

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest



May 2020

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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS GK DIGEST: MAY 2020

'VIKAS ABHAYA'—BY KARNATAKA VIKAS GRAMEENA BANK

Current Affairs: Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank(KVGB) which is a regional rural bank has launched 'Vikas Abhaya' a loan scheme to provide some relief to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise(MSME) borrowers.

- The loan scheme is launched for those borrowers whose business activities are disrupted because of the COVID-19 pandemic in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- The loan will be applicable for the existing MSME customers who have been regular as on February 29.
- A maximum loan of up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided and no collateral security is emphasized & is repayable within 36 months.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of KVGB: Dharwad Karnataka

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Shikha Sharma- She is the former Axis Bank CEO and now has been appointed as **advisor to Goggle Pay India** which is one of the leading UPI Payments adoption in India.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Google: Mountain View, California, United States.
 - CEO of Google: Sundar Pichai
- **TS Tirumurti** - He has been appointed as **the Next Ambassador or Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations by the Government of India**. He will be replacing Sayeed Akbaruddin
- **Neeraj Vyas**- He has been appointed as **the interim Managing Director and CEO of PNB Housing Finance** for a tenure of 8 months. He has replaced Sanjaya Gupta
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of PNB Housing Finance: New Delhi

GLOBAL REPORT ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT (GRID) 2020-- BY IDMC

Current Context: Geneva-based Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) released its **Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID) 2020**.

- **As per the report 5 million people were displaced in India in 2019, which is the highest in the world, due to disasters, including cyclones and monsoon floods.**
- As per the report, Political and electoral violence, mostly in Tripura and West Bengal accounted for more than 7,600 in the first half of the year.
- Conflict and violence triggered about 19,000 new displacements and 2,89,000 people were evacuated in Gujarat in June ahead of cyclone Vayu in 2019. Also, Cyclone Bulbul in Odisha and West Bengal triggered 1,86,000 displacements.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of IDMC: Geneva, Switzerland

‘JEEVAN AMRIT YOJANA’---BY MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Madhya Pradesh government has launched **Jeevan Amrit Yojana**, a unique scheme to boost immunity system of citizens of the state in order to fight novel coronavirus.

- **Under this scheme, the State Government will distribute packet of special Trikut Churna**(means three peppers -peepal, ginger and black pepper)**prepared by the AYUSH Department at free of cost to the citizens.**
- The packets of 50 grams to about 1 crore families will be distributed under this yojana

- The packets have been prepared by Madhya Pradesh Laghu Vanopaj Sangh in collaboration with the Department of AYUSH.

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

RBI EXTENDS REGULATORY BENEFITS UNDER SLF-MF SCHEME

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) extended the regulatory benefits announced under the special liquidity facility for mutual funds (SLF-MF) scheme to all banks, irrespective of whether they avail funding from RBI or deploy their own resources under the scheme.

- Any bank that meets with the liquidity requirements of mutual funds by extending loans and undertaking outright purchase or repos against the collateral of investment-grade corporate bonds, commercial papers, debentures and certificates of deposit held by mutual funds will be eligible to claim all regulatory benefits.
- To avail this, the bank is supposed to submit a weekly statement containing consolidated information on entity-wise and instrument-wise loans and advances extended or investment made to eligible entities to financial markets and the Department of Supervision on every Monday till the closure of the scheme.
- This move of RBI has intensified the redemption pressures related to the closure of some debt mutual funds and potential contagious effects.

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.

‘AYURAKSHA’—BY ALL INDIA INSTITUTE OF AYURVEDA (AIIA) AND DELHI POLICE

Current Context: The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) and Delhi Police organized AYURAKSHA programme for Delhi Police personal at New Delhi.

- The programme was titled as AYURAKSHA “Corona Se Jung- Delhi Police Ke Sang”.
- The aim behind launching this programme to fight against corona through simple and time tested Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures.

- **The programme was launched under the Ministry of AYUSH.**
- The AYURAKSHA highlighted the role of Giloy as Vayasthapana (Anti-aging herb).
- Delhi Police will be undertaking the proposal for maintaining the health of front line COVID warriors personal through Ayurveda immunity-boosting measures. The proposal would be implemented in a phase-wise manner.

STATIC PART:

- Minister of State for AYUSH: Shripad Yesso Nail
- CM of Delhi: Arvind Kejriwal
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi: Anil Bajjal

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Arvind Kumar Sharma- He has been appointed as the **Secretary to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)**. He has been appointed by a committee headed by PM Narendra Modi. Initially, he was serving as an Additional Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for MSME: Nitin Gadkari
- **Ajay Tirkey** - He has been appointed as the **secretary to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD)**. He has replaced Rabindra Panwar.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for WCD: Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani
- **Giridhar Aramane-** He has been appointed as **Secretary to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)** He has been appointed by a committee headed by PM Narendra Modi. He has replaced **Sanjeev Ranjan who has been appointed as Secretary to Ministry of Shipping.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways: Nitin Gadkari

'ATULYA' A MICROWAVE STERILIZER--BY DRDO AND DIAT, PUNE

Current Context: Defence Institute of Advanced Technology, Pune, a deemed university supported by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a microwave steriliser named as 'ATULYA' to disintegrate coronavirus.

- **The ATULYA disintegrates virus by differential heating in the range of 560 to 600 Celsius temperatures.**
- Time of sterilisation is from 30 seconds to one minute, depending upon the size and shape of various objects. Approximate weight of the system is 3 kg and it can be used for non-metallic objects only.

STATIC PART:

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

USAID TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION TO INDIA TO FIGHT COVID-19

Current Context: An Aid agency of United States-The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced to provide an additional \$3 million to India, for mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The fund will be utilized under Partnerships for Affordable Healthcare Access and Longevity (PAHAL) project.
- Through the PAHAL project, USAID aims to support the National Health Authority (NHA) in establishing a financing facility that can mobilize resources from the private sector to assist over 20,000 health facilities enrolled under the health scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY).
- USAID has provided \$5.9 million to assist India in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, so far.

YASH PROGRAMME—BY NCSTC AND DST

Current Context: National Council for Science & Technology Communication (NCSTC) and Department of Science & Technology (DST) launched 'Year of Awareness on Science & Health (YASH)'.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- YASH is a programme on health and risk communication with a focus on COVID-19.
- It is a comprehensive and effective science and health communication effort for promoting grass-root level appreciation and response on health and would help to save and shaping the lives of people at large and build confidence, inculcate a scientific temper, and promote health consciousness among them.
- To aims to promote practices to cut down spreading of novel coronavirus.
- Under the programme, strategies have been worked out to involve academic, research, media, and voluntary organizations to facilitate necessary actions and emergency preparedness of society to address the challenge.
- The programme is aimed at minimizing risks at all levels with the help of public communication and outreach activities, promoting public understanding of common minimum science for community care and health safety measures like personal sanitation and hygiene, physical distancing, maintaining desired collective behavior, and so on.

‘KISAN SABHA APP’—CSIR-CENTRAL ROAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE (CSIR-CRRI)

Current Context: CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), New Delhi has developed Kisan Sabha App with an aim to connect farmers to supply chain and freight transportation management systems.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Kisan Sabha App is a one-stop solution for farmers, transporters, and other entities engaged in the agriculture Industry.
- It provides the most economical and timely logistics support to the farmers and helps them to provide timely delivery of their produce at the best price and thus increase their profit margins by minimizing the interference of middlemen and directly connecting with the institutional buyers.
- Kisan Sabha app works for people in the agriculture services sector such as dealers of fertilizers and pesticides, transporters, cold stores, and warehouse owners, and mandi dealers who can reach out to more farmers for their services.

FREE HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME--BY MAHARASHTRA GOVT

Current Context: Maharashtra Government to grant free health insurance scheme to all citizens.

- **The health insurance scheme will be granted under Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana.**
- The decision was taken amidst of outbreak of Coronavirus.
- **By granting free health insurance scheme to all citizens, Maharashtra Govt has become the first state in India to do this.**
- Under the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jan Arogya Yojana, people in the state can avail of the benefits of free and cashless health insurance. Documents such as ration cards and domicile certificates are essential to apply for the scheme.
- Also, the government of Maharashtra has signed an MoU with the General Insurance Public Sector Association (GIPSA) for the treatment of COVID-19 patients at private hospitals in Pune and Mumbai.
- Earlier, 496 hospitals were covered in the scheme, but now over 1,000 hospitals will come under it.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
- Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshyari
- **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra:** Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhamragarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Malvan Marine Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary

'BHARATMARKET'—BY CONFEDERATION OF ALL INDIA TRADERS (CAIT)

Current Context: Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has decided to launch 'Bharatmarket' which is a national e-commerce marketplace.

- 'Bharatmarket' will be used for all retail traders in collaboration with several technology partners.
- The national e-commerce market place will integrate capabilities of various technology companies to provide **end-to-end services in the logistics and supply chains** from manufacturers to end consumers, including deliveries at home.
- Bharatmarket will include nationwide participation of all retailers and aims to bring 95% of retail traders onboard the platform, who would be handling the portal.
- The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) has received support and guidance of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for this initiative.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry: Piyush Goyal

VANEEZA RUPANI — HONOURED FOR NAMING NASA'S 1ST MARS HELICOPTER

Current Context: India origin girl, Vaneza Rupani has been honored by NASA for naming the NASA's first Mars helicopter 'Ingenuity'.

- She submitted her essay into NASA's "Name the Rover" contest and was chosen among 28,000 essays from The US.
- She submitted the name 'Ingenuity' to NASA's first mars helicopter which was liked and appreciated by NASA.
- Also NASA has announced that its next rover to the Mars is named as Perseverance.
- Ingenuity and Perseverance are scheduled to launch in July and land February 2021 at Mars' Jezero Crater believed to be the site of a lake that existed 3.5 billion years ago.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NASA: Washington DC, United States

"IDEATHON" TITLED "THE FUTURE OF RIVER MANAGEMENT"

Current Context: The National Mission for Clean Ganga operating (NMCG) under Ministry of Jal Shakti and National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) launched "IDEAthon" titled "The future of River Management".

- The webinar was launched to explore how the COVID-19 crisis can shape River Management strategies for the future and created the participation of various expertise across the globe to discuss strategies.

- It aimed to create awareness about the ecological importance and economic potential of the rivers to help the cities.
- IDEathon had created a framework called River Management in a city's Urban river management plan and examined and studied how the social angle of rivers can be leveraged to address other crises.
- NMCG has developed a template for an Urban River Management Plan with the National Institute of Urban Affairs.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister for Jal Shakti: Gajendra Singh Shekhawat

A SURVEY ON R&D STATISTICS AND INDICATORS 2019-20

Current Context: A survey on Research and Development (R&D) Statistics and Indicators 2019-20 was conducted by the National Science and Technology Management Information (NSTMIS), Department of Science and Technology (DST).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **As per the survey, India ranks 3rd among countries in a scientific publication.**
- The survey included more than 6800 Science and Technology Institutions spreaded across sectors like central government, state governments, higher education, public sector industry, and private sector industry in the country.
- **As per the report India had spent 0.7% of its GDP on R&D in 2017-18.**
- The report has also highlighted that India's share in global research publication output has increased over the years as reflected in publication databases.

NEERAJ DHAWAN — CHIEF RISK OFFICER OF YES BANK

Current Context: Neeraj Dhawan has been appointed as Chief Risk Officer of Yes Bank.

- He has been appointed for a tenure of three years.
- Neeraj Dhawan has replaced Ashish Agarwal.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Yes Bank: Mumbai
- Tagline of Yes Bank: Experience our Expertise.
- MD and CEO of Yes Bank: Prashant Kumar

VIRTUAL SUMMIT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM)

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be participating in a virtual summit of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 4 May.

- The aim behind this summit is to enhance the coordination of the member states in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The summit will identify measures for enhanced coordination among NAM members in their common fight against COVID-19.
- The online session will conclude with a political declaration of the movement “uniting against COVID-19.”
- **The summit will be conducted under the Presidency of Azerbaijan, and will be convened by President IlhamAliyev.**

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Azerbaijan: Baku
- Currency of: Azerbaijani manat

"THE SARAS COLLECTION" LAUNCHED ON GEM PORTAL

Current Context: The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj and Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar launched “The Saras Collection” on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- “The Saras Collection” is an initiative of GeM and the DeenDayalAntyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), Ministry of Rural Development.
- The collection will display daily utility products made by rural self-help groups (SHGs).
- It aims to grant a market access to Central and State Government buyers by SHGs.
- The products of SHGs will be categorized in 5 groups namely, handicrafts, handloom and textiles, office accessories, grocery and pantry, and personal care and hygiene.

THE AGRO MSME POLICY

Current Context: Union Minister for Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced to introduce an Agro MSME Policy that will focus on entrepreneurship development in rural, tribal, agricultural, and forest areas for manufacturing products using local raw material.

HIGHLIGHTS

- An Agro MSME policy will be launched to focus on export enhancement and import substitution to replace foreign imports with domestic production.
- It will be also focusing on innovation, entrepreneurship, science and technology, research skill and experiences to convert the knowledge into wealth.

- It will aim to provide a further extension of the moratorium, payment of salaries to workers during lockdown from their ESI and Provident Fund, a helpline for MSMEs, strengthening access to finance, etc.
- An Agro MSME policy is launched to focus and uplift the MSME sector which is affected during lockdown amidst COVID-19.

MUKHYA MANTRI SHAHARI ROJGAR GUARANTEE YOJNA—BY HIMACHAL PRADESH

Current Context: The Himachal Pradesh (HP) state government has decided to launch an employment guarantee scheme called “Mukhya Mantri Shahari Rojgar Guarantee Yojna” with an aim to improve the economy of the state affected by the Coronavirus.

