MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST

April 2020

TABLE OF CONTENTS

International News 2
National News 2
Banking 9
Reports 12
Appointments 12
Awards and Honours 13
Important Days 13
Government Schemes 14
Defence 15
Science and Technology 16
Sports 19
Summits and Conferences 19

MONTHLY ONE-LINER GK DIGEST: APRIL 2020

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NATO's Chief Appoints Experts to Strengthen NATO's Political Role

- **The NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg appointed a group of experts for the reflection process.**
- **The panel will offer a recommendation to increase political consultation, coordination between the allies, reinforce alliance unity and strengthen NATO's political** role.

Lebanon to Legalize Cannabis Farming

- **Lebanon has become the first Arab country to legalize cannabis farming for medical and industrial purposes.**
- Earlier it was illegal to perform cannabis farming in Lebanon. However, after this legalization, the country will be benefited from high value-added medicinal products.

NATIONAL NEWS

Government Extends Crop Loan Benefits to Farmers Till 31st May 2020

- Since the whole nation is under lockdown due to COVID-19, the Government of India has taken a major role **to provide relief to the farmers** in terms of crop loan interest.
- **GOI has extended the benefit of 2% interest subvention to banks and 3% prompt replacement incentives to all the farmers up to 31st May 2020.**

Stranded in India Portal- Launched by Ministry of Tourism

- **Ministry of Tourism has launched the "Stranded in India" portal with a view to helping foreign tourist who are stuck in various parts of the country.**
- **The web address of the portal is strandedinindia.com.**

Karnataka Government Launched- "Corona Watch App"

- **The app is comprised with the list of government-designated first response hospitals for COVID-19 where citizens with the symptoms can go.**
- **Also, the Karnataka government has formulated a ten-member task force for COVID-19.**

Corona Allianz General Insurance Care- An Insurance Policy Launched by PhonePe and Bajaj

- **PhonePe has partnered with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to launch a coronavirus hospitalization insurance policy called "Corona Care".**
- PhonePe users can purchase their Coronavirus insurance policy under the **"My Money"** section on the PhonePe app.

Infrared Based Temperature Sensor- Developed by Naval Dockyard, Mumbai"

- **Indian Navy's Naval Dockyard, Mumbai developed portable Infrared based temperature sensor gun with a view for the screening of personnel at yard's entry gates to limit the spread of COVID-19.**
- **The sensor is manufactured at less than Rs 1000. The accuracy is 0.2 degree Celsius. It runs on a 9V battery.**

DARPG's National Monitoring Dashboard Launched for COVID-19 Grievances

- **The main objective of the dashboard is quick and timely implementations of COVID-19 response and containment activities.**
- **A technical team has been formed to handle the public grievances on a priority basis. The team will receive grievances from all the states, union territories and ministries as well.**

'Arogya Setu App'- Launched by Government of India

- **The government of India has launched the 'Arogya Setu App' for the people to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- The app is developed by the **National E-governance Division of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.**

Portable Multifeed Oxygen Manifold – Designed by Naval Dockyard Vishakhapatnam

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

'MHRD AICTE COVID-19 Student Helpline Portal- Launched by AICTE

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

Agreement-SCTIMST and Wipro 3D to Manufacture Automated Ventilators

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

'Hack the Crisis India---- An Online Hackathon

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

'Mo Pravita'- Odisha's Online Cultural Competition

- **With an aim to engage young minds at home during the lockdown situation arised due to COVID-19, Odisha government has launched an online cultural competition called 'Mo Pravita'.**
- For this competition, **Odisha government has partnered with UNICEF** (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund).

