectrum (NFS).**
- The value of this agreement ranges between Rs 2,500 crore and Rs 5,000 crore.
- **The system will be used to establish an unified network management system to manage, support and operate the countrywide Armed Forces Network under the NFS.**
- The project involves creation of a centralised network monitoring, management and control system for all the seven layers under NFS which interconnects 414 Defence stations. It involves creation of a resilient Cloud-based IT infrastructure on Infrastructure as a service (IAAS) model.
- The project is to be implemented in 18 months followed by three years of warranty and seven years of Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) during which L&T will provide managed maintenance services.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of L&T Technology Services (LTTS): Vadodara, Gujarat.
- CEO of L&T Technology Services (LTTS): Dr Keshab Panda.

TRIFED AND UNICEF- LAUNCHED A DIGITAL CAMPAIGN

Current Context: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) developed a digital communication strategy for promoting a digital campaign for Self Help Groups (SHGs), in collaboration with UNICEF.

- **The aim of this campaign is to highlight the importance of Social Distancing.**
- UNICEF will provide the necessary support to the SHG centers in the form of Digital Multimedia content, Webinars for Virtual training (basic orientation on COVID response, key preventive behaviors), Social Media campaigns (on social distancing, home quarantine, etc.) and Vanya Radio.
- The campaign is to be provided to more than 18000 participants and has also covered tribal regions.
- Under this, 1205 Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs) are sanctioned in 27 states and 1 UT involving around 18,075 Van Dhan Self Help Groups.
- The self-help groups are promoted as Van Dhan Social Distancing Awareness cum Livelihood Centers' through a digital training program. The SHGs will create awareness among the community about social distancing and steps to be followed, Do's and Don'ts Advisories relating to NTFP to be kept in mind during Covid-19, providing suggestive practices for maintaining personal hygiene, adopting cashless practices, among others will be shared.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED): New Delhi
- HQ of UNICEF: New York

SIDBI TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY WORKING CAPITAL TO MSMEs

Current Context: The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will facilitate with an emergency working capital of up to Rs 1 crore against their confirmed government orders to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

- Also, the SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against coronavirus (SAFE) loan limit has been increased to 2 crores from Rs 50 lakhs.
- For this SIDBI has launched a new loan product i.e. **SIDBI Assistance to Facilitate Emergency response against Coronavirus (SAFE) plus** which will be provided collateral free and disbursed within 48 hours at an interest rate of 5%.
- Under its flagship scheme called SIDBI Make in India Soft Loan Fund for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (Smile), SIDBI has opened an additional financial window for the healthcare sector.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow
- Chairman & Managing Director of SIDBI: Mohammad Mustafa.

OPERATION SHIELD: LAUNCHED BY DELHI

Current Context: Delhi Government has launched an operation SHIELD in order to curb COVID-19 pandemic.

- It will be implemented in 21 containment zones.
- Significance of SHIELD:
 - S: Sealing of Area
 - H: Home Quarantine
 - I: Isolation of infected patients
 - E: Essential services ensured
 - L: Local Sanitisation
 - D: Door to Door survey
- Delhi government has made mandatory to wear masks to every person stepping out of homes.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

FLIPKART, ICICI LOMBARD AND GO DIGIT GENERAL INSURANCE- HEALTH PLAN FOR COVID-19

Current Context: Flipkart Private Ltd has inked a partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd and Go Digit General Insurance to launch two health insurance policies for COVID-19.

- **Name of the policies:**
 - COVID-19 Protection Cover
 - Digit Illness Group Insurance

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- **COVID-19 Protection Cover:** It is offered by ICICI Lombard. In this, it offers a benefit plan of Rs 25000 to the COVID-19 positive patients. The annual premium is Rs 159.
- **Digit Illness Group Insurance:** It is offered by Go Digit General Insurance. It allows consumers to avail a hospitalization cover upto a sum assured of Rs 1 lakh with an annual premium of Rs 511. There is no limit on room rent or ICU. The policy includes 30 days pre-hospitalization and 60 days post-hospitalization fee.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of ICICI Lombard: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of ICICI Lombard: Bhargav Dasgupta
- HQ of Go Digit General Insurance: Bengaluru

PARTNERSHIP--- HUL AND UNICEF TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: Hindustan Unilever Ltd has partnered with UNICEF to combat COVID-19 by undertaking a mass communication campaign that will inform and empower the public about the pandemic.

- **The mass communication campaign is titled as #BreakTheChain or #VirusKiKadiTodo.**
- The campaign will unite the technical knowledge of UNICEF with the marketing expertise from HUL to create engaging communication tools that can help people change behaviors and stay safe during this time of the pandemic.
- **The campaign is based on the themes social distancing, handwashing and generosity.** They will develop short informative assets across India through television, news portals and prominent social media channels.
- HUL had also recently committed INR 100 crore towards helping India fight the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to the Campaign, it is rolling out many initiatives to ensure citizens across the country have access to essential products such as soaps, sanitizers and toilet cleaners.
- The Campaign will also seek support from media organizations, macro and micro social media influencers, thought leaders and celebrities in spreading the message.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of UNICEF: New York

'SWASTH KE SIPAHI-SUPPLY MEDICINES UNDER PMBJP

Current Context: The whole nation is under lockdown situation, amidst of COVID-19. Hence to support this and to combat COVID-19, the pharmacists who are known as 'Swasth Ke Sipahi' of Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra are offering essential medical services and medicines at the doorsteps of patients, handicapped and elder persons.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This initiative by them is being carried out under Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) of GOI.**
- **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):** It is the campaign launched by Department of Pharmaceuticals, GOI. Its vision is to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the community.

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The medicines are delivered through special Kendra called as 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra'. The 'Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra' are being run under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers, Government of India by the bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI).

MEMBRANE OXYGENATOR EQUIPMENT- TO TREAT COVID-19 PATIENTS

Current Context: A Pune based company Genrich Membranes which is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has developed a membrane oxygenator equipment to treat COVID-19 patients.

- Membrane oxygenator equipment is used to treat breathlessness, one of the critical symptoms of COVID-19.
- It is based on innovative hollow fiber membrane technology and it can enrich oxygen in the air up to 35% and can also be used to treat patients who have been discharged from Intensive Care Units (ICU).
- It does not require trained manpower to operate it and is highly portable, compact and empowered with the plug-and-play facility.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Department of Science and Technology: New Delhi
- Head and CEO of DST: P. S. Acharya
- DST comes under the Ministry of Science and Technology

INDIA'S GDP FY21 AT 4.8% ---BY UN ESCAP

Current Context: The UN 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2020 has forecasted India's GDP growth to slow down to 4.8%.

- It has marked the slowdown is due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has lead to the stopping of positive economic impactful activities.
- The title of the UN report is 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and Pacific (ESCAP) 2020: Towards Sustainable Economies.'
- **As per the report, India's GDP growth for the fiscal year 2019-2020 was estimated at 5% and is forecast to slow down to 4.8% for the current fiscal 2020-21. Economic growth for the country could stand at 5.1 % for fiscal year 2021-22.**
- Preliminary estimates by ESCAP suggest that the Asia-Pacific region's GDP could experience declines of 0.6-0.8 % as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic through trade links alone.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of United Nations: New York, USA
- Secretary of UN: Antonio Guterres from Portugal

ANAMIKA ROY RASHTRAWAR- MD AND CEO OF IFFCO TOKIO

Current Context: Anamika Roy Rashtrawar has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance.

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- She has **replaced Warendra Sinha** who was serving as MD and CEO for the last three years.
- Anamika Roy Rashtrawar has become the **first woman MD and CEO** of a large private sector general insurance company in India.
- **IFFCO Tokio General Insurance** is a joint venture of **Indian Farmers Fertilizer Co-operative and Tokio Marine Group**.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of IFFCO Tokio: Gurugram

COVID-19 CONTACT TRACING TECHNOLOGY—BY GOGGLE AND APPLE

Current Context: Google and Apple have joined to combat COVID-19 by utilizing their technology skills.

- They are combating COVID-19 through **contact tracing technology**.
- For this the companies have decided to add a new software to the phones which will be incorporated with **Bluetooth wireless technology** which will help the government and health agencies to track the people who may have been infected by coronavirus and will help them to reduce the massive impact of spreading the virus to other people.
- To build this technology, the companies will be developing **Application Program Interface (APIs)** which allows the interoperability between android and iOS which are the respective operating system of the companies.
- The joint initiative of the companies will contribute to the cause as the contact tracing is a valuable tool to contain spread of coronavirus to massive extent.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Google: California, US
- CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai
- HQ of Apple: California, USA
- CEO of Apple: Tim Cook

'YUKTI' WEB PORTAL--- BY HRD MINISTRY

Current Context: Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation).

