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April 2021
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Ministry of Agriculture inks pack with Microsoft to boost farmer’s income
“Madhukrantiportal” to trace the source of honey and other beehive products is launched by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar
Expert panel will be set up by Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar to examine 27 banned pesticides

MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS
Fertilizer firms to supply 50 tonnes of medical oxygen per day to COVID-19 patients

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
India has finalized air bubble pact with Srilanka
Ministry of Civil Aviation permits Telangana Government to deliver COVID-19 Vaccines through Drone

MINISTRY OF COAL
“COVID Monitoring Cell” set up by Ministry of Coal

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
Commerce Ministry has made import Registration of 46 copper and 43 aluminium items

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
Ministry of corporate affairs permits State Bank of India to makeshift hospitals for COVID-19 Patients

MINISTRY OF CULTURE
Archaeological Survey of India will take conservational works at Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri premises in Agra
Jammu& Kashmir Tourism promotion Event in Srinagar by Ministry of Tourism and Culture

MINISTER OF DEFENCE
Operation “CO-JEET” is launched by armed forces to fight COVID-19
“Operation Samudra Setu II” is to transport oxygen and other medical equipment from abroad
INS Airavat carries oxygen from Singapore to India

MINISTER OF EDUCATION
Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ today launched NanoSniffer

MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS & IT
“Initiate awareness campaigns” is done by Ministry of Electronics & IT to prevent “false news or misinformation about COVID-19”

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
Supreme Court allows Vedanta to run oxygen plant in Tamil Nadu to tackle Oxygen Crises
Lions in Hyderabad Zoo test COVID-19

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MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE INKS PACK WITH MICROSOFT TO BOOST FARMER’S INCOME

- Union Agriculture Ministry has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Microsoft to boost farmer’s income by reducing input cost and better post-harvest management.
- Microsoft has entered this MOU along with its associate Crop Data Technologies.

“MADHUKRANTI PORTAL” TO TRACE THE SOURCE OF HONEY AND OTHER BEEHIVE PRODUCTS IS LAUNCH BY UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR

- This portal is to achieve online traceability of source of honey.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is signed between National Bee Board (NBB) and Indian Bank.
- Main aim is that “Indian Honey” should meet global standards.

EXPERT PANEL WILL BE SET UP BY UNION AGRICULTURE MINISTER NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR TO EXAMINE 27 BANNED PESTICIDES

- The panel will examine and consider all the aspects like safety, toxicity and efficacy of the 27 banned pesticides.

MINISTRY OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS

FERTILIZER FIRMS TO SUPPLY 50 TONNES OF MEDICAL OXYGEN PER DAY TO COVID-19 PATIENTS

- Both public and private sector fertilizer firms will produce medical oxygen for COVID-19 patients, says Minister of State for Fertilizers and Chemicals Mansukh Mandaviya.
- At present IFFCO, Gujarat State Fertilizers and Chemicals (GSFC), Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals (GNFC) and other fertilizer companies are providing oxygen supply to COVID-19 patients.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION

INDIA HAS FINALIZED AIR BUBBLE PACT WITH SRILANKA

- Union Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri told India has finalized air bubble pact with Srilanka.
- Including this India has air bubble pact with 28 countries at present.
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- Air Bubble pact is that between two countries, special passenger flights will be operated under restrictive conditions.
- This will allow eligible passengers to travel between two countries in near future.

MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION PERMITS TELANGANA GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER COVID-19 VACCINES THROUGH DRONE

- This is the first state to get permission to deliver COVID-19 vaccines through Drone.
- The permission is granted under Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Rules, 2021, to conduct experimental delivery of COVID-19 vaccines using drones within the visual line of sight range.

MINISTRY OF COAL

“COVID MONITORING CELL” SET UP BY MINISTRY OF COAL

- This cell is to help officials and their family members in coal industry who have been tested positive for COVID-19.
- This cell will help officials by providing logistics support and other necessary help as far as possible.
- Logistics support will be provided by Coal India.

MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

COMMERCE MINISTRY HAS MADE IMPORT REGISTRATION OF 46 COPPER AND 43 ALUMINIUM ITEMS

- This is to reduce import and promote local manufacturing.
- Commerce ministry have already done this for Iron and Steel items.
- Importer have to register not earlier than 60th day and not later than 5th day before the expected date of arrival of import consignment.