- **The Yojna will provide 120 days of employment to those living in urban areas.**
- People employed under the scheme will also be imparted training to increase their skills as and when required.
- Also, the HP government has provided Rs 2,000 to about one lakh workers registered under the Building and Other Construction Workers Board.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Himachal Pradesh: Jai Ram Thakur
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Justice : Lingappa Narayana Swamy
- **National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary in HP :** Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Inderkilla National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandli Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratil Wildlife Sanctuary, Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary.

VIDEO-BASED KYC—BY AMEYO

Current Context: Ameyo, an Omnichannel Customer Engagement Technology provider, launched video-based KYC for businesses to eliminate the need for physical KYC following the latest RBI guidelines issued in Jan 2020.

- Ameyo's video KYC is an end-to-end solution with omnichannel capabilities of scheduling and reminding customers to complete the KYC process, thus enabling brands to reduce the drop-offs by 20%.
- It will reduce the customer onboarding process from the current 5-7 days to less than 3 minutes.
- With the help of this video based KYC model businesses can reduce their cost of operations by up to 90% by eliminating field agent travel and documentation costs.

STATIC PART:

- CEO of Ameyo: Bishal Lachhramka

ARKTIKA-M: RUSSIA'S 1ST SATELLITE TO MONITOR ARCTIC CLIMATE

Current Context: Russia will be launching its first satellite to monitor the Arctic climate and environment this year.

- Arktika-M is the name of the satellite.
- Arktika-M remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites will gather meteorological data in the polar regions of the Earth, which will allow improving weather forecasts and will enable scientists to better study climate change.
- The Arktika M is a series of planned remote-sensing and emergency communications satellites which will be operated in a highly elliptical 12-hour orbit. These are being designed to monitor high-latitude areas of the Earth. Their payload will comprise MSU-GSM multi-spectral imager and transmitters for meteorological and rescue systems.

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Russia: Moscow
- Currency of Russia: Russian Ruble

OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU—BY INDIAN NAVY

Current Context: Indian Navy launched Operation Samudra Setu.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Operation Samudra Setu means Sea Bridge.**
- The operation is launched to bring back the Indian citizens who are stranded overseas because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This operation is done by the Ministries of Defence, External Affairs, Home Affairs, Health, and various other agencies of Central/State governments.
- As a phase I of this operation, Indian Naval Ships (INS) Jalashwa and Magar are presently proceeding to the port of Male, the Republic of Maldives to evacuate the people stuck there amidst of COVID-19.
- The evacuation process will start from 8th May 2020. In the first trip, total of 1000 persons will be evacuated.

BAMBOO CONCLAVE 2020

Current Context: The Bamboo Conclave 2020 was recently held via video conference and was addressed by Dr. Jitendra Singh who is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The conference was attended by the union ministry of agriculture and stakeholders
- The Minister discussed India's Post-COVID economy which will provide an opportunity for India to emerge as an economic power with the support of its Bamboo resources
- The conclave also focused on the promotion of bamboo manufacturing and trade and also focused on working out the feasibility of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in this sector.

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Tarun Bajaj- He is the Secretary of Economic Affairs Department of Finance and now has been nominated as a Director on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The nomination is done by the Government of India.

ABOUT

- **Ashok Michael Pinto-** He is an Indian-American Lawyer and now has been nominated as US representative to World Bank's leading hand International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The nomination is done by US President Donald Trump.
- **Krishnan Ramachandran-** He has been appointed as MD and CEO of Max Bupa Health Insurance. He will be replacing Ashish Malhotra.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Max Bupa Health Insurance.: New Delhi
 - Lt Gen. Raj Shukla- He has assumed the charge of ARTRAC (Army Training Command).

'NIGAH SCHEME'---BY HIMACHAL PRADESH

Current Context: The Himachal Pradesh government has launched Nigah Scheme.

- The scheme has been launched to properly sensitize and educate family members of people coming from other states so that social distancing is effectively maintained.
- Under the scheme, a team of ASHA workers, health workers, and Anganwadi workers will educate family members about the importance of social distancing so that they could be saved from any possible infection
- The persons entering the state have been asked to download Aarogya Setu App and must also be provided with Information Education Communication (IEC) material regarding the importance of social distancing.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Himachal Pradesh: Jairam Thakur
- Governor of Himachal Pradesh: Bandaru Dattatreya
- Chief Justice: Lingappa Narayana Swamy
- National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuary in HP: Great Himalayan National Park, Pin Valley National Park, Inderkilla National Park, Simbalbara National Park, Chail Wildlife Sanctuary, Bandai Wildlife Sanctuary, Chandratal Wildlife Sanctuary, Churdhar Wildlife Sanctuary.

RBI CANCELS LICENSE OF CKP CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD., MUMBAI

Current Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the license of CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, to carry on banking business, with effect from April 30, 2020.

- The bank is prohibited from the business of 'banking' including acceptance and repayment of deposits.
- RBI has also asked the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Pune, Maharashtra, to issue an order for winding up the affairs of the CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- This move of RBI has been taken on CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, because of the adverse and unsustainable financial condition of the bank, as it was not meeting the minimum capital and reserves.
- Also, RBI found that the affairs of the bank were and are being conducted in a manner detrimental to the public interest and interest of the depositors and that the general character of the management of the bank is prejudicial to the interest of depositors as also public interest. Thus, the bank was not following provisions of Section 22 (3)(b) and (c) of the Act. And hence, the license of CKP Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, was cancelled.

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.

CSIR-IGIB SIGNS MOU WITH TATA SONS—TO LICENSE KNOWHOW FOR FELUDA

Current Context: CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) and TATA Sons signed a MoU for licensing of KNOWHOW for FNCAS9 Editor Linked Uniform Detection Assay (FELUDA) for rapid diagnosis of COVID-19.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The MoU is signed to receive the license which includes the transfer of the knowledge for scaling up the KNOWHOW in the form of a kit that can be deployed for COVID-19 testing on ground in May 2020.
- FELUDA is a complete indigenous scientific invention that has been designed to mitigate the ongoing COVID-19 situation. It is highly affordable, relatively easy to use, and non-dependent on expensive Q-PCR machines.
- This innovative CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats) 'Feluda' test uses cutting edge CRISPR technology for detection of genomic sequence of novel coronavirus.
- CSIR IGIB and TATA Sons will work together to bring FELUDA for widespread use at the earliest.

CORONAVIRUS GLOBAL RESPONSE INTERNATIONAL PLEDGING CONFERENCE

Current Context: European Union and its partners hosted the Coronavirus Global Response International Pledging Conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 40 countries were part of this online summit.
- **The conference aimed to raise €7.5 billion in initial funding in global cooperation.**
- The conference highlighted the requirement of inculcating responsibility globally to combat COVID-19.
- The conference focused on the need to develop and deploy effective diagnostic treatment and vaccines to cure COVID-19.
- Several world leaders and organizations pledged \$8 billion (around Rs.60,000 crore) to manufacture a vaccine to combat COVID-19, the diseases caused by the novel coronavirus. The fund will be used to fund laboratories across the world that have promising leads to research and develop a vaccine. Romania contributed \$200,000, Canada contributed \$850 million. Other top donors were Japan, the United Kingdom (UK), Germany, France, and Saudi Arabia.

AYUSH KAVACH APP- BY UTTAR PRADESH GOVERNMENT

Current Context: Ayush Kavach mobile app is launched by the state government of Uttar Pradesh.

- **The app provides health-related tips and information about Ayurveda medicine on novel coronavirus infection.**
- Ayush Kavach mobile app will help people access prescriptions to strengthen their resistance through the ancient mode of Yoga and Ayurveda of India.
- **The app is developed by the Ayush Department of Uttar Pradesh in view of the COVID-19 health crisis.**

STATIC PART:

- CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
- **National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: D P S Negi- He is an Indian Economic Services officer and now has taken charge as **Director General of Labour Bureau in the Ministry of Labour and Employment.** Besides Negi also assumed charge as Senior Labour & Employment Advisor of the ministry.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Minister of State (IC) of Ministry of Labour and Employment: Santosh Gangwar
- **Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury:** He took charge as **Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)** of Parliament. And has been appointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

‘SURAKSHIT DADA-DADI & NANA-NANI ABHIYAN’ CAMPAIGN— BY NITI AAYOG AND PIRAMAL FOUNDATION

Current Context: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog in partnership with Piramal Foundation launched virtually the ‘Surakshit Dada-Dadi & Nana-Nani Abhiyan’ campaign to ensure the well-being of senior citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The campaign creates awareness about various aspects of senior citizens’ health and lifestyle including preventive measures and requisite behavioral changes in view of COVID-19 pandemic.
- It has been launched in 25 Aspirational Districts across Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of NITI Aayog: New Delhi, India
- Chairperson of NITI Aayog: Narendra Modi.
- CEO of NITI Aayog: Amitabh Kant

PNB HOUSING FINANCE SIGNS MOU WITH IIT DELHI

Current Context: PNB Housing Finance has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-Delhi) to support critical research and development (R&D) of a reusable PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) surgical gowns and masks which will be used at government hospitals.

- The MoU is signed to enhance the R&D of Personal Protective Equipment by making them highly affordable, reusable and sustainable to the health workers at government hospitals.
- Through this MoU, the company will support the Department of Textile and Fiber Engineering, IIT Delhi to perform R&D of high quality PPE material.

STATIC PART:

- PNB Housing Finance HQ: New Delhi

NANOMATERIALS FOR WATER POLLUTION CONTROL— DEVELOPED BY DST INSPIRE

Current Context: A team from INSPIRE, under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has developed nanomaterials based supercapacitors to achieve high energy density and power density of supercapacitors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The supercapacitors will help to meet the energy demand due to the growth in the human population and technological advancement that poses a great challenge for human society. The high energy density of supercapacitors suggests that constant current can be withdrawn for longer duration without recharging. With this feature, the automobiles can run longer distances without charging. Supercapacitors can be an alternative for such purposes.
- The team aims to develop novel nanostructures of carbon and metal dichalcogenides (have the ability to achieve high energy density and power density of supercapacitors) semiconductors for photodetection and Surface-Enhanced Raman spectroscopy (SERS).
- This innovation has lead a way for the development of cost-effective and efficient devices, which can be used for energy storage applications.
- The novel nanostructures of carbon will make way for materials that can be used as advanced photodetectors and also be used as optical sensors for water pollution control.

IIT KANPUR PARTNERS BHARAT DYNAMICS –TO DEVELOP AFFORDABLE VENTILATORS

Current Context: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has partnered with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the development of affordable ventilators for Covid-19 treatment.

- **The ventilators will be developed by NOCCA Robotics which is then incubated start-up of IIT-Kanpur.**
- Apart from providing support to the critical patient, the ventilator's design also has unique features to safeguard the frontline healthcare workers from exposure to the virus.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Bharat Dynamics Limited: Hyderabad, Telangana
- CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
- **National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, HastinapurWLS

'DIGITAL IN INDIA' REPORT—BY NIELSEN AND IAMAI

Current Context: The 'Digital in India' report is published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and curated by Nielsen.

- The report revealed that for the first time there are more internet users in rural areas than urban.
- As of November 2019, in rural India, there were 227 million active internet users, which is 10% more than urban India's which was about 205 million.
- India exceeds another milestone with 504 million active Internet users aged 5 years old or above, 53 million more than 451 million in March 2019, which makes it the 2nd largest internet user behind China, which has about 850 million users. The United States (US) has about 280-300 million users.
- At the state level, Delhi retains the top spot in terms of Internet penetration.
- Among the metro cities, Mumbai has the highest internet population of 13 million.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of IAMAI— Mumbai, Maharashtra

AYUSH SANJIVANI MOBILE APP & AYUSH BASED STUDIES

Current Context: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan and Minister of State for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) Shripad Yesso Naik together launched Ayush Sanjivani mobile app and AYUSH based studies to combat COVID-19 situation.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ayush Sanjivani mobile app:** It is developed by the ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). The app will help to generate data on acceptance and usage of AYUSH advocacies and measures among the population and its impact on the prevention of COVID-19.
- **AYUSH based studies:** It is a collaborative study on Ayurveda interventions as prophylaxis (measures to prevent against disease) and standard care to COVID 19 by the Ministry of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) and the Ministry of Science & Technology through Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) with technical support from Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Drug Controller General of India (DCGI). ICMR and DCGI together will support and guide AYUSH in attaining holistic health benefits of the age-old traditional medicinal knowledge of Ayurveda.

APPOINTMENTS AND EXTENSIONS

Current Context: Mustafa Al Kadhimi- He has become the new Prime Minister of Iraq.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iraq: Baghdad

- **Dia Mirza-** The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has extended the term of Bollywood film actress Dia Mirza as the **Goodwill Ambassador of India till the year 2022.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya

INR-USD FUTURES AND OPTIONS CONTRACTS—LAUNCHED ON BSE'S INDIA INX AND NSE'S NSE-IFSC

Current Context: Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman launched INR-USD Futures and Options contracts on the two international Exchanges, namely BSE's India INX and NSE's NSE-IFSC, at GIFT International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gandhinagar through video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This launching will be beneficial to the businesses in India and will be helpful in gaining economic activity and employment in India.
- It is launched to bring international financial centers to India.
- This move will help Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in curbing the influential impact of foreign trade centers like Dubai and Singapore in the rupee derivatives trade.

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

Current Context: An agreement between the Government of India and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has been signed for the approval of a loan of \$500 million for the "COVID-19 Emergency Response and Health Systems Preparedness Project".