National Health Authority and Uber to Provide Transport Service to Public Health Workers

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

'CARUNA'- An Initiative of IAS and IPS Officers to Combat COVID-19

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

Amitabh Kant Chairs an Empowered Committee Formed to Coordinate Between Stakeholders

- There are over 92000 NGOs/CSOs who have registered themselves on Darpan portal of NITI Aayog. **So the committee headed by Amitabh Kant has made an appeal to these NGOs to provide guidance and assistance to the GOI in identifying hotspots in order to enhance social distancing, isolation and combating COVID-19.**

MSME Technology Centers- To Contribute Helping Hand to Combat COVID-19

- **MSME technology centers across all over India has come forward to grant help to combat health pandemic COVID-19.**
- For this, total **18 MSME technology** centers has moved forward.

'V Safe Tunnel'- Installed at Telangana

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

An Online Platform to Issue COO for Exporters-Launched Commerce Industry

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

5T Plan- Launched by Delhi Government to Fight COVID-19

- **Delhi Government has launched a '5T' plan to fight COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The resemblance of 5T: Testing, Tracking, Treatment, Teamwork and Trackling.**

JSW Energy Limited to Acquire GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited by JSW Energy Limited.**
- **JSW Energy Limited will acquire 100% stakes of GMR Kamalanga Energy Limited.**

COVID-19 Health Insurance- Airtel Payment Banks and Bharati AXA General Insurance

- **Airtel payment Bank has partnered with Bharati AXAGeneralInsurance to offer to health insurance products amidst of COVID-19.**
- Name of the two products are: **Bharti AXA Group Health Assure and Group Hospital Cash.**

'Samadhan Challenge'- By MHRD Ministry

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

Raksha Sarva App- by Chhattisgarh Police and 'Mobcoder' Startup

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

CSIR-CECRI Partnered 3DLycan- to Produce Face Sheilds

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

'iGOT' an e-learning Platform- By Government of India

- **The government of India has launched an e-learning platform called 'IGOT' to combat COVID-19.**
- **The platform is launched for all frontline workers who are delivering their services in treating COVID-19** patients like doctors, nurses, etc. and the cleaners, etc.

Operation SHIELD: Launched by Delhi

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

- Delhi government has made mandatory to wear masks **to every person stepping out of homes.**

Flipkart, ICICI Lombard and Go Digit General Insurance- Health Plan for COVID-19

- **Flipkart Private Ltd has inked a partnership with ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd and Go Digit General Insurance to launch two health insurance policies for COVID-19.**
- **COVID-19 Protection Cover:** It is offered by ICICI Lombard. In this, it offers a benefits plan of Rs 25000 to the COVID-19 positive patients. The annual premium is Rs 159.

Partnership--- HUL and UNICEF to Combat COVID-19

- **Hindustan Unilever Ltd has partnered with UNICEF to combat COVID-19 by undertaking a mass communication campaign that will inform and empower the public about the pandemic.**
- **The mass communication campaign is titled as #BreakTheChain or #VirusKiKadiTodo.**

'Swasth Ke Sipahi-Supply Medicines under PMBJP

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

India's GDP FY21 at 4.8% ---By UN ESCAP

- **The UN 'Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) 2020 has forecasted India's GDP growth to slow down to 4.8%.**
- It has marked the slowdown is due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has lead to the stopping of positive economic impactful activities.

'YUKTI' Web Portal--- BY HRD Ministry

- **Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a web-portal YUKTI (Young India Combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology and Innovation).**
- **The portal will display the information describing the efforts and initiatives which have been taken by HRD ministry in the wake of coronavirus outbreak.**

Double Layered Khadi Masks---BY KVIC

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has developed a double-layered Khadi mask to contain the spread of COVID-19.**
- The masks help to **retain 70% of the moisture content inside and gives an easy passage for the air to pass through.**

'Food Bank'---Manipur

- **Government of Manipur has launched an initiative called 'Food Bank' to help poor with necessary commodities amidst of COVID-19.**
- This initiative provides free food to the poor and the needy ones who are facing scarcity due to the lockdown situations across the country.