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS PERMITS STATE BANK OF INDIA TO MAKESHIFT HOSPITALS FOR COVID-19 PATIENTS

- State Bank of India has given Rs. 30 crore for temporary hospitals for COVID-19 patients under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Activity.

MINISTRY OF CULTURE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA WILL TAKE CONSERVATIONAL WORKS AT TAJ MAHAL, AGRA FORT AND FATEHPUR SIKRI PREMISES IN AGRA
• Archaeological Survey of India comes under Ministry of Culture.
• Due to COVID-19 initiative all these places are shut till May 15.

JAMMU & KASHMIR TOURISM PROMOTION EVENT IN SRINAGAR BY MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE

• The event named “Tapping the potential of Kashmir: Another Day in Paradise” will take place in Srinagar on April 11-13.
• This event is headed by Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Manoj Sinha and Tourism and Cultural Minister Prahlad Singh Patel.
• Delegates will have technical visit to Tulip garden during this event.

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

OPERATION “CO-JEET” IS LAUNCHED BY ARMED FORCES TO FIGHT COVID-19

• This operation “CO-JEET” is to strengthen the medical infrastructure and oxygen supply chains and ensure mental wellbeing of the people.
• This operation is provided by all the three wings of the armed forces – The Army, Air Force and Indian Navy.

“OPERATION SAMUDRA SETU II” IS TO TRANSPORT OXYGEN AND OTHER MEDICAL EQUIPMENT FROM ABROAD

• “Operation Samudra Setu II” is done by Indian Navy with 9 warships.
• Ministry of Defence told that main aim of this mission is to get liquid oxygen from Persian gulf and southeast Asian friendly countries.

INS AIRAVAT CARRIES OXYGEN FROM SINGAPORE TO INDIA

• As the part of Operation Samudra Setu II, INS Airavat brings liquid oxygen from Singapore to India.
• It carries 3,650 oxygen cylinders of varying capacities and concentrators.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION

UNION EDUCATION MINISTER, SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL ‘NISHANK’ TODAY LAUNCHED NANOSNIFFER

• Union Education Minister, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ today launched NanoSniffer, the world’s first Microsensor based Explosive Trace Detector (ETD) developed by NanoSniff Technologies, an IIT Bombay incubated startup.
• NanoSniffer has been marketed by Vehant Technologies, a spin-off from a former IIT Delhi incubated startup Kritikal Solutions.
MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS & IT

“INITIATE AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS” IS DONE BY MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS & IT TO PREVENT “FALSE NEWS OR MISINFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19”

- Social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram have been asked to curb fake news and misinformation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This advisory campaign is defined under Information Technology Act, 2000.

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

SUPREME COURT ALLOWS VEDANTA TO RUN OXYGEN PLANT IN TAMIL NADU TO TACKLE OXYGEN CRISIS

- Vedanta was closed due to environment pollution caused by copper smelting process.
- Due to National requirement of oxygen for COVID-19 patients, this measure has been taken.

LIONS IN HYDERABAD ZOO TEST COVID-19

- All zoological parks, national parks, tiger reserves and wildlife sanctuaries are closed for visitors to control COVID-19 pandemic by Ministry of Environment Forests and climate Change.
- Hyderabad Zoo with 8 Asiatic lions were tested positive for COVID-19.

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

INDIA AND UK TO BOOST WORK VISAS FOR INDIANS

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishanker and Home Secretary Priti Patel signed a new migration partnership between two countries.
- Both the country citizens can live and work in one another countries.

MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

OIL PSU’S COMMIT RS. 100 CR FOR REDEVELOPMENT OF BADRINATH DHAM TEMPLE

- Ministry of Petroleum Dharmendra Pradhan announced to give Rs. 100 crores for the redevelopment of Badrinath Dham Temple.

MINISTRY OF POWER

POWER MINISTRY ASKS ALL THE REGULATORS TO REVISE POWER TARIFF BY APRIL 1 OF EVERY YEAR
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- According to Electricity Act 2003 and the Tariff Policy 2016, there should be timely determination of the adequate power tariffs by the electricity commissions.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES DRAFT NORMS FOR FLY ASH DISPOSAL BY POWER PLANTS

- Fly ash user industries for non-compliance will be charged penalties of Rs 1,500 per tonne.
- If the residue is not disposed in time will be charged Rs 1,000 per tonne on power generators.