- The loan amount will help India to combat the COVID-19 pandemic situation and strengthen its public health.
- The loan amount will be helpful to all States and Union Territories (UT) of India and will 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.
- The loan will help in scaling up procurement of PPE, oxygen delivery systems, and medicines, which is required in large quantities in this pandemic situation.
- The project will support research on COVID-19 by Indian and other global institutions working in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of AIIB: Beijing, China
- President of AIIB: JinLiquin

COIR BOARD SIGNS MOU WITH IIT-MADRAS –TO SETUP COE TO BOOST USE OF COIR APPLICATIONS

Current Context: Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Coir Board and IIT Madras for setting up a centre of Excellence(CoE) to boost the use of Coir applications (exclusively or in combination with other natural fibres).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The announcement of signing MoU was made by the Ministry of MSME.
- **Coir Board will be also providing Rs 5 crores in financial assistance initially for two years for setting up and operating the Centre of Excellence. IIT Madras will provide technical guidance and support to the development of relevant technology. CoE will assist in generating the Intellectual Property Rights and technology transfer.**
- Under the MoU, Coir Geo-Textiles (CGT) can be successfully used to prevent soil erosion in slopes/embankments, river embankments, mine slope dumps stabilization, etc. CGT can be used in the low volume rural roads as a re-enforcement material.
- CGT is permeable natural fibres made from Coconut husk and is used in road construction, for checking soil erosion, riverbank protection etc.

VISTA EQUITY TO INVEST RS 11,367 CRORE IN JIO PLATFORM

Current Context: Private equity firm Vista Equity is set to buy a 2.32% stake in Reliance's Jio Platforms for Rs 11,367 crore.

- This investment will make Vista the largest investor in Jio Platforms after Reliance Industries and Facebook.
- After the investment by Vista Equity, Jio platforms will have an equity value of Rs 4.91 lakh crore and an enterprise value of Rs 5.16 lakh crore.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of Vista Equity: Austin, Texas ,United States
- CEO of Vista Equity: Robert F. Smith

RS 12,767 CRORE TO STATE CO-OP BANKS AND RRBS—BY NABARD

Current Context: NABARD (National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development) announced that it has disbursed Rs 12,767 crore in a week at an interest rate of 4.8% to state co-op and regional rural banks to further on-lending to farmers.

- The loan is disbursed for a tenor of one year.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: May 2020

- On April 17, Reserve Bank of India has announced a Rs 50,000 crore refinance facility to NABARD, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- Of this Rs, 50,000 crores refinance, NABARD received Rs 25,000 crore for refinancing RRBs, co-operative banks, and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).
- **Therefore, NABARD recently disbursed Rs. 12,767 crore for farmers with an aim to relieve tensions on farmers arisen due to lockdown situation amidst of COVID-9 pandemic.**

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NABARD: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman of NABARD: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

'PRAVASIRAHATMITRA' APP—BY UTTAR PRADESH

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh State Government has launched 'PravasiRahatMitra' App for migrant workers of state who are returning from different parts of the country amidst lockdown.

- **The state revenue department in collaboration with the United Nation Development Program (UNDP) has developed this app.**
- The app will provide health-related benefits and remedies and will also provide jobs and livelihood related skills.
- In this app, the data related to migrant citizens will be collected. Information like a person's name, educational qualification, temporary and permanent address, bank account details, Corona-related screening status, and experience will be taken in the app. In this, details of more than 65 types of skills will be collected which will help in providing jobs related to the skillsets of the person.
- The app will display the details of the persons who are staying in the shelter center and the migrants who have reached their homes directly from other states.
- The data which is collected through the app will be installed on the state-based Integrated Information Management System.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
- Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
- **National Parks, Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, HastinapurWLS

INDIA'S GDP GROWTH TO 'ZERO' IN FY 2021— A FORECAST BY MOODY

Current Context: Global rating agency Moody slashed India's GDP growth rate at Zero for the current fiscal 2020-21.

- The previous estimated slashed by Moody was **2.6%**.

- But now decline in the estimation is marked due to the COVID-19 pandemic arisen in the nation.
- However, in 2021-22, India's GDP growth rate will bounce back to **6.6%**.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Moody's rating agency: United States

TRIFED'S MOU WITH ART OF LIVING—TO PROMOTE TRIBAL ENTERPRISES

Current Context: Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Art Of Living Foundation (AOL).

- The MoU is signed to promote the enterprises of Indian tribal artisans in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.
- The agreement aims to collaborate in respective programmes of each organization for promoting Tribal Enterprises.
- Under the MoU, the Art of Living Foundation will be providing Free Ration Kits to Needy Tribes India Artisans.
- TRIFED Regional Offices have compiled the list of needy tribal artisans and have identified 9,409 needy tribal artisans located across the country for distribution of ration kits under #iStandWithHumanity campaign of Art Of Living.

STATIC PART:

- Ministry of tribal affairs: Arjun Munda

INDIA SIGNS MOU WITH RUSSIA

Current Context: Coal India has signed MOUs with two Russian entities in the areas of coking coal mining in the Russian Far East and the Arctic Region.

- The **first MoU** is signed with Far Eastern Agency for Attracting Investments and Supporting Exports (FEAAISE), which is an autonomous non-profit organization in Russia, for cooperating in their activities for mining coking coal in the Russian Far East and Arctic Region.
- And the **second MoU** is signed between Coal India and Eastern Mining Company (FEMC) of the Russian Federation for exploring, identifying, sourcing, negotiating, and consummating mutually beneficial investment opportunities in the mining sector in the Russian Far East.
- The signing of MoUs will enhance the crude oil trade between the two countries.

STATIC PART:

- Headquarters of Coal India: Kolkata
- Capital of Russia: Moscow

- Currency of Russia: Ruble

INDIA'S FOREIGN RESERVES RAISED BY USD 1.622 MILLION TO USD 481.078 BILLION

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has released the data describing that India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 1.622 million to USD 481.078 billion in the week to May 1, due to a rise in foreign currency assets.

- However, initially, the reserves had declined by \$113 million to \$479.455 billion.
- The forex reserves had touched a life-time high of USD 487.23 billion in the week to March 6, after it rose by USD 5.69 billion.
- During FY20, the country's foreign exchange reserves had risen by almost USD 62 billion.
- The foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound, and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- Also, the data released by RBI reveals that gold reserves have declined by USD 623 million to USD 32.277 billion.

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.

"MISSION SAGAR"-- TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO INDIAN OCEAN REGION NATIONS

Current Context: The government of India launched "Mission Sagar" to provide assistance to Eastern Indian Ocean Region Nations in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

- The mission is inspired by PM Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region)
- The mission is carried out by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).
- Under the mission, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari has departed for Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, Madagascar, and Comoros, to provide Food Items, COVID related Medicines including HCQ Tablets and Special Ayurvedic Medicines with Medical Assistance Teams.

STATIC PART:

- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral Karambir Singh

STATE BANK OF INDIA CUTS BENCHMARK LENDING RATE BY 15 BPS

Current Context: State Bank of India (SBI) cuts its Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 15 basis points (bps) across all tenors.

- It also reduced interest rates on retail term deposits by 20 bps for a tenor of up to three years
- With the newly announced cut, the **MCLR (Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate)** reduced to **7.25%, from 7.40%** with effect from 10 of May.
- Also, SBI introduced a new product called 'SBI Wecare Deposit' to safeguard the interests of senior citizens in the current falling rate regime.
- This product will earn senior citizens 80 bps higher interest rate than the rate applicable for the general public (30 bps extra premium). This additional premium will not be payable in case of premature withdrawal of such deposits.
- For retail TD of a tenor below five years, senior citizens will continue to earn 50 bps higher than the rate applicable for the general public.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of SBI: Mumbai
- Chairman of SBI: Rajnish Kumar

ICMR PARTNERS WITH INDIA POST—TO DELIVER COVID-19 TESTING KITS

Current Context: Indian Medical Research Institute has entered into partnership with India Post to carry out the delivery of the COVID-19 testing kits.

- The kits are taken from **ICMR 16 regional depots to 200 additional labs which are performing the COVID-19 test process.**
- Under this partnership, 1,50,000 post offices will be performing the task of delivering testing kits . The kits will be delivered in a dry ice packing.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of India Post: New Delhi

REGISTRAR GENERAL OF INDIA RELEASED BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE AND IMR DATA

Current Context: Registrar General of India has released Birth rate, Death rate, and IMR data.

- The data states that India's infant mortality rate (IMR) has improved very marginally from 33 per 1,000 live births in 2017 to 32 in 2018.

- **Kerala has received the best IMR value in single digits at 7.** Also, only Kerala state has now achieved the United Nations' sustainable development goal in this regard. Whereas **Madhya Pradesh has the worst IMR** in the country at 48.
- Registrar General of India also released data for death and birth rates. India's birth rate stood at 20. The death rate was 6.2. Chhattisgarh has the highest death rate in the country at 8 whereas Delhi has the lowest at 3.
- The birth rate in India has declined from 36 in 1971 to 20 now. The death rate in 1971 was 14.9.

STATIC PART:

- Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India: Vivek Joshi

ICMR PARTNERS WITH BHARAT BIOTECH— TO DEVELOP COVID-19 VACCINE

Current Context: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and a Hyderabad based leading Vaccine manufacturing company Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL) have partnered to develop a fully indigenous vaccine for COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The vaccine will be developed using virus strain.** These virus strains are isolated at ICMR's National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune.
- Work on vaccine development has been initiated between the two partners. ICMR-NIV will provide continuous support to BBIL for vaccine development. ICMR and BBIL will seek fast-track approvals to expedite vaccine development, subsequent animal studies, and clinical evaluation of the candidate vaccine, which will be fully indigenous to India.
- The initial process to develop vaccine has been started and for this ICMR has shared one of the 11 virus strains which it has managed to culture with Bharat Biotech.

SWASTHVAYU—BY CSIR-NAL

Current Context: CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) Bangalore has developed a Non-Invasive Bi level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) Ventilator.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The BiPAP ventilator has been named as 'SwasthVayu'.**
- It has been developed in a record time of 36 days to treat COVID-19 patients.
- Its technical configuration is that it is a microcontroller-based precise closed-loop adaptive control system with a built-in biocompatible 3D printed manifold coupler with Highly Efficient Particulate Air Filter (HEPA Filter).
- It is designed with unique features which help to alleviate the fear of the virus spread

- The features included in it are Spontaneous, CPAP, Timed, AUTO BIPAP modes with provision to connect Oxygen concentrator or Enrichment unit externally.
- It has undergone various biomedical tests at NAL Health Centre and has been accredited by NABL in terms of safety and performance.
- SwasthVayu machine is simple to use without any specialized nursing, cost-effective, compact and configured with a majority of indigenous components.
- BIPAP Non-Invasive Ventilator has been developed with an externally connected Oxygen concentrator which will be ideal to treat moderate or mid-stage severe COVID-19 patients who do not require intubation and invasive ventilation.

STARTUP INDIA ANIMAL HUSBANDRY GRAND CHALLENGE AWARDS

Current Context: In September 2019, PM Modi launched a challenge to suggest innovative solutions to address problems faced by the animal husbandry and dairy sector.

ABOUT

- The challenge was launched at a national animal disease control program held at Mathura.
- Now the result for the challenge was declared by Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh.
- Following is the list of selected winners in various categories:-

Sr No	Category	Winner
1	Eliminating Milk Adulteration	White Gold Technologies LLP, Mumbai
2	Value Added Products	KrushakMitra Agro Services Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
3	E-commerce Solutions	MooFarm, Gurugram, Haryana
4	Product Traceability	EmerTech Solutions Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai
5	Breed Improvement & Animal Nutrition	Adis Technologies, Belagavi, Karnataka

AROGYA SANJEEVANI HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY—BY SBI GENERAL INSURANCE

Current Context: SBI General Insurance launched the standard health insurance policy called "Arogya Sanjeevani Health Insurance Policy".

- This health insurance product has been designed by the insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) with standard coverage and affordable premiums.
- The policy provides hospitalisation cover anywhere in India with sums insured ranging from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs.
- Arogya Sanjeevani will cover the hospitalisation treatment cost of COVID-19.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of SBI General Insurance: Mumbai

APPOINTMENT AND EXTENSION

Current Context: InduShekharChaturvedi- He has been appointed as a new **Secretary for the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy**. He has replaced Anand Kumar who has been appointed Secretary for Ministry of Culture.

ABOUT

- **Narinder Batra**- International Hockey federation (IHF) has extended the term of Narinder Batra as **President of IHF** till May 2021.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of International Hockey Federation: Lausanne, Switzerland

SURAKSHA STORE INITIATIVE— BY CONSUMER AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Current Context: Suraksha Store initiative has been launched by the Department of Consumer Affairs.

- **To launch this initiative the consumer affairs department has partnered with tow tech startups Safejobs and Seekify.**
- The two startups will help to use technology to prevent the spread of Covid-19 at the local Kirana store level.
- The initiative will help to ensure the health safety of citizens during and after the lockdown period and will control and limit the spread of coronavirus.
- Suraksha Store initiative will help to educate Kirana store owners across the country about the Covid-19 safety guidelines and protocols required to be followed while running their businesses and shops.
- The protocols to be followed by them are decided by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The citizens are asked to make use of Arogya Setu app and to find a Suraksha Store near them
- Currently, 7 lakh retailers have enrolled for the training to be given under this initiative and over 70K Kirana employees have completed the awareness training.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution: Ram Vilas Paswan

FIR AAPKEDWAR YOJANA—BY MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: FIR AapkeDwar Yojana has been launched by the state government of Madhya Pradesh.

- **Under this Yojana, person would not be required to visit the police station to lodge an FIR.**
- The yojana has been started in 23 Police stations including one urban and one rural Police Station at 11 Divisional Headquarters.