Agreement--- UNIDO and CUTS to Achieve 2030 Sustainable Development Goal

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

'CollabCAD'---By NITI Aayog, NIC and Atal Innovation Mission

- **NITI Aayog, NIC (National Informatics Center) and Atal innovation Mission have come together to launch CollabCAD (Collaborative CAD Software).**
- **It is a computer-enabled software system which provides a total engineering solution from 2D drafting & detailing to 3D product designing.**

"DekhoApnaDesh" Webinar Series---By Ministry of Tourism

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

Additional Benefits to Policy Holders and Agents—By Tata AIA Insurance

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

Personal Protective Coverall Suit—By CSIR-NAL and MAF Clothing Pvt Ltd

- **CSIR-NAL (CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories) and MAF Clothing Pvt Ltd have developed a Personal Protective Coverall Suit.**
- It has been tested at SITRA, Coimbatore through stringent testing.

'Assess Koro Na'---By Delhi Government

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

High-Protein Biscuits—By CSIR-CFTRI for COVID-19 Patients

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

Agreement—UP Government and Google for Geotag Community Kitchens

- **Uttar Pradesh government has signed an agreement with tech giant Google to form geotag community kitchens and community shelters across the state.**
- By doing so, Uttar Pradesh has become the first state in India to geotag its 7,368 community kitchens and community shelters which produce 12 lakh food packets a day.

"Saiyam Mobile Application"---By Pune Municipal Corporation

- **The aim behind launching the Saiyam mobile app is to effectively track home-quarantines citizens and ensure they are actually staying in the home.**

"Aayu and Sehat Sathi Mobile Application"---By Rajasthan Gov. and Medcords Startup

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

#MyBookMyFriendcampaign—By HRD Ministry

- **Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' launched the #MyBookMyFriendcampaign on social media.**
- The campaign was launched on account of World Book Day which is marked on 23 April.

Himachal Pradesh Govt adopts Three-Pronged Strategies to Fight COVID-19

- **The three actions by the state government have been put in use and these are: To increase testing capacity, To identify three types of institutions for treatment of COVID patients having different symptoms, and to provide adequate safety instruments to health workers.**

'Recharge Sathi'---By Vodafone Idea and Paytm

- **Vodafone Idea partnered with Paytm to launch the 'Recharge Sathi' program**.
- The program has enabled Paytm to exclusively power prepaid mobile phone recharges for Vodafone Idea.

g-CNQDs for Visible-Light-Driven Antibacterial Activity---By INST

- **The Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) has developed carbon nitride quantum dots (g-CNQDs) which is a metal-free nanomaterial useful for visible-light-driven antibacterial activity.**
- It has been proven effective and an alternative to metal/non-metal semiconductors and expensive silver.

'KARMI-Bot' Robot---Kerala

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

'Vilokana' Search Engine---By IIITM-Kerala

- **An Artificial Intelligence Search Engine called 'Vilokana' has been developed by the Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management- Kerala.**
- The name 'Vilokana' is based from the Sanskrit language which stands with a meaning called finding out'.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell-Based Electric Carsat Leh and Delhi

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

Insurance Cover of Rs.50 lakh for the Frontline Journalists---By Assam

- **Assam government has announced an insurance cover of Rs.50 lakh for the frontline journalists who are covering COVID-19.**
- The insurance cover is being provided because the frontline journalists have been bravely covering COVID-19 news updates against all odds by risking their lives.

Airtel and Nokia Partnership—To Boost Network Capacity

- **Nokia and Bharti Airtel have signed a multi-year agreement with an aim to boost network capacity and hence provide good customer experience.**
- The two companies have signed an agreement for $1 Billion.