- **The ministry of HRD has launched it with an aim to keep the academic community healthy in both physical and mental way especially in the amidst of COVID-19 and prepare them to combat the pandemic.**
- **The portal will display the information describing the efforts and initiatives which have been taken by HRD ministry in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.**
- It will flash the data on its dashboard the various initiatives and efforts of the institutions in academics, research especially related to coronavirus, social initiatives by institutions and the measures taken for the betterment of the total wellbeing of the students.
- The portal is incorporated with a two way communication channel and hence the ministry has asked various institutions across the country to come forward and share their strategies and remedies to combat Covid-19.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

DOUBLE LAYERED KHADI MASKS---BY KVIC

Current Context: Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has developed a double-layered Khadi mask to contain the spread of COVID-19.

- They have developed this with the help of Double Twisted Khadi Fabric.
- The masks help to retain 70% of the moisture content inside and gives an easy passage for the air to pass through.
- As they are manufactured by using DT fabric and hence meet the quality and scale of demand of medical guidelines.
- The masks are highly reusable, washable and biodegradable with 7 inches length and 9 inches breadth with three pleats, four strips at the corner for tying.
- Therefore, KVIC has recently received an order to supply 7.5 lakh pieces of Khadi Masks to Jammu & Kashmir Government.

STATIC PART:

- Chairman of KVIC: V K Saxena

UV GERMICIDAL IRRADIATION TECHNOLOGY BASED DEVICE—IIT ROPAR

Current Context: IIT Ropar developed a UV Germicidal irradiation technology-based device to sanitize the grocery items and currency notes.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It is a trunk-shaped device that is fitted with ultraviolet (UV) germicidal irradiation technology, which is used in water purifiers and therefore people are advised not to look directly at the light inside the trunk as it can be harmful. The device aims to aid the fight against COVID-19.
- It takes 30 minutes to sanitize items, and after sanitizing them the items should be kept inside the trunk for 10 minutes which is a cooling-off period before one takes the items out.
- It costs around Rs 500 and can be placed at doorsteps.

'FOOD BANK'---MANIPUR

Current Context: Government of Manipur has launched an initiative called 'Food Bank' to help poor with necessary commodities amidst of COVID-19.

- This initiative provides free food to the poor and the needy ones who are facing scarcity due to the lockdown situations across the country.
- Along with free food, the initiative is also helping the people by distributing hand sanitizer, face masks which is mandatory to protect from the infection of COVID-19.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Manipur: N Biren Singh
- Governor of Manipur: Najma Heptulla

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Birupaksha Mishra- He has taken charge as **Executive Director of Union Bank of India**, after the amalgamation of Andhra bank with Corporation bank with union bank. Prior, to this appointment, Mr. Mishra was the Executive Director of the Corporation bank.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Union Bank of India: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Union Bank of India: 'Good People to Bank with'
 - MD and CEO of Union Bank of India: Rajkiran Rai G
- **Mahabaleshwara M S:** He has been **reappointed as MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank** for three years by Reserve Bank of India.
- P Jayarama Bhat: He has been appointed as a **non-executive chairman of Karnataka Bank** by Reserve Bank of India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Karnataka Bank: Mangalore, Karnataka
 - Tagline of Karnataka Bank: 'Your Family Bank Across India'
- **Raghuram Rajan:** He has been included in the group of prominent individuals formed by MD of IMF, Kristalina Georgieva and will be serving as her **External Advisory Group**.

AGREEMENT--- UNIDO AND CUTS TO ACHIEVE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Current Context: United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) has signed an agreement with the Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) to support the ongoing activities to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG).

- Both organizations are together going to motivate and empower consumers to come together and make contribution to global development goals as well as support their respective government in the time of global crisis which has arisen due to COVID-19.
- **The agreement is valid for 5 years of span and their aim is to create joint technical co-operation to achieve 2030 SDG even though the global economy is suffering due to COVID-19.**
- **As per the MOU, CUTS will contribute their support to e-commerce and will provide a platform to accelerate member states' transition to the digital economy and to adapt the 4th Industrial Revolution by promoting rule-based trade, good governance, and effective regulations.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of UNIDO: Vienna, Australia
- DG of UNIDO: Li Yong

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- HQ of CUTS: Jaipur, Rajasthan

'COLLABCAD'---BY NITI AAYOG, NIC AND ATAL INNOVATION MISSION

Current Context: NITI Aayog, NIC (National Informatics Center) and Atal innovation Mission have come together to launch CollabCAD (Collaborative CAD Software).

- It is a computer-enabled software system which provides a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product designing.
- The software is launched for the 5000 schools where Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) are established. And hence will grant an innovative platform for the students to create and modify 3D designs with free flow of creativity and imagination.
- The software will motivate students to create data across the network and parellely access the same design data for storage and visualization.

STATIC PART:

- NITI Aayog HQ: New Delhi
- NITI Aayog Chairman: Narendra Modi
- NITI Aayog CEO: Amitabh Kant
- NIC HQ: New Delhi

DIGITAL STETHOSCOPE 'AYUSYNK' ---IIT BOMBAY

Current Context: IIT Bombay developed Digital Stethoscope 'AyuSynk' for the check-up of COVID-19 patients.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The researchers at IIT Bombay has developed this digital stethoscope by modifying conventional stethoscope to digital one because there is a risk of getting infection while handling the conventional stethoscope by the professionals when they are treating COVID-19 patients.
- It is developed by a IIT Bombay startup named **Ayu Devices with the guidance of Biomedical Engineering and Technology incubation Center (BETiC).**

RBI'S CURRENT NOTIFICATION--AUCTION OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA DATED SECURITIES

Current Context: RBI has released a notification describing auction **GOI's three securities for a amount of Rs 20,000 crore.** The total amount retained over and above the notified will not exceed Rs 20,000 crore in first half of FY 2020-21 and will be set-off in second half year.

- **The three securities are:**
 - 6.18% GS 2024
 - 7.57% GS 2033
 - New GS 2050 (maturing on Sep 20, 2050)

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- RBI has mentioned that the stocks will be issued for a minimum amount of Rs 10,000/- (nominal) and in multiples of Rs 10,000/- thereafter.
- In this, Government Stock up to 5% of the notified amount of sale will be allotted to the eligible individuals and institutions under the Scheme for Non-competitive Bidding Facility in the Auctions of Government Securities.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of RBI: Mumbai
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

INDIA'S GROWTH AT 1.5% TO 2.8%---BY WORLD BANK

Current Context: World Bank has released its report called 'South Asia Economic Focus'. In that, it has forecasted the India's growth for FY21 at 1.5% to 2.8%.

- The report forecast sharp economic fall in eight countries and they have mentioned the reason behind this sharp economic fall is the COVID-19 outbreak.
- **Initially, World Bank had projected the growth of India to be 6.3% about 6 months ago, but it has now projected a fall to 1.5% to 2.8%.**
- **It also stated that growth is expected to rebound to 5% in the Fiscal year 2022 (FY 2021-22) when the impact of COVID-19 dissipates.**
- As per the report, Maldives is expected to be the worst hit nation along with Sri Lanka Pakistan and Afghanistan. In the above listed countries, the full range of forecast is in the negative territory.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, United States.
- President of World Bank: David Malpass

'COVIDGYAN'----LAUNCHED BY TIFR, IISC AND TMC

Current Context: Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and Tata Memorial Centre (TMC) has launched a website called 'CovidGyan' with the main objective to create awareness among the public and bring in a holistic approach to understand COVID-19 and to motivate the community to provide the potential ways to mitigate it.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This science-based website is basically a multi-institutional, multi-lingual science communication initiative which is launched to inculcate scientific as well factual aspects of COVID-19 pandemic outbreak among the community.
- **More about CovidGyan:It is a hub to bring together a collection of resources in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.** The resources are authentic and are generated by research institutions in India and several associated programs. The content covers a wide range of details about COVID-19 symptoms, exact behavior of the novel COVID-19,how it spreads from person to person, its diagnostics measure and the precaution measures to stop its spreading among the community.

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- Many other partners including Vigyan Prasar, India Bioscience, and the Bangalore Life Science Cluster (BLiSc), which includes Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (InStem), Centre for Cellular And Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP), and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) have also joined the initiative.
- The website is designed with multi-faceted aspects to provide 'right information' which includes talks from eminent scientists in audio or podcast formats, infographics, posters, videos, FAQs and Mythbusters, and even links to scientific papers.
- **Link of the website:** <https://covid-gyan.in>.

INDIA'S MAJOR DEFENCE PARTNER, UNITED STATES APPROVES SALE OF MISSILES

Current Context: United States has approved to sale Harpoon air-launched anti-ship missiles and Mark 54 lightweight torpedoes worth \$155 million to India. And hence has again proven to be India's major defense partner and strengthen the defense partnership between the two countries.

KEY FACTS

- The Harpoon missile system will be integrated into the P-8I anti-submarine warfare aircraft to carry out anti-surface warfare missions. And thus it will enhance interoperability with the US and other allied forces.