- **Dial 100 vehicle** will have trained Head Constables to lodge FIR. FIR for basic complaints will be lodged on the spot. Whereas, for any serious complaints guidance will be provided by the senior officials.
- Also a helpline '**Dial 112**' was launched to facilitate the immediate availability of ambulance, police, and firefighting services.
- The Yojana was launched by Home Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Narottam Mishra.

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

TRIBAL LIVELIHOODS AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

Current Context: Union Minister of Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda addressed the video conference on 'Tribal livelihoods and safety'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The conference was organized for all states and Union Territories and was attended by chief ministers of the states, deputy chief ministers, state-tribal ministers and forest state ministers.
- Arjun Munda reviewed the task performing under **Prime Minister's Vandhan Yojana** in the states.
- The goal is to boost the minor forest produce with value addition and marketing with the help of Van Dhan Vikas Kendras (VDVKs).
- Also a discussion on fair support price was initiated in the conference which will be very helpful to generate additional livelihoods for the migrants who are returning home due to COVID-19 lockdown situation.
- Small scale units at the village level will be set up which will help to provide employment to tribal returnees from different states. And to develop the market chain to sell rural products of organic in nature to National and International markets.

CHAMPIONS PORTAL —BY MINISTRY OF MSME

Current Context: Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) launched CHAMPIONS Portal.

- **CHAMPIONS Portal** is a technology-based control room-cum-management system.
- The **CHAMPION** stands for **Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength**.
- The portal is launched with an aim to make smaller units big ones by solving their grievances, motivating them, and providing them helping support in all terms as and whenever required.

- The system is developed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), Data Analytics, and Machine Learning and is incorporated with ICT tools like telephone, internet, and video conference.
- As part of the system, a network of control rooms is created in a Hub & Spoke Model. So far, 66 state-level control rooms are created as part of the system.

STATIC PART:

- Union Minister for MSME: Nitin Gadkari

PRANAVAYU PROGRAMME—BY BENGALURU CITY CORPORATION

Current Context: Bengaluru city corporation has launched Pranavayu programme with an aim to create awareness on the need to self-examine the respiratory health for the city people.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The awareness will be created through advertisements in media about the need to carry out self-examination for early detection of any ailment that could aggravate the situation if contracted with the viral infection.
- The programme is launched because the city is facing many positive patients of COVID-19 and Severe Acute Respiratory illness (SARI).
- Therefore the initiative will allow patients to monitor blood oxygen levels and heart rates of patients showing influenza-like illnesses (ILI) in fever clinics.

AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAAN OR SELF-RELIANT INDIA MOVEMENT

Current Context: Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan or Self-Reliant India Movement is an economic package launched by Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The package is launched with an aim to support the Indian economy in the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and to fight against it.**
- The announcement of this Abhiyan was made by PM Narendra Modi. While addressing this Abhiyan, he announced a special economic and comprehensive package of **Rs.20 lakh crores**, equivalent to 10% of India's GDP, for relief and credit support related to businesses, especially to MSME sector to support Indian Economy to fight against COVID-19 pandemic. The details and several measures of the package were announced by Finance Minister.
- Rs.3 lakh crore as emergency Working Capital Facility has been allocated to businesses and MSMEs which will be availed till 31st Oct 2020 and Rs.20,000 crore Subordinate Debt has been allotted for stressed MSMEs.

Monthly Current Affairs GK Digest: May 2020

- Whereas, the MSME which is having potential and is viable are allotted with Rs.50,000 crore equity through MSME Fund of Funds.
- **A new definition for MSME was announced in the package:** (a) **Micro Enterprises:-** Investment up to Rs 1 crore and turnover of up to Rs 5 crore. (b) **Small Enterprises:-** Investment up to Rs 10 crore and turnover of up to Rs 50 crore. (c) **Medium Enterprises:-** Investment up to Rs 20 crore and turnover of up to Rs 100 crore.
- Rs.90,000 crore has been allotted to power distribution companies.
- The package also included data for Extending the Employees Provident Fund Support for business and organized workers for another 3 months for salary months of June, July, and August 2020.
- Rs.30,000 crore Special Liquidity Scheme was announced for NBFC/HFC/MFIs.
- Partial credit guarantee Scheme 2.0 was announced for Liabilities of Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFCs)/Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) which included support of Rs.45,000 crore.
- Reduction in Rates of 'Tax Deduction at Source' and 'Tax Collected at Source' by 25% for the remaining period of FY 20-21.

INDO-BANGLADESH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE—BY ASSOCHAM

Current Context: Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) organized virtual conference between India and Bangladesh.

- **The conference was addressed by Union Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Minister of State Independent Charge(I/C) Jitendra Singh.**
- In the conference, Mr. Jitendra Singh focussed on the vital role of North Eastern region in order to boost the trade between the two countries.
- He also assured that new paradigms will emerge post-COVID with a possibility for new development in economy, trade, scientific research and several other diverse areas.
- He also urged the participants to make efforts to boost the trade of items like coal, ginger, cement, plastic, bamboo etc.

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Bangladesh: Dhaka
- Currency of Bangladesh: Taka

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: V Vidyavathi:- She has been appointed as the new **Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).**

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Archaeological Survey of India(ASI): New Delhi

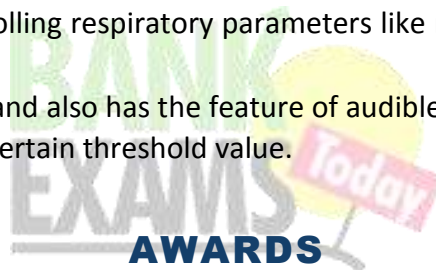
- **Manoj Ahuja:-** He has been appointed as new **Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**. He has replaced Anita Karwal.
- **Akhil Kumar:-** He is an Indian boxing player and now has been **re-inducted into the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) Disciplinary Panel**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NADA: New Delhi
 - Director-General of NADA: Navin Agarwal

SUNDARAM VENTAGO—BY TVS GROUP, SUNDARAM MED, IIT-M

Current Context: The TVS group, Sundaram Medical Foundation, and IIT-Madras have jointly developed a low-cost, automated respiratory assist device called The Sundaram Ventago.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is a mobile device that will be used to assist clinicians in the monitoring of respiratory parameters.**
- It provides respiratory support to patients with the help of AMBU bags.
- The device also helps in controlling respiratory parameters like respiratory rate, tidal volume, pressure parameters, and I: E ratios.
- It is a 'Make in India product' and also has the feature of audible alarm in case of any disconnections or in the case if PIP exceeds the certain threshold value.



Current Context: Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore wins SKYTRAX Award 2020 in the category of Best Regional Airport in India and Central Asia.

ABOUT

- Whereas, **Changi Airport of Singapore** wins **SKYTRAX Award 2020 in the category of World's Best Airport**. **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai** wins the award in **Best airport staff in India and Central Asia category**.
- **Sania Mirza** becomes the first Indian to win **Fed Cup Heart Award for Aisa/Ocena Zone**.
- **Anunta** won the **VMware 2020 Regional Partner of the Year Award for the Services Excellence category**. Anunta is an innovative technology solution provider which works for cloud based-desktop services.

32ND COMMONWEALTH HEALTH MINISTERS' MEETING

Current Context: Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan participated in the 32nd Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting which was conducted through video conference.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The theme of the conference was "Delivering a co-ordinated Commonwealth COVID-19 response."**
- The conference highlighted the measures taken by the Indian government to fight against COVID-19.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan praised the efforts taken by the health workers as well as civic bodies in combating novel coronavirus.
- He stressed the various measures like lockdown activity, keeping surveillance at the entry point in order to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 in the public areas.
- Also, he mentioned the efforts taken by the officials to evacuate the people stuck abroad amidst lockdown situations, health infrastructure, etc.
- He also motivated the need to work on the causes of the pandemic and discover drugs and vaccines to control transmission and prevent a recurrence.
- Rs.90,000 crore has been allotted to power distribution companies.
- He discussed that India has provided essential medicines such as Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ) to around 100 needy countries, extending solidarity and support during this time of crisis.

NEW PROCESS FOR SYNTHESIS OF QUANTUM DOTS (QDS)

Current Context: Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune has come up with the development of a new process for the synthesis of quantum efficient and biocompatible quantum dots (QDs).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The process is used to capture images of cellular organelles and processes within the visible wavelength ranges across the electromagnetic spectrum.
- The traditional process for the synthesis of QDs is vulnerable to photobleaching, which has a low signal intensity, and overlapping spectra which restrict their use, particularly in multispectral bioimaging.
- Therefore the newly developed process overcomes these issues.
- **In the new process, the QDs are rendered as biocompatible by coating with silicone which provides enhanced quantum efficiency and photostability.**
- This will pave the way for cost-efficient production of monodispersed, quantum efficient, photostable, and biocompatible quantum dots that might serve as an excellent alternative to traditional fluorophores.

ENERGY TRANSITION INDEX—RELEASED BY WEF

Current Context: World Economic Forum (WEF) has released the Energy Transition Index (ETI).

- As per the report it is observed that India has moved up by two positions because of the improvement achieved by India in key parameters like economic growth, energy security and environmental sustainability.
- **This time, India has ranked 74th position on the global Energy Transition Index (ETI).** In the previous year, it was ranked at 76th position.
- **Sweden has topped** in the report for a third consecutive year.

- **Sweden is followed by Switzerland and Finland in the second and third positions respectively.**
- As per the report, India has made significant improvement in energy efficiency through bulk procurement of LED bulbs, smart meters, and programs for labelling of appliances. India is also experimenting with similar measures to drive down the costs of electric vehicles (EV).

STATIC PART:

- HQ of World Economic Forum: Geneva, Switzerland
- Capital of Sweden: Stockholm
- Currency of Sweden: Swedish krona

FEDERAL BANK PARTNERS WITH MONEY GRAM

Current Context: Federal Bank has entered into a partnership with money transfer company MoneyGram Payment Systems which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Money Gram International.

- **Both the finance entities has entered into partnership for direct-to-bank deposit service.**
- They will be offering cost effective direct-to bank account credit option of their account holders.
- The feature will be highly helpful to NRI's as they will be able to access modern, low cost, fast and easy way to transfer money to India.
- Federal Bank enjoys a market share of more than 15% of the remittance market in India, and the tie-up with MoneyGram is expected to provide a further boost to this business.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Federal Bank: Aluva, Kerala
- HQ of MoneyGram International: Dallas, Texas, United States

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION

Current Context: Vasudha Mishra: She has been appointed as the **Secretary, Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) to the Department of Personnel and Training of Government of India.** Currently she is serving as Special Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture, and Farmers Welfare.

- **Roberto Azevedo:** He has announced his **resignation as the Head of the World Trade Organization (WTO)** before his serving term expires.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of WTO: Geneva, Switzerland

2ND AND 3RD TRANCHE OF AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN—BY FM MINISTER

Current Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced a special economic package of Rs 20 lakh Crore to drive the nation in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- So Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman declared various relief measures to the different sectors of the country. She recently announced various measures in the second and third part of the Abhiyan.
- She announced that free food grains supply to the migrants will be provided for the two months i.e. May and June. Pilot scheme for portability of ration cards will be extended to 23 states.
- She also announced that Government of India will provide Interest subvention of 2% for prompt payees for a period of 12 months to MUDRA Shishu loaners, who have loans below Rs 50,000. The current portfolio of MUDRA Shishu loans is around Rs 1.62 Lakh crore. This will provide relief of about Rs 1,500 crore to Shishu MUDRA loaner.
- A special scheme for the street vendors will be launched. Under this scheme, the bank credit facility for initial working capital up to Rs. 10,000 for each enterprise will be extended and it is expected that 50 lakh street vendors will be benefitted under this scheme and credit of Rs. 5,000 crore would flow to them.
- Rs 70,000 crore has been injected to boost the housing sector by extending the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme for Middle Income Group (annual Income between Rs 6 and 18 lakhs) and will be extended up to March 2021.
- Rs 6,000 crore has been declared for Creating employment using CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Management & Planning Authority) funds.
- Also, an emergency fund of Rs 30,000 crore for NABARD has been declared in order to help farmers for meeting crop loan requirement of Rural Cooperative Banks and RRBs. This will be benefitted to about 3 crore farmers to meet their post-harvest Rabi and current Kharif requirements. Also, Rs 2 lakh crore has been declared for the Kisan Credit Card Scheme.
- Centre allocated Rs.4000 crore for the promotion of herbal cultivation. Under this, 10,00,000 hectares will be covered in the next 2 years.
- Rs.10,000 crores scheme for the formalization of Micro Food Enterprises (MFE) has been announced.
- Rs.74,300 crores have been inducted for Minimum Support Price purchases and Rs.18,700 crore for Kisan fund transfer.
- Rs.13,343 crore has been allocated for the National Animal Disease Control Programme for Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis.

'MATIRSMRISTI' SCHEME—WEST BENGAL

Current Context: Government of West Bengal has launched 'MatirSmristi' scheme. The scheme is launched to make utilization of 50,000 acres of barren land in 6 districts namely Bankura, Birbhum, Purulia, Jhargram, West Burdwan and West Midnapore of West Bengal.

- The scheme will provide benefit to around 2.5 lakh people in rural Bengal.
- The barren land will be used for doing horticulture and pisciculture and the work has been initiated in 6,500 acres of land at the micro-level.