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

ARCH OF WORLD’S HIGHEST RAILWAY BRIDGE IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

- The 1.3-kilometre-long bridge is constructed at a cost of Rs 1,486 crore to enhance connectivity in the Kashmir Valley.
- This bridge is a part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Railway Link (USBRL) project.

RAILWAYS TO RUN “OXYGEN EXPRESS” TO MEET OXYGEN DEMAND IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Railway Ministry is ready for the project “oxygen express” in order to get ready to transport Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) and oxygen cylinders across the country.

RLDA TO DEVELOP MULTI-FUNCTIONAL COMPLEXES AT THREE RAILWAY STATIONS

- Multi-Functional Complexes (MFC) at Bellary, Sikar and Bharatpur Railway Stations are leased for 45 years by The Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA).
- Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) is a statutory body functioning under the Ministry of Railways for the development of Railway land.

MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

VEHICLE LOCATION TRACKING DEVICES MANDATORY FOR OXYGEN CONTAINERS

- Vehicle Location Tracking (VLT) devices should be fitted for all the oxygen containers, tankers and vehicles made mandatory.
- GPS tracking will help in proper monitoring and protection of these tankers including timely delivery.

MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HAFFKINE INSTITUTE GETS NOD TO PRODUCE COVAXIN

- Haffkine Institute in Mumbai, Maharashtra has got permission to produce Bharat Biotech’s Covaxin.
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

DISABILITY CERTIFICATES TO BE ISSUED ONLINE IS MADE MANDATORY

- Disabled people will get “certificate of disability” through online mode using UDID portal with effect from June 1, 2021.
- It is made mandatory for all States and Union territories to issue this certificate through online because people with disabilities were unable to get their certificates due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK WILL SUPPORT INDIA TO COMBAT COVID-19

- European Investment Bank announced an emergency fund of EUR 250,000 to India in response to the escalating COVID-19 crisis.
- The donation will be used to improve access to oxygen including oxygen generation plants as well as the procurement of oxygen cylinders urgently needed across India.

EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK WILL LEND LOAN FOR PUNE METRO RAIL PROJECT

- EIB had approved a loan of 600 million euros to for the construction of the Pune Metro Rail project.
- As the first tranche of 200 million euros was given in 2019.
- Now the, Second tranche of 150 million was given in April 2021.

MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

ITALY LAUNCHES FIRST MEGA FOOD PARK & FOOD PROCESSING UNIT IN INDIA

- The pilot project “The Mega Food Park” was launched by Italy with the signing of a Letter of Intent between the ICE Office in Mumbai and Fanidhar Mega Food Park, in Gujarat.
- The project aims to create a synchronous between Agriculture and Industry between two countries and many research and development project ideas be exchanged between two countries.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS REMOVES ELECTRONIC RESTRICTIONS

- The Union home ministry has lifted restrictions on electronic visas for such as e-medical visa, e-business visa, e-medical attendant visa and e-conference visa.
- This e-visa is available to all the members of the 156 countries.
- But electronic restrictions still prevail on e-tourist visa.
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PRESIDENTAL OFFICE

NV RAMANA IS APPOINTED AS THE NEXT CHIEF JUSTICE OF INDIA BY PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND

- Justice Nathulapati Venkata Ramana is the next Chief Justice of India and his tenure is from April 24, 2021 to August 26, 2022.
- He will be succeeding Arvind Bobde.

PRIME MINISTER OFFICE

PRIME MINISTER OFFICE WELCOME US PRESIDENT JOINING LEAD IT CLIMATE INITIATIVE

- The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is likely to join the Indian-Swedish climate initiative as said by USA.
- It is known as “Leadership Group for Industry Transition (LeadIT)”, which will help to meet the Paris Agreement goals.

NITI AAYOG

NITI AAYOG LAUNCHES INDIA ENERGY DASHBOARDS VERSION 2.0

- With the rise of renewables and other new energy technologies, there is increasing demand between energy supply and demand industry.
- The aim of this dashboard is to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.

AYUSH

ANTIVIRAL DRUG 'CLEVIRA' IS USED FOR TREATING MILD TO MODERATE COVID-19 PATIENTS

- Clevira, a drug primarily used to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 cases.
- It is primarily used for treating dengue.
- Liver and kidney are not affected by this drug.