"DEKHOAPNADESH" WEBINAR SERIES---BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM

Current Context: Ministry of Tourism has launched its "DekhoApnaDesh" webinar series. The series has been launched to provide information about various destinations of our Incredible India and to detail and expand the cultural heritage of India.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The series is available on the Ministry's social media handles 'IncredibleIndia' on Instagram and Facebook.
- **The first webinar focused on capital state Delhi describing ling history of Delhi and it was titled as 'City of Cities- Delhi's Personal Diary'.**
- The Ministry will showcase the diverse and remarkable history and culture of India including its natural landscapes, monuments, cuisine, arts, dance forms, festivals and many other aspects of the rich Indian civilization.

RBI LAUNCHES SOVEREIGN GOLD BOND SCHEME 2020-21

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has launched Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for 2020-2021. The Bonds will be issued in six tranches from April 2020 to September 2020.

- **The schemes describes the assured return of 2.5 per cent to investors along with appreciation in the price of the bond in line with movement of gold prices.**
- The selling of the bonds will take place through Scheduled Commercial banks (except Small Finance Banks and Payment Banks), Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices, and

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recognized stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange Limited.

- The sovereign gold bonds will be denominated in multiples of grams of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram with **tenor of the bond 8 years with exit option after 5 years to be exercised on the interest payment dates.**
- **What are Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB)?** : The SGBs are government securities **in the form of Gold (in grams).** In order to buy this, investors have to pay the issue price in cash and the bonds will be redeemed in cash on maturity. **These bonds are issued by Reserve Bank on behalf of Government of India.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of RBI: Mumbai
- Governor of RBI: Shaktikanta Das

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Ajay Mahajan: He has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of CARE Ratings.

ABOUT

- **Mr. Ajay has replaced Rajesh Mokashi**, who resigned from the post of MD and CEO in December 2019.
- **What is CARE Rating?**: Care Rating is one of the credit rating agency in India. It provides the entire spectrum of credit rating that helps the corporates to raise capital for their various requirements. It assists the investors to form an informed investment decision based on the credit risk and their own risk-return expectations.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Care Ratings: Mumbai.
- **Vineet Arora: Mr. Arora has been appointed as the new MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance Ltd.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Paytm : Noida, UP
 - MD and CEO of Paytm payment Bank: Satish Kumar Gupta

ANTIMICROBIAL SPRAY-BASED COATING FOR PPE AND 3D PRINTED EAR GUARD -BY IIT-GUWAHATI

Current Context: IIT-Guwahati has developed an affordable antimicrobial spray-based coating for PPE and 3D printed Ear Guard. These are developed or comfortable use of face masks by healthcare workers.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Antimicrobial coating for PPE: This is helpful to safeguard doctors, nurses' health workers, and citizens from getting infected from COVID-19 **by killing and preventing the spread of microbes once they come in contact with the coated PPE surface.** In this spray, the antimicrobial acting agents are copper, silver and other active ingredients and thus these elements help to ensure limited penetration and accumulation of microbial contaminants on PPE. The spray coating is affordable and can be easily deployable to the

existing structure available at PPE manufacturers. It can be sprayed or dipped onto any kind of surface including textiles and other medical device surfaces to get rid of microbes.

- **3D printed Ear Guard:** The ear guard holds the face mask strap in a place without giving pressure to the ear. Hence, the masks can be worn effortlessly for hours without pain or discomfort to the wearer. They are made in a free size to fit all, using 3D printers using polymer resins.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO POLICY HOLDERS AND AGENTS—BY TATA AIA INSURANCE

Current Context: Tata AIA Insurance announced to grant additional benefits related to COVID-19 for its policyholders and agents. These benefits are granted by the insurance company are with no additional cost. And hence, by doing this, Tata AIA Insurance becomes the first one to do so.

KEY POINTS

- Tata AIA Insurance will give an **additional amount up to Rs 5 lakhs** for the death claim if the death occurs due to COVID-19.
- Present Tata AIA Insurance agents and their families will be getting medical reimbursement up to **Rs 25,000** if they are under hospitalization due to infection from coronavirus.
- This benefit is applicable till 30th June 2020.

IMF FORECASTED A 7.6% EXPANSION IN ASIAN ECONOMIC GROWTH IN 2021

Current Context: International Monetary Fund reported that the COVID-19 pandemic will lead to a halt in the economic growth all over Asia for 2020. The organization has forecasted a 7.6% expansion in Asian economic growth in 2021.

- Also, the IMF has asked targeted support from policymakers to the ones who are hardest hit by this pandemic due to halt taken place in travel bans and other important economic growth activities.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of IMF: Washington, D.C., The US
- MD of IMF: Kristalina Georgieva
- Chief Economist of IMF: Gita Gopinath

NORTH KOREA TEST-FIRED MULTIPLE SHORT-RANGE ANTI-SHIP MISSILES

Current Context: North Korea launched multiple short-range anti-ship cruise missiles into the sea.

- Along with this, Sukhoi jets which are air-to-surface missiles were fired as part of its ongoing military exercises.
- **The anti-ship missiles plunged into the sea more than 150 km off the east coast town of Munchon and the Sukhois carried out firing tests.**

STATIC PART:

- Capital of North Korea: Pyongyang
- Currency of North Korea: North Korean won

'SAHYOG'—AN INTEGRATED GEOSPATIAL PLATFORM BY DST AND GOI

Current Context: Government of India and Department of Science and Technology (DST) have launched an application which is an integrated geospatial platform called 'SAHYOG'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The basic aim behind this integrated geospatial platform is to help in decision making and supporting in area-specific strategies in order to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and to handle its socio-economic impact and to provide a motivation for creating positive growth in its recovery phase.
- SAHYOG is a mobile application as well as a web portal (<https://indiamaps.gov.in/soiapp/>) which is managed by Survey of India (SoI) and it will support the citizens and agencies to face the challenges related to socio-economic distress, health, and livelihood.
- The platform helps to boost the public health delivery system of the state as well as center governments and provides necessary geospatial information related to COVID-19 by collecting specific datasets via community engagement.

SECOND G20 FMCBG MEETING

Current Context: Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman attended the virtual meeting of the 2nd G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG). It was held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia who prepared the G20 Action Plan in response to COVID-19.

ABOUT

- **Main moto:** Discussion of global economic outlook which has declined due to COVID-19
- The Action Plan was prepared by Saudi Arabia was with an aim to protect lives, safeguard jobs and incomes. It also included measures to restore confidence, preserve financial stability, revive growth and recover stronger.
- **From India, Finance Minister highlighted the role of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in safeguarding the lives and livelihood of people while maintaining macroeconomic stability in a sustainable manner. She stated that India has granted a financial support \$3.9 billion to more than 320 million people on direct benefit transfer through digital technology so that the exposure of beneficiaries to public places is minimized.**

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON KHARIF CROPS 2020

Current Context: National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 was virtually addressed via video conference by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.

ABOUT

- The moto behind the conference was to discuss various issues and list out steps in consultation with the States about preparedness for Kharif cultivation in view of the lockdown situation amidst of novel coronavirus.
- Also, Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar has urged the state leaders to focus on the two schemes namely **PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Soil Health Card scheme** to each farmer in the State.
- **Static Part: PM Fasal Bima Yojana:** It was launched in 2016 which provides insurance cover and financial support to the farmers in response to any case of failure of crop due to natural calamity, pest or diseases. The scheme covers Kharif crops, rabi crops, annual commercial and horticulture crops. Premium paid by farmers: 1.5% for Rabi crop, 2% for Kharif crops.
- **Static Part: Soil Health Card Scheme:** It was launched by PM Narendra Modi on 19th Feb 2015 at Rajasthan. It aims to issue soil health cards to farmers every two years so as to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in the soil.

RBI EASES FUND FLOW FOR CASH-STARVED REAL ESTATE SECTOR

Current Context: On 17th April 2020, RBI launched the second tranche of liquidity-easing measures to facilitate credit flow to the real estate sector, which has come to a standstill as the country is facing a lockdown situation due to coronavirus.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced **TLTRO of Rs 50,000 crore**, saying the funds availed by banks should be put in investment-grade bonds companies and at least half of the funds should go to small non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- It RBI has allotted **Rs 10,000 crore to National Housing Bank**.
- **The reverse repo rate has been reduced and currently, it is 3.75%.** This step in the reverse repo rate will now enable banks to lend even more.
- The RBI has also **extended the date of commencement of commercial operations (DCCO)** of project loans for commercial real estate projects that are delayed for reasons beyond the control of promoters. This will bring much-needed relief to cash-starved developers.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATION

Current Context: PK Purwar: Chairman and MD of BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited), PK Purwar has been given the additional charge for the **third time** to be the CMD of MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of BSNL: New Delhi
 - HQ of MTNL: New Delhi
- **TamasAnjan:** International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) President TamasAnjan resigned from his post within the wake of allegations of corruption and doping violations. However, now **the acting president will be Ursula Papandrea for IWF.**

- **Static part:**
 - HQ of IWF: Budapest, Hungary

MEET FOR COVID-19 HOSTED BY INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION (UK) AND FICCI

Current Context: The Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom organized a virtual roundtable named as COVID-19 meeting for businesses COVID-19: Issues, Challenges and Way forward.