STATIC PART:

- CM of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee
- Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar
- National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in West Bengal: Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley NP, Sangalila NP, Sunderban NP, Jaldapara NP, Holiday Island WLS, Lothian Island WLS, Raiganj WLS, Senchal WLS, Ramnabagan WLS

GOAL PROGRAMME —BY MOTA AND FACEBOOK

Current Context: Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) in partnership with Facebook launched the GOAL Programme.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The GOAL Programme stands for 'Going Online As Leaders'.** The launching of the programme was made by Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Arjun Munda at a Webinar in New Delhi.
- **The moto of the programme is to provide mentorship to tribal youth through digital mode.** The programme will help to explore the hidden talents of the tribal youth, which will help in their personal development and contribute to all-round upliftment of their society.
- It will be beneficial to about 5,000 tribal youths.
- The programme also aims to create awareness amongst tribal beneficiaries about various schemes initiated by Central and State Governments for the welfare of STs as well as their fundamental duties.
- 1 mentor and 2 mentees will be involved in the GOAL programme to train tribal youth in utilizing the digital platform.

2ND G-20 VIRTUAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT MINISTERS MEETING

Current Context: 2nd G-20 Virtual Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting were held under the presidency of Saudi Arabia.

- The meeting was chaired by Minister of Commerce of Saudi Arabia, Majid Al Qasabi.
- Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal participated in the meet.
- **The meeting focused on immediate actions that can ease the stress faced by people in combating COVID-19 pandemic situation.**
- In the meet, The Ministers agreed to provide diagnostic and protective equipment and health care professionals across borders where they are most needed.

- Piyush Goyal suggested to all the G-20 nations to ensure access to essential medicines, treatments, and vaccines at affordable prices.
- **The meeting also focused on to provide digital skills to develop the countries. And various decisions were taken on digital trade and e-commerce.**

STATIC PART:

- Capital of Saudi Arabia: Riyadh
- Currency of Saudi Arabia: Saudi Riyal

‘WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PROSPECTS’ REPORT—BY UNITED NATIONS

Current Context: United Nations has released ‘World Economic Situation and Prospects’ Report and has projected that world economy to shrink by 3.2% in 2020 because of COVID-19 pandemic situation.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The growth rate for India has been projected to 1.2% for FY 2020 and has reported that the growth rate to increase at 5.5% in 2021.**
- GDP growth in developed countries will plunge to -5.0 % in 2020, while the output of developing countries will shrink by 0.7 %.

\$145 MILLION LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN AIIB, GOI AND WEST BENGAL

Current Context: Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved a loan agreement of \$145 million with the Government of India and West Bengal state government.

- **The loan is approved for the purpose of improving flood management strategies and irrigation services in the Damodar Valley Command Area (DVCA) in West Bengal state.**
- **The project is named as West Bengal Major Irrigation and Flood Management Project.**
- The project will be highly beneficial to 2.7 million farmers from five districts of West Bengal.
- The West Bengal state government will be improving the irrigation facility and thus the agriculture by optimizing the use of surface and groundwater. This will also improve flood management.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of AIIB: Beijing, China
- President of AIIB: JinLiqun
- CM of West Bengal: Mamata Banerjee
- Governor of West Bengal: Jagdeep Dhankhar

- National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in West Bengal: Buxa National Park, Gorumara National Park, Neora Valley NP, Sangalila NP, SunderbanNP, Jaldapara NP, Holiday Island WLS, Lothian Island WLS, Raiganj WLS, Senchal WLS, Ramnabagan WLS

4TH AND 5TH TRANCHE OF AATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT ABHIYAN—BY FM MINISTER

Current Context: Fourth and the fifth part of the economic relief package for Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan was launched by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The decision to bring commercial mining under the coal sector by introducing a revenue-sharing mechanism was introduced in the fourth part of the economic relief package.
- Coal gasification/ liquefaction will be incentivized through rebate in revenue share, thereby having a lower environmental impact and it will also be led to switching to the gas-based economy.
- 'Make in India' to be introduced in the defence sector in order to make India self-reliant in terms of the defense sector. FDI limit from 49% to 74% will be increased in defense manufacturing.
- Aviation sector to be injected with Rs 1000 crores per year.
- Public-Private Partnership will be utilized to auction 6 more airports by AAI.
- In order to create social infrastructure projects, the government has made provision of Rs 8100 crores which will go in the form of the Viability Gap Funding scheme.
- PM-e VIDYA program to be launched which will consist DIKSHA program to grant 'one nation one digital platform' for the school education.
- Also, the FM minister declared to launch one earmarked TV channel per class from 1st to 12th which will be based on the concept of 'one class, one channel'.
- 'Manodarpan' initiative will be launched to provide psychosocial support to the students.
- **Also as per the center's request, RBI has increased: - (a) Ways Means Advance limits of the state by 60% (b) Number of days state can be in continuous overdraft from 14 days to 21 days (c) Number of days state can be in overdraft in the quarter from 32 days to 50 days.**
- Also, the FM minister announced that states net borrowing ceiling for 2020-21 is Rs 6.41 lakh crores based on 3% GDP.

AATMA NIRBHAR GUJRAT SAHAY YOJANA

Current Context: Gujrat Government has launched Aatma Nirbhar Gujrat Sahay Yojana.

- The scheme will be helpful to the lower-middle-income group. The scheme provides interest subsidy, moratorium, and collateral-free loan up to Rs 1 lakh.
- **In this scheme, Rs 1 lakh loan amount will be provided at a 2% annual interest rate to around 10 lakh people.**
- The term of the loans will be three years and the payment of installments will begin only after six months of sanction.

STATIC PART:

- CM of Gujrat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani
- Governor of Gujrat: Acharya Dev Vrat
- National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujrat: Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Vansda NP, BalaramAmji WLS, GirWls, Girnar WLS, Gaga Great Indian Bustard WLS, Jambugodha WLS, Jessore WLS, Khijadiya WLS, NaISarovar WLS, Pniya WLS, Porbandar Lake WLS, Thol Lake WLS, Wild Ass WLS

NABARD SANCTIONED RS 1,500 CRORES TO THE FARMERS OF PUNJAB

Current Context: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has sanctioned an amount of Rs 1,500 crores to the farmers of Punjab state.

- The amount will help to ensure the continuous credit flow to the farmers in the lockdown situation of COVID-19.
- Out of the total amount, Rs1,000 crore has been sanctioned to Punjab State Cooperative Bank and 500 crores have been sanctioned to Punjab Gramin Bank.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
- Chairman of NABARD: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
- CM of Punjab: Captain Amarinder Singh
- Governor of Punjab: V.P. Singh Badnore
- **Wild Life Sanctuaries in Punjab:** Abohar WLS, BirBadson WLS, BirBunerheri WLS, Harike Lake WLS, JhajjarBacholi WLS, KathlaurKushlian WLS, Nangal WLS, BirMehaswala WLS.

CSIR, INTEL INDIA AND IIIT-HYD. COLLABORATES TO DEVELOP COVID-19 DIAGNOSTIC SOLUTION

Current Context: The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and IIIT-Hyderabad and tech giant Intel India have joined together to develop a diagnostic solution to combat COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The role of Intel India will be to understand epidemiology and Artificial Intelligence based risk satisfaction for the patients.
- Intel India will develop an end to end system which will be incorporated with multiple applications, testing devices, data collection capabilities, data exchange SDK and an AI based model hub platform.
- IIIT-Hyderabad will work on developing a risk stratification algorithm in order to discover drugs and vaccines to combat COVID-19.
- CSIR and its various institutes will perform comprehensive diagnostics and testing with various hospitals.

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Benjamin Netanyahu:- He has been sworn-in for the fifth time as the **Prime Minister of Israel**.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Israel: Jerusalem
 - Currency of Israel: Israeli Shekel
- **Zubair Iqbal:-** He has been appointed as the new **Managing Director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank** for a tenure of three years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of J&K Bank: Srinagar
- **Neerabh Kumar Prasad:-** He has been appointed to head the committee formed by Andhra Pradesh government to analyse the causes behind the leakage of styrene gas from the LG Polymers India Ltd.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM OF Andhra Pradesh: Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy Governor of Andhra Pradesh: Biswabhusan Harichandan

NRAI PARTNERS WITH DOTPE—TO DEVELOP TECH PLATFORM

Current Context: National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI) has signed an agreement with DotPe which is **and Fintech startup platform to develop its own tech platform**.

- **The tech platform will be used to support paying online bills, digital ordering, bill settlements, and contactless dining.**
- DotPe will be provided with all the technical support required to build the tech platform for NRAI.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NRAI: Delhi
- President of NRAI: Riyaz Amlani
- HQ of DotPe: Gurgaon, Haryana

DTIS SCHEME APPROVED BY DEFENCE MINISTER

Current Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has recently approved a **Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS)**.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The scheme is approved with a costing of Rs 400 crores.**

- The scheme aims to create infrastructure for testing defence equipment for India and thus boost the domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing.
- In this scheme, the defence capability will be boosted by MSMEs and various startups working in this sector.
- **The duration for the scheme is 5 years and aims to set up 6 to 8 testing infrastructure in partnership with private firms.**

CHARAN PADUKA CAMPAIGN –BY MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Madhya Pradesh has launched Charan Paduka campaign for the migrant workers passing through the state.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **In this campaign, the state government has decided to offer shoes and slippers to the migrating workers who are travelling barefoot.**
- The campaign will be conducted by police and has been already started by Rau Police Station of Indore city.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivaji Singh Chouhan
 - Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in MP:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Sanjay NP, Pench NP, Van Vihar NP, Fossil NP, Ratapani WLS, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

AA+ COVID-19 TESTING SOLUTION – LAUNCHED BY ESDS SOFTWARE SOLUTION

Current Context: ESDS, A software and IT solution form has developed and launched AA+ COVID-19 Testing Solution.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- AA+ COVID-19 Testing Solution is an **Artificial Intelligence-based tool which helps to detect the COVID-19 from Chest X-rays.**
- The detection solution is powered by Deepiotics.
- **It detects and provides the result in less than 5 minutes by following the contactless testing procedure.**
- With the help of this, the doctors and health workers can collect chest X-ray reports, upload them on the web browser and click on the submit button. Upon submitting, the device immediately gives the result whether the report is COVID-19 positive or negative.

BIODEGRADABLE METAL IMPLANTS —BY ARCI AND SCTIMST

Current Context: International Advanced Research Center for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in partnership with Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) has developed new generation Iron and Manganese based alloys for Biodegradable metal implants for use in human beings.

DETAILS

- To develop this the research team at ARCI used conventional melting and powder metallurgy techniques.
- Fe-Mn based alloys are highly promisable biodegradable alloys which exhibit a non-magnetic form of iron with MRI suitability.
- The alloys are suitable for biodegradable stent and orthopaedic implant applications.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ARCI: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - HQ of SCTIMST: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala

APPOINTMENT AND RESIGNATION

Current Context: Rajesh Goel:- He has been appointed as new Director-General of National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO).

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NAREDCO: New Delhi
- (b) Jack Ma:- Co-founder of Alibaba, Jack-Ma has resigned from Softbank Group's Board of Directors

KARNATAKA LAUNCHED FIRST ACCELERATOR FOR CYBER SECURITY START-UP

Current Context: Karnataka's Center of Excellence in Cybersecurity (CS-CoE) has launched the first accelerator for cybersecurity for start-ups in India.

HIGHLIGHTS

- It has been branded by the name 'H.A.C.K.'
- 'H.A.C.K.' is an Accelerator for Cyber Security in Karnataka which is comprised of 21 start-ups on board across 10x cohort, 0-1 cohort and virtual cohort.
- The key motto is to promote cyber-security and innovate various technology to enhance cybersecurity.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Karnataka: BS Yediyurappa

- **Governor of Karnataka:** Vajubhai Rudabhai Vala
- **National Parks of Karnataka:** Nagarhole National Park, Bandipur National Park, Anshi National Park, Bannerghatta National Park, Malai Mahadeshwara WLS, Melkote Temple WLS, Nugu WLS.

RS 20,500 CRORE TO CO-OP BANKS AND RRBS –BY NABARD

Current Context: National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has released Rs 20,500 crore to the co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks for lending process.

- The infusion of Rs 20,500 crore is the part special refinance plan assigned by Reserve Bank of India.
- The special refinance plan is made for co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks and microfinance institutions.
- **Out of the total Rs 20,500 crore, co-operative bank has received Rs 15,200 crore and RRBS has received Rs 5,300 crore.**
- The funds will help to ensure liquidity in the banks so that banks can provide finance to the farmers to carry out their pre-monsoon activities.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
- Chairman of NABARD: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

GOLD LOAN BUSINESS VERTICAL – BY CANARA BANK

Current Context: Canara Bank has started a special business vertical dedicated to gold loans.

- It has been launched by the bank to meet the financial needs of its customers in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- The gold loan campaign will be conducted till 30th June 2020.
- **The interest rate offered under this campaign is as low as 7.85% per annum.**
- **The loan offered in this is to be payable within a period of one to three years, with flexible repayable options.**
- The credit can be useful to conduct agricultural activities, businesses, health emergencies and for personal needs by the users.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of Canara Bank: Bangalore Tagline of Canara Bank: Together We Can

INDIA GIVES \$2 MILLION TO SUPPORT UNRWA

Current Context: India provided support of USD 2 million that is Rs 15 crore to the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) in order to offer support to Palestinian Refugees.

- The amount given to UNRWA will be utilised for education and health in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- Along with this support, India has increased its annual contribution support from 1.25 million USD to 5 million USD in 2019 and also has given assurance to offer additional support of another 5 million USD for 2020.
- This will help India to become member of the agency's advisory commission.
- UNRWA is an organisation which supports the Palestinians who had suffered in 1948 was the condition.

STATIC PART:

- HQ of UNRWA: Amman, Jordan

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT BY 5% FOR FY21

Current Context: Goldman Sachs has predicted that Indian economy to contract by 5% for the financial year 2021. This has been marked as the worst performance by the country ever.