Agreement—ADB and GOI to Combat COVID-19

- **The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $1.5 billion loan that will support the government's response to the novel coronavirus disease pandemic.**
- **The loan amount has been sanctioned under ADBs COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program (CARES).**

BANKING

Partnership- Bharatpe and ICICI Lombard Tied up to Provide COVID-19 Insurance

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

World Bank Offers Financial Help to India to Combat COVID-19

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

ICICI Securities and IIM Bangalore –To Support Fintech Startups

- **ICICI Securities has partnered with IIM Bangalore to start an incubation program that will focus on fintech startups.**
- The **15-month incubation program** will be conducted by ICICI Securities and IIM Bangalore's startup hub N S Raghavan Center of Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL).

PNB Housing Finance, JICA and Citibank to Provide Affordable Housing Loans

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

Reserve Bank Announces Third TLTRO

- **The Reserve Bank to conduct TLTROs of up to three years tenor of appropriate sizes for a total amount of up to Rs 1,00,000 crores.**
- **The funds availed under this tranche of TLTRO would have to be deployed within 30 working days from the date of the operation.**

SIDBI to Provide Emergency Working Capital to MSMEs

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

RBI's Current Notification--Auction of Government of India Dated Securities

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

India's Growth at 1.5% to 2.8%---By World Bank

- **World Bank has released its report called 'South Asia Economic Focus'. In that, it has forecasted the India's growth for FY21 at 1.5% to 2.8%.**
- **Initially, World Bank had projected the growth of India to be 6.3% about 6 months ago, but it has now projected a fall to 1.5% to 2.8%.**

RBI Launches Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2020-21

- **Reserve Bank of India has launched Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for 2020-2021.** The Bonds will be issued in six tranches from April 2020 to September 2020.
- **The schemes describes the assured return of 2.5 per cent to investors along with appreciation in the price of the bond in line with movement of gold prices.**

IMF Forecasted a 7.6% Expansion in Asian Economic Growth in 2021

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

RBI Eases Fund Flow for Cash-Starved Real Estate Sector

- RBI governor Shaktikanta Das announced **TLTRO of Rs 50,000 crore,** saying the funds availed by banks should be put in investment-grade bonds companies and at least half of the funds should go to small non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and microfinance institutions (MFIs).
- RBI has allotted **Rs 10,000 crore to National Housing Bank.**

AIIB grants $500 million to India to Combat COVID-19

- **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has announced a financial help of $500 million projects to India to improve its health care systems.**
- With this, AIIB has doubled its funds under the COVID-19 Crisis Recovery Facility.

RBI Launched 49th Round of OBICUS of Manufacturing Sector

- **RBI launched the 49th round of quarterly OBICUS (Order books, inventories, and capacity utilization survey) of the manufacturing sector which includes the reference period January-March 2020.**
- **In this OBICUS a total of 704 manufacturing companies were considered to manipulate the data.**

RBI Cancels License of Mapusa Co-operative Bank

- **Reserve Bank of India has canceled the license of Goa-based Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank.**
- The central bank has restricted Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank from carrying out any banking operations and businesses with an effect from 16th April 2020.

CBDT Refunds Five Thousand 204 crore Rupees to MSMEs

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

RBI Raises Ways and Means Advances (WMA) Limit for States

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased WMA for state government by another 30%.**
- This action by RBI will help state governments as will not have to bunch up auctioning of bonds.

India's GDP at 1.8%---By Fitch

- **Fitch Solutions has forecasted India's economic growth forecast to 1.8% for FY 2020-21.**
- Fitch has also reduced to GDP forecast for China for FY 2020 from 2.6% to 1.1%.

RBI 3-Month EMI Moratorium to Provide Rs 2.1 lakh crore Liquidity to Corporates

- **The Reserve Bank of India has announced a moratorium, in which the bank will provide Rs 2.1 lakh crore liquidity to the corporate sectors who are ready to avail the offer.**
- The findings by Crisil Ratings are based on an assessment of 9,300 of its rated non-financial sector companies across 100 sectors.