- The Virtual roundtable meet was organized in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
- In this meet, they addressed the concerns and challenges which have created a greater impact, especially on the economy due to Coronavirus.
- The purpose behind this meet was to provide a comprehensive understanding of the various stimulating steps which are released by the UK government.
- They focused on the issues faced by Indian business spread in the vast area of financial services, services, healthcare, Information Technology.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of FICCI: New Delhi

AIIB GRANTS \$500 MILLION TO INDIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Affairs: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced a financial help of \$500 million projects to India to improve its health care systems.

- With this, AIIB has doubled its funds under the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility.
- With these funds, health infrastructure will be improved.
- It will also provide liquidity, fiscal and budgetary support to India.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of AIIB: Beijing, China

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE COVERALL SUIT—BY CSIR-NAL AND MAF CLOTHING PVT LTD

Current Context: CSIR-NAL (CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories) and MAF Clothing Pvt Ltd have developed a Personal Protective Coverall Suit.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Personal Protective Coverall Suit is based on polypropylene spun laminated multi-layered non-woven fabric suit which is developed with an aim to provide protection to health workers in order to fight against COVID-19.

- It has been tested at SITRA, Coimbatore through stringent testing.

RBI LAUNCHED 49TH ROUND OF OBICUS OF MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Current Context: RBI launched the 49th round of quarterly OBICUS (Order books, inventories, and capacity utilization survey) of the manufacturing sector which includes the reference period January-March 2020.

- The OBICUS includes the data regarding the quantitative values of new orders received during January to March 2020, data of the orders which are backlog, pending orders, inventories which defined the break-up between the work which is under progress and the finished goods inventories and the data regarding item wise production.
- **In this OBICUS a total of 704 manufacturing companies were considered to manipulate the data.**
- It showed a decline in capacity utilization (CU) to 68.6% in the third quarter of 2019-20 from 69.1% in Q2. Also, orders received in Q3: 2019-20 were lower compared with the previous quarter.
- **Static Part: What is OBICUS?** Since 2008, RBI's OBICUS is taken quarterly (4 times a year) and companies of the manufacturing sector are asked to volunteer information on their inventory level. It provides a deep scenario regarding the demands of the Indian manufacturing sector.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor- Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra.

RBI CANCELS LICENSE OF MAPUSA CO-OPERATIVE BANK

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Goa-based Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The central bank has restricted Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank from carrying out any banking operations and businesses with an effect from 16th April 2020.
- The Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Government of India has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- The cancellation has taken place as being defined under section 5 (b) and section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act 1949.
- With the cancellation of license and commencement of liquidation proceedings, the process of paying the depositors of The Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank of Goa Ltd., Goa as per the DICGC Act, 1961 will be set in motion. On liquidation, every depositor is entitled to repayment of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5,00,000/- from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) as per usual terms and conditions.

TVS MOTORS ACQUIRES NORTON MOTORCYCLES

Current Context: TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd, the overseas subsidiary of TVS Motor Company soon to acquire the British Motorcycle brand names Norton Motorcycles.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The acquisition will take place for **£16 million that is for Rs 153.12 crore** which was concluded by project 303 Bidco Ltd.
- Norton Motorcycles was founded by James Lansdowne Norton in 1898 in Birmingham, England. TVS Motor Company is one of the largest two-wheeler manufacturers of India.
- As a part of the agreement, TVS Motor Singapore Pte. Ltd has signed an asset purchase agreement with Norton Motorcycles Holdings Ltd and Norton Motorcycles (UK) Ltd.

CBDT REFUNDS FIVE THOUSAND 204 CRORE RUPEES TO MSMEs

Current Context: Central Board of Direct Taxes has announced that income-tax refunds are obtained over eight lakh small businesses worth over five thousand 204 crore rupees issued in the last ten days.

- The organization has assured that these refunds will be a helping vase for MSMEs to carry out their business activities without any pay cuts and layoffs during the lockdown situation amidst COVID-19.
- **The organization has announced that it will be issuing refunds worth of Rs.760 crore, which will provide relief to small scales in the MSME sector.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of CBDT: New Delhi
- Chairman of CBDT: Pramod Chandra Mody
- Minister of MSMEs: Nitin Gadkari

KISAN RATH MOBILE APP---BY MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Current Context: Agriculture Ministry launched Kisan Rath Mobile App.

- It is a farmer-friendly app launched to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables during lockdown situations arisen due to novel coronavirus.
- It has been developed by the National Informatics Centre to ensure farmers and traders are able to find transport for Agriculture and Horticulture produce.
- With the help of this app, the traders will be also able to transport perishable commodities via refrigerator based vehicles.

STATIC PART:

- Agriculture Minister: Narendra Singh Tomar

RBI RAISES WAYS AND MEANS ADVANCES (WMA) LIMIT FOR STATES

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased WMA for state government by another 30%.

- Initially, on 1st April 2020, RBI had raised the WMA limit by 30%, but the central bank has now made an new announcement to increase the WMA by another 30%.
- This action by RBI will help state governments as will not have to bunch up auctioning of bonds.
- The raised WMA limit has created a space for Rs 12,000 crore for the state governments looking to raise money.
- **Static Part: What is WMA?** It is a tool under credit policy of RBI for the states which help them tide over temporary mismatches in the cash flow of their receipts and payments. It is mentioned in the Section 17(5) of the RBI Act, 1934.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of RBI- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor of RBI - Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra.

'ASSESS KORO NA'---BY DELHI GOVERNMENT

Current Context: Delhi Government has launched 'Assess Koro Na' mobile application which is utilized to do the door-to-door survey in COVID-19 containment zones of Delhi.

- The government has asked all the health officials to make utilization of this app as it will be helpful in speeding up decision making as the app analyses real-time data.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Baijal.

'WARDBOT'----BY IIT ROPAR

Current Context: IIT Ropar (Punjab) has designed and developed a 'Wardbot' which will be utilized in the hospitals for the COVID-19 patients.

KEY POINTS

- The 'WardBot' will be used to deliver medicine ad food to coronavirus patients.
- The sensors installed in the robot will help to guide the path to the robots.
- The robot is incorporated with the self-sanitizing feature when it will follow the return path after serving the food or medicine to the patient. It can be also used to sanitize the walls and floors and other infrastructure areas of hospitals and hence will prove to be helpful in controlling the spread of coronavirus to the health workers working in the environment with the positive infected patients as they will be in minimum contact with the COVID-19 patients.

THIRD PARTY FACT CHECK SYSTEM---BY FACEBOOK AND BOOM WEBSITE

Current Context: Facebook and Indian fact checking website Boom has come together to launch a third party fact checking in Bangladesh.

- The Third-Party Fact Check System will be focusing on discouraging the spread of fake news in Bangladesh via any reviewing and rating of stories, photos or videos.
- In this system, the false or fake post will appear less or at the bottom and hence will help to reduce the spread of fake news.
- The system will also send a notification to the person who shared the fake news about its lack of authenticity.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Facebook: California, US
- CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg
- Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
- Currency of Bangladesh: Bangladeshi taka

INDIA'S GDP AT 1.8%---BY FITCH

Current Context: Fitch Solutions has forecasted India's economic growth forecast to 1.8% for FY 2020-21.

- It has lowered the economic growth forecast from 4.6% stating the reason for the COVID-19 pandemic situation has resulted in the stepping down of economic activities in the country.
- It has also stated the contraction in fixed investment as capital expenditure has lowered by many businesses to reserve the cash amid elevated economic uncertain situation arisen due to COVID-19.
- Fitch has also reduced to GDP forecast for China for FY 2020 from 2.6% to 1.1%.

STATIC PART:

- Fitch Solution HQ: New York

HIGH-PROTEIN BISCUITS—BY CSIR-CFTRI FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

Current Context: Mysuru-based CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) has made available high-protein biscuits to the COVID-19 patients in the All India Institute of Medical Science (AIIMS), New Delhi.

- CFTRI supplied 500 kg of high-protein biscuits and 500 kg of high-protein rusks to the Dietetics department of AIIMS to supply to the patients. The biscuits contain 14% of protein.
- The biscuits being manufactured in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, by Seven Seas Private Limited based on the formulation developed by CSIR-CFTRI.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of CSIR-CFTRI – Mysuru, Karnataka

"MAPPING INDIA'S ENERGY SUBSIDIES 2020" ---A REPORT BY IISD AND CEEW

Current Context: International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) has launched a report titled as "Mapping India's Energy Subsidies 2020".

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The report highlights that India's renewable energy subsidies fell 35% between 2016-17 and 2018-19. It also said that the oil and gas subsidies, however, increased by 65% in the same period.
- The report also mentioned that the support to renewable energy was about to increase again but due to COVID-19 the track was not followed of supporting the renewable energy
- Policy decisions such as the solar safeguard duty and tariff caps on auctions meant that there was a slowdown in new capacity addition and as a result of lower state subsidy outgo as well.
- However, during the post COVID-19, the support for renewable energy resources will again come on track, as stated by the report and it will present a good opportunity for the government to rein in specific fossil fuel subsidies and create more fiscal room to promote renewables and other welfare schemes.