KEY POINTS

- It has also predicted that India's GDP will contract by 45% in the second quarter from the prior three months compared to the previous forecast which was predicted to be 20%.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Goldman Sachs: New York, US
 - Chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs: David M. Solomon
- **Other estimated growth predictions for Indian economy for FY 2020-21 by the various organisation are:**
 1. Berstein: -7%
 2. Nomura: -5%
 3. ICRA: -1-2%

'RAIL-BOT' --- DEVELOPED BY SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY

Current Context: South Central Railway has developed 'Rail-Bot' or 'R-BOT' which is a robotic device to help in the hospitals in order to manage activities like supplying medicines, medical accessories, to serve food to the patients, thus help in reducing physical contact of doctors and health worker with the positive COVID-19 patients.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The robotic device is operated by the mobile application.
- 'R-BOT' has various sensors which are used to read blood heat of the patients and transmit this value to the display in mobile phones.

- It also has two way audio and video communication facility which help to carry out interaction between doctors and patients by maintaining social distance.

DIGITAL MOTOR INSURANCE POLICY –BY FLIPKART AND BAJAJ ALLIANZ

Current Context: E-commerce platform Flipkart has entered into a partnership with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer a digital motor insurance policy to the customers of Flipkart.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This will offer seamless and accessible and flexible insurance to the vehicles of Flipkart consumers.
- The consumer can safeguard their vehicles by purchasing the insurance policy from Flipkart app.
- **Benefits offered for 2 wheelers:** Instant support round the clock assistance and immediate resolution of the queries of customers via SMS or toll-free contact number. Hassle-free renewal of the policy without any inspection. Consumers can get a reward for every claim-free year and can transfer up to 50% of the NCB from their previous policy when they switch insurers.
- **Benefits offered for 4 wheelers:** Motor OTS (On the Spot), which allows the customers to self-inspect their vehicle in case of additional damage. The policy also covers zero depreciation and 24x7 roadside assistance.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Bajaj Allianz General Insurance: Pune

NEW SPECIAL LIQUIDITY SCHEME FOR NBFCs AND HFCs

Current Context: Ministry of Finance has decided to launch a new special liquidity scheme for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **This proposal of new special liquidity scheme from FM minister has been approved by Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi.**
- **The scheme will help to improve liquidity position of NBFCs and HFCs.**
- As per the scheme, the Stressed Asset Fund (SAF) will be managed by setting up of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV).
- That Stressed Asset Fund (SAF) will be considered which are guaranteed by Government of India and purchased by Reserve Bank of India only.
- The SPV will proceed with the sale of such securities. And thus will acquire short- term debt for NBFCs and HFCs.
- The new special liquidity scheme will work under the administration control of Department of Financial Services , Ministry of Finance and Government of India.
- The SPV would issue the securities as per the requirement subject to the total amount of securities outstanding not exceeding Rs 30,000 crore to be extended by the amount required as per the need.

- The securities that are issued by the SPV would be purchased by RBI. And the proceeds would be used by the SPV to acquire the debt of at least investment grade of the short duration of eligible NBFCs/HFCs.

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Govinda Rajulu Chintala:- He has been appointed as the **Chairman of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** for the tenure of two years. He has replaced Dr Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.

ABOUT

- **Shaji K V and P.V.S. Suryakumar:-** They have been appointed as **Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)**.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NABARD: Mumbai
- **Dilip Oommen:-** He has been appointed as new **President of Indian Steel Association (ISA)** for the next two years. He is currently serving as the CEO of Arcelor Mittal Nippon. He has replaced, TATA Steel CEO TV Narendran
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ISA: New Delhi
 - Director of ISA: Ravinder Kumar Bhan
- **Moeketsi Majoro:-** He has been elected as new **Prime Minister of Lesotho**. He has replaced Thomas Motsoahae Thabane
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Lesotho: Maseru
 - Currency of Lesotho: Lesotho Loti
 - Health Minister Harsh Vardhan: He has been elected as the Chairman of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Executive Board. He has replaced Dr. Hiroki Nakatani of Japan.

'SUKOON' COVID-19 BEAT THE STRESS INITIATIVE—BY JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Current Context: Jammu and Kashmir have launched an initiative called 'SUKOON' COVID-19 Beat the Stress.

KEY POINTS

- It has been launched in coordination with the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).
- This initiative helps to create awareness and ensure the mental fitness of the people in the fearful condition of COVID-19.

- The programme under this initiative will be telecasted on Doordarshan Kashmir channel every Tuesday at 9.00 pm.
- **The main motto is to ensure 'Healthy Mind in Healthy Body' along with the guidelines and remedies for COVID-19.**
- **Static Part:**
 - Governor of J&K: Girish Chandra Murmu

‘NATIONAL TEST ABHYAS’ MOBILE APP--- BY HRD MINISTRY

Current Context: The Human Resource Development Ministry has launched a new mobile phone application called ‘National Test Abhyas’.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- **The mobile application is developed by National Testing Agency.**
- The mobile app helps the students to take the mock test for exams like JEE Mains, NEET etc.
- The main aim is to help students in covering their study in the lockdown situation and to face exams confidently in the post lockdown period.
- **Static Part:**
 - Union HRD Minister: Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank

‘START-UP FUND’ –BY UTTAR PRADESH AND SIDBI

Current Context: Uttar Pradesh government has signed a MoU with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to launch Uttar Pradesh ‘Start-Up fund’.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **‘Start-Up fund’ has been launched under UP Information Technology and Start-up Policy 2017.**
- **It has been launched with an aim to promote entrepreneurship skills among the youth, to support the registered start-up ventures present in the state of UP and to create job opportunities.**
- Initial contribution of Rs 15 crore has been made to the fund by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.
- The ‘Start-Up fund’ will be in the form of fund of funds and will take part in SEBI approved alternative Investment Funds and would not be directly invested into start-ups.
- The tenure of the fund is 12 years and SIDBI will be acting as its fund manager.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttar Pradesh: Yogi Adityanath
 - Governor of Uttar Pradesh: Anandiben Patel
 - **National Parks ,Wild Life Sanctuaries and Bird Sanctuaries in UP:** Dudhwa National Park & Tiger Reserve, Chandraprabha Wildlife sanctuary, National Chambal Sanctuary, Pilibhit Wildlife Sanctuary, Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary, Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Soor Sarovar Bird Sanctuary, Hastinapur WLS
- **Static Part:**

- HQ of SIDBI: Lucknow
- Chairman and MD of SIDBI: Mohammad Mustafa

‘ITURMERIC FINCLOUD’ PLATFORM—BY INTELLECT DESIGN ARENA LTD. AND IBM

Current Context: Intellect Design Arena Ltd. and IBM has launched a cloud-ready, API (Application Programming Interface) first microservices-based platform called as ‘iTurmeric Fincloud’ Platform.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- It has been launched with the help of IBM Public Cloud.
- **The cloud platform has been launched for banks and financial institutions.**
- It will ensure that systems in the banks and financial institutions are operating in isolation or parallel with core legacy systems.
- ‘iTurmeric Fincloud’ Platform already has retail banking, lending, origination, and corporate banking API and the company will continue to add relevant APIs. The platform provides a unique way of modernising without the risk of rip and replacement using Turmeric tools.

KOTAK MAHINDRA TO ASSIST 6 SCHEMES OF FRANKLIN TEMPLETON ASSET MANAGEMENT

Current Context: Franklin Templeton Trustee Services Pvt. Ltd. has appointed an independent advisor Kotak Mahindra Bank to work together with Franklin Templeton Asset Management (India) Pvt. Ltd (the AMC), to assist the Trustees in monetizing portfolios of the 6 schemes that are being wound up & make payouts to the affected investors.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The schemes are** Franklin India Low Duration Fund, Franklin India Dynamic Accrual Fund, Franklin India Credit Risk Fund, Franklin India Short Term Income Plan, Franklin India Ultra Short Bond Fund and Franklin India Income Opportunities Fund of Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund.
- This decision of Kotak Mahindra to assist 6 schemes of Franklin Templeton Asset Management was taken by SEBI (Securities Exchange Board of India).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Franklin Templeton: San Mateo, California, United States
 - HQ of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Mumbai
 - Tagline of Kotak Mahindra Bank: Lets make money simple

RBI'S LATEST MONETARY POLICY STATEMENTS

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India's Governor Shaktikanta Das on 22nd May 2020, addressed the media and announced various key points in order to curb the economic crisis faced by the nation due to pandemic situation of COVID-19.

KEY POINTS

- RBI has decided to **bring down the repo rate by a further 40 basis points that is from 4.4% to 4% reverse repo rate from 3.75% to 3.35% and marginal standing facility (MSF) has been reduced from 4.65% to 4.25%.**
- Also, an announcement of **extending the moratorium on term loans and working capital was made and it has been extended for a further period of 3 months that is till 31st August 2020.**
- RBI has also granted a **credit facility of Rs 15,000 crore to SIDBI for 90 days.**
- The central bank also extended **credit period from 12 months to 15 months.**
- **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.

'MEE ANNAPURNA'--- BY MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: IRDA licensed insurance intermediary 'Integrated Risk Insurance' has launched an initiative called 'Mee Annapurna' in Maharashtra.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **It is an inclusive program for welfare of farmers and agricultural community in Maharashtra.**
- Under the scheme, 1500 marginalized and small farmers will be provided free of-cost skill-based training across 35 district in Maharashtra providing sustainable livelihood by engaging them in crop cutting experiments and audits.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Maharashtra: Uddhav Thackeray
 - Governor of Maharashtra: Bhagat Singh Koshiyari
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra:** Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhamragarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Malvan Marine Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary

RAJIV GANDHI KISAN NYAY YOJANA –CHHATTISGARH

Current Context: Chhattisgarh government launched Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana, which focuses on farmers during the pandemic situation of COVID-19.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The farmer centered scheme aims to stimulate the rural economy by supporting farmers in the state.
- Under this scheme, depending on registered area and area under cultivation during Kharif crop season 2019, Rs 10,000 per acre will be deposited in the bank accounts of farmers as agriculture assistance grant for sowing crops such as paddy, maize and sugarcane.
- The yojana will prove beneficial to about 19 lakh farmers of the state.
- The amount will be paid to the farmers in 4 installments.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Chhattisgarh: Bhupesh Baghel
 - Governor of Chhattisgarh: Anusuiya Uikey
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Chhattisgarh:** Indrāvati NP, Kanger Valley NP, Guru Ghasi Das (Sanjay) NP, City Bird WLS, Sukhna Lake WLS, Barnawapara WLS, Badalkhol WLS, Pamed Wild Buffalo WLS, Sitanadi WLS, Tamor Pingla WLS, Udanti Wild Buffalo WLS

RBI ANNOUNCED RS 15,000 CRORE TO EXIM BANK

Current Context: Reserve Bank of India has announced a Rs 15,000 crore line of credit (LoC) to the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- This move has been taken by RBI to stimulate the foreign trade as the operation of EXIM bank depends on foreign currency borrowings.
- RBI has decided to offer the support to EXIM Bank as it has failed to raise its operation due to pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- **The LoC of Rs.15,000 crore for a period of 90 days from the date of availing with rollover up to a maximum period of one year will be granted to EXIM Bank by RBI.**
- RBI has decided to increase the maximum permissible period of pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit sanctioned by banks from the existing one year to 15 months, for disbursements made up to 31 July 2020.
- **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.
 - HQ of EXIM Bank- Mumbai

NTPC SIGNS MOU WITH ONGC FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY BUSINESS

Current Context: National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has signed a MoU with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in order to boost the Renewable Energy Business between the two ventures.

KEY POINTS

- Both the organisation will accelerate the Renewable Energy development and usage field.
- **Both the organisation will setup offshore wind and other Renewable Energy (RE) Projects in India and overseas.**
- **They will explore the opportunities in the areas like sustainability, storage, E-mobility and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) projects in India as well as abroad.**
- The tie-up will also help ONGC in achieving its aim of adding 10GW of renewable power to its portfolio by 2040.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NTPC: New Delhi
 - Chairman and MD of NTPC: Gurdeep Singh
 - HQ of ONGC: New Delhi
 - Chairman and MD of ONGC: Shashi Shankar

UNICEF PARTNERS BHARTI AIRTEL AFRICA — REMOTE LEARNING AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Current Context: United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) partnered with Bharti Airtel’s Africa Arm to support the school children in the COVID-19 affected areas and provide them access to remote learning and to grant financial support to their families via mobile cash transfer.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The partnership will prove helpful to about 133 million school childrens who are affected in 13 countries across sub-Saharan Africa due to COVID-19.
- Airtel Africa will make the use of mobile technology to telecast educational content at zero rate
- The cash assistance will help the families to ensure their health safety and face an economic crisis in the COVID-19 pandemic situation
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of UNICEF: New York
 - President of UNICEF: Rabab Fatima
 - Executive Director of UNICEF: Henrietta H. Fore
 - CEO and MD of Airtel Africa: Raghunath Mandava

MSME'S E-CONCLAVE 'SIDM MSME CONCLAVE 2020'

Current Context: SIDM (Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers), CII (Confederation of Indian Industry) and Department of Defence Production jointly organized MSME's E-conclave 'SIDM MSME Conclave 2020'.