ICICI Bank Launched Voice Banking Services

- **ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank has started a voice baking services on Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant for its customers.**

RBI Allows Banks to Issue Electronic Cards for Overdraft Accounts

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

Sri Lanka to Get $400 million Debt Facility from RBI

- **Sri Lanka signs an agreement with Reserve Bank of India for a Bilateral Currency Swap Arrangement worth $400 million.**
- The agreement is signed to boost Sri Lanka's foreign reserves as the country which is badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rs 50,000 crore Liquidity for Mutual Funds by RBI

- **Reserve Bank of India has come up with an announcement to provide easiness to liquidity pressures on mutual funds (MFs) by granting Rs. 50,000 crore Special Liquidity Facility (SLF) for mutual funds.**
- **Under this scheme, the RBI will conduct repo operations of 90 days tenor at the fixed repo rate.**

Indian Overseas Bank Launched Special Borrowing Scheme for SHGs

- **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) introduced a special borrowing scheme for self-help groups to help them tide over the challenges inflicted by COVID-19.**
- **In this scheme, each member of SHG will be able to avail a loan of Rs 5000/- with a cap of Rs 1 lakh for the group.**

Axis Bank to Acquire 29% Stake in Max Life Insurance

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

RBI Extended Restrictions Imposed on Mumbai based Coop Banks

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

REPORTS

"Mapping India's Energy Subsidies 2020"---A Report by IISD and CEEW

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

Global Report on Food Crisis---By UN World Food Programme

- Global report on food crisis was released by the UN World Food Programme.
- Among 43 million living in the Middle East and Asia and 18.5 million in Latin America and the Caribbean are suffering food insecurity issues.

"Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019"—Report by SIPRI

- **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released a report titled "Trends in World Military Expenditure, 2019".**
- The report is a detail analysis of spending in military sector by the countries in the year 2019.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
BP Kanungo	Deputy Governor of RBI
L Duraiswamy	New Managing Director of Sundaram Finance
Justice Rajnesh Oswal	First judge of Common Jammu and Kashmir High Court and Ladakh High Court
Dilip Kumar Patel	Director Human Resource by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)
Lisa Nandy	UK Shadow Foreign Minister
Late Kobe Bryant	Member of Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame
Anurag Srivastava	Spokeperson of the Ministry of External Affairs
UB Pravin Rao	New Chairman of NASSCOM
Justice Shiva Kirti Singh	Chairperson of TDSAT

Parag Raja	MD and CEO of Bharti AXA Life Insurance
Anamika Roy Rashtrawar	New MD and CEO of IFFCO Tokio General Insurance
Birupaksha Mishra	Executive Director of Union Bank of India
Mahabaleshwara M S	MD and CEO of Karnataka Bank
Ajay Mahajan	New MD and CEO of CARE Ratings
Vineet Arora	New MD and CEO of Paytm General Insurance LTD.
PK Purwar	CMD of MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited)
Justice Dipankar Datta	Chief Justice of Bombay High Court
Kapil Dev Tripathi	Secretary to the President of India, Ram Nath Kovind
David Li	Chief Executive Officer of Huawei Telecommunication India
Sanjay Kothari	New Chief Vigilance Commissioner(CVC) of India
Jagdish Mukhi	Charge of the Administration of the Bodoland Territorial Council
Manisha Singh	US President Donald Trump as America's next envoy to OECD
Deepak Mittal	Next Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar
Piyush Srivastava	Next Ambassador of India to the State of Bahrain
J Arunkumar	Head Coach of USA Men's National Cricket Team
Rajiv Kumar	Chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Award	**Awardee**
'Hero to Animals Award' by PETA India	Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik
Chinese Virtual Grand Prix Championship	Charles Leclerc