AGREEMENT—UP GOVERNMENT AND GOOGLE FOR GEOTAG COMMUNITY KITCHENS

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh government has signed an agreement with tech giant Google to form geotag community kitchens and community shelters across the state.

- By doing so, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to geotag its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters which produce 12 lakh food packets a day.
- During the lockdown situation, the government faced challenges about passing the information to its community regarding the location of shelter homes and community kitchens, so now tech giant Google has 'Geo-map' the locations of all these establishments on the Google Maps app for ease of beneficiaries.
- Various NGOs and religious organizations came forward to build this initiative. **Remote Sensing Applications Centre (RSAC), Lucknow developed an application by feeding the data regarding the latitudes and longitudes location of community kitchens.**

STATIC PART:

- CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
- CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai

"BUG SNIFFER" TO DETECT PATHOGENS----BY ARI, PUNE

Current Context: Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, has developed a 'bug sniffer' for the fast and accurate detection of pathogens and bacteria.

KEY POINTS

- The Bug Sniffer a sensitive and low-cost sensor to rapidly detect bacteria. It is a portable device which can detect as low as ten bacterial cells from a sample size of 1 mm in just 30 minutes.
- It makes use synthetic peptides, magnetic nano particles, and quantum dots to detect the presence of bacteria. After capturing the bacteria, micro channels exhibits strong and stable fluorescence due to the quantum-dot-tagged peptides, which act as a recognition element and provide the specificity to the detection. These peptides are highly specific to the bacteria to be detected and have extremely low cross-reactivity.
- It will provide a cost and time-effective way of screening water and food borne pathogens.

5TH ANNUAL MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF NEW DEVELOPMENT BANK

Current Context: Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman attended the 5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank (NDB) via video-conference in New Delhi.

- In the meeting, the Finance Minister discussed and praised the NDB's efforts on fast-tracking of financial assistance of about \$5 billion to BRICS countries including Emergency Assistance of \$1 billion India to combat COVID-19 pandemic.
- An annual meeting scheme of social support measures amounting to \$25 Billion to alleviate the hardship of the poor and the vulnerable and provided insurance cover of \$67,000 per person to over 2.2 million frontline health workers was announced.



STATIC PART:

- President of NDB- K V Kamath
- HQ of NDB- Shanghai, China

RS.17,793 CRORE UNDER PM-KISAN SCHEME—BY GOI

Current Context: GoI has released Rs.17,793 crore Under PM-KISAN Scheme farmer families during the lockdown.

KEY POINTS

- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, over 8.89 crore farmer families have been benefitted.
- The Government has also decided to distribute pulses to the eligible households under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), which will be beneficial to around 19.50 crore households spreaded across 36 States and UTs.

"SAIYAM MOBILE APPLICATION" ---BY PUNE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Current Context: Pune Municipal Corporation has launched a mobile application titled "Saiyam".

- The mobile application has been developed under the **Smart Cities Mission (SCM)**.

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- **The aim behind launching the Saiyam mobile app is to effectively track home-quarantined citizens and ensure they are actually staying in the home.**
- Saiyam app uses the GPS tracking feature which is used to send an alert signal to the city administration whenever the quarantined citizens leave their homes. The city administration has appointed dedicated teams for five zones to conduct a follow-up with people under home quarantine on a daily basis.
- The movement of the citizens is monitored on a real-time basis by the monitoring team members and the movements of the quarantined citizens are marked as red, yellow, and green.
- **Red color denotes that the person has moved out for the longer duration, yellow color indicates that the person has wandered in limited movements, and green color indicates that the person is confined to house limits.**
- Also with the help of this app, the teams will seek updates from quarantined people on their health status and details of persons in contact with them.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
- Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: David Li: -He has been appointed as **Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Telecommunication India**. He has **replaced Mr. Jay Chen** from the post of CEO of Huawei Telecommunication India, who has now been promoted to handle the Asia Pacific business zone.



- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Huawei: Shenzhen, China
- N Kamakodi:- He has been reappointed as Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the City Union Bank. The approval for this reappointment has been received from RBI.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of City Union Bank: Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu
 - Chairman of City Union Bank: R. Mohan
- **Kapil Dev Tripathi:** - He has been appointed as the Secretary to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. Mr. Tripathi will be **replacing Mr. Sanjay Kothari, who was selected as the Chief Vigilance Commissioner in February**. Mr. Kapil Dev Tripathi has been appointed by the appointments committee of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- **New Chief Justice for Bombay, Meghalaya, and Orissa HC:** - Chief Justice of India, Sharad Arvind Bobde has recommended new Chief Justice for Bombay, Meghalaya, and Orissa HC. Justice Dipankar Datta to become Chief Justice of Bombay High Court and he will replace Bhushan Dharmadhikari. Justice Biswanth Somadder to become Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court and he will replace Mohammed Rafiq. Justice Mohammed Rafiq to become Chief Justice of Orissa High Court and he will replace Sanju Panda.

RBI 3-MONTH EMI MORATORIUM TO PROVIDE RS 2.1 LAKH CRORE LIQUIDITY TO CORPORATES

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has announced a moratorium, in which the bank will provide Rs 2.1 lakh crore liquidity to the corporate sectors who are ready to avail the offer.

HIGHLIGHTS

- "The moratorium announced by RBI on interest and principal obligations due **between March 1 and May 31, 2020**, would tantamount to a liquidity breather of Rs 2.10 lakh crore if all companies opt for it," the Crisil rating agency said in a report. The findings by Crisil Ratings are based on an assessment of 9,300 of its rated non-financial sector companies across 100 sectors.
- However, the IT consulting companies and automobile companies will be getting low leverage and will be getting less from the moratorium, as per the report. That is because the continuing slowdown in the automobile industry and a complete halt in operations because of the lockdown have severely impaired their liquidity.
- And the corporate sectors from electricity generation, agricultural products, textiles and fertilizers, and trading will be benefited from the moratorium with an account for nearly 47% of the total breather.

ICICI BANK LAUNCHED VOICE BANKING SERVICES

Current Context: ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank has started a voice banking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for its customers.

- For this feature, **the bank has integrated its AI-powered multi-channel chatbot, 'iPal', with the world's two most popular voice assistant apps--Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant** to enable its retail banking customers to undertake an array of banking services with just a simple voice command. This novel facility offers customers yet another way to connect with their Bank from home at a time when they are advised to stay indoors in the wake of the nationwide lockdown.
- The voice banking service of ICICI bank enables customers to **#BankWith their voice** and to get avail with banking services like checking account balance, perform transactions, check credit card due date ask queries about the Bank's products and services.
- The service is available instantly 24x7, without any branch visit.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of ICICI Bank- Mumbai
- MD and CEO of ICICI Bank- Sandeep Bakshi

G-20 AGRICULTURE MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: Union Agriculture Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar participated in the G-20 Agriculture Ministers meeting.

KEY POINTS

- The G-20 Agriculture Ministers virtual meeting organized through video conferencing **by the Saudi Presidency** to deliberate on the ways and means of ensuring continuity of food supply value chain, including the livelihood of farmers.
- The meeting was held to discuss the issue of COVID-19 as well as its impact on food security, safety, and nutrition.
- The G-20 nations resolved to have international cooperation in the backdrop of COVID-19 pandemic. They decided to work together for food security and nutrition, share best practices and lessons learned, promote research, responsible investments, innovations, and reforms that will improve the sustainability and resilience of agriculture and food systems. The G-20 nations agreed to develop science-based international guidelines on stricter safety and hygienic measures for zoonosis control.

"AAYU AND SEHAT SATHI MOBILE APPLICATION"---BY RAJASTHAN GOV. AND MEDCORDS STARTUP

Current Context: Rajasthan government partnered with healthcare startup MedCords to launch Aayu and Sehat Sathi Mobile Application to combat COVID-19.

- The mobile application provides 24x7 online consultation and medicine delivery to the people of Rajasthan state.
- MedCords' solution is fully adopted in 7 districts of Rajasthan that is, Kota, Udaipur, Shri Ganganagar, Bikaner, Ajmer, Pali, Jaipur and will be rolling out to complete state within a week.
- The biggest benefit of this mobile app is that it takes almost no time to implement across the district and is so easy to use.
- **The app and helpline number (7816811111) support Hindi and the English language.**

STATIC PART:

- CM of Rajasthan: Ashok Ghelot
- Governor of Rajasthan: Kalraj Mishra

SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM FACEBOOK ACQUIRES 9.99% STAKE IN RELIANCE JIO

Current Context: The social media platform and US tech giant Facebook buys a 9.99% stake in the Reliance Jio platform which is the telecom company of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL).