ABOUT

- The conclave was attended by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.
- Around 800 defence MSME's participated in the conclave vis video conference.
- The theme for the conclave was 'Business Continuity for MSME in Defence and Aerospace Sector'.
- In the conference, Defence Minister made various statements like SIDM has accelerated the manufacturing of PPE kits designed by DRDO, masks, and ventilator parts to support in combating COVID-19.
- He also assured that Aatma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan will enhance economic situation and will restore millions of jobs.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SIDM: New Delhi
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi

FIVE INITIATIVES TO CONSERVE THE BIODIVERSITY – BY GOI

Current Context: On the occasion of International day for Biological Diversity, Government of India launched the key initiatives to conserve the biodiversity.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The announcement of the initiatives was made by Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Prakash Javadekar in the virtual celebration of the day.
- **Initiative No 1. Biodiversity Samrakshan Internship Programme:** This is launched by the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This initiative involves the engagement of 20 Postgraduate students for a period of one year in an open, transparent, online competitive process. In this the students involved will be trained for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation and to support NBA projects.
- **Initiative No 2. UNEP Campaign on Illegal Trafficking of Endangered Species:** This initiative was launched with the theme 'Not all animals migrate by choice'. This initiative is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB).
- **Initiative No 3. World Wildlife Fund Model Conference of Parties:** This was launched to involve young generation in conservation around the impact of humanity footprints in biodiversity. This is launched in partnership of World Wildlife Fund India , Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, NBA , UNEP and UNDP.
- **Initiative No 4. Awareness Campaign:** An awareness campaign was launched to highlight the vital role of nature in providing ecological services to human beings.

- **Initiative No 5. Webinar:** A webinar Series on Biodiversity Conservation and Biological Diversity Act, 2002 was launched.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NBA: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
 - HQ of UNDP: New York, United States
 - HQ of UNEP: Nairobi, Kenya
 - HQ of WCCB: New Delhi

‘BUY NOW PAY LATER’- BY MARUTI SUZUKI AND CIFCL

Current Context: Maruti Suzuki India Ltd has partnered with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited (CIFCL) to launch Buy Now Pay Later finance scheme for its customers in order to make a purchase of its cars more financially convenient.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The scheme has been launched because of the sharp decline in the sale of cars in the lockdown situation caused due to the pandemic COVID-19.
- **Under this scheme, customers have the option to avail 60 days surcharge on their EMI.**
- The scheme is applicable on selective Maruti Suzuki Models and is applicable on loan payments on or before 30th June 2020.
- **Static Part:**
 - Headquarters of CIFCL– Chennai TN
 - MD of CIFCL – Arun Alagappan
 - Headquarters of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd: New Delhi
 - MD and CEO of Maruti Suzuki India Ltd: Kenichi Ayukawa

INCREASE IN TRADE CREDIT POLICY COVER LIMIT FROM 85% TO 90%-- IRDAI

Current Context: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recommended an increase in protection against finances granted to the policyholders under Trade Credit Insurance (TCI) from 85% to 90%.

DETAILS

- This recommendation has been made by the committee consisting of 9 members expert panel headed by Atul Sahai, New India Assurance Chairman and MD.
- Also, the committee proposed protection against finances for MSMEs to be 95%, in order to grant relief in the event of loss situation.
- Other recommendations include the creation of a Buyer Default Database with Insurance Information Bureau (IIB) in order to keep a track on defaulters. Also RBI has been asked to recognize credit insurance products as risk mitigation tools for the banks to make them eligible for capital relief.

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IRDAI: Hyderabad, Telangana
 - Chairman of IRDAI: Dr Subhash Chandra Khuntia

ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSING PLATFORM—BY IASST, GUWAHATI

Current Context: Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology, Guwahati has developed a Electrochemical Sensing Platform.

KEY POINTS

- The Electrochemical Sensing Platform will detect the carcinogenic or mutagenic compound NDMA (N – nitrisomethylamine) and NDEA (N-nitrosodietthanolamine) which is found in food items like cured meat , few cheese and low fat milk.
- The invention resulted by developing a modified electrode by immobilizing carbon nanoparticles which are termed as carbon dots in DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid).

‘KHUDOL’ INITIATIVE OF MANIPUR—TOP 10 GLOBAL INITIATIVE TO COMBAT COVID 19 BY UN

Current Context: ‘Khudol’ (Gift) initiative of Manipur has been marked as the top 10 global initiatives in combating COVID-19 by the United Nations.

HIGHLIGHTS

- This was listed by Jayathma Wickramanayake of Srilanka, who is UN Secretary- General’s Envoy on Youth.
- Khudol is cofounded initiative of an NGO called Ya_All.
- The initiative aims to provide food supplies and health services for the people suffering from HIV, to the daily wage earners, LGBTQI+ community, children and adolescents.
- Until now, this initiative has reached to 2000 families and around 1000 health kits and 6500 sanitary napkins to the needy ones and has offered many more support.
- **Static Part:**
 - Secretary-General of UN: Antonio Guterres
 - CM of Manipur: N Biren Singh
 - Governor of Manipur: Najma Heptulla
 - **National Parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in Manipur:** Keibul Lamjao NP, Khongjaingamba Ching WLS, Yangoupokpi-Lokchao WLS

SPORTS AUTHORITY GUJRAT SIGNS MOU WITH TCLL— TO TRAIN ATHLETES

Current Context: Sports Authority Gujrat has signed MoU with Times Centre for Learning Limited (TCLL) to provide sports training to the aspiring athlete of the state.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- About 2000 aspiring athletes across Gujrat will be trained in terms of personality and skill development and particular sports training will be given to them.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Gujrat: Vijaybhai R. Rupani
 - Governor of Gujrat: Acharya Dev Vrat
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Gujrat:** Blackbuck NP, Gir Forest NP, Vansda NP, Balaram Amji WLS, Gir Wls, Girnar WLS, Gaga Great Indian Bustard WLS, Jambugodha WLS, Jessore WLS, Khijadiya WLS, Nal Sarovar WLS, Pniya WLS, Porbandar Lake WLS Thol Lake WLS, Wild Ass WLS

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Rajesh Bhushan:- He is appointed as the head of the committee to develop the reforms in drug regulatory system of India.

DETAILS

- **Carmen Reinhart:-** She has been appointed as new Vice President and Chief Economist for World Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass
- **Jahnabi Phookan:-** She has been appointed as 37th National President of Federation of India Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) Ladies Organisation. She has replaced Harjinder Kaur Talwar.
- **Abhas Jha:-** He has been appointed as World Bank's Practice Manager for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management for South Asia.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Bank: Washington DC, US
 - President of World Bank: David Malpass

PAYROLL REPORTING IN INDIA: AN EMPLOYMENT PERCEPTIVE MARCH 2020

Current Context: The National Statistical Office (NSO) has released a report titled Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perceptive March 2020.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The report states that around 8.2 lakh new members joined ESIC run Social Security Scheme in March 2020. And in February it was 11.83 lakhs.
- NSO reveals the data describing the payroll of the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of ESIC: New Delhi

ZAGGLE PARTNERS WITH VISA – TO LAUNCH INNOVATIVE PAYMENT SOLUTIONS FOR SMES

Current Context: Zaggle , a Fintech startup has partnered with payment technology solution Visa to launch innovative payment solutions for SMEs and startups.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The innovative payment solution will help SMEs and startups to enhance their productivity, efficiency by providing fast finance operation facilities.
- The two organisation will also work together to provide automated processes and reduction in cost by focusing on easy and faster credit facility for SMEs and startups.
- The fast credit facility will be made available to SMEs and startups with the help of a unique card which will have the features of forex and prepaid and credit.
- The payment solution developed by two organisation will add over 600 SMEs every month.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Zaggle: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of Zaggle: Avinash Godkhindi
 - HQ of Visa: Foster City, California
 - Chairman and CEO of Visa: Alfred F Kelly, Jr

‘NAVRAKSHAK’— BY INDIAN NAVY

Current Context: Indian Navy has come forward to combat COVID-19 by developing a PPE kit named as ‘NavRakshak’.

ABOUT

- It is made from an innovative fabric material in order to provide comfort to the healthcare workers dealing and combating COVID-19 in the hot and humid condition for more than 12 hours.
- 'NavRakshak' PPE kit has two main features mainly optimal protectiveness and optimal breathability. These two features are due to the usage of advanced quality non-woven fabric of specific Grams per Square Meter (GSM) with stitching techniques.
- It is developed by Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Arnab Ghosh from Naval Medical Specialist of Innovation Cell, Institute of Naval Medicine in Mumbai.

HIL INDIA TO PROVIDE LOCUST CONTROL PESTICIDE TO IRAN

Current Context: Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has made an announcement that Hindustan Insecticides Limited India or HIL India is going to produce and supply 25 tons of pesticide to Iran to control locust.

HIGHLIGHTS

- HIL will be supplying 25 MT Malathion Technical for supply to locust control programme to Iran under the government to government arrangement.
- Also recently HIL has signed an agreement with the ministry of agriculture and farmer welfare to supply Malathion Technical to Rajasthan and Gujrat for the locust control programme.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Iran: Tehran
 - Currency of Iran: Rial

INDIAN DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER – INAUGURATED BY A K SIKRI

Current Context: Former Supreme Court Justice A K Sikri inaugurated Indian Dispute Resolution Center (IDRC) in New Delhi.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- IDRC is first of its kind Institutional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Center which will provide an offline and e-ADR facility through e-Arbitration, e-Mediation and e-Conciliation software portal.
- The software will provide e-filing of claim petitions, e-payments, and issuance of e-notice to the party, online payment of registration and administrative fees. The software will also carry out virtual hearing processes on certified VC platform.
- The e-ADR also has a digital signature and document updating support and submission of important documents will take place on IDRC cloud server with 24x7 access to stakeholders and lawyers.
- The arbitration panel includes former Supreme Court judges, judges of HC and district courts and former bureaucrats etc.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of IDRC: New Delhi

- Chairperson of IDRC: Mehar S Rathi

WORLD STEEL APRIL 2020 REPORT

Current Context: World Steel Association has released its World Steel April 2020 Report describing the record of crude steel output to various countries.

DETAILS

- As per the report, India's crude steel output has reduced by 65.2% to 3.13 million tonnes in April 2020 in comparison with 9.02 million tonnes in April 2019.
- The reason behind this reduction is that the lockdown situation being faced by India due to COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of World Steel Association: Brussels, Belgium

REC LTD PARTNERS WITH TAJSATs

Current Context: Rural electrification Corporation (REC), has partnered with TajSATs to offer nutritious meals to the medical staff in Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, who are treating COVID-19 patients.

DETAILS

- REC is the Corporate Social Responsibility Arm (CSR) and TajSATs is the joint venture of Indian Hotels Company Ltd and SATS Ltd.
- In this partnership, 300 food packets are being delivered to the frontline health workers in New Delhi.
- Until now, 18,000 meals are delivered to the health workers through this initiative.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of REC : New Delhi
 - HQ of TajSATs: New Delhi
 - COO of TajSats: Sagar Dighe

VAMS SAFEGUARD— BY VAMS GLOBAL

Current Context: VAMS (Visitor Authentication and Management System) Global , which is a startup in Mumbai has developed the world's first contactless Visitor Management Software called 'VAMS Safeguard'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- VAMS Safeguard checks body temperature, scans faces with mask compliance and monitors social distancing in the premises.
- It is based on Artificial Intelligence and with the help of AI, the software takes the entry of visitors by following the testing standards for COVID-19.

- It is incorporated with embedded face and palm recognition sensors and thus provides hands-free user authentication for all its features like attendance time recording, visitor management, contractor module along with orders.
- The software is suitable to be deployed in companies and organisations, hospitals, educational institutes, commercial and residential buildings and has proven to be highly useful in keeping a record of persons or employees by the following contactless features in the pandemic situation of COVID-19.
- Static Part:
 - CEO of VAMS Global: Nikhil Kothary

CHARDHAM PROJECT: 440 METER LONG TUNNEL IN CHAMBA, UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed a 440-meter long tunnel under the Chamba town on Rishikesh- Dharasu road (NH-94) in Uttarakhand.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The construction of the tunnel is the part of the Chardham Connectivity Project in Chamba.
- The Chardham project is aimed to boost the connectivity of holy towns like Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath and Yamunotri.
- The tunnel under this project was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari via a video conference.
- The tunnel is being constructed under the Chardham Mahmarg Vikas Pariyojana using Austrian technology.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Border Roads Organisation: New Delhi
 - Director-General of Border Roads Organisation: Lt. Gen Harpal Singh
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
 - **National parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in Uttarakhand:** Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park, Askot Musk Deer WLS, Nandhaur WLS, Kedarnath WLS, Mussoorie WLS, Govind Pashu Vihar WLS, Sonanadi WLS.

PM VAYA VANDANA YOJANA PENSION SCHEME—LIC

Current Context: Life Insurance Corporation of India has launched PM Vaya Vandana Yojana Pension Scheme (PMVVY) (Modified-2020). It is a social security scheme for senior citizens.

DETAILS

- The scheme is for those who are above 60 years of age.
- The plan starts from May 26 for the period of three financial years i.e. up to 31st March 2023.

- LIC is solely authorized to operate this scheme that offers a total payout not exceeding Rs 15 Lakhs.
- The scheme works as Non-Linked, Non-Participating pension scheme subsidized by the centre
- **The tenure period for the policy is 10 years.**
- **The policy sold in the first financial ending March 2021 will offer assured return of 7.40% p.a., will be paid monthly for a period of 10 years.**
- **A senior citizen can withdraw a minimum pension of Rs 1000 per month depending on the amount invested in the scheme.**
- **After three years of the policy, a loan up to 75% of the purchase price will be offered.**
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of LIC: Mumbai
 - Chairperson of LIC: M R Kumar

SBI ECOWRAP REPORT

Current Context: According to SBI Ecowrap Report, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 1.2% in the last quarter (Q4) for the financial year 2020.