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	**Day**	**Theme**
1st April 2020	Utkal Divas or Odisha Day	--
2nd April 2020	World Autism Awareness Day	**Theme:** "The Transition to Adulthood"
4th April 2020	International Mine Awareness Day	--
5th April 2020	International Day of Conscience	--
6th April 2020	International Day of Sports and Development Peace	--
7th April 2020	World Health Day	**Theme:** Support Nurses and Midwives
10th April 2020	World Homoeopathy Day	**Theme**: 'Linking Research with education and clinical practice: Advancing scientific collaborations'.
12th April 2020	International Day of Human Space Flight	The day commemorates the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's spaceflight in 1961 which was the first human space flight.
14th April 2020	World Chagas Disease Day	--
15th April 2020	World Art Day	--

15th April 2020	Himachal Day	--
17th April 2020	World Hemophilia Day	**Theme:** 'Get + Involved'
18th April 2020	World Heritage Day	**Theme:** 'Shared Culture, Shared Heritage and Shared Responsibility'
20th April 2020	UN Chinese Language Day	--
21st April 2020	Civil Services Day	--
21st April 2020	World Creativity & Innovation Day	--
22nd April 2020	Earth Day or International Mother Earth Day	**Theme:** Climate Action
23rd April 2020	World Book and Copyright Day	**Theme:** KL Baca-Caring through reading
23rd April 2020	English Language Day	--
23rd April 2020	International Girls in information and communication technologies (ICT) Day	To encourages girls to consider a future in the technology sector.
24th April 2020	National Panchayati Raj Day or the National Local Self Government Day	--
24th April 2020	International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace	--
24th To 30th April 2020	World Immunization Week	**Theme:** '#VaccinesWork for All.'
25th April 2020	World Malaria Day	**Theme:** 'Zero malaria starts with me'
25th April 2020	International Delegate's Day	To raise the awareness of the role of the representatives and delegates of the Member States to the United Nations.
25th April 2020	World Veterinary Day	**Theme:** 'Environmental protection for improving animal and human health.'
26th April 2020	World Intellectual Property Day	**Theme:** 'Innovate for a green future'
26th April 2020	International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day	--
28th April 2020	World day for Safety and Health at Work	**Theme:** Safety and Health at work can save lives
29th April 2020	International Dance Day	--
29th April 2020	International Guide Dog Day	--
30th April 2020	Ayushman Bharat Diwas	To promote affordable medical facilities in remote areas of the country based on the socio-economic status.
30th April 2020	International Jazz Day	--

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

'SAHYOG'—An Integrated Geospatial Platform by DST and GOI

- The basic aim behind this integrated geospatial platform is to help in decision making and supporting in area-specific strategies in order to tackle the COVID-19 outbreak and to handle its socio-economic impact and to provide a motivation for creating positive growth in its recovery phase.

Kisan Rath Mobile App---By Ministry of Agriculture

- **Agriculture Ministry launched Kisan Rath Mobile App.**
- It is a farmer-friendly app launched to facilitate transportation of food grains and perishables during lockdown situations arisen due to novel coronavirus.

Rs.17,793 crore Under PM-KISAN Scheme—BY GOI

- **GoI has released Rs.17,793 crore Under PM-KISAN Scheme farmer families during the lockdown.**
- Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme, over 8.89 crore farmer families have been benefitted.

'Jivan Shakti Yojana' for Womens---By Madhya Pradesh

- **Madhya Pradesh Government has launched a 'Jivan Shakti Yojana' for womens.**
- **Under the scheme, women will prepare masks at homes in the urban areas and will be able to earn profit.**

Jagananna Vidya Deevena Scheme ---By Andhra Pradesh

- **Andhra Pradesh has launched JaganannaVidyaDeevena Scheme.**
- **Under the scheme over Rs.4,000 crore of funds have been released along with Rs.1880 crore towards the pending amount left by the earlier government.**

DEFENCE

COVID-19 Protective Gear and Healthcare Essentials to CISF Personnel

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

'Operation Sanjeevani'- Launched by IAF to Grant Medical Supplies to Maldives to Fight COVID-19

- **Indian Airforce launched an operation Sanjeevani to grant support of medical supplies to the Maldives.**
- This is done by **airlifting 602 tons of essential medical supplies** like medicines and hospital equipment to fight COVID-19.