- Facebook to perform investment of **Rs. 43,474 crores in Reliance Jio for 9.99% stake.** It is the largest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's tech sector.
- The cooperation between Reliance and Facebook will help in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India Mission with its two goals of 'Ease of doing businesses and 'ease of Living'.
- Therefore by investing in Reliance Jio, Facebook will be getting a strong foothold in Indian market, where its WhatsApp chat service is having 40 crore users.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Facebook: California, US

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- CEO of Facebook: Mark Zuckerberg
- Chairman of Reliance Jio: Mukesh Ambani.

ISRAEL'S 1ST FULLY DIGITAL BANK---BY TCS

Current Context: Israel's Ministry of Finance, has selected India's largest software services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to transform its banking sector to digital by launching Israel's first fully digital bank which will be seen as a transformative initiative that can impact the business model of other sectors as well.

- Israel's banking sector will be transformed in such a way which will serve as a shared, plug-and-play, digital banking operations platform powered by the **TCS BaNCS Global Banking Platform** (which is a universal financial solution designed to help financial institutes to engage themselves in digital platform) which will help start-up banks to launch their operations very quickly.
- The digital bank will be launched by the year 2021. The fully digital bank will have no physical branches and will provide Israeli citizens with all the services that regular brick and mortar banks offer, including credit, deposits, loans, account management, securities trading and processing.

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
- Currency of Israel: New Shekel

LEBANON TO LEGALIZE CANNABIS FARMING

Current Context: Lebanon has become the first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming for medical and industrial purposes.

- Despite pushback from the Shiite Islamist group Hezbollah, the Lebanese parliament passed legislation legalizing marijuana cultivation for medicinal and industrial purposes. Recreational use of marijuana will remain illegal.
- Earlier it was illegal to perform cannabis farming in Lebanon. However, after this legalization, the country will be benefited from high value-added medicinal products.

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Lebanon- Beirut
- Currency of Lebanon- Pound

GLOBAL REPORT ON FOOD CRISIS---BY UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Current Context: Global report on food crisis was released by the UN World Food Programme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- As per the report, there are around 55 food-crisis countries which consist of 135 million people facing food insecurity. As per the report, 75 million children were stunted. 183 million people were classified in Stressed (IPC/CH Phase 2) conditions.
- Among 43 million living in the Middle East and Asia and 18.5 million in Latin America and the Caribbean are suffering food insecurity issues.
- This report is the result of a consensus-based and multi-partner analytical process involving 16 international humanitarian and development partners and various organisations participated all the way to United Nations World Food Programme.

'WASHKARO APP'-----BY IIIT DELHI

Current Context: Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi), has developed an app called 'WashKaro' which warns people about the coronavirus containment zone nearby them and helps them to verify whether the news about the pandemic is genuine or fake one. It aims to provide the right information in the right format at the right time to the people.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The content on the app is delivered in the **Hindi language as well as in audio format** which is helpful for those who cannot read.
- The app delivers government advisories from official pages and contains a Symptom Tracker (based upon WHO) for people to know if they are safe.
- The app is based on Bluetooth technology for communication and does not need internet or location services. No data is stored anywhere on any server.
- It makes use of Artificial Intelligence technology to cross-reference news with WHO documents.
- It is developed by professor Ponnurangam Kumaraguru and Dr. Tavpritish Sethi of the Indrapra IIIT-Delhi along with five students.

NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY OR NATIONAL LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT DAY

Current Context: 24th April is observed as the National Panchayati Raj Day or the National Local Self Government Day by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

- On this day, the Constitution of India recognized Panchayats as 'Institutions of self-government'. It marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 with effect from 24 April 1993. As per the amendment, the states are empowered to carry out steps to organize village panchayats.
- This year PM Modi interacted via a video conference with all the village sarpanchs across the country and addressed them with the mantra of - '**Do gaj doori**' to define social distancing in simpler terms amid the battle against COVID-19 virus.
- The Prime Minister launched the two initiatives on the occasion- **(A) e-GramSwaraj Portal/ Mobile application:** The portal will provide all the gram panchayats with one single interface to prepare and implement their gram panchayat development plan (GPDP). **(B) Swamitva Scheme:** It will provide an integrated property validation solution for rural India. The scheme is expected to boost the government's efforts to alleviate poverty in rural areas. Under the scheme, the inhabited land will be demarcated in rural

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areas by using the latest surveying methods such as drone technology with collaborated efforts of the Survey of India, State Panchayati Raj Department, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and State Revenue Department.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Panchayati Raj: Narendra Singh Tomar

MOBILE VIROLOGY RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTICS LABORATORY (MVRDL)

Current Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) via video conference, which is India's first COVID-19 samples collection mobile lab.

- It is also named as 'Mobile BSL-3 VRDL Lab'.
- It is developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), the Hyderabad based laboratory of DRDO in consultation with ESIC Hospital, Hyderabad.
- Biosafety Level 2 and Level 3 lab will help to process more than 1,000 samples in a day. It will enhance the country's capabilities in fighting COVID-19.
- This mobile lab can be positioned anywhere in the country, as per requirement as it is incorporated with electrical controls, LAN, Telephone cabling, and CCTV. And has been built as per the World Health Organization (WHO) and ICMR Bio-safety standards to meet international guidelines.

STATIC PART:

- DRDO HQ: New Delhi
- Chairman of DRDO: G Satheesh Reddy

#MYBOOKMYFRIENDCAMPAIGN—BY HRD MINISTRY

Current Context: Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the #MyBookMyFriendcampaign on social media.

- The campaign was launched on account of World Book Day which is marked on 23 April
- #MyBookMyFriend campaign will run for the next 7 days.
- Aim behind this campaign is to motivate children and adults to read books and utilize this lockdown period arisen due to COVID-19 in reading variety of books
- The ministry also made an appeal to the students to share the book which they are reading at the moment using #MyBookMyFriend on social media.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Human Resource Development: Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'

RBI ALLOWS BANKS TO ISSUE ELECTRONIC CARDS FOR OVERDRAFT ACCOUNTS

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India has granted permission to all banks to issue electronic cards to natural persons having Overdraft Accounts that are only in the nature of personal loan without any specific end-use restrictions.

- This will allow the user to use it for domestic transactions only.
- However, RBI has put the limit that the card should be issued for a period not exceeding the validity of the facility and should also be subject to the usual rights of the banks as lenders.
- Also the RBI has mentioned in its circular that the restriction on cash transaction will not apply to overdraft facility provided along with Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of RBI- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor of RBI - Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra.

'NOOR' ---FIRST MILITARY SATELLITE OF IRAN

Current Context: Iran has launched its first military satellite called "Noor" into orbit.

- The satellite has reached its orbit and it is orbiting 425km above the earth's surface which was launched by a three-stage rocket. The three-stage rocket was powered by a combination of solid and liquid fuels.
- **The satellite is launched by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), the country's armed force group.**
- This launch has raised tensions with the US at a time the two countries are already facing off in the Persian Gulf. Also, the US has accused Iran of violating the 2015 UN Security Council resolution.

STATIC PART:

- Iran Capital: Tehran
- Iran Currency: Rial

'FELUDA' A COVID-19 TEST STRIP---BY CSIR-IGIB

Current Context: The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research's Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi has developed a low-cost COVID-19 test strip named 'Feluda'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It's a paper-based strip and detects the new coronavirus within an hour and thus proves to be helpful in rapid checking and testing of doubtful patients of COVID-19 infection.
- The test uses the cutting-edge gene-editing tool- Crispr-Cas9 to target and identify the genomic sequences of the novel coronavirus in the samples of suspected individuals.
- It carries out the test at around Rs500 only.

HIMACHAL PRADESH GOVT ADOPTS THREE-PRONGED STRATEGIES TO FIGHT COVID-19

Current Context: Himachal Pradesh has decided to utilize three strategies to combat COVID-19.

- **The three actions by the state government have been put in use and these are: To increase testing capacity, To identify three types of institutions for treatment of COVID patients having different symptoms, and to provide adequate safety instruments to health workers.**
- By increasing the testing capacity, the maximum number of people will be investigated.
- Three different institutions to cure the patients will be helpful in stopping the spreading of the virus. **The people with the asymptomatic condition will be kept in COVID Care Centres while moderately symptomatic will be kept in COVID Health Centres. Patients having severe symptoms will be admitted to COVID hospitals.**
- The State Government is also ensuring the adequate availability of PPE kits, facial masks, and ventilators in order to deal with any possible situation arising after the lockdown.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Himachal Pradesh: Jai Ram Thakur
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Bandaru Dattatreya

MEETING OF 15TH FINANCE COMMISSION

Current Context: The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) held an online meeting with its Advisory Council.

ABOUT

- **The meeting was chaired by N. K. Singh.**
- In the meeting, the members discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the national lockdown on the Indian economy.
- In order to tackle the financial crisis arisen due to COVID-19, the members have planned to seek RBI's help to ensure that financial institutions are well-capitalized.
- Also, the commission has planned to deepen the NPAs in the financial sector and introduce measures to guarantee help to Non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

SRI LANKA TO GET \$400 MILLION DEBT FACILITY FROM RBI

Current Context: Sri Lanka signs an agreement with Reserve Bank of India for a Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement worth \$400 million.