ABOUT REPORT

- **As per the report, India's GDP is 4.2% for the financial year 2020 and (-) 6.8% for the financial year 2021.**
- The report revealed the loss of Rs 1.4 lakh crore during the last week of March, the reason behind this reduction is that the lockdown situation being faced by India due to COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SBI: Mumbai
 - Chairman of SBI: Rajnish Kumar

HYDROELECTRIC AND MULTIPURPOSE PROJECTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Power Finance Corporation has signed an agreement with Narmada Basin Projects Company Limited (NBPCL) to fund to develop Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose projects in Madhya Pradesh.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The MoU of Rs 22,000 crore has been signed between two organisations.**
- Power Finance Corporation comes under the Ministry of Power whereas Narmada Basin Projects Company Limited (NBPCL) is the wholly owned subsidiary of Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- 225 MW Hydroelectric Projects and Multipurpose projects are to build in Madhya Pradesh.
- 12 major multipurpose projects will be built with the help of this fund which includes Basaniya multipurpose project Dindori, Chinki Boras multipurpose project Narsinghpur Raisen Hoshangabad, Sakkar Pench Link Narsinghpur Chhindwara, Dundhi project Chhindwara Hoshangabad.

- **Static Part:**

- CM of Madhya Pradesh: Shivaji Singh Chouhan
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon
- **National Parks and Wild Life Sancturaries in MP:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Sanjay NP, Pench NP, Van Vihar NP, Fossil NP, Ratapani WLS, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

ARMY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE 2020

Current Context: Army Commanders Conference 2020 has commenced in New Delhi. The first phase is scheduled from 27th to 29th May 2020 and second phase will be conducted in last week of June 2020.

ABOUT CONFERENCE

- In this apex Biannual event, the leadership of Indian Army will be deliberated in terms of various aspects like operational, administrative issues pertaining to logistics and human resources.
- Current security and administrative challenges will be discussed in the conference and the reformative ways will be find out for the future of India.
- The issue of border with China in Ladakh is also likely to be discussed in the conference.
- The conference is headed by Army Chief Manoj Mukund Naravane.

IIT MADRAS DEVELOPED A MAGNESIUM ALLOYS TO REPLACE STEEL IN AUTOMOTIVE

Current Context: Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT Madras) has developed a Magnesium alloys to replace Steel and Aluminum in automotive and aerospace components.

DETAILS

- The researchers in IIT Madras have worked along with the University of North Texas and US Army Research Laboratory for this invention.
- The lightweight magnesium alloys usage in automotive and aerospace components will lead to reduce carbon footprint and increase fuel efficiency.
- The replacement of steel and aluminum with magnesium made because the density of magnesium is two-third of aluminum and one-quarter of steel.

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: PK Nair:- He has been appointed as new Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Niger. He is currently working as Consul General of India to Hambantota. He has replaced Rajesh Agrawal.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Niger: Niamey
 - Currency of Niger: West African CFA Franc
- **Pratibha Parker:-** She has been appointed as new Indian Ambassador to the Republic of Angola. She is currently working as Consul General of India to Frankfurt.
- **Static Part:**
 - Capital of Angola: Luanda
 - Currency of Niger: Angolan Kwanza
- **Periasamy Kumaran:-** He has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Singapore. He will replace Jawed Ashraf.
- **Marcos Troyjo:-** He has been elected as next President of New Development Bank (NDB). He will be replacing KV Kamath.
- **Anil Kishora:-** He has been elected as next Vice President and Chief Risk Officer of New Development Bank (NDB).
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of NDB: Shanghai, China

AIRTEL PAYMENT BANK PARTNERS WITH MASTERCARD

Current Context: Airtel Payment Bank has partnered with MasterCard to develop special type of payment solution for Indian farmers and SMEs.

DETAILS

- The special type of payment solutions will be contactless payments via NFC (Near Field Communications), Credit facility and other banking services.
- The partnership will be beneficial to about 4 crore customers of Airtel Payment Bank.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of Airtel Payment Bank:** New Delhi
 - **MD and CEO of Airtel Payment Bank:** Anubrata Biswas
 - **HQ of MasterCard:** New York, US
 - **President and CEO:** Ajaypal Singh Banga

ADB AND GOI SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT TO IMPROVE ROADS IN MAHARASHTRA

Current Context: Government of India has signed a loan agreement with Asian Development Bank to improve 11 state highways and 2 district roads in Maharashtra.

DETAILS

- A loan agreement of USD 177 million has been signed.

- The project will improve connectivity to national highways, agricultural areas will connect rural and urban areas.
- The loan amount will be also used to provide training to staff of Maharashtra Public Works Department so that they can construct roads and infrastructure in state by following climate change standards in order to retain environment and will adapt to disaster relief features.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of ADB:** Manila, Philippine
 - **President of ADB:** Masatsugu Asakawa
 - **CM of Maharashtra:** Uddhav Thackeray
 - **Governor of Maharashtra:** Bhagat Singh Koshyari
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Maharashtra:** Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Chandoli National Park, Gugamal National Park, Navegaon National Park, Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Bhamragarh Wildlife Sanctuary, Malvan Marine Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary

GOI TO CEASE 7.75% SAVING BONDS

Current Context: 7.75% Saving Bonds or Taxable bonds are to be ceased by the Government of India due to the fact of declining interest rates as RBI has lowered the repo rate (repo rate is 4%).

KEY POINTS

- The 7.75% Saving Bonds or Taxable bonds as commonly known as Reserve Bank of India Bonds or Government of India Bonds.
- These bonds offer higher interest rates as compared to Fixed deposits of banks.
- **About 7.75% Saving Bonds:**-These bonds were issued in 2018 by GOI. These bonds were issued at par at Rs 100 and had 7 years lock in period. Maximum investment in the bonds starts at Rs 1000
- **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.

FLIPKART TO SUPPORT MANGO FARMERS IN KARNATAKA

Current Context: E-commerce giant Flipkart has signed an MoU with Karnataka State Mango Department and Marketing Corporation Ltd (KSMD&MCL).

POINTS

- The MoU has been signed to support mango farmers of the state so that they can sell their mangoes via Flipkart's e-commerce online platform.

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- Flipkart will be the inline selling platform for Mango board producer organisations, sellers, traders. Training for online trading will be also provided to them by Flipkart
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of Flipkart:** Bangalore. Karnataka
 - **CEO of Flipkart:** Kalyan Krishnamurthy

INDIAN ECONOMY TO CONTRACT @ 5% IN FY21

Current Context: S&P Global Ratings, which is an American credit rating agency has projected that Indian economy to contract @ 5% in FY21.

DETAILS

- However, for fiscal year 2021-22, the growth is predicted at 8.5%.
- Previously, Fitch and Crisil has also predicted a negative growth of 5% in Indian Economy.
- The reduction in the growth rate has been made as the country is facing major lockdown situation due to the pandemic COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of S&P Global Ratings:** New York, US

APPOINTMENTS

Current Context: Aiman Ezzat:- He has been appointed as new CEO of Capgemini Group. He has replaced Paul Hermelin.

ABOUT

- **Thierry Delaporte:-** He has been appointed as new CEO and MD of Wipro. He will be replacing Abdiali Neemuchwala.
- **Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra:-** He is an Indian Olympic Association President and now has been designated as member of Olympic Channel Commission. He is also head of Hockey Federation.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of International Olympic Committee: Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Leo Puri:-** He has been appointed as chairman of JP Morgan for South and South East Asia. He has replaced Kalpana Morparia.
- **Mohit Gupta:-** He has been elevated as Co-founder of Zomato.
- **R Sreerekha:-** She has become the first woman Director General of Police in Kerala.
- **SN Rajeshwari:-** She has been appointed as new Chairman and MD of Oriental Insurance Company (OIC).
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of OIC:** New Delhi

22ND MEETING OF FINANCIAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (FSDC)

Current Context: 22nd Meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was conducted and was chaired by Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman.

ABOUT MEETING

- The meeting was conducted to review the global and domestic macro-economic situation, financial stability and vulnerabilities issues, issues being faced by banks and financial institutions, NBFCs, HFCs, and MFIs.
- The meeting also discussed the capital flow issues, resource mobilization and market volatility.
- The heads of various financial organisation like IRDAI, PFRDA, and SEBI were present in the meeting. The meeting was also attended by Governor of RBI secretary of various ministry.
- They also discussed the economic reforms made in the country to combat the lockdown situation arisen due to pandemic COVID-19.
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of FSDC:** New Delhi

INDIA'S GDP TO BE 4.2% IN 2019-20

Current Context: National Statistical Office has released the data describing that economic growth for India has slowed to an 11 year low of 4.2% for FY 2019-2020.

KEY FACTS

- The GDP was 6.1% in 2018-2019, whereas for 2019-2020 it is marked to be 4.2% and has been marked as the slowest GDP in the 11 years.
- The GDP for the fourth quarter is estimated to be 3.1%.
- The reduction has also lead to per capita income which is unable to cross Rs 1 lakh mark.
- The bank's deposits has also reduced to minus 53%.

'LUMOS' A DECONTAMINATION DEVICE—BY KOCHI'S STARTUP

Current Context: Kochi based startup named as Devaditek Innovations Private Limited has developed a multi-purpose decontamination device called 'Lumos'.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 'Lumos' is used to sanitize items from masks to vegetables. It is based on Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation (UVGI) technology.
- It has been designed with high power lamps, consumes less power, ozone functionality ad zero consumable which provides 100% disinfection rate in a short period of time.

- Devaditek Innovations Private Limited will also be collaborating with Collegiate Congress under the United Nation's Master plan Initiative to distribute 'Lumos' to overseas customers.

ROZGAR SETU YOJANA: MADHYA PRADESH

Current Context: Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has launched Rozgar Setu Yojana.

DETAILS

- It has been launched to support and provide employment and employment based skills to migrant workers who has returned to the state in the COVID-19 situation.
- The yojana also aims to fulfill the industries need of manpower in this pandemic situation.
- The state government has also launched 'MP Rojgar Setu Portal' for unemployed workers in order to carry out the registration process.
- **Static Part:**
 - **CM of Madhya Pradesh:** Shivaji Singh Chouhan
 - **Governor of Madhya Pradesh:** Lal Ji Tandon
 - **National Parks and Wild Life Sancturaries in MP:** Kanha NP, Bandhavgarh NP, Panna NP, Satpura NP, Madhav NP, Sanjay NP, Pench NP, Van Vihar NP, Fossil NP, Ratapani WLS, Ghatigaon WLS, Kheoni WLS

BRICS HEADS OF TAX AUTHORITIES MEETING

Current Context: Meeting of the Heads of Tax Authorities of BRICS Nations was held on 29th May 2020.

ABOUT MEETING

- The Tax heads of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa were participated.
- **India was represented by Dr Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Finance Secretary, GOI.**
- **Currently Russia holds the BRICS Presidency and hence the meet was hosted by Federal Tax Service of Russia.**
- **The members in the meeting discussed the response of BRICS Tax authorities to the pandemic COVID-19 and also discussed to mutually explore combating ways for the same.**
- **Static Part:**
 - **HQ of BRICS:** Shanghai, China
 - **President of BRICS:** K V Kamath

MUKHYAMANTRI SWAROZGAR YOJANA –UTTARAKHAND

Current Context: Government of Uttarakhand has launched Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana for the migrants returning to the state during the lockdown situation caused due to novel coronavirus.

KEY POINTS

- This scheme aims to provide employment opportunities to the youth especially entrepreneurs returning to the state, to the skilled and non-skilled artisans, handicrafts and unemployed youths.
- The credit facility under this scheme will be offered through nationalized banks, scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banks.
- Under this scheme, money margin will be provided as a grant by the MSME department.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Uttarakhand: Trivendra Singh Rawat
 - Governor of Uttarakhand: Baby Rani Maurya
 - **National parks and Wildlife sanctuaries in Uttarakhand:** Corbett National Park, Gangotri National Park, Govind National Park, Nanda Devi National park, Rajaji National Park, Valley of Flowers National Park, Askot Musk Deer WLS, Nandhaur WLS, Kedarnath WLS, Mussoorie WLS, Govind Pashu Vihar WLS, Sonanadi WLS.

‘K-FON’ – KERALA’S FREE INTERNET PROJECT

Current Context: The state government of Kerala has announced a free internet project called K-FON (Kerala Fibre Optic Network).

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- The project aims to provide free internet access to the economical weak section of the state.
- This project will be commissioned in December 2020.
- The costing of the project is Rs 1,500 crore and Kerala is the first state to offer internet as the fundamental right to its citizens.
- Various companies like BEL, Railtel, SRIT and LS cables are going to work for this project.
- **Static Part:**
 - CM of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan
 - Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan
 - **National parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in Kerala:** Anamudi Shola NP, Eravikulam NP, Mathikettan Shola NP, Pmabadum Shola NP, Periyar NP, Silent Valley NP, Kottiyoor WLS, Kurinjimala WLS, Peechi-Vazhani WLS, Chinnar WLS, Thakad Bird WLS, Wayanad WLS

APPOINTMENT AND EXTENSION ON 31ST MAY 2020

Current Context: Venkataramani Sumantran:- He has been appointed as an independent director of airline company Indigo for a tenure of five years.

ABOUT

- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of Indigo: Gurugram, Haryana.

- **Sandip Pradhan:-** Sports Authority of India (SAI) has extended the tenure of Sandip Pradhan as director-general of SAI by two years.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of SAI: Delhi

DIGITAL SUMMIT ON EXPORTS—BY CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY

Current Context: Confederation of Indian Industry organized Digital Summit on Exports in partnership with EXIM Bank.

KEY POINTS

- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal participated in the summit via video conference.**
- They discussed fall and rise in various import and export products specifically in the month of March, April and May.
- Export fell 60.28% in April and 34.5% in March. However, it is expected to rise by 8-10% in June.
- Piyush Goyal stated that there is a huge opportunity to increase production in the auto component sector, furniture and IT related services.
- He also assured grant support to increase export from India.
- **Static Part:**
 - HQ of CII: New Delhi
 - HQ of EXIM Bank: Mumbai
 - MD and CEO of EXOM Bank: David Rasquinha