Agreement- L&T and Indian Army

- **Indian army has given large contract to Engineering and construction giant Larsen & Toubro to setup advance IT enabled system.**
- **The system will be used to operate the armed forces network under the Network of Spectrum (NFS).**

India's Major Defence Partner, United States Approves Sale of Missiles

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

North Korea Test-Fired Multiple Short-Range Anti-Ship Missiles

- **North Korea launched multiple short-range anti-ship cruise missiles into the sea.**
- **The anti-ship missiles plunged into the sea more than 150 km off the east coast town of Munchon and the Sukhois carried out firing tests.**

Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL)

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh unveiled a Mobile Virology Research and Diagnostics Laboratory (MVRDL) via video conference, which is India's first COVID-19 samples collection mobile lab.**
- **It is also named as 'Mobile BSL-3 VRDL Lab'.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Bombay Developed Two Apps to Monitor Persons under Coronavirus Quarantine

- **IIT-B has developed two apps namely CORONTINE and SAFE, to monitor and track the person who are asked to quarantine themselves at their homes in order to control the spread of COVID-19.**
- The apps are embodied with GPS data and geofencing to alert the authorities of users breaching preset **virtual geographical boundaries.**

IIT-Kanpur- to Design Low Cost Portable Ventilator

- To tackle the COVID-19 outbreak in the country, **IIT-Kanpur is in the process of designing a low-cost portable ventilator that is used as a life supporter.**
- **The Bioscience and Bioengineering department of IIT-Kanpur** is the designing and assembling team behind this portable ventilator.

NASA's SunRISE Mission- To Study Giant Solar Particles Storm

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

'Watson Assistant'- By IBM

- **Tech giant IBM has offered Watson Assistant for citizens to quickly address COVID-19 queries.**
- It is an artificial intelligence platform of IBM which will be available **free of cost for at least 90 days.**

'Prana-Vayu'- A Low-Cost Ventilator Developed by IIT-Roorkee and AIIMS-Rushikesh

- **IIT-Roorkee and AIIMS-Rushikesh have come up together to design a low-cost closed-loop ventilator called 'Prana-Vayu' to combat the biggest health pandemic COVID-19.**
- **It is applicable for all age group patients especially elder people and the manufacturing cost is Rs 25000.**

Full Body Disinfection Chamber- At VRDE Ahmedabad (DRDO Laboratory)

- **A full body disinfection chamber which is called PSE is developed at Vehicle Research Development Establishment, VRDE Ahmednagar, which is a DRDO Laboratory.**
- **The step is taken to avoid spreading of Coronavirus in the working area.**

NASA to Set Base Camp on Moon by 2024

- **NASA has unveiled the plan of setting up of a human bas camp on the Moon's the South Pole by 2024. The base camp is named as 'Artemis'.**
- **The plan is designed to land humans on the moon by the 2024. The base camp is expected to successfully demonstrate the US's long-established leadership in space and will serve as a gateway for humanity's first mission to Mars.**

TRIFED and UNICEF- Launched a Digital Campaign

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

Membrane Oxygenator Equipment- to Treat COVID-19 Patients

- **A Pune based company Genrich Membranes which is funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has developed a membrane oxygenator equipment to treat COVID-19 patients.**
- **Membrane oxygenator equipment is used to treat breathlessness, one of the critical symptoms of COVID-19.**

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Technology—By Goggle and Apple

- **Google and Apple have joined to combat COVID-19 by utilizing their technology skills.**
- They are combating COVID-19 through **contact tracing technology.**

UV Germicidal Irradiation Technology Based Device—IIT Ropar

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

Digital Stethoscope 'AyuSynk' ---IIT Bombay

- **IIT Bombay developed Digital Stethoscope 'AyuSynk' for the check-up of COVID-19 patients.**
- It is developed by a IIT Bombay startup named **Ayu Devices with the guidance of Biomedical Engineering and Technology incubation Center (BETiC).**

'CovidGyan'----Launched by TIFR, IISc and TMC

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

Antimicrobial Spray-Based Coating for PPE and 3D printed Ear Guard –By IIT-Guwahati

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

TVS Motors Acquires Norton Motorcycles

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

- The acquisition will take place for **£16 million that is for Rs 153.12 crore** which was concluded by project 303 Bidco Ltd.