- The agreement is signed to boost Sri Lanka's foreign reserves as the country which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Cabinet has approved a proposal made by Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa as the Finance Minister to enter into an agreement with the RBI for the financing facility to meet short-term international liquidity requirements.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of RBI- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor of RBI – Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra.
- Capital of Sri Lanka-Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte
- Currency of Sri Lanka-Sri Lankan rupee

SANJAY KOTHARI- NEW CHIEF VIGILANCE COMMISSIONER (CVC)

Current Context: Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as the new Chief Vigilance Commissioner(CVC) of India.

- He has been selected by the committee headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- Mr. Sanjay Kothari, prior to this appointment was serving as the Secretary to the President Ram Nath Kovind.
- The Central Vigilance Commission is an autonomous body that is the corruption watchdog. And it is free of control from any executive authority.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Central Vigilance Commissioner: New Delhi

'RECHARGE SATHI' ---BY VODAFONE IDEA AND PAYTM

Current Context: Vodafone Idea partnered with Paytm to launch the 'Recharge Sathi' program.

- The program has enabled Paytm to exclusively power prepaid mobile phone recharges for Vodafone Idea.
- The Recharge Sathi program will help to earn an additional income to individuals and small businesses
- Individuals and small businesses would be able to earn up to an additional Rs 5,000 every month under the program.
- Under this program, Vodafone Idea will be giving an assured cashback to merchant partners for multiple recharges.

STATIC PART:

- Paytm HQ: Noida, UP
- MD and CEO of Paytm Payment Bank Ltd: Satish Kumar Gupta

'VITAL' VENTILATOR ---BY NASA

Current Context: Engineers and Scientists at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have developed a high-pressure ventilator named as VITAL. The full form of VITAL is Ventilator Intervention Technology Accessible Locally. It is developed to treat COVID-19 patients.

- The VITAL ventilator developed by NASA members has passed a critical test at the Icahn School of Medicine in New York and has proved to be helpful to the Coronavirus patients who are having mild symptoms.
- VITAL can be built faster and easier. It can be maintained more easily than a traditional ventilator.

- After FDA approval, the ventilator can be used to treat COVID-19 patients.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NASA: Washington DC, United States.

G-CNQDS FOR VISIBLE-LIGHT-DRIVEN ANTIBACTERIAL ACTIVITY---BY INST

Current Context: The Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) has developed carbon nitride quantum dots (g-CNQDs) which is a metal-free nanomaterial useful for visible-light-driven antibacterial activity.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It has been proven effective and an alternative to metal/non-metal semiconductors and expensive silver.
- The g-CNQDs possess enhanced biocidal activity attributed to the larger surface area of it having more reactive sites and optical absorption both in the ultraviolet (UV) and visible region.
- The newly developed nanomaterial generates reactive oxygen species (ROS), which rapidly interacts and damages the immediately available biological macromolecules such as lipids present on the cell membrane or envelope and proteins present on the cellular surface, towards inactivation of the microorganism.
- This carbon nitride quantum dots (g-CNQDs) are proven to be highly relevant and effective in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.

'KARMI-BOT' ROBOT---KERALA

Current Context: A Kerala government hospital in Ernakulam in Kochi has deployed a robot named as 'KARMI-Bot' to serve food and medicines to coronavirus patients with an aim to reduce risk of infections for doctors and health workers.

- The robot is developed by **ASIMOV robotics**, a company working under maker village of Kerala start-up mission.
- The robot is used to limit the interaction between COVID-19 patients and health workers as well as to address the shortage of PPE kits by minimizing its use.
- The KARMI-Bot is capable to carry a payload of up to 25kg and has the speed of 1 m per second
- The robot is also incorporated with UV based disinfection and targeted detergent spray to carry out the disinfecting process in hospitals.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Kerala: Punarayi Vijayan
- Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan

'VILOKANA' SEARCH ENGINE---BY IIITM-KERALA

Current Context: An Artificial Intelligence Search Engine called 'Vilokana' has been developed by the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management- Kerala.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This search engine provides researchers with deep insights to perform scientific studies and to get a treatment solution to novel coronavirus
- The name 'Vilokana' is based from the Sanskrit language which stands with a meaning called finding out'.
- The search engine consist of AI based search tools which provide contextual search information from the vast domain of scientific literature and thus guide the researchers to get the proper information in no time
- The user also has the choice to upload any scientific text for analysis, which can be used for sentiment analysis and knowledge discovery.

HYDROGEN FUEL CELL-BASED ELECTRIC CARSAT LEH AND DELHI

Current Context: National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) has invited Global Expression of Interest (EoI) to provide Hydrogen Fuel Cell (FC) based electric buses and Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based electric cars in Leh and Delhi.

- The EoI has been issued by NTPC's wholly-owned subsidiary, NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN) Limited.
- It aims to Hydrogen Fuel Cell-based vehicles and to provide complete solutions from green energy to the fuel cell vehicle.
- **The project is supported by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NTPC: New Delhi
- Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy: R. K. Singh

RS 50,000 CRORE LIQUIDITY FOR MUTUAL FUNDS BY RBI

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has come up with an announcement to provide easiness to liquidity pressures on mutual funds (MFs) by granting Rs. 50,000 crore Special Liquidity Facility (SLF) for mutual funds.

- This RBI's move comes after Franklin Templeton's decision to close 6 debt funds and put redemptions on hold indefinitely.
- **Under this scheme, the RBI will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.**
- The funds availed under the scheme can be used by banks exclusively for meeting the liquidity requirements of MFs by extending loans, and undertaking the outright purchase of and/or repo against the collateral of investment-grade corporate bonds, commercial papers (CPS), debentures and certificates of Deposit (CDs) held by MFs.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of RBI- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor of RBI – Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra

FIRST HOSPITAL TO HAVE PLASMA THERAPY FOR COVID-19

Current Context: The King George Medical University (KGMU) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh became the first government hospital in the country to successfully launch the plasma therapy treatment for COVID-19 patients.

- The team performed a **Convalescent Plasma Therapy** for the treatment for COVID-19 patients.
- The Convalescent Plasma Therapy initially was used in the past to treat patients suffering from polio, measles, mumps etc.
- **The therapy aims to use the antibodies from the blood of recovered COVID-19 patients to treat those are critically affected by the virus and are said to be very effective to treat corona positive patients.**
- The first dose of the plasma therapy was given to a 58-year old patient.
- The doctors at KGMU are preparing Plasma Therapy for the approval from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

STATIC PART:

- CM of UP: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of UP: Anandiben Patel
- **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary in UP:** Dudhwa National Park, Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary, Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sandi Bird Wildlife Sanctuary, Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary, Sohagi barwa Wildlife Sanctuary etc.

'JIVAN SHAKTI YOJANA' FOR WOMENS---BY MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Madhya Pradesh Government has launched a 'Jivan Shakti Yojana' for womens.

- The scheme is launched with an aim to provide an earning source for women as well as the womens will helpful to provide the protective masks to the community and health workers amidst COVID-19.
- Under the scheme, women will prepare masks at homes in the urban areas and will be able to earn profit.
- The Government will give Rs 11 per mask to them immediately.
- The mask is to be made of cotton cloth. After preparing the masks, womens are supposed to deliver the masks to the nodal officer of their urban body.
- The process of payment will be initiated immediately when the womens will deliver the mask.

STATIC PART:

- CM of MP: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Governor of MP: Lal Ji Tandon
- National Parks in MP: Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park, Panna National Park, Satpura National Park, Madhav National Park, Sanjay National Park, Pench National Park, Van Vihar National Park

"TRENDS IN WORLD MILITARY EXPENDITURE, 2019" —REPORT BY SIPRI

Current Context: Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a report titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019".

- The report is a detail analysis of spending in military sector by the countries in the year 2019.
- As per the report the global military spending in 2019 was 2.2% of the global GDP that is 7.2% higher in 2019 as compared with the year 2010.
- The report stated that the total global military expenditure rose to \$1,917 billion in 2019, which is an increase of 3.6% from 2018 and the largest annual growth in spending since 2010.
- **Highlights for India:** The military spending of India grew by 6.8% to \$71.1 billion in 2019. India spent \$71.1 billion on defence in 2019 which is 2.4% of its GDP and has thus raised to 3rd position in 2019 from 4th position in 2018. India has become the third-largest military spender in the world, after the US and China.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of SIPRI: Solna, Sweden

INSURANCE COVER OF RS.50 LAKH FOR THE FRONTLINE JOURNALISTS--- BY ASSAM

Current Context: Assam government has announced an insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh for the frontline journalists who are covering COVID-19.

- The insurance cover is being provided because the frontline journalists have been bravely covering COVID-19 news updates against all odds by risking their lives.
- The journalists association in the state, including the Guwahati Press Club, welcomed the initiative taken by the Assam government.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Assam: Sarbananda Sonowal
- Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi
- National Parks in Assam: Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, Dibru Saikhowa NP, Nameri NP, Orang NP

INDIAN OVERSEAS BANK LAUNCHED SPECIAL BORROWING SCHEME FOR SHGS

Current Context: Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) introduced a special borrowing scheme for self-help groups to help them tide over the challenges inflicted by COVID-19.