'WardBot'----By IIT Ropar

- **IIT Ropar (Punjab) has designed and developed a 'Wardbot' which will be utilized in the hospitals for the COVID-19 patients.**
- The 'WardBot' will be used to deliver medicine ad food to coronavirus patients.

Third Party Fact Check System---BY Facebook and Boom Website

- **Facebook and Indian fact checking website Boom has come together to launch a third party fact checking in Bangladesh.**
- In this system, the false or fake post will appear less or at the bottom and hence will help to reduce the spread of fake news.

"Bug Sniffer"to Detect Pathogens----By ARI, Pune

- **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI), Pune, has developed a 'bug sniffer' for the fast and accurate detection of pathogens and bacteria.**
- It will provide a cost and time-effective way of screening water and foodborne pathogens.

Social Media Platform Facebook Acquires 9.99% Stake in Reliance Jio

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

Israel's 1st Fully Digital Bank---By TCS

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

'WashKaro App'-------By IIIT Delhi

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

'Noor'---First Military Satellite of Iran

- **Iran has launched its first military satellite called "Noor" into orbit.**
- **The satellite is launched by Iran's Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), the country's armed force group.**

'Feluda' A COVID-19 Test Strip---By CSIR-IGIB

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

'VITAL' Ventilator ---By NASA

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

First Hospital to have Plasma Therapy for COVID-19

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

HCARD Robot—By CSIR-CMERI

- **HCARD robot is developed for the frontline health workers so that they can maintain physical distance from the positive coronavirus patients while treating them.**

Berberine Based Alzheimer Inhibitor---By JNCASR

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

SPORTS

Wimbledon 2020 Tennis Championship- Cancelled Due to COVID-19

- **The All England Club has announced that the Wimbledon 2020 Tennis Championship will not take place due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The tennis grand slam tournament has been cancelled for the first time since World War II.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

2020 UNFCCC - Postponed Due to COVID-19

- **2020 United Nations Framework Conventions on Climate Change Conference which was to be held in Glasgow, the UK in the month of November of the current year has been postponed till next year due to COVID-19.**
- However, the dates for a **rescheduled conference in 2021** will be announced later.

Second G20 FMCBG Meeting

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

National Conference on Kharif Crops 2020

- **National Conference on Kharif crops 2020 was virtually addressed via video conference by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar.**
- Also, Mr. Narendra Singh Tomar has urged the state leaders to focus on the two schemes namely **PM Fasal Bima Yojana and Soil Health Card scheme** to each farmer in the State.

Meet for COVID-19 hosted by Indian High Commission (UK) and FICCI

- **The Indian High Commission in the United Kingdom organized a virtual roundtable named as COVID-19 meeting for businesses COVID-19: Issues, Challenges and Way forward.**
- **The Virtual roundtable meet was organized in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.**

5th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank

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

G-20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting

- The G-20 Agriculture Ministers virtual meeting organized through video conferencing **by the Saudi Presidency** to deliberate on the ways and means of ensuring continuity of food supply value chain, including the livelihood of farmers.

Meeting of 15th Finance Commission

- **The Fifteenth Finance Commission (XVFC) held an online meeting with its Advisory Council.**
- **The meeting was chaired by N. K. Singh.**

Eleventh Session of Petersberg Climate Dialogue

- **The session was attended by Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Mr. PrakashJavadekar.**
- **The 11th session of Petersburg Climate Dialogue was hosted by Germany and was co-chaired by United Kingdom.**