- **In this scheme, each member of SHG will be able to avail a loan of Rs 5000/- with a cap of Rs 1 lakh for the group.**
- Also, a SHG with a good track record and a history of minimum two loans from IOB will be eligible for this loan facility, which can be availed till June 30, 2020.
- As per the bank's rule, only those SHGs whose existing loans are standard and performing as on March 1, 2020 are eligible to avail loan under this special scheme.

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- The loans would be sanctioned and disbursed within six working days.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of IOB- Chennai
- Tagline of IOB- Good people to grow with
- MD and CEO of IOB- Karnam Sekar

AIRTEL AND NOKIA PARTNERSHIP—TO BOOST NETWORK CAPACITY

Current Context: Nokia and Bharti Airtel have signed a multi-year agreement with an aim to boost network capacity and hence provide good customer experience.

- The two companies have signed an agreement for \$1 Billion.
- **Under this agreement: (a)Airtel to deploy Nokia's Single Radio Access Network (SRAN) solution to enhance network capacity in the world's second-largest telecoms market. (b) The end-to-end deal includes Air Scale Radio Access, Baseband, and related Service. (c)Enhances 5G readiness of Airtel's network.**
- The 5G connectivity in the future will see approximately 300,000 radio units deployed across several spectrum bands, including 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, and 2300 MHz, and is expected to be completed by 2022.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Bharti Airtel: New Delhi
- MD and CEO of Bharti Airtel: Gopal Vittal
- HQ of Nokia: Espoo, Finland

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: JagdishMukhi- Assam Governor **Jagdish Mukhi** assumed charge of the **administration of the Bodoland Territorial Council.**

ABOUT

- The department of Welfare of Plains Tribes and Backward classes appointed Siddhartha Singh, commissioner and secretary, PHE, and MD, Swacch Bharat Abhiyan Mission, as Principal Secretary of Bodoland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar. Rajesh Prasad, the principal secretary to the state government, has been appointed as the administrator to the BTC to superintend and direct the entire administration.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Assam: SarbanandaSonowal
 - Governor of Assam: Jagdish Mukhi
 - **National Parks in Assam:** Kaziranga NP, Manas NP, DibruSaikhowa NP, Nameri NP, Orang NP
- **Shiv Das Meena-** He has been appointed as **Chairman and MD of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO)** for six months period.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of HUDCO: New Delhi

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- **Manisha Singh**- Indian American diplomat Manisha Singh has been **nominated by US President Donald Trump as America's next envoy to Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**. Currently, she is working as the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of OECD: Paris, France
- **Madhavan Menon**- Reserve Bank of India has extended the term of appointment of Madhavan Menon as **the part-time Chairman of the Catholic Syrian Bank** till July 21, 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CSB: Thrissur, Kerala

AGREEMENT—ADB AND GOI TO COMBAT COVID-19

Current Context: The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$1.5 billion loan that will support the government's response to the novel coronavirus disease pandemic.

- The loan amount will be utilized by India to fulfill its immediate priorities like disease contentment and prevention, social protection for poor, and economically weak sections of the society.
- **The loan amount has been sanctioned under ADBs COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (CARES).**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of ADB: Manila
- President of ADB: Masatsugu Asakawa

JAGANANNA VIDYA DEEVENA SCHEME ---BY ANDHRA PRADESH

Current Context: Andhra Pradesh has launched JaganannaVidyaDeeena Scheme.

- **Under the scheme over Rs.4,000 crore of funds have been released along with Rs.1880 crore towards the pending amount left by the earlier government.**
- **In this, fee reimbursement will be credited directly to mothers' accounts instead of college accounts in the coming academic year 2020-21.** The fee reimbursement is for ITI, B.Tech, B. Pharmacy, MBA, MCA, and B.Ed Courses.
- An amount of **Rs.15,000 to Rs.20,000** will be offered for the eligible candidates through the JaganannaVidyaDeeena Scheme.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Andhra Pradesh: YS Jaganmohan Reddy
- Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswa Bhushan Prasad
- **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh:** Sri Venkateswara National Park, Rajiv Gandhi National Park, Papikonda National Park, Kaundinya Wildlife Sanctuary, Nagarjunasagar Wildlife Sanctuary, Coringa Wildlife Sanctuary, GundlaBrahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary

AXIS BANK TO ACQUIRE 29% STAKE IN MAX LIFE INSURANCE

Current Context: Axis bank is set to acquire an additional 29% stake in Max Life Insurance with an estimated price of Rs 1,592 crore.

- After this additional acquisition, the deal will increase the Axis Bank's stakes in Max Life Insurance to 30%. Max Financial Services will hold the remaining 70 percent in the joint venture.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of Axis Bank: Mumbai
- MD and CEO of Axis Bank: Amitabh Chaudhry
- Tagline of Axis Bank: BadhatikaNaamZindagi.
- HQ of Max Life Insurance: New Delhi
- MD and CEO of Max Life Insurance: Prashant Tripathy

HCARD ROBOT—BY CSIR-CMERI

Current Context: CSIR-Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) has developed HCARD (Hospital Care Assistive Robotic Device).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **HCARD robot is developed for the frontline health workers so that they can maintain physical distance from the positive coronavirus patients while treating them.**
- HCARD is a robotic device which works in automatic as well as manual way and is incorporated with various technological devices.
- It can be controlled and monitored by a nursing booth with a control station having such features as navigation, drawer activation for providing medicines and food to patients, sample collection, and audio-visual communication.
- It costs for less than Rs 5 Lakhs and weighs for less than 80kg.
- HCARD robot can also be used to carry testing equipments, files, food items , medicines etc. in a comprehensive sterilized environment.

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Suresh N Patel- He took oath as **Vigilance Commissioner in the anti-corruption watchdog CVC** for a tenure of two years. He was administered the oath of office by Sanjay Kothari, Central Vigilance Commissioner.

ABOUT

- The tenure of Vigilance Commissioner is of four years or till the incumbent attains the age of 65 years. The Central Vigilance Commission can have a Central Vigilance Commissioner and two Vigilance Commissioners. Sharad Kumar is working as another Vigilance Commissioner.
- **Static Part:**

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- HQ of Central Vigilance Commission: New Delhi
- **Rajiv Kumar**- He has been appointed as **the chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)** for a tenure of 3 years. He has been appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He has replaced Kapil Dev Tripathi, who has now been appointed as Secretary to President Ram Nath Kovind
- **J Arunkumar**- He has been appointed as **the head coach of USA men's national cricket team**. He has replaced interim coach James Pamment
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of USA Cricket: Colorado, US
 - Chairman of USA Cricket: Paraag Marathe
 - CEO of USA Cricket: Iain Higgins
- **Deepak Mittal**- He has been appointed as **the next Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Qatar: Doha
 - Currency of Qatar: Qatari Riyal
- **Piyush Srivastava** - He has been appointed as **the next Ambassador of India to Bahrain**.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Bahrain: Manama
 - Currency of Bahrain: Bahraini Dinar

ELEVENTH SESSION OF PETERSBERG CLIMATE DIALOGUE

Current Context: India attended Eleventh session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue.

- The session was attended by **Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. Prakash Javadekar**.
- The 11th session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue was hosted by Germany and was co-chaired by **United Kingdom**.
- The session was held by a video conference because most of the countries are facing a lockdown situation due to COVID-19. Over 30 countries were part of this video conference.
- In this dialogue, India suggested that we should have Climate Technology that is open to everyone at an affordable cost. And the minister also suggested that We must plan for 1 trillion USD in grants to develop the world immediately.

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Germany: Berlin
- Currency of Germany: Euro

BERBERINE BASED ALZHEIMER INHIBITOR---BY JNCASR

Current Context: Scientists from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have modified the structure of Berberine into Ber-D to use as an Alzheimer's inhibitor.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The scientist selected isoquinoline natural product berberine found in India and China and used in traditional medicine and other applications.
- Since berberine has poor solubility and toxicity to cells, it was modified into Ber-D which is soluble (aqueous), antioxidant.
- Ber-D prevents the generation of reactive oxygen species (ROS) and rescues biomacromolecules from oxidative damage. It inhibits aggregations of metal-dependent and independent Amyloid beta ($A\beta$). These are the peptides of amino acids crucially involved in Alzheimer's disease as the main component of the amyloid plaques found in the brains of people with Alzheimer's disease.

RBI EXTENDED RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON MUMBAI BASED COOP BANKS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India extended restrictions imposed on Mumbai based Co-operative banks for 6 months that is till 31st October 2020.

- The Reserve Bank in October 2018 had barred the bank from granting or renewing any loan for six months and later extended the curbs twice.
- The bank was allowed to continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till "its financial position improves."

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of RBI- Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Governor of RBI - Shaktikanta Das
- Deputy Governors of RBI- Bibhu Prasad Kanungo, Